

# Dimitri Toscas

Artistic Director/Stage Director/Writer

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**Dimitri Toscas** is a founding Artistic Director at Garry Marshall Theatre in Burbank California, where, for three years, with a creative team, oversaw the artistic vision and direction of the theatre's award-winning programming. He directed the inaugural production of the inaugural season, Terrence McNally's play *Master Class*, which was Ovation-nominated for *Best Production of a Play* and starred Emmy-winner Carolyn Hennesy (whose portrayal of Maria Callas won an Ovation Award for *Best Actress in a Play*). Toscas also garnered national attention for writing and directing contemporary versions of Verdi's *La Traviata* and Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* commissioned by Skylight Music Theatre in Milwaukee.

Toscas served on an Entertainment Task Force at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, developing new show concepts for musicians and actors at EPCOT. He developed and directed shows for Universal Studios, Hollywood and wrote and directed "Voices of Liberty" at Disneyland. He directed several critically-acclaimed productions in Los Angeles, including Ovation Recommended *Buyer & Cellar*, *Scott and Hem*, the West Coast premieres of *Class*, *Bunny Bunny* and *Laurel and Hardy*. To find out more, visit [www.dimitritoscas.com](http://www.dimitritoscas.com).

## Most Recent Directing & Writing Projects:

<b><i>The Spitfire Grill</i></b>	Director	Garry Marshall Theatre
<b><i>La Traviata: the fallen one</i></b>	Writer	a musical screenplay, based on Verdi's opera
<b><i>The Singular Life of Mr Laurel and Mr Hardy</i></b>	Writer/Director	a new play by Dimitri Toscas and Kevin Blake

## as Artistic Director:

Dimitri Toscas planned and produced award-winning productions at Garry Marshall Theatre, carrying on the legacy of the theatre's twenty-year history when it was created and run by film director Garry Marshall.

Toscas led the team that planned and executed the transition from the "for profit" *Falcon Theatre* to the newly-founded nonprofit *Garry Marshall Theatre*, all the while continuing the daily operation of a new season to keep continuity in the subscriber base. In a few short months, the entire organization was restructured, including hiring of new staff, redesigning the interior and exterior of the building itself, including new branding, a new marquee, new lobby, new website and new social media for marketing, leading to a successful launch of a new nonprofit theatre. He also led the team programming a curated year of new events, including:

- a concert and performance series called **LIVE @ the marshall**
- December brought a month-long series of events, concerts, performances from a local high school, and a co-production of an improvised musical, all celebrating the **Holidays at the Marshall**
- started the year-long **marshallARTS family series** bringing new plays and musicals to kids and parents alike, and a children's book reading series called *Storybook Pages* for the youngest members of our audience
- the wildly successful **MOVIES AT THE MARSHALL**, a once-a-month "movie night" (the first season celebrated the work of director Garry Marshall, showing all 18 of his films in chronological order); and lastly...
- we hosted a masterclass series called **Modern Masters**, welcoming the likes of TV legend *Norman Lear* and Hollywood make-up royalty *Michael Westmore*

All these programs were developed, designed and executed in the *first* year – while producing and delivering a strong award-winning season on the **MainStage**.

**a season celebrating ART**, defining a "new way" to see the world around us, with every production featuring several *firsts* for this twenty-year old theatre

- **Master Class\*** – first multi-nominated production, featuring an OVATION WINNING performance by Emmy-Award winner Carolyn Hennesy as Maria Callas
- **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** – starring both "New Kid on the Block" Joey McIntyre and TV/Broadway star Paul Vogt as Pseudolus to sold out houses, featuring female proteans playing multiple roles in a show first
- **Edward Albee's Occupant** – a West Coast Premiere play about the life of sculptor Louise Nevelson
- **Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor** – starring an inclusive non-traditional cast, led by a Native American actor in the "Neil Simon" role and featuring a diverse and gender-equal production team
- **Wood Boy Dog Fish** – a new immersive co-production of an original work by up-and-coming playwright Chelsea Sutton, featuring puppets and music by Rogue Artist Ensemble, with a diverse and inclusive cast in both race and gender-identification, and...
- **The Enchanted Nightingale** – part of the newly-created marshallARTS family program, helmed by director Fran de Leon, this family production featured an all-Asian cast and gender-equal production team, celebrating Chinese art and culture, then...

