Entertainment Design & Technology at Ohlone

With the continual growth of the entertainment industry, there is a rapidly increasing demand for back-stage technicians and artists with a high-level of proficiency in high-technology equipment that controls the lighting, audio, and special effects of a production. Through TV, concerts, trade shows, and major events all require a high level of visual and audio spectacle to complete the entertainment package. It is the theatre directors and creators continuously delivering greatest entertainment value—that make it a show business.

Ohlone College’s Entertainment Design and Technology (EDT) program is fully aligned to today’s entertainment industry, preparing students with industry-level skills and hands-on experience in the latest technology so they can design and run a show, providing maximum impact for the audience. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for all aspects of the design and technology industry, taught by experts in the field with a wealth of professional experience.

Ohlone’s EDT program emphasizes the technical skills, but also the “artistry” of the job. Students learn about communicating to the audience through light and sound to create the effect a director’s vision. Students use the high-tech equipment allowing them to create dramatic effects, such as large scale, loud booms and flashes of light or subtle nuances — allowing for a highly generated production. It’s all part of the package that entertains the audience.

“Students become good at asking questions and understand show business,” says Fred Alim who educates students in the art and science of set construction. “Having learned their skills, they can go anywhere in the industry.” The theatre department produces a fully realized production every fall, a dance production every spring and a musical show every summer. In addition, students who are highly motivated can work at the Smith Center, which is active every weekend, helping them build a resume of productions they’ve worked on.

The program is aimed at beginning students as well as entertainment industry professionals desiring to enhance their skills. “Ohlone is a great place to learn,” says Matt O’Donnell, EDT professor and award-winning lighting designer. “You can start from ground zero, in terms of experience, and by the end of the program we hope to have you ready to teach!”

Richard Rose

Vice Chair of Graduate Studies at UCI’s Department of Film and Media Studies

Scott White

Executive Producer of TV series Gotham

Meet the Faculty:
Matt O’Donnell, award-winning lighting designer, is a professor of Entertainment Design & Technology at Ohlone. He is a founding member of the entertainment design faculty and has been at Ohlone since 2013. O’Donnell has taught set lighting at the University of California, Los Angeles and New York University. He is a graduate of MIT and复工复aleigh technological University.

Richard Rose joined the faculty of UCI’s Department of Film and Media Studies in 1999. He teaches courses in the philosophy of film, film theory, and film studies and is a founding member of the Entertainment Design & Technology program at Ohlone. Rose served as the Artistic Director of the Center for Digital Imaging and Entertainment Design at UCI from 2005-2015.

Scott White is the executive producer of the live-action TV series Gotham, which has aired on Fox since 2014. He is a 30-year veteran of the entertainment industry, having worked extensively in all aspects of live production—from concert tours to corporate events to television appearances. His lighting credits include President Bill Clinton, Al Gore and Gwen Guthrie, working the Grammy Awards and trade shows such as Pokemon World Championships, and touring with just about every major entertainment icon on the planet.

Those Who Can Do, Teach!

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