

THE *Hollywood* REPORTER

AUGUST 8, 2014

Top
25
Film Schools

Transformers
and the China
Shakedown

Comic-Con 2014:
Winners, Losers,
Wonder Woman

Grumpy Cat
Makes How
Much Money?!

PLUS 14 PAGES OF
HOLLYWOOD PETS

The Mouth of **Meredith**

Vieira says just about anything as she talks the *Today* show ('shit happens'), how to quit on top (she's done it three times) and why she'll be back this fall for the gold mine — or land mine — of daytime TV



USC-turned-DePaul professor **Brad Riddell** calls his new colleagues **Kristyn Jo Benedyk** and **Matt Irvine** “the Bonnie and Clyde of film education,” seizing Chicago’s rich resources for students, who get to work with pros at Cinespace Film Studios and on shows like *Chicago Fire*. Recent visitors have included **Paula Wagner** and **Andy and Lana Wachowski**. Adjuncts are paid a relatively high \$5,000 to \$10,000 per class. “Teaching at DePaul is like hitting the gold vein,” says one teacher, “not just because it pays more, but it’s the place where everything is going down.”

- ▶ **Tuition** \$33,390 undergraduate; \$18,840 graduate
- ▶ **Notable Alumni** Producer **Amanda Pflieger** (*Animals*)

18 **Rhode Island School of Design**

RISD’s Film/Animation/Video Department is artsy enough to call movies “time-based media” yet pop enough to produce alum **Seth MacFarlane**. To help students find their voice, the Providence-based school offers instruction in media ranging from hand-drawn and digital animation to live-action filmmaking and what it calls

“open-media forms.” “The availability of cheap technology doesn’t make us all filmmakers,” says department head **Dennis Hlynsky**. “We develop the artist as a whole, knowing that our graduates need the flexibility to adapt — the future is a moving image, and it’s up to them to decide what it will look like.”

- ▶ **Tuition** \$44,284
- ▶ **Notable Alumni** Animation artist **Caleb Wood**

19 **Florida State University**

If you don’t believe *THR*, which repeatedly has recognized FSU,



UP-AT

5 School



Art Center College of Design, Pasadena

Art Center gave **Zack Snyder** and **Michael Bay** their start. Between classes, cinematographer **Mego Lin** and director **Jon Jon Augustavo** made the **Macklemore & Ryan Lewis** music videos “Thrift Store” and the MTV Award-winning “Same Love.” Instructors have included *New York Times* film critic **Manohla Dargis**.

Art Institute of Chicago

Alumni include 2010 Cannes Palme d’Or winner **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** (*Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*) and **Anahita Ghazvinizadeh**, winner of the Cinefondation prize for best student film at Cannes in 2013.

Northern Film School, U.K.

Leeds’ upstart film school has a rising star in alum **Fabian Wagner**: The Emmy nominee for cinematography on the BBC’s *Sherlock* also shot episodes of *Game of Thrones* and is working on the upcoming *Frankenstein*,



located in Tallahassee, then believe the Television Academy, which recently awarded it five College Television Awards, more than went to any other school. Fellow educators hail its low student-teacher ratio, its graduates' job success and its new digital arts and animation program, whose first class graduates in 2015. Its faculty members have made 400 films, and its students have earned 2,000 awards.

► **Tuition** \$7,544 undergraduate (\$25,959 out-of-state); \$21,569 graduate (\$49,982 out-of-state)

► **Notable Alumni** Alan Ball, producer Stephen Broussard (*Iron Man 3*), actress Kelsey Scott (*12 Years a Slave*)

 **Columbia College Chicago**

Cinema Art + Science at Columbia College Chicago claims to be the largest U.S. film school, with about 1,800 BA, BFA and MFA students.

That tally increases the odds its graduates will surface in Hollywood. "The more you admit, the more likely you will wind up with famous alumni," says an educator at a prestigious smaller program. Indeed, CCC has produced a parade of talent including HBO Films president **Len Amato** and FilmEngine president **Navid McIlhargey**. About 200 students a year are admitted into the undergraduate Advanced Practicum program, which has turned out director **Collin Schiffli** and the rest of the team behind South by Southwest special jury award winner *Animals*. CCC also offers a semester in L.A. at Raleigh Studios, where students work alongside industry types. "But you never know if your crew, whom you rely on constantly, are smart, hardworking film lovers or total wackos," warns an adjunct teacher. That, too, might be ideal training for a Hollywood career.

► **Tuition** \$22,884 undergraduate; \$1,077 per credit MFA

