



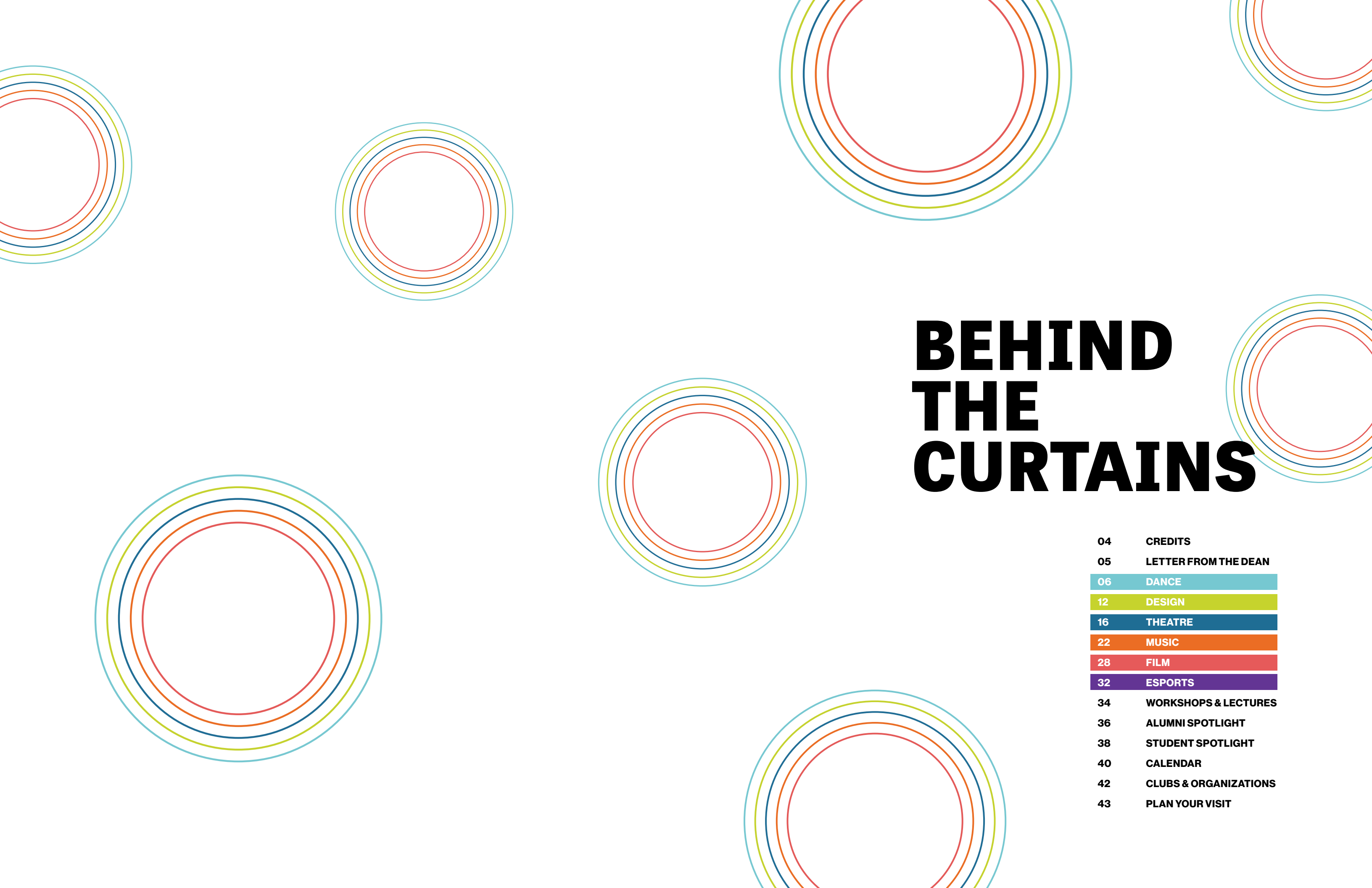
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF ARTS & MEDIA

Season Brochure

2024 - 2025



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CREDITS

This brochure was made possible by the efforts of the College of Arts and Media. We commend the talents of Canyon Creative, an award-winning student-run design agency in the CAM who created this brochure. We also extend our thanks to the faculty who supported and contributed through every step of the process.



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GCU STUDENT AD AGENCY
CANYON
CREATIVE



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canyoncreative.org

LOOKING FOR AN INTERNSHIP WHILE
EARNING CLASS CREDITS?

Canyon Creative offers an unpaid internship and in place of payment, credits are earned. GCU provides university internship courses for 2* and 4 credits.

COURSE	SEMESTER	WEEKLY	CREDITS
UNV-420*	90 Hours	6 Hours	2
UNV-430	180 Hours	12 Hours	4

*Only available for project manager position



LETTER FROM THE
DEAN

CRAIG DETWEILER



MISSION STATEMENT

At GCU's Center for the Arts, we celebrate the power of storytelling to promote human flourishing. We offer diverse arts experiences for all ages across Arizona and beyond.

Welcome to a new season in GCU's Center for the Arts! We're celebrating 50 years of delighting audiences with dance, plays, and musicals in our Ethington Theatre. And we're launching just the second season of up-close experiences in our Black Box Studio. In our screenings and showcases, you'll see more convergence between film, design, animation and the performing arts than ever before.

The rise of Artificial Intelligence has many wondering about the future of entertainment. At GCU, we ground our storytelling in characters facing profound moral dilemmas. Our productions arise from hours of rehearsals and attention to detail. Musicians, dancers, actors, and technicians choreograph their movements with such precision. And yet, we also incorporate the latest technologies in lights, sound, costumes, and sets to inspire our beloved audiences. In the age of A.I., you may be more impressed than ever by the notes we hit, the heights we scale, and the emotions we summon. This is H.I. - human imagination, ingenuity, and inspiration in action.

We have over 300 immersive performances and events for you to enter into. Whether you're seeking deep laughter, soaring melodies, exquisite beauty or much needed tears, our students share their gifts and talents so openly. Your presence and support means so much to young people still honing their skills. As you enter these transformative experiences, we invite you to silence your phone, calm your heart, and expand your soul.

With much appreciation,

Craig Detweiler

Dean, College of Arts and Media
Grand Canyon University

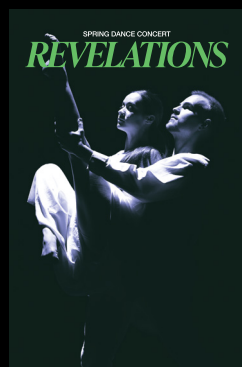


GCU BOX OFFICE

Scan the QR code to order your
Dance tickets. Students are FREE!

DANCE

SPOTLIGHT



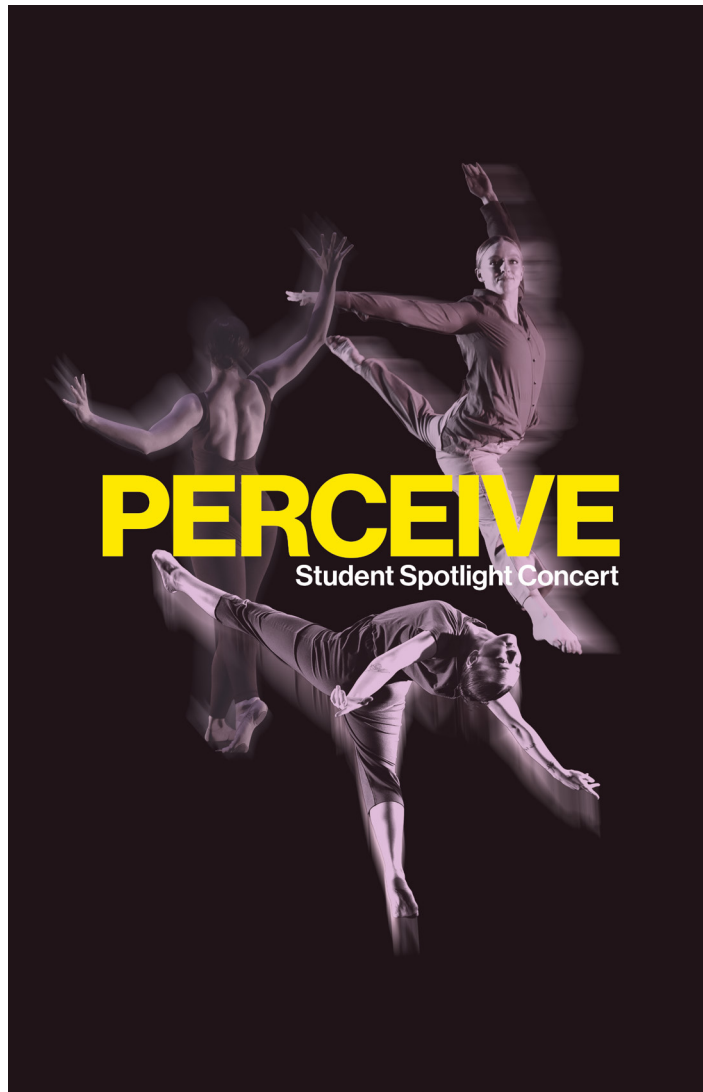
REVELATIONS

Ethington Theatre

APRIL 11 - 12 AT 7:30 PM | APRIL 13 AT 2 PM

Through a rich tapestry of movement, music, and **visual storytelling**, the performance guides audiences on a journey of discovery and insight. "Revelations" is a celebration of the power of dance to illuminate the unseen and bring to light the deepest layers of our souls inviting **Arizona and beyond** to see how God is revealing himself to you.





