“Financial aid at Yale School of Drama guarantees affordability to all students, rewards meritorious young arts leaders, and increases our graduates’ impact as they raise the standards of global professional practice in every theatrical discipline.”

—James Bundy, Dean

Yale School of Drama has an unparalleled track record of training outstanding and diverse students from every conceivable background. Together, our students, faculty, staff, and guest artists form a richly collaborative community reflecting the extraordinary breadth of contemporary society, aesthetics, and theatre experience. The application of theory to professional practice is a central tenet of training at Yale School of Drama, enhanced in scope by the integration of the school with Yale Repertory Theatre. More than forty productions are staged at Yale School of Drama, Yale Repertory Theatre, and Yale Cabaret each season.

The school leads the nation in investing the resources necessary to remove financial barriers to outstanding graduate theatre training. Tuition is the lowest of any of the country’s foremost theatre training programs, and our need-based financial aid policy minimizes students’ educational debt upon graduation.

Nevertheless, with only a fraction of the total financial aid budget covered by endowment, there is tremendous pressure on the school’s operating budget and on its commitment to keep tuition low. In a field where steady income potential is notoriously precarious, even a relatively low debt burden at graduation can present significant hardship to graduates just beginning their careers in the theatre. Access Yale aims to ensure that Yale School of Drama can continue to be in the vanguard by helping the school to sustain—and grow—its robust and competitive program of scholarship support.

“Yale School of Drama has offered to me the gifts of craft, artistry, and technique, and the playground in which to begin the course of what I hope to be a lifetime career in the theatre as actor, creator, and collaborator.”

Jenelle Chu ’16 MFA is a first-generation American from St. Louis. After receiving undergraduate training in vocal performance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, she decided to pursue a career in theatre. Jenelle spent two years as a resident company member of The Flea Theatre in New York before attending Yale School of Drama, where she is the recipient of the Lotte Lenya Scholarship.
Giving opportunities

$50,000 or more
Endowed Named Scholarship Fund
New endowed scholarships will help reduce our students’ debt load and allow the school to maintain its preeminence by enrolling the most talented theatre artists regardless of financial need.

$25–$50,000
School of Drama Alumni Fund
Gifts to the School of Drama Alumni fund provide vital, immediately expendable support for the school’s most pressing needs. The school relies on annual gifts as an essential resource for increased financial aid.

To learn more
Access Yale is a two-year, university-wide initiative in support of financial aid at Yale. The initiative seeks to build financial aid endowment across all of Yale’s schools, as well as raise current use funds that can go to work immediately to support financial aid in Yale College, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the professional schools.

For more information about how you can help support Access Yale at the Yale School of Drama, please contact:

Deborah S. Berman
Director of Development and Alumni Affairs
Yale School of Drama/Yale Repertory Theatre

Yale School of Drama
PO Box 208244
New Haven, CT 06520
203.432.2890
deborah.berman@yale.edu
drama.yale.edu/welcome-alumni

$43,970
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF ATTENDANCE

$33,325
AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

93%
STUDENTS RECEIVING SOME AID

$19,827
AVERAGE YSD DEBT AT GRADUATION

$6.1 million
AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP AID PROVIDED

12%
AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL AID BUDGET COVERED BY ENDOWMENT

To ensure that it can continue to attract the world’s most talented students and that they can afford to pursue their art after graduation, the Yale School of Drama seeks substantial new endowment as well as current use funds in support of financial aid. Please join us as a partner in this critical endeavor.