

University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts Ranked among the World's Top 25 Drama Schools



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The Hollywood Reporter's List of the 25 Top Drama Schools

**THR polled theater insiders and top casting directors
to find the best training grounds for aspiring actors.**

By Tim Appelo

"I look at the school, and anyone who tells you they don't is lying to you," says producer Todd Black, who helped cast the Meryl Streep film *Hope Springs*. "I'm gonna look much faster at a kid from a top school than from the University of Southern North Dakota." To find out which schools give the most bang for the buck, *The Hollywood Reporter* polled Casting Society of America members and theater insiders. Some schools were chosen for their illustrious alumni or curriculum, but the bottom line is, these 25 schools offer the entree it takes to get a job. As Felicity Huffman has said of the "Tisch mafia" at her alma mater, NYU, "Without them, it is very possible I wouldn't be a working actress today."

USC SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS | Los Angeles

"USC is in Hollywood's front yard," says alumnus Todd Black. "Its acting students know they have to make a living, so they're trained in TV, feature films, Internet work." Adds board member Laurence Mark, "USC gives you the skills and confidence to be bold and take informed risks."

Notable Alumni:

Forest Whitaker, Swoosie Kurtz, Eric Stoltz, Kyra Sedgwick