PERCEIVE

Thunderground

OCT. 24 - 25 AT 7:30 PM

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Colossians 3:2. This Student Spotlight series, choreographed by dance majors and minors, delves into themes of intuition, perception, and the hidden connections that unite us. The performance is sure to challenge perceptions and encourage viewers to look beyond the surface and discover deeper layers of meaning and emotion.

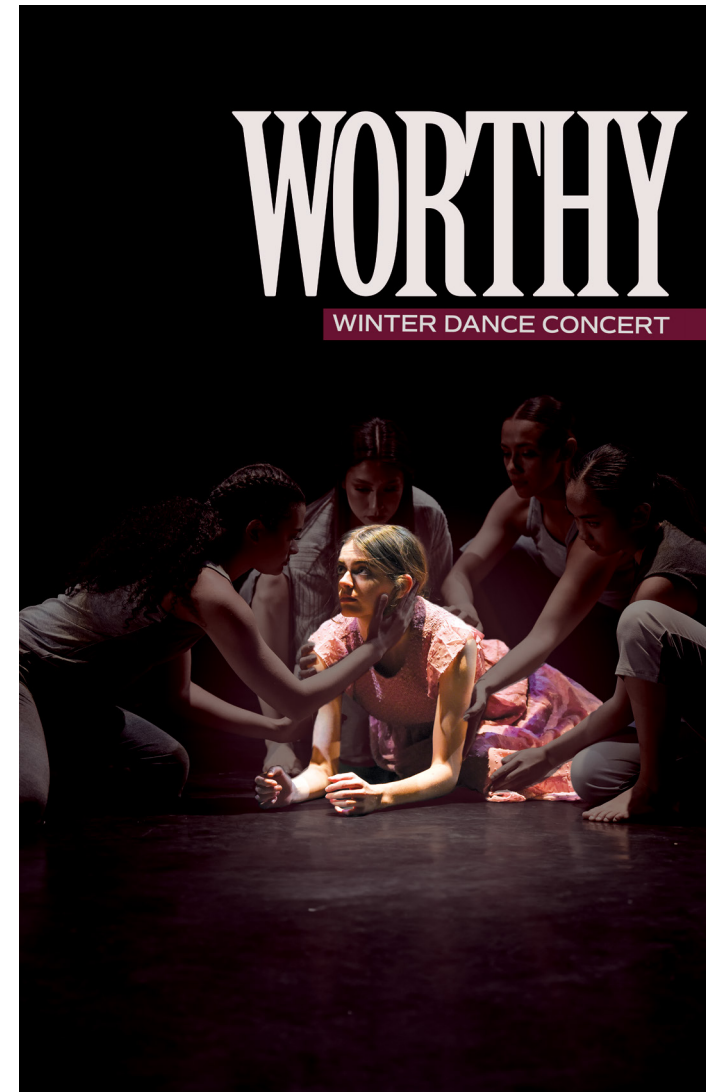


EVENING OF WORSHIP MUSIC & DANCE

The Quad

NOV. 5 AT 7:30 PM

You don't want to miss this collaboration between the CAM dance, worship arts, and music programs located on the GCU quad. The "Evening of Worship, Music, and Dance" is an unbelievable evening of worship that weaves together live music and dance to create an inspiring worship experience. This special performance invites audiences to experience the power and presence of God.



WORTHY

Ethington Theatre

DEC. 6 - 7 AT 7:30 PM | DEC. 8 AT 2 PM

This faculty concert series presents an inspiring exploration of what it means to recognize and honor one's self-worth. "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." Timothy 1:7. Tonight's choreography captures moments of struggle and triumph, illustrating the beauty and strength found in understanding and embracing one's intrinsic value. "Worthy" invites audiences to reflect on their own journeys of self-discovery and self-love.



TRANSCENDENCE

Thunderground

MARCH 18 - 19 AT 7:30 PM

This captivating student performance portrays journeys of personal and collective transformation. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'" Choreographed by GCU Dance majors and minors, "Transcendence" offers an unforgettable experience that inspires audiences to strive to be better and embrace God's creative power as He transcends the boundaries of human limitations.



REVELATIONS

Ethington Theatre

APRIL 11 - 12 AT 7:30 PM | APRIL 13 AT 2 PM

This faculty concert series seeks to inspire faith, hope, and awe as we open our hearts to discover something we did not know or see before. "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:29. Through a rich tapestry of movement, music, and **visual storytelling**, the performance guides audiences on a journey of discovery and insight. "Revelations" is a celebration of the power of dance to illuminate the unseen and bring to light the deepest layers of our souls, inviting viewers to see how God is revealing himself to you.



SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE

GCU Campus

COMING IN JULY 2025

Dance students from the ages of 14-24 are invited to a week-long overnight camp at Grand Canyon University during the summer. Students are taught to develop their skills through instruction with fellow dancers in all areas of the craft. All classes are taught by distinguished dance faculty and guests, assisted by current students from the College of Arts and Media's Dance Department. This week long intensive is then followed by a dance performance for students and family in the Ethington Theatre.

CHAIR
REBECCA PRICE, EDD



MOVEMENT & EMOTION

DANCE CHAIR REBECCA PRICE REVEALS THE
MEANINGS BEHIND THE UPCOMING SHOWS

For 15 years, the Grand Canyon University Dance Program has cultivated a compassionate Christian community in which faculty and students lift one another up as they journey forward with purpose. The 2024-25 Dance Series invites audiences to perceive the world through a lens of movement. The Ethington Dance Ensemble will take audiences on a spiritual journey this season, where each performance delivers heartfelt expressions of faith and purpose. Throughout the series, GCU dancers will not only showcase their extraordinary talents but will also share poignant messages of grace, discovery, and transformation.

The season begins in Thunderground with our Student Spotlight Concert "Perceive" on Oct. 29 & 30. Then you can join us outside on Nov. 5 for an "Evening of Worship, Music, and Dance" located on the quad. The fall semester concludes with the GCU Faculty Concert "Worthy" on Dec. 6-8 in Ethington Theatre choreographed by GCU dance faculty and guest artists.

Our spring performances kick off with the Student Spotlight Concert "Transcendence" on March 18 & 19 in Thunderground. Our season concludes in Ethington on April 11-13 with the GCU Faculty Concert "Revelations."

As the season progresses, the themes of perception, worthiness, transcendence, and revelation weave together to create an unforgettable tapestry of human experience and artistic excellence.



WANT TO AUDITION?
Learn more at
gcuarts.org/auditions

DESIGN

SPOTLIGHT

DESIGN SENIOR SHOWCASE & AWARDS

Quad Lawn
DEC. 11 AND APRIL 22

The GCU Design Senior Student Showcase & Awards is an exciting and inspiring event where graduating design students display their creative work and compete for recognition.





DESIGN EVENTS

DESIGN SENIOR SHOWCASE

Quad Lawn

DEC. 11 & APRIL 22

Curated by Sheila Schumacher, Christopher Murphy, and Troy Pottgen

Twice a year, graduating seniors proudly display their capstone portfolios to faculty, peers, and potential employers. Students have studied their industry, honed their technical and creative skills, and present diverse projects as evidence of their degree completion.

For the local creative community, as well as the campus community, this is an all-in-one look at the variety of strategy, imagination, and technicality needed to succeed as a graphic designer, web designer, motion designer, or social media content creator. Businesses need these skills, and our students are excited to provide them. This event acts as a bridge between academic achievement and professional success.

AAF PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Echo Building (4-111)

NOV. 20 at 6 pm

CALLIGRAPHY BOOTCAMP

For more information check gcuarts.org/events

ELISABETH DOMBROW

JUNIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

THE JAMES AGENCY | Class of 2024

GCU's Senior Design Showcase was a fulfilling experience. Seeing both my work and my peers' designs come together highlighted the dedication and effort we've invested over the years. It's a moment every student should be proud of. It was a chance to savor the present, free from the worries of the past or future regarding my career, but to fully appreciate how far I've come as a designer. The showcase was a milestone in my life and opened doors for my career. Thanks to the networking opportunities the showcase provided, I was able to build relationships that led to a full-time Junior Graphic Design position at The James Agency shortly after graduation. Additionally, the collaborative environment our design practicum class provided helped me realize my desire to work in an agency setting. The GCU program shaped me into the designer I am today, and I will forever be grateful!

CHAIR

SHEILA SCHUMACHER, MFA



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

DESIGN CHAIR SHEILA SCHUMACHER DIVES INTO THE PURPOSE OF THE SENIOR SHOWCASE

At the heart of the Senior Showcase is a **celebration** of the diverse talents and unique voices of our graduating seniors. Every student participates and each portfolio represents a culmination of their academic endeavors, personal passions, and professional aspirations, showcasing a rich tapestry of projects that span a multitude of design disciplines. From branding campaigns to digital illustrations, from user experience design to typography, these portfolios offer a glimpse into the breadth and depth of our students' abilities.

