



Drama, Film & Dance Projects



Purnell Center, Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Carnegie Mellon University's theater program is renowned for its alumni of famous actors and technical personnel. The Purnell Center, which opened in the Fall of 1999, brings together into one building all of the theatrical disciplines including stagecraft, costume design and construction, set design, lighting design, sound design, vocal training, acting and directing, television and video production and music training. The new facility features a 450-seat theater for presentations and teaching of drama, musicals and light opera. The theater includes variable acoustic drapes so students can understand how scenic elements can alter the acoustics. The theater also has a movable "throat" wall that can alter the sound reflection patterns to the audience. This wall also houses many lighting instruments and provides a high degree of technical flexibility.

Design Team

Architect: Michael Dennis Associates, Boston, MA,
Damianos + Anthony, Pittsburgh, PA
John Sergio Fisher & Associates, Tarzana, CA

Project Dates

1996-1999

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