

# cornish (r)evolution

cornish partners with **TheFilmSchool**



All art shares a common truth: ultimately, it is about connections. Whether it is the artist connecting with their work or their audience, each art form has invisible threads to others, as well as to other art forms. This interconnectivity often translates into interdisciplinary work as the pursuit of authentic artistic expression is sought. Nowhere does this idea of interconnectivity resonate more than within the walls of Cornish — which occasionally inspires exciting relationships within the community.

One such relationship is currently underway. Recently, Cornish forged an exciting new partnership with TheFilmSchool, a Seattle-based institute focusing on the craft of screenwriting. This uniquely positions both schools to expand their creative communities and provide students with a new set of skills

to realize their aspirations. Cornish students accepted to TheFilmSchool have the opportunity to earn credits towards their degree at Cornish with approval from their departments.

Jenifer Ward, Associate Provost at Cornish, is thrilled with this development. “We’ve got these two great arts organizations with connections in the community,” she says. “Why wouldn’t we foster that, take some of the threads and begin to weave them together in a way that serves both institutions and both sets of students? Everything about it is appealing.”

John Jacobsen, co-founder of TheFilmSchool, is passionate about the art of story. “We don’t teach film production,” he shares. “It goes to the root of filmmaking: the art of storytelling. We offer a program that nurtures individual voices, cultivates original stories, while inspiring excellence in dramatic writing.”

From framing a shot to building a plot, the multifaceted curriculum offered by TheFilmSchool emphasizes self-exploration and the emotional substance needed to tell powerful stories. “Teaching the art of story in this form,” John adds, “sets students up for filmmaking really well. It’s important to learn the difference between playwriting and film writing; they are very different mediums with very different structures.”

Clearly, this partnership opens wider the artistic doors for students in all departments at Cornish. “When considering the different disciplines we offer,” Ward muses, “they all share a similar aim; while not overtly about story, they are about story — which makes this a great pairing.”

Jacobsen agrees. “One of the extraordinary things about Cornish is the sense of craftsmanship the faculty instills. This is the heart of where Cornish and TheFilmSchool cross paths.”

Indeed, it seems to be a natural evolution for Cornish. If a fine art institution only has the grand old art forms, then Cornish would only teach acoustic music; painting, not design; ballet, not modern; and certainly no performance production. But the truth is, the world of art continues to transform daily, as it should, with the times. It makes sense for a visionary art institution to embrace and engage with that change.

Ward also sees clearly how this partnership supports the greater vision of Cornish. “Cornish fosters interdisciplinary connection. Since cinema spans the visual and the verbal, temporal and spatial, performance and narrative,” she says, “it intersects with the art forms already present in the Cornish curriculum. We are delighted to embark on this partnership that both supports the respective missions of our institutions and contributes to the increasingly important place of Seattle as a player in the film world.”

— Lisa Halpern