A foundational belief in our programs is that design can change the world. Our students have embraced this ethos, infusing their projects with purpose, meaning, and a keen understanding of the role that design plays in society. Whether they are addressing social issues or promoting environmental sustainability, each senior has imbued their work with integrity and information to move the minds of their audience.

As we navigate an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the need for skilled and visionary designers has never been greater.* Our programs teach students a self-sufficiency to respond to the multi-dimensional needs of clients and businesses by developing repeatable processes based in research and theory, then implemented with the newest technology available. Design is a partnership between beauty and business, between craft and technology, and can provide a vibrant life-long career.

Each semester we invite you to join us in celebrating the Design Department's Senior Showcase, a display of the transformative power of education in design and the boundless potential of our graduating seniors. As you peruse their portfolios and engage with their projects, we hope you will be inspired by the creativity, ingenuity, and passion that permeates every aspect of their work. These are the future leaders, innovators, and visionaries in the world of design.

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Graphic Designers, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/arts-and-design/graphic-designers.htm> (visited August 29, 2024).

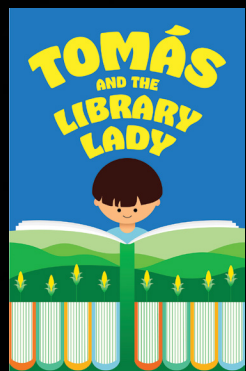


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Scan the QR code to order your
Theatre tickets. Students are FREE!

THEATRE

SPOTLIGHT



TOMÁS AND THE LIBRARY LADY

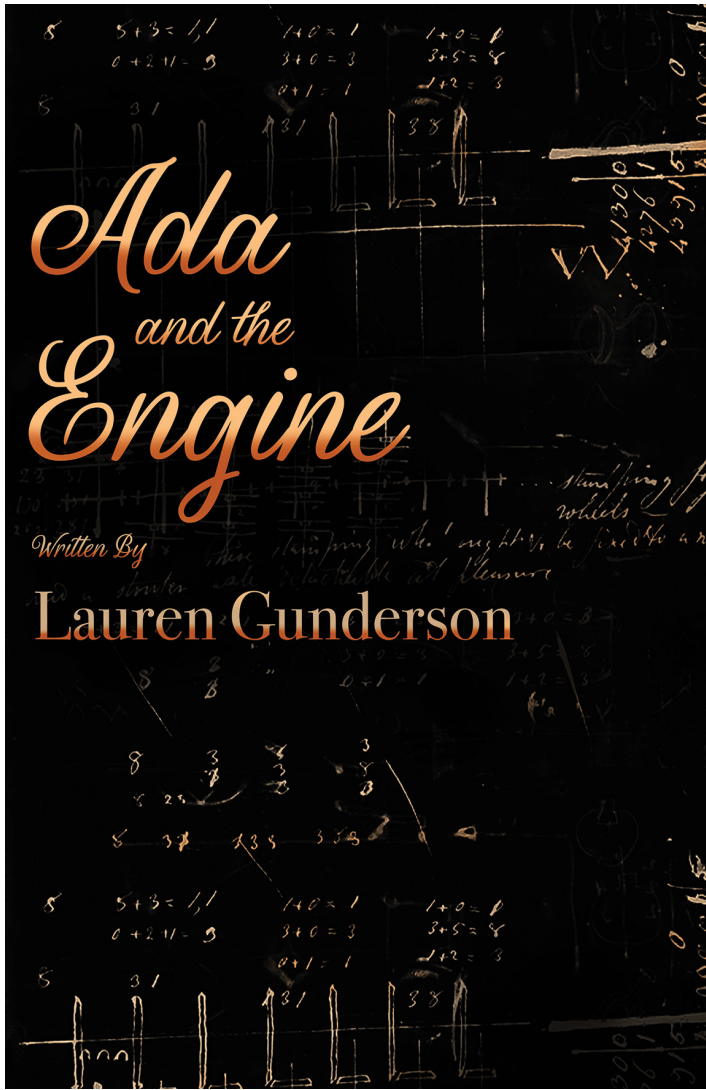
Ethington Theatre

OCT. 18 - 20 | OCT. 25 - 27

7:30 pm Friday & Saturday | 2 pm Sunday

Join Tomás as he navigates being raised in a migrant worker family in the 40s. Come alongside Tomás as he develops his love for books, **storytelling**, and the possibility that he might too, love learning.





ADA AND THE ENGINE

Ethington Theatre

SEPT. 13 - 15 | SEPT. 20 - 22

7:30 pm Friday & Saturday | 2 pm Sunday

Director: Michael Kary

Written By: Lauren Gunderson

Ada and the Engine is the fascinating, true love story of Ada Lovelace Byron and the creation of the first computer with Charles Babbage. Rich with history, romance, and science, this Arizona premiere of Lauren Gunderson's work is a fast paced, uplifting, and often funny probe into the poetic, scientific life of one of the computer industry's most important women.



TOMÁS AND THE LIBRARY LADY

Blackbox Theatre

OCT. 18 - 20 | OCT. 25 - 27

7:30 pm Friday & Saturday | 2 pm Sunday

Director: Bertha Ordonez-Cortes

Written By: Pat Mora and José Cruz González

Tomás and the Library Lady tells the real-life tale of Tomás Rivera, a Mexican American writer raised in a migrant worker family during the 1940s. The librarian introduces Tomás to the magic of books and **storytelling**, which takes him on countless adventures and helps him fall in love with learning. Tomás is the story of the possibility and promise of learning in pursuit of the American dream.



BEAUTY & THE BEAST

Ethington Theatre

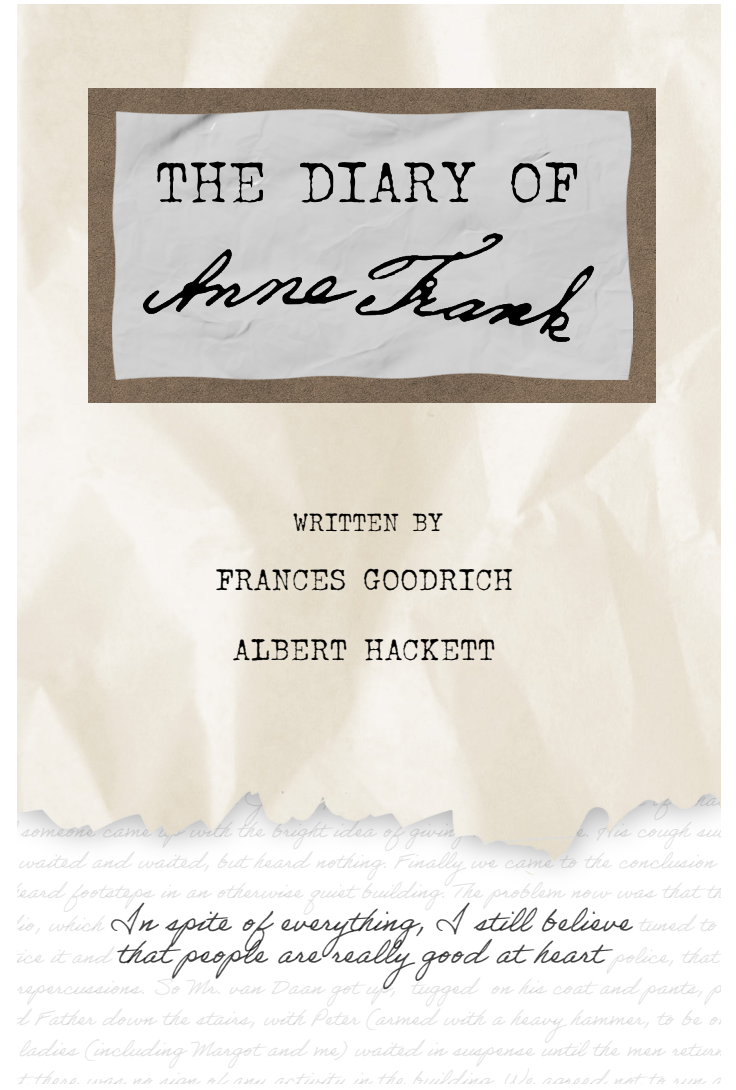
NOV. 8 - 10 | NOV. 15 - 17

7:30 pm Friday & Saturday | 2 pm Sunday

Director: Cindi Calhoun

Written By: Linda Woolverton

Belle is a young woman in a small provincial town, yearning for adventures like those in her books. Fate brings her to the castle of the Beast, a mysterious figure who is really a prince trapped in the spell of an enchantress. Throughout his castle, household staff have been transformed into objects – and if the Beast can learn to love and be loved, everyone will transform back to their original selves. But time is running out, and without Belle's help, that castle will be doomed forever. Based on Disney's animated musical, Beauty and the Beast will enchant audiences of all ages with this magical “tale as old as time.”



THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

Blackbox Theatre

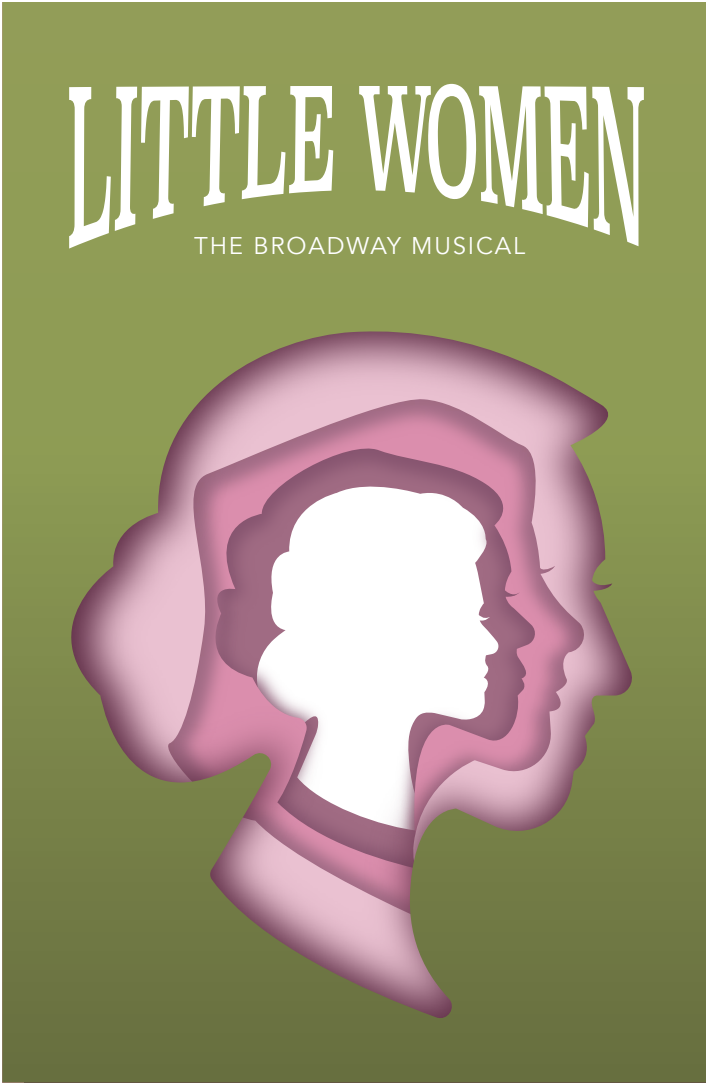
JAN. 31 - FEB. 2 | FEB. 7 - 9

7:30 pm Friday & Saturday | 2 pm Sunday

Director: Joanie Colson

Written By: Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

Set inside the annex in Amsterdam, Anne Frank's story is a poignant telling of one of the darkest periods in history. Through the eyes of a teenage girl, it captures the realities of eight people living in hiding for more than two years. We share in their fears, hopes, laughter, and grief as they navigate living together in a small space for their own survival.



LITTLE WOMEN

Ethington Theatre
FEB. 28 - MARCH 2 | MARCH 7 - 9
7:30 pm Friday & Saturday | 2 pm Sunday

Director: Michael Kary
Written By: Allan Knee

An American Classic comes to the stage in a beloved musical. The March sisters have been a part of the literary heart of America for over one hundred and fifty years, and yet their compelling story of love, loss, and purpose still resonates clearly today. This lush, musical adaptation by Allan Knee, Mindi Dickstein, and Jason Howland is the perfect setting and sure to be a joy for the whole family.



THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Blackbox Theatre
MARCH 21 - 23 | MARCH 28 - 30
7:30 pm Friday & Saturday | 2 pm Sunday

Director: Claude Pensis
Written By: Tennessee Williams

The Glass Menagerie, one of the most famous plays of the American canon, is a loosely autobiographical play that helped to revolutionize American theatre of the 20th century and create a moving masterpiece. This portrait of Williams' life with his mother and sister is an illustration of the romantic spirit living in a non-romantic world. It is a memory play told in a series of scenes through which we witness the hopes and dreams of the Wingfields as reality sets in. "Delicate... moving... lovely... perfect..."
– New York Times

CHAIR
WILLIAM SYMINGTON, MFA



EXPLORING
HOPE & FAMILY

THEATRE CHAIR WILLIAM SYMINGTON DIVES INTO THE
PROCESS OF CHOOSING SHOWS FOR THE SEASON.

The greatest challenge in any college theatre season is nurturing students' individual voices while fostering collaborative synergy to create cohesive art. This synergy arises from hard work, creative problem-solving, and talent merging into unified productions that speak with one voice. Each artist contributes unique skills—whether in costuming, hair and makeup, sound, lighting, scenic design, properties, acting, direction, or other roles—to enhance playwrights' works. From a Disney musical to an immigrant success story to the indomitable human spirit even in the midst of the holocaust-every production is unique, challenging students to express themselves across diverse genres and expand

their artistic vocabulary. Students will face and overcome obstacles and answer complex questions as they navigate the world of creative **storytelling**. Theory will be put into practice and students will discover their own unique voices while building tenacity and grit earned from taking on real-world responsibilities. This upcoming season promises an incredible journey of growth and creativity.



WANT TO AUDITION?
Learn more at
gcuarts.org/auditions

MUSIC

SPOTLIGHT

DREAMS WIND ENSEMBLE

Sunset Auditorium

OCT. 13 AT 7 PM

A concert featuring some of the great classics of Wind Band literature. Come and enjoy an evening of band music featuring the GCU Wind Ensemble directed by Jon Gomez. The concert is free and open to the public.

DREAMS



MASTERWORKS CONCERTS

Ethington Theatre

OCT. 24 - 25 AT 7:30 PM

Music Director and Conductor: Dr. Juan de Dios Hernandez

Grand Canyon University's Masterworks Concert Series features some of the greatest works of literature. Our aim is to explore the human condition through our music, from a distinctively Christian worldview.

The 2024 season features a great variety of works, from choral anthems, African American spirituals, and smaller choral works to some of the great works of the Oratorio and Choral Symphonic repertoires. Highlights include the Arizona premiere of American Composer Dan Forrest's New oratorio Creation, our annual "Messiah" performances, both sing-along and concert formats, two works that speak of loss of life from two very different perspectives: "The Sacred Veil," "The Lost Birds," and two large choral symphonic works: "Vaughan Williams Donna Nobis Pacem" & "Mårten Jansson Requiem Novum." The season will also feature our audience favorites, "Songs of Our Faith" and "Broadway, Opera, and all that Jazz" concerts, as well as our flagship vocal ensemble Critical Mass in Concert.



WIND ENSEMBLE

GCU Arena

SEE PAGE 26

Music Director and Conductor: Jon Gomez

The 2024-25 Wind Ensemble concert series promises to provide a wide range of traditional and new music for wind and percussion instruments. The theme of each concert will focus on music that explores the vast range of literature supporting that specific theme.

The GCU Wind Ensemble not only acts as a performance venue for students but also a laboratory experience for future music educators and student composers.



JAZZ BAND

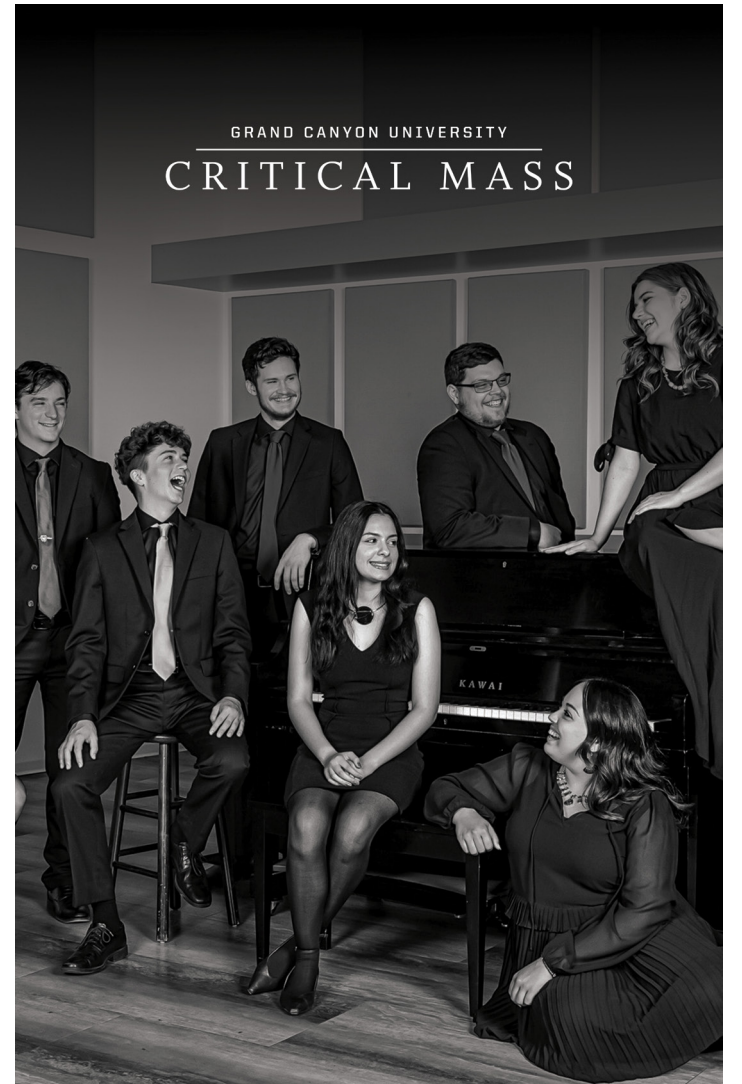
Ethington Theatre

NOV. 7 AT 7:30 PM | APRIL 3 AT 7:30 PM

Music Director and Conductor: Andrew Gross

The GCU Jazz Ensemble emphasizes teaching traditional big band jazz styles, including swing, Brazilian, Afro-Cuban, funk, and more. This approach enables students to build strong foundational skills in the genre. Students not only develop the technical abilities needed for high-level performance, but also learn to collaborate effectively with professional musicians.

