

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE IN ACTING AND FILM PRODUCTION

KD Conservatory, founded in 1979 by Kathy Tyner and Kim Dawson, has been a leading institution for acting and film training in Dallas for over four decades. Prior to founding KD Conservatory, Kathy Tyner spent 15 years as the General Manager of the Kim Dawson Agency, the largest talent and modeling agency in the Southwest. During her time at the Agency, Tyner played a pivotal role in shaping the local entertainment industry, forming the Broadcast Talent Division and working as both a producer and booking agent. As Tyner observed the need for a professional space where actors could hone their skills, she and Kim Dawson collaborated to establish KD Studio, which later became KD Conservatory.

KD Conservatory was created to provide quality instruction for both beginning and advanced actors. Starting with advanced workshops designed for experienced actors, the Conservatory quickly expanded its curriculum in response to the growing demand for more comprehensive training. Programs were developed to include voice training, acting for film and television, and specialized techniques such as cold readings and commercial auditions. By 1985, KD Conservatory had achieved accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and by 1986, it was authorized by the Texas Education Agency to award an Associate of Applied Arts Degree. The institution continued to grow in stature, earning accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Theatre in 1988, solidifying its place as a premier training ground for actors.

Throughout its history, KD Conservatory has been recognized for its commitment to nurturing artistic talent and creating opportunities for professional growth. Kathy Tyner, a dedicated advocate for the arts, has served on numerous boards and committees, including the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the Texas Educational Theatre Association, and Women in Film/Dallas. Her vision and leadership have helped place KD Conservatory at the forefront of arts education in Texas.

In 2024, KD Conservatory entered a new era with a strategic partnership with DTV Studios, founded by former KD Conservatory student and business owner Antonia DeNardo. DeNardo, who began her acting journey at KD Conservatory at just seven years old, went on to build a successful career in entertainment, transitioning from acting into hosting and broadcast journalism. After earning a degree in Broadcast Journalism from Southern Methodist University, DeNardo co-hosted a live morning show and eventually founded DTV Studios in 2004.

Her passion for acting and her unique coaching style have shaped DTV Studios into a highly regarded acting school, focused on emotional availability and the art of storytelling.

The partnership between KD Conservatory and DTV Studios represents the merging of tradition and innovation. Tyner's decades of experience and dedication to the Dallas film industry are complemented by DeNardo's fresh perspective and forward-thinking approach to actor training. Together, they aim to elevate the standard of excellence in acting education and film production while creating new opportunities for aspiring actors and filmmakers.

This collaboration comes at an exciting time for the Texas film industry. In 2023, Texas approved a \$200 million incentive package aimed at attracting film and television productions back to the state, positioning Texas as a major player in the entertainment industry once again. KD Conservatory and DTV Studios are poised to take full advantage of this resurgence, offering comprehensive training programs that prepare actors for the demands of today's entertainment landscape.

As KD Conservatory and DTV Studios look to the future, they remain committed to their shared mission of fostering creativity, honing talent, and empowering the next generation of storytellers. This partnership ensures that KD Conservatory's legacy of excellence will continue to thrive, inspiring artists and shaping the future of film and acting education in Dallas and beyond.

MISSION STATEMENT

KD Conservatory believes that each student possesses unique qualities and that by employing their individual strengths, students have the opportunity to develop the skills that will enable them to realize their full potential in the entertainment field.

KD Conservatory provides a creative atmosphere in which students with diverse backgrounds and skill levels can experience a variety of techniques and styles to enrich their skills through practice and discovery.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of KD Conservatory is to promote the continued growth and development of beginning and advanced artists. Highly qualified professionals serve as faculty to keep students in constant contact with working artists who understand the dynamics of the entertainment industry.