**a season of Extraordinary Things Happening in Ordinary Places** answered the question "Do I belong here? Am I part of the American Dream?" with incredible stories of people making profound change in the communities around them:

- **Real Women Have Curves** – directed and designed by an all-woman production team (another first for this theatre), we were thrilled to have playwright Josefina Lopez work with us to update her autobiographical script to reflect our nation's current immigration issues, with an entire Latinx cast
- **The Mountaintop** – playwright Katori Hall challenges us when she tips the history of Martin Luther King, Jr on its side, Ovation Nominated director, Gregg T Daniel led a culturally diverse team of designers to recreate the night that changed history
- **Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill** – was a last-minute replacement in the season, but Billie Holiday's struggles still answered the question "Am I part of the American Dream?" in a profound and moving way, starring Deidrie Henry and featuring Broadway music director Abdul Hamid Royal
- **The Spitfire Grill\*** – this musical got a modern reboot, not only in design but with an inclusive and diverse cast, to answer the questions that the season raised with a resounding YES – everyone belongs here – everyone. All we have to do to change the world around us is be honest enough to speak our truth and be open enough to accept the truths of the people around us. This was the impetus for me to have actors who also played their own instruments – no matter how these characters were getting along, they had to come together and make something beautiful – to make music, together. This became symbolic of America to me...especially today.

\* these productions were directed by Dimitri Toscas

**Master Class**  
**The Spitfire Grill**  
**Buyer & Cellar**  
**Scott and Hem**  
**Into the Woods**  
**Bunny Bunny**  
**Laurel and Hardy**  
**Così fan tutte**  
**La Traviata**  
**La Bohème**  
**H.M.S. Pinafore**  
**H.M.S. Pinafore**  
**The King and I**  
**Sweeney Todd**  
**Seussical: the musical**  
**Plaid Tidings**  
**the Little Mermaid**  
**the MAGIC flute**  
**"Cinderella!"**  
**the EMPTY pot**  
**Lucia di Lammermoor**  
**Man of La Mancha**  
**Sweeney Todd**  
**The Voices of Liberty**  
**Limited Time Magic: Presidents Day**  
**The Cantina Singers**  
**Eventide Carolers**  
**Ácoussa** (vocal performance group)  
**Definitely Dickens Carolers**  
**The NAKED Cabaret**  
**The NAKED Cabaret 2!**  
**The NAKED Cabaret 2!**

Director (*Ovation Recommended*)  
Director  
Director (*Ovation Recommended*)  
Director  
Director/Choreographer/Guest Professor  
Director (*Ovation Recommended*)  
Director/Choreographer (*West Coast Premiere*)  
Director/Writer  
Director/Writer/Choreographer  
Director  
Director/Choreographer  
Director/Choreographer  
Director/Choreographer  
Director/Choreographer  
Director/Choreographer  
Director/Writer  
Director/Writer/Choreographer  
Director/Writer  
Director/Writer/Designer  
Director/Writer/Designer  
Assistant Director (Dorothy Danner)  
Assistant Director (Dorothy Danner)  
Assistant Director (Bill Theisen)  
Show Director/Writer  
Show Director/Writer  
Show Director/Writer  
Director/Writer  
Director/Writer/Vocal Arranger  
Show Director  
Director/Writer  
Director/Writer  
Director/Writer

**as Director:**  
Garry Marshall Theatre  
Garry Marshall Theatre  
Falcon Theatre  
Falcon Theatre  
Pepperdine University, CA  
Falcon Theatre  
Falcon Theatre  
Skylight Opera Theatre  
Skylight Opera Theatre  
Piedmont Opera  
Muddy River Opera  
St. Ambrose University  
Circa' 21 Dinner Theater  
Muncie Civic Theatre  
Muncie Civic Theatre  
Circa' 21 Dinner Theater  
Falcon Theatre  
Falcon Theatre  
Falcon Theatre  
International Fringe Festive, Orlando  
Virginia Opera  
Skylight Opera Theatre  
Cleveland Opera  
Disneyland, CA  
WDI (Walt Disney Imagineering), Glendale, CA  
Universal Studios, Hollywood, CA  
Universal Studios, Hollywood  
Los Angeles, CA  
Disneyland Hotel, CA  
Civic Theatre of Central Florida  
International Fringe Festive, Orlando  
Skylight Opera Theatre Bar & Bistro

#### Immersive Theater projects in development:

**Nightmare**  
**When the Bell Tolls**

Show Director/Writer  
Show Director/Writer

Los Angeles, CA  
Los Angeles, CA

#### most recent Writing Credits:

**2013 Annie Awards**  
**Germ's!**  
**Playboy** (Hugh Hefner bio-pic)  
**Igor** (animated film)

Writer  
Writer/Development (freelance)  
Research/Writer  
Additional Screenplay

ASIFA-Hollywood  
Aardman Animation, London  
Universal Pictures/Imagine  
MGM Feature Animation

**Orlando Opera: Education**  
**EPCOT Entertainment**  
**EPCOT Education**

Associate Director  
Show Development Consultant  
Program Writer/Development

**Related Experience:**  
Orlando Opera Company  
Walt Disney World, FL  
Walt Disney World, FL

#### Education:

**Masters in Divinity** (Child Development/Family Therapy), Holy Cross, Brookline, MA  
**Bachelor of Arts** (Education), Hellenic College, Brookline, MA  
**Modern Drama Workshop: Theatre and Script Development**, P. Tzougros, Harvard/Holy Cross (joint class)  
**Improvisational Theatre Workshop**, Second City, Disney Institute