The ensemble performs on campus for concerts and school functions as well as throughout the valley. They regularly appear at local high schools and junior high schools. The band is honored to perform at Phoenix's premier jazz club, The Nash, a venue that provides a prestigious platform for showcasing their talent and growth.



CRITICAL MASS

Ethington Theatre

MARCH 19 - 20 AT 7:30 PM

Music Director and Conductor: Dr. Juan de Dios Hernandez

Critical Mass is a traveling vocal ensemble with a strong emphasis on Christian character, student leadership, and music, which promotes the university's espoused Christian mission and the music department's vision. The ensemble sings various repertoires, from early music to contemporary choral music, gospel, jazz, contemporary Christian music, a cappella, pop, and Broadway. The ensemble performs both on campus and on the road at a variety of functions, with a focus on service, representing Grand Canyon University at churches, schools, civic functions, special events, and other venues. This upcoming concert will include a variety of selections representative of the broad repertory that Critical Mass performs.

CONCERTS AND ENSEMBLES

CRITICAL MASS IN CONCERT

First United Methodist Church
SEP. 26 at 7 pm

Bellevue Heights Church
APRIL 27 at 6 pm

WIND ENSEMBLE

“DREAMS”
Sunset Auditorium
OCT. 13 at 7 pm

“FREEDOM”
Sunset Auditorium
NOV. 17 at 7 pm

“VOYAGES”
Sunset Auditorium
FEB. 23 at 7 pm

“VICTORY”
Sunset Auditorium
APRIL 13 at 7 pm

JAZZ BAND

Ethington Theatre
NOV. 7 at 7:30 pm

Ethington Theatre
APRIL 3 at 7:30 pm

MASTERWORKS

SONGS OF FAITH
Bellevue Heights Church
OCT. 6 at 6 pm
Valley Presbyterian Church
OCT. 10 at 7 pm

DAN FORREST
CREATION
La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church
OCT. 27 at 3 pm

HANDEL'S MESSIAH
La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church
DEC. 6 at 7 pm
Bellevue Heights Church
DEC. 8 at 6 pm

A GCU CHRISTMAS
Valley Presbyterian Church
DEC. 10 at 7 pm

THE SACRED VEIL &
THE LOST BIRDS
La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church
FEB. 7 at 7 pm

BROADWAY, OPERA,
AND ALL THAT JAZZ
Valley Presbyterian Church
MARCH 6 at 7 pm
Paradise Valley United Methodist Church
MARCH 21 at 7 pm

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
DONNA NOBIS PACEM &
MARTEN JANSSON
REQUIEM NOVUM
La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church
APRIL 10 at 7 pm

BEST OF THE YEAR
First United Methodist Church
APRIL 22 at 7 pm

CHAIR
JUAN HERNANDEZ, DMA



ELEVATING
ARTISTRY

MUSIC CHAIR JUAN HERNANDEZ ON THE
DIVERSE RANGE OF EVENTS THIS YEAR.

Grand Canyon University offers a great variety of concerts during the year. From our flagship Masterworks Concert Series to instrumental ensembles and jazz to contemporary worship events, our concert programs reflect the breadth and depth of our music department. Our students perform in various venues throughout the Phoenix Metro area, including some of the most beautiful churches in town, as well as iconic venues, such as The Nash Jazz Club. Our ensembles include the Canyon Choral Society, which most often performs with guest artists The Canyon Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Juan de Dios Hernandez, Music Director and Conductor, The Canyon Chorale, Critical Mass Vocal Ensemble,

The GCU Wind Ensemble, The GCU Thunder Jazz Band, as well as a variety of smaller instrumental ensembles and student soloists. We invite you to come and enjoy a great variety of music while supporting the arts at GCU!

We trust that our performances will strengthen your faith and encourage your heart as we share our gift of music with you.



WANT TO AUDITION?
Learn more at
gcuarts.org/auditions



PEP BAND

AUGUST - APRIL

Music Director: Kevin Bock

At GCU, the Thundering Heard Pep Band is a vital part of our community. They are our hype crew, they set the tone of the events, and they push us to have a phenomenally great student section at our GCU games and events. The Thundering Heard Pep Band is an incredibly talented crew of students who follow along with our basketball team to cheer them on. In addition to traveling with the athletes, they go and compete on their own across the country. They pride themselves in being a group that allows for all students to join via audition.



WANT TO AUDITION?
Learn more at
gcuarts.org/auditions

FILM

SPOTLIGHT

GCU FILM FESTIVAL

Ethington Theatre

OCT. 25 AT 6 PM

The GCU Film Festival is a celebration of the art of **visual storytelling**, showcasing an array of genres and talents from the university's creative community. Join us as we honor the creativity, originality, and passion that defines the GCU film community.



FILM EVENTS

GCU FILM FESTIVAL

Ethington
OCT. 25 at 6 pm
Curated by Lisa Tervo

The GCU Film Festival is a celebration of the art of **visual storytelling** through film, showcasing an array of genres and talents from the university's creative community. The evening consists of a carefully curated screening of films in the categories of Drama, Comedy, Faith, Documentary, Thriller, Animation, Music Video, as well as a selection of alumni work. Awards are bestowed upon the best submissions in each category, as voted by a panel of industry professionals. The pinnacle of the event is the "Best of Fest" award, recognizing the film that stands out as the epitome of artistic achievement and technical proficiency across all categories. The winning prize includes a trip to Sundance Film Festival sponsored by Bridges-Larson Foundation.

PITCHFEST

Howerton Hall
NOV. 1 at 6 pm

DRONE FESTIVAL

GCU Baseball Field
Date TBD

FILM SPRING SHOWCASE

Ethington Theatre
APRIL 4 at 6 pm



BRADY HAYES

FILM STUDENT
EMPHASIS IN PRODUCTION | Class of 2026

Brady Hayes is a Junior in the class of 2026 within our film program. As a kid, Brady went frequently to the movies with his mom and dad. When he saw Big Trouble in Little China, he knew he needed to be a storyteller. Once he came to GCU, he dove into the film community creating his first film "The Rim." "The Rim" started as a vampire movie, but after talking to a few people, it slowly became his twist on an Arizona Bigfoot story. Within making this film, he worked with his roommates Josh Utterback (Entrepreneurial studies), Tory Barden (Graphic Design), and Ryan Sanchez (History). Throughout the filming processes, they also collaborated with other students outside of the GCU campus for both audio and camera work. Once the film was made, they had a premier night in the Ethington Theatre, with the help of Dean Dr. Craig Detweiler as well as Film Chair, Lisa Tervo.



CHAIR

LISA TERVO, MFA, MS



MIXING CRAFT WITH CREATIVITY

FILM CHAIR LISA TERVO ON THE FILM DEPARTMENT'S SEMESTER-END FESTIVAL

The film department at GCU unites a diverse community of storytellers, providing opportunities for students to showcase their talents, hone their skills, and gain invaluable experience.

The year begins with the GCU Film Festival, a curated screening reflecting not only the department's dedication to nurturing creativity and originality, but also the interests and skills of the students.

Following shortly afterwards is Pitchfest, an opportunity for students to pitch story concepts to a panel of industry professionals. The top three concepts receive constructive feedback, helping them refine their scripts and improve their storytelling techniques. This feedback loop is valuable as it encourages continuous learning and improvement among aspiring filmmakers. The school year ends with the Promising Young

Filmmaker Spring Showcase, honoring the imagination and resourcefulness of the underclassmen.

Participating in these events encourages collaboration among students across disciplines. From scriptwriting to directing, cinematography to editing, filmmaking is inherently collaborative, and these events provide opportunities for students to learn from each other's strengths and create impactful films that resonate with audiences.

Ultimately, these events not only **celebrate** the accomplishments of our students but also elevate the university's reputation as a hub for creative excellence. By nurturing talent, fostering innovation, and helping to prepare students for careers in film, GCU's film department continues to make contributions to the world of **visual storytelling**.

ESPORTS

ESPORTS

FALL 2024 EVENTS

WEEKLY

FIRE FOX FRIDAY
Cathedral Rock Building (3-102)
Fridays
7pm-Midnight

MONTHLY

COMMUNITY WEEK
Esports Arena (57-221)
Mon 10/14 - Fri 10/18
Mon 11/18 - Fri 11/22

ONE TIME

FALL SOCIAL
Esports Arena (57-221)
Fri 9/6
6pm-10pm

GAMER CAFÉ
Esports Arena (57-221)
Sat 10/5
10am-Noon

HALLOWEEN PARTY
Location TBD

HOLIDAY PARTY
Esports Arena (57-221)
Mon 12/2
7pm-Midnight

- ✦ **PLAY YOUR GAMES**
- ✦ **CONNECT WITH FRIENDS**
- ✦ **CREATE YOUR HOME**

PLAY • CONNECT • CREATE

Grand Canyon University's esports program strives to be the premiere gaming organization in the country. Over 120 collegiate players participate across more than 20 teams and the student-led organization now has more than 2,000 members. On top of this, GCU Esports houses multiple casual communities such as: Minecraft, Dead by Daylight, Rocket League, and DND.



