



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION  
AND CIRQUE DU SOLEIL® ANNOUNCE  
AN INNOVATIVE AND UNIQUE ALLIANCE**

***This ground-breaking, one-of-a-kind collaboration begins summer quarter 2013***

**LOS ANGELES, CA (March 28, 2013) –** UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (TFT), one of the world's most prominent academic institutions for entertainment and performing arts education, and *Cirque du Soleil*®, one of the world's most revered entertainment organizations, today announced the formation of a multi-year fellowship program based in Las Vegas, Nevada, home to seven Cirque du Soleil productions.

The inspiration behind the alliance with Cirque du Soleil stems from Dean Teri Schwartz's new vision which re-imagines entertainment and performing arts education as an interdisciplinary enterprise grounded in humanistic storytelling, innovation and global diversity. This exciting partnership offers TFT students new and unique opportunities to work collaboratively across a multitude of exciting interdisciplinary platforms integrating visual storytelling with live performance, multimedia, 3D, CGI and other forms for digital content creation.

"We are delighted and honored to partner with Cirque du Soleil, the gold standard and leader for the highest levels of interdisciplinary creativity and innovation," stated Schwartz. "Cirque du Soleil has boldly pushed the boundaries of where live performance and visual imagery can go, and in ways not imagined before. This is a groundbreaking, singularly important, one-of-a-kind relationship for which we are deeply appreciative to Cirque du Soleil. It allows us to test our philosophy for interdisciplinary studies in a real world context, and represents the fullest expression of our new vision and strategic plan for re-imagining the entire educational enterprise for entertainment and performing arts education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am so excited and happy for our students to have this amazing, transformational experience."

"We are like-minded in terms of what Dean Schwartz is trying to do," stated Jordan Fiksenbaum, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations for the Resident Division of Cirque du Soleil. "We formed this partnership to provide a creative, conducive and collaborative environment that's prosperous for both entities. We are excited to give TFT students real-world working knowledge and experience to help them become better storytellers, creators, designers, and overall more talented individuals."

The annual fellowship program is open to graduate students from the Film/TV/Digital Media Department and Theater Department, with a highly selective process for admittance beginning with a written narrative on why the student wants to participate in this unique program with Cirque du Soleil. The program will provide a total of four graduate students chosen from candidates from both departments with the opportunity to collaborate with one another at Cirque du Soleil's resident shows in Las Vegas, and to actively participate in the creative, technical,

production, marketing and management process of their shows. Students will work with a mentor at Cirque du Soleil and a TFT faculty advisor and will be involved in the process from development through production.

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**About UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television:**

The vision of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television is to serve as a premier global interdisciplinary professional school that develops outstanding humanistic storytellers, industry leaders and scholars whose diverse, innovative voices enlighten, engage and inspire change for a better world. Consistently ranked as one of the top elite entertainment and performing arts institutions in the world, the School offers an innovative curriculum that integrates the study and creation of live performance, film, television and the digital arts. Our distinguished graduate and undergraduate programs include acting, directing, writing, producing, animation, cinematography, and lighting design, set design, costume design, sound design, Moving Image Archive Studies, and offers PhDs in Theater and Performance Studies and Cinema & Media Studies. For more information, visit [www.tft.ucla.edu](http://www.tft.ucla.edu).

**About *Cirque du Soleil*®:**

Since 1984, the company has brought wonder and delight to more than 100 million spectators in more than 40 countries in more than 300 cities on six continents. *Cirque du Soleil* has 5,000 employees, including more than 1,300 performing artists from close to 50 countries. In Las Vegas, *Cirque du Soleil* has seven permanent resident shows. These productions include *Mystère* at Treasure Island, “O” at Bellagio Resort & Casino, *Zumanity*, *The Sensual Side of Cirque du Soleil* at New York-New York Hotel & Casino, KÀ at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino, *The Beatles LOVE* at The Mirage Hotel & Casino, CRISS ANGEL Believe at Luxor Hotel and Casino and *Zarkana* at ARIA Resort & Casino. In Orlando, *La Nouba* is presented exclusively in Downtown Disney West Side at Walt Disney World Resort. For more information, visit the *Cirque du Soleil* website at [www.cirquedusoleil.com/lasvegas](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/lasvegas). Like us on [Facebook](#) or Tweet us: [@Cirque](#).