SCAN TO JOIN
ESPORTS DISCORD



GCUESPORTS.COM



WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY

Women Wednesday is only open to women. The arena will be closed for the event and after the event.

9/18
Esports Arena (57-221)
6pm-10pm

10/16
Thunderground
6pm-11pm

11/20
Esports Arena (57-221)
6pm-10pm

WORKSHOPS & LECTURES



1 AAF PORTFOLIO REVIEW

This portfolio review is organized by Professor Troy Pottgen, current Board President of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) - Phoenix, in collaboration with other members. The event offers all students a unique opportunity to present their best work one on one to over twenty industry professionals within the state of Arizona. It is designed to help students refine their portfolios, enhance their presentation skills, and gain insights into the expectations and standards of the industry. In addition to a portfolio review, students are given an opportunity to receive professional headshots and work with a resume reviewer for points of improvement. While doing this, students are encouraged to use this opportunity to network and make connections with these industry professionals.

2 CANTALOPES IMPROV PERFORMANCE

GCU's live improv team, the Cantalopes, engage the performers and the audience with live games like what you may have seen on "Whose Line is it Anyway." The troupe also performs written sketches similar to the sketches on Saturday Night Live. These students' endless stream of ideas and thinking on their feet, is truly something to behold- and very entertaining too. The group utilizes props, specifically audience generated props to perform enticing, hilarious shows. The team performs throughout the school year bringing a new perspective to the life of a college student. It's like turning a mirror to the life of a college student - a fun house mirror.

3 S-NATS CONFERENCE

The S-NATS Cal-West region are hosting their West Region Auditions and Conference at GCU this year. During this event, students from California, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico who are the future vocal teachers of America come together to learn from industry professionals, compete in a competition for a variety of awards from all state awards to scholarships. During this event, there are over \$35,000 in scholarships and prizes awarded. At this event, current voice student and faculty will be volunteering and participating in the competition and other events that will be occurring. This event is for students high school and above who are the future of musical vocal education. Within this event, there will be a wide range of music from classical, Broadway, opera, and more.

4 CALLIGRAPHY BOOTCAMP

Join us for the ninth year of our Calligraphy Bootcamp during Phoenix Design Week as we dive into the art of beautiful writing during an intensive workshop designed for both beginners and experienced calligraphers. Participants will explore various calligraphy styles, techniques, and tools under the guidance of expert instructors. This immersive experience includes hands-on practice, personalized feedback, and creative projects to help you master the intricacies of calligraphy. Whether you're looking to enhance your design skills, add a personal touch to your projects, or simply explore a new artistic hobby, the Calligraphy Bootcamp offers the perfect opportunity to develop your craft and connect with fellow enthusiasts.

5 PARABLES

GCU Parables Theatre Troupe Parables is a traveling theatre group that brings high-energy, engaging and faith-based content into schools, churches, and special events. The Parables team is prayerfully chosen each year from those students who express an interest in sharing the gospel through theatre.

6 ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Alpha Psi Omega is a club and nationally recognized honor society for college theatre. Their goal is to create a strong community of young artists and come together through a shared passion of theatre. APO hosts a variety of different theatre-related events that are open to all students. These events include Bible studies, karaoke nights and other performance opportunities, holiday parties, and more! To become a recognized member of APO, students must show their commitment to the arts by earning points and participating in inductions at the end of the year.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



HANNAH HEISLER

ASSOCIATE CREATIVE DIRECTOR
HEART AND SOUL MARKETING | Class of 2018

Hannah Heisler is a graduate of our Design program at GCU. Since then, she has become an Associate Creative Director at Heart and Soul Marketing. Before this though, she was just a kid who wanted to be creative. From an early age Hannah recalled begging her parents to get her Adobe disks so that she could learn how to design. Even though the rest of her family were doctors, her parents supported her creativity. Around 10 years old, she learned about advertising making her path clear. While in college, she did everything she could to involve herself in everything design by plugging into clubs, projects, and events put on my GCU. Her involvement eventually landed her her first job. This last year, she won Young Person of The Year at the Addy's along with three other awards. At this same event, Design chair Sheila Schumacher won Educator of The Year along with two other students receiving Addy's. Overall this was a successful year for Hannah and CAM.



JEFF DYKHUIZEN

LEAD PRODUCER
MANLEY CREATIVE | Class of 2014

Since graduating from our film program in 2014, Jeff landed a job working for Manley Creative where he started as an editor. Since then, he has used the skills and passion for the craft that were instilled in him at GCU to become a Lead Producer. He has seen firsthand that while production is a tough industry, it can be rewarding. At GCU, he was taught to approach everything he did with passion, something that he saw in action by professors during his time.



ALYSSA PRENTISS

PRODUCT DESIGNER
PARADOX | Class of 2023

During Alyssa's time at GCU, she was a web designer for Canyon Creative working under Professor Chris Murphy. Alyssa never thought of herself as artistic but more analytical until she took a web design class and fell in love. She realized that web design requires the balance of creativity and problem solving that suited her unique passions. This last year, Alyssa won 3 Addy's, one of which being Up and Comer Student, Best of Show (2024) and she is now a Product Designer at Paradox.



PILI KAUPU-FRONZA

DRUMMER
NATIONAL TOUR: BROADWAY MRS. DOUBTFIRE | Class of 2024

A recent graduate of 2024, Pili had a unique experience here at GCU. During his junior year, he participated in a project in New York that eventually led to his participation in the First National Tour of Mrs. Doubtfire, the musical. This required him to start at the beginning of his senior year, meaning he had a unique class schedule. Currently, Pili is still on tour as a drummer for Mrs. Doubtfire, with stops in Phoenix this fall. While drumming, he makes it a goal to talk to students to show that having a career in music is possible in more than just one way.



LAUREN HAMMOND
OWNER & DIRECTOR
 Desert Dance Collective
 Class of 2018



LOGAN PLOOSTER
PROGRAM OPERATIONS
 Pinnacle Peak Pictures
 Class of 2021



DANIEL BURROUGHS
MASTER'S STUDENT
 University of Massachusetts
 Class of 2024



REBEKAH VARGHES
PRODUCER
 Arizona PBS
 Class of 2014

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



KENNEDY BECKIUS

FILM | Class of 2026

Kennedy is a film student in the class of 2026. Her first year at GCU was filled with many ups and downs. Originally, Kennedy was a gymnast, which is what she intended to pursue in college but after opportunities didn't work out, she enrolled in GCU's film program. In the beginning, she was unsure as to how realistic it was to pursue film. She never saw herself as creative, at least not creative enough to pursue a career in it. She'd tell people, "After I win the Olympics, I'll write a book about it." But, during her first semester in the film program, she saw just how attainable this career can be. After her first successful film, titled "Crescendo," she fell in love with the art. To her, the thought that her films could produce real, raw reactions from her audience became exhilarating. So, she dove headfirst into the film world, partnering with other film students to create GodTape Productions to produce other films such as "Love and Beaches," a film that she directed. After winning Pitchfest, a film contest students have on campus, she won a scholarship from the

Bridges-Larson Foundation to produce a film of her own during the upcoming semester. She also had the opportunity to go to Sundance, where she met Oscar award winners and became surrounded by people doing exactly what she wants to do. During this event, our Dean Dr. Craig Detweiler, and Film Chair, Lisa Tervo, encouraged her to make networking connections and talk to more people. While doing this, she learned that the best way to succeed is to be of service to others. She made a connection to the scripture Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." The professionals she spoke to encouraged her that, whether working in a high or low position on a set, the best thing you can do is help others and, in return, you will receive help as well. They also suggested she pass this mindset along by helping others the way she was helped.



LUKE LUNDBERG

MUSIC | Class of 2027

Currently, Luke Lundberg is the Choral President as a sophomore in the class of 2027. Though Luke has been involved in the choral community, with his position, he plans to create a close-knit community surrounded by music. Over the summer, Luke went to Camp of The Woods in New York to perform with other students and professionals allowing him to grow in his craft and build new connections thanks to the established connections he has made here at GCU.



JESSICA MANGELS

THEATRE | Class of 2025

Jessica (or Jess) Mangels is a Theatre student in the class of 2025. While at GCU, she has been a part of almost every show put on by the Theatre program either in a role on stage or in the production side of things. Over the summer, Jess led a group of five Alpha Psi Omega (APO) students on a trip to Japan. They spent three weeks teaching musical theatre at two schools and one church to kids ranging from kindergarten to high school.



ELLE HAHN

DESIGN | Class of 2025

Elle Hahn is a senior in the class of 2025 studying Graphic Design and Advertising. While at GCU, she has been heavily involved in her faith-based community by leading a women's Bible studies on campus as well as working with Young Life by mentoring high school students. In addition to all of this, Elle went to New Mexico with the AAF team to compete in the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) to create and present a Tide campaign.



JORDAN GARRISON

DANCE | Class of 2025

Jordan Garrison is a dance student in the class of 2025 double majoring in Human Resources. Jordan grew up dancing and knew from a young age that she was going to dance. More specifically, she wants to go into commercial dance. During her time here she has been given many opportunities, one of which was to perform in the Super Bowl with Rihanna. This opportunity was presented to her and fellow classmates by Dr. Rebecca Price.

FALL SEASON

SEPTEMBER

ADA AND THE ENGINE

Ethington Theatre
Fri 9/13 - Sun 9/15
Fri 9/20 - Sun 9/22

CRITICAL MASS IN CONCERT

First United Methodist Church
Thur 9/26

OCTOBER

SONGS OF OUR FAITH
MASTERWORKS CONCERT

Bellevue Heights Church
Sun 10/6

DESIGN FALL AUMNI PANEL

Building 35-157
TBD

SONGS OF OUR FAITH
MASTERWORKS CONCERT

Valley Presbyterian Church
Thur 10/10

FAMILY WEEKEND

Prescott Field
Fri 10/11 - Sun 10/13

DREAMS WIND ENSEMBLE

Sunset Auditorim
Sun 10/13

TOMAS AND THE LIBRARY LADY

Blackbox Theatre
Fri 10/18 - Sun 10/20
Fri 10/25 - Sun 10/27

"PERCEIVE" STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT CONCERT

Thunderground
Thur 10/24 - Fri 10/25

FILM FEST

Ethington
Fri 10/25

DAN FORREST CREATION

La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church
Sun 10/27

NOVEMBER

PITCHFEST

Howerton Hall
Fri 11/1

A NIGHT OF WORSHIP, MUSIC,
AND DANCE

The Quad
Tues 11/5

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Ethington Theatre
Thur 11/7

FREEDOM WIND ENSEMBLE

Sunset Auditorium
Sun 11/17

BEAUTY & THE BEAST

Ethington Theatre
Fri 11/8 - Sun 11/10
Fri 11/15 - Sun 11/17

AAF PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Building 4-111
Wed 11/20

DECEMBER

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church
Fri 12/6
Bellevue Heights Church
Sun 12/8

"WORTHY" WINTER DANCE CONCERT

Ethington Theatre
Fri 12/6 - Sun 12/8

A GCU CHRISTMAS

Valley Presbyterian Church
Tues 12/10

DESIGN SENIOR SHOWCASE
& AWARDS

Quad Lawn
Wed 12/11

SPRING SEASON

JANUARY

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

Blackbox Theatre
Fri 1/31 - Sun 2/2

FEBRUARY

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

Blackbox Theatre
Fri 1/31 - Sun 2/2
Fri 2/7 - Sun 2/9

VOYAGES WIND ENSEMBLE

Sunset Auditorium
Sun 2/23

MARCH

LITTLE WOMEN

Ethington Theatre
Fri 2/28 - Sun 3/2
Fri 3/7 - Sun 3/9

BROADWAY, OPERA, AND ALL THAT
JAZZ

Valley Presbyterian Church
Thur 3/6
Paradise Valley United Methodist Church
Fri 3/21

"TRANSCENDENCE" STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT CONCERT

Thunderground
Tues 3/18 - Wed 3/19

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Blackbox Theatre
Fri 3/21 - Sun 3/23
Fri 3/28 - Sun 3/30

DRONE FESTIVAL

GCU Baseball Field
TBD

APRIL

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Ethington Theatre
Thur 4/3

FILM SPRING SHOWCASE

Ethington Theatre
Fri 4/4

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS DONNA NOBIS
PACEM & MARTEN JANSSON
REQUIEM NOVUM

La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church
Thur 4/10

CALLIGRAPHY BOOT CAMP

Building 35
TBD

"REVELATIONS" SPRING
DANCE CONCERT

Ethington Theatre
Fri 4/11 - Sun 4/13

BEST OF THE YEAR

First United Methodist Church
Tues 4/22

DESIGN SENIOR SHOWCASE
& AWARDS

Quad Lawn
Tues 4/22

CRITICAL MASS IN CONCERT

Bellevue Heights Church
Sun 4/27

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



GCU's Women in Film Club celebrates and supports female filmmakers by hosting screenings, discussions, and networking events. It aims to highlight diverse perspectives, promote women's roles in the industry, and provide a platform for emerging talents to showcase their work and connect with industry professionals.

CREATIVE HERD

Creative Herd brings together students from various artistic disciplines to collaborate on multimedia projects. gcuarts.org



Alpha Psi Omega, the national theatre honor society, recognizes students who have demonstrated talent in theatre arts. gcuarts.org



The Songwriters' Guild is led by one of the full-time music faculty. Students in this club compose and arrange songs.



The A Cappella Club is student-led and competes throughout the year.



The AAF chapter at GCU connects students with the exciting world of advertising and marketing. gcuarts.org



SNATS at Grand Canyon University provides vocal students with unique opportunities for professional development and networking. gcuarts.org



The Digital Film Production Club puts on events such as the 48-hour film festival and lets filmmakers and screenwriters collaborate on projects.



Women in Film is for all GCU females who are interested in collaborating or networking with other female filmmakers.



Though not really a "club," Canyon Choral Society is GCU's largest choir and is open to any GCU student with no audition required.



The Student Dance Organization is a mentorship program focusing on building community amongst dancers in the department.



Dance classes are taught by current dance students every Monday night in the dance studios. Students have the chance to learn different dance styles and choreography.



The Cantalopes Improv Team hosts weekly improv workshops for students taught by current Cantalopes team members.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

VISIT GCU

Located in the heart of Phoenix, Grand Canyon University (GCU) offers a vibrant campus experience with exciting facilities, engaging events, and a welcoming community. Whether you're a prospective student, a visitor, or part of our extended GCU family, we invite you to explore all that our campus has to offer.

ADMISSIONS OFFICE:
Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm

CAMPUS TOURS:
Monday-Friday, 9 am - 4 pm

CENTER FOR THE ARTS BOX OFFICE:
Monday-Friday, Noon - 5 pm

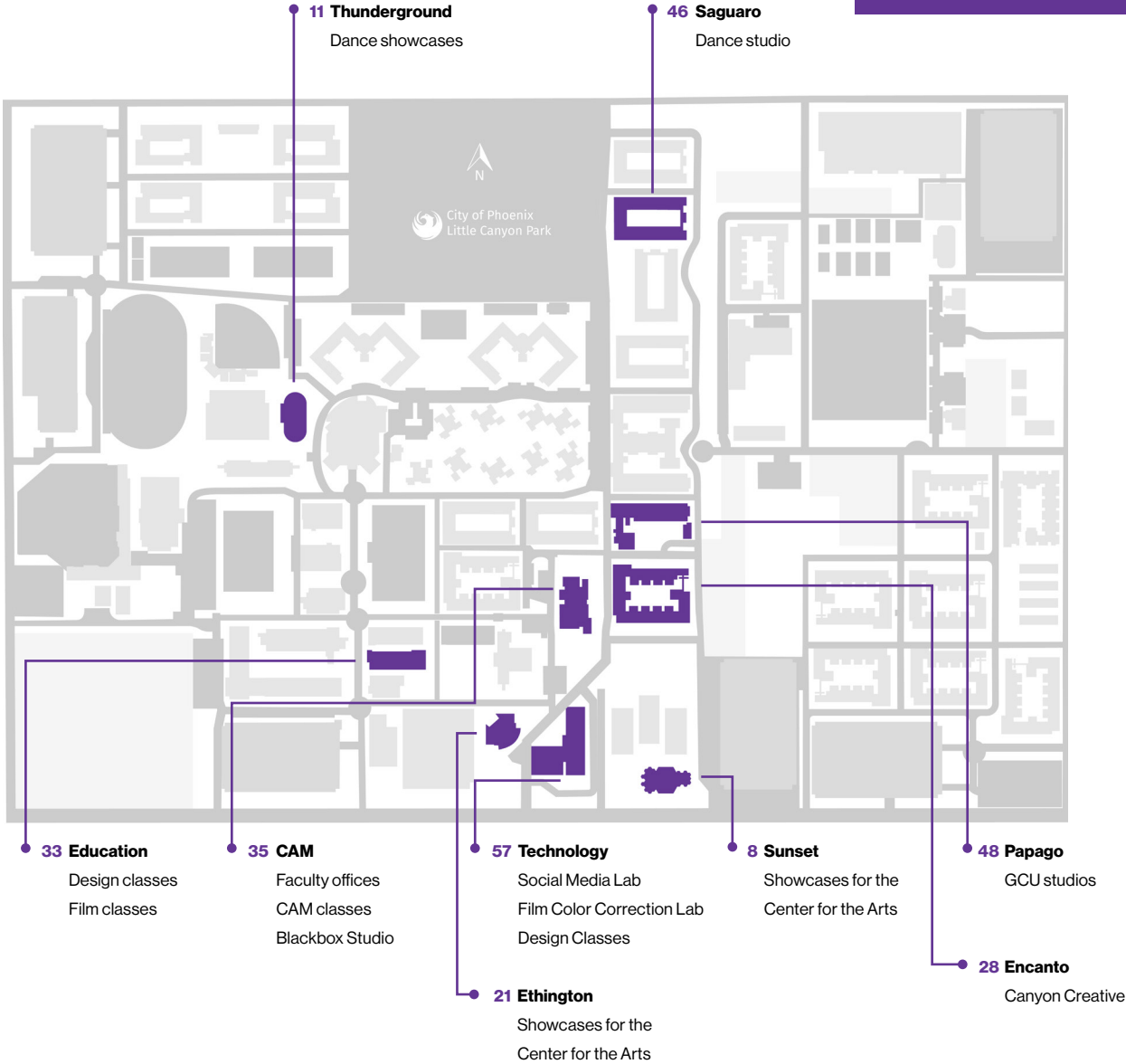


Welcome to Grand Canyon University, home to the vibrant College of Arts and Media. We have convenient, no cost parking available at these locations:

MAIN CAMPUS GARAGE:
3300 W. Camelback Road
Phoenix, AZ 85017

EAST CAMPUS GARAGE:
2942 W. Camelback Road
Phoenix, AZ 85017

For further clarification, visit gcuarts.org



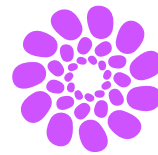


GCU's Student Design Agency

Canyon Creative is an innovative design agency run by students at GCU's College of Arts & Media. It provides real-world creative services.

The agency collaborates on projects within the university and beyond, **offering students applicable experience in a Christ-centered environment.** Canyon Creative has a proven track record of delivering award-winning, impactful work.

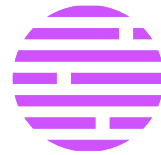
For more details, visit CanyonCreative.org.



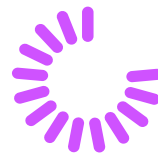
Advertising & Graphic Design



Animation & Motion Graphics



Copywriting & Screenwriting



UX/UI & Web Design



Photography & Video Production

Canyon Creative Studio - Encanto 27-31



NICK LANDRETH

Senior | Web Designer

I feel prepared to graduate as I have been able to drastically improve my skills while earning agency experience.



ELLE HAHN

Senior | Graphic Designer

Canyon Creative has been a pivotal learning experience in my graphic design career. It has improved my design skills and surrounded me with an amazing community.



Looking for an internship while earning class credits?

Canyon Creative provides unpaid internships where students earn academic credits instead of payment. GCU offers University Internship courses that provide 2 or 4 credits, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in fields like graphic design, film, motion graphics, social media, web design, project management and more.

We accept applications from students in all of GCU's colleges, fostering a diverse, interdisciplinary environment where collaboration thrives.

COURSE	SEMESTER	WEEKLY	CREDITS
UNV-420*	90 Hours	6 Hours	2*
UNV-430	180 Hours	12 Hours	4

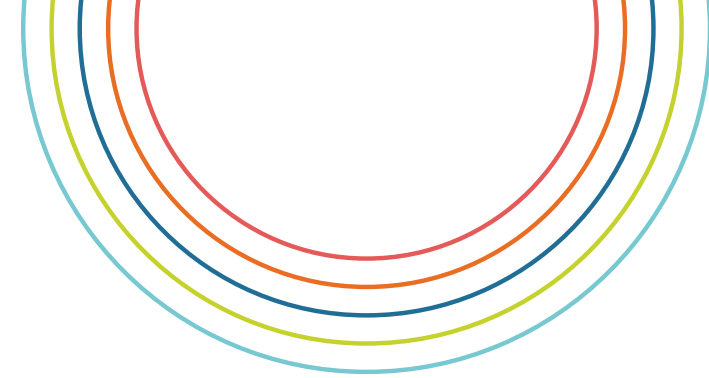
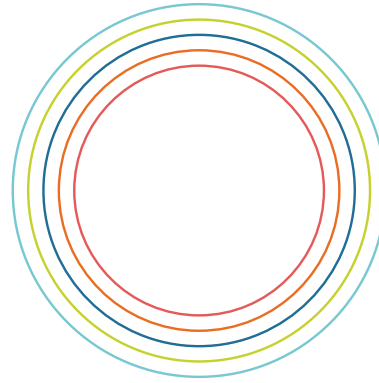
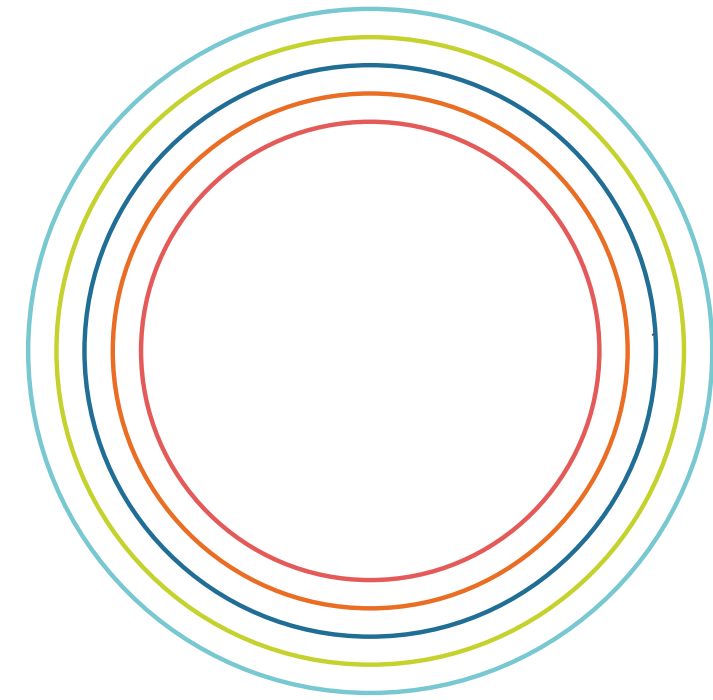
*Only available for project manager position



APPLY TODAY!

Learn more at
CanyonCreative.org





A heartfelt thank you to President Brian Mueller, Provost Randy Gibb, and all those who have contributed to the success of the College of Arts and Media at Grand Canyon University. **Your unwavering support and dedication to fostering creativity and innovation have made a profound impact on our students and community.** We are grateful for your leadership and commitment to excellence. Thank you for empowering us to inspire, educate, and transform lives through the power of the arts.

Olivia Parker
Ethan Brooks
Sophia Reynolds
Mason Hayes
Ava Mitchell
Jackson Bennett
Isabella Sullivan
Liam Harrison
Amelia Foster
Noah Coleman
Charlotte Edwards
Lucas Morgan

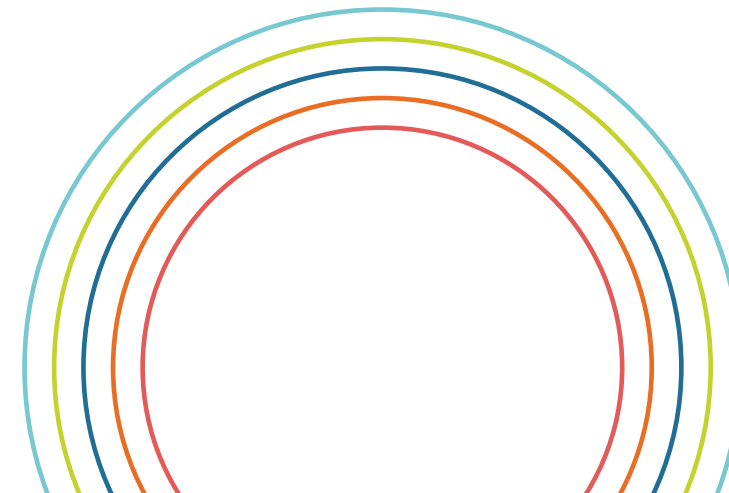
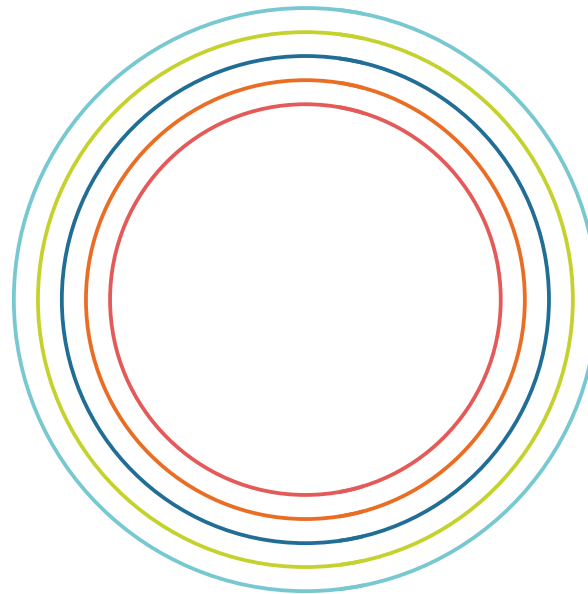
Harper Taylor
William Cooper
Evelyn Russell
Oliver Carter
Emily Thompson
Benjamin Phillips
Abigail Peterson
Jacob Richardson
Mia Nelson

THANK YOU

SPONSORS



**Bridges/Larson
Foundation**



**GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF ARTS & MEDIA



Grand Canyon University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLCCommission.org), an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Please note, not all GCU programs are available in all states and in all learning modalities. Program availability is contingent on student enrollment. Important policy information is available in the University Policy Handbook at gcu.edu/academics/academicpolicies.php

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