

# AMERICADA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS

SPRING 2003



## Alumni Honors and Awards

*Academy Alumni have been honored for their professional works and the Academy pays tribute to their many achievements.*

**Adrien Brody (Sat)** won the Academy Award for his role as famous Polish musician Wladyslaw Szpilman in Roman Polanski's critically acclaimed WWII film *The Pianist*. Brody – at age 29 – has made Oscar history as the youngest ever choice for Best Actor in a Leading Role. He also won the César in France and the Film Critics, USA, awards, as well as SAG and Golden Globe nominations. **Kim Cattrall '74** won the Golden Globe as well as an Emmy nomination in the category of Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her role in HBO's *Sex and the City*. **Dennis Haysbert C'77** won the Golden Globe Award for best supporting actor in *Far From Heaven*. He will continue his role as President Robert Palmer on the acclaimed Fox series *24*.

**Christine Ebersole '75** was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Performance as a Featured Actress in a Play for her role in the Lincoln Center Theatre's production of Kaufman and Ferber's *Dinner at Eight* for which she also received an Outer Critics Circle nomination. She is currently starring off Broadway in *Talking Heads*, for which she won a 2003 Obie and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award. She also won this year's Backstage Bistro Award for Outstanding Performance in a Major Engagement. On May 9th, her caricature was hung at Sardi's.

**Gena Rowlands '53** was nominated for an Emmy Award in the category of Lead Actress in a Miniseries or a Movie for her role in Showtime's *Wild Iris*. She also starred in Showtime's *Hysterical Blindness* with Uma Thurman and Juliette Lewis, *Charms for the Easy Life*, and the upcoming film *The Notebook*, written and directed by her son **Nick Cassavetes C'80**. **Elizabeth Franz '62** was nominated for a Tony Award for her work in Lincoln Center Theatre's *Mornings at Seven*. She also co-starred in the TV film *An Unexpected Love*.

*(continued on page 4)*



Christine Ebersole '75



Gena Rowlands '53



Elizabeth Franz '62

# A Message from the President

## Roger Croucher

It is a joy to see so many Academy alumni honored for their achievements. It validates the work we do here to prepare students for their varied professional careers.

We are honored to be the official home of SAG Foundation Conversations in New York City because it gives us the wonderful opportunity to serve members of the acting profession and our students and alumni who benefit from the professional advice of prominent actors. It also nurtures relationships with our industry and promotes our position as a leader in the field of educational training.

We are still recovering from enrollment losses attributable to the tragic events of 9/11 and the move of our California campus to a new location in 2000 as well as the national financial position. However, I am pleased to report that Academy applications are at an all time high for recent years. We have made it much easier for our applicants to apply "on-line" at [www.aada.org](http://www.aada.org) from anywhere in the world. The Academy has a strong presence in Europe through its London auditions. In the fall of 2002, we had 44 London participants, and in 2003, we had a total of 61. These efforts have resulted in more European students at the Academy, especially from England.

The Academy put in its first appearance at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival, May 14-25, on the giant screen networks. The 15-second spots, honoring our alumni and promoting our website, ran for 12 days.

The support of our alumni and friends is essential for our future development, and we urge you to become involved through our Alumni Association and by placing the Academy on your charitable giving list. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Academy's success on behalf of our entire community.



Right: Roberto Benigni, Bob Nuchow and Roger Croucher

## Academy Hosts SAG Foundation Conversations

The Academy has been chosen to be the official home of SAG Foundation "Conversations" in New York City. **Bob Nuchow**, Conversations Projects Coordinator called the cooperative venture, "a beginning of a beautiful friendship." On November 1, 2002, the Academy hosted Conversations with **Nia Vardalos**, writer and star of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, moderated by **Kathleen Chalfant**, who is currently appearing in the off-Broadway hit play *Talking Heads*. On December 16, 2002, **Roberto Benigni** and his wife **Nicholetta Braschi**, of *Life is Beautiful* fame were featured, and Academy President **Roger Croucher** moderated. On March 19th, 2003, **Jason Alexander** and **Martin Short**, starring in the LA production of *The Producers*, were the conversationalists, followed by **David Morse**, star of the television series *HACK* as the featured speaker on May 20th. **Danny Glover**, currently starring on Broadway in *Master Harold and the Boys*, will appear on June 16th.

## Academy Alumna Becomes First Woman Governor of Michigan

On November 5, 2002, **Jennifer Granholm C'80** was elected the first female Governor of Michigan. After her Academy graduation, she pursued an acting career prior to earning a degree from the University of California Berkley with a double major in political science and French. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 1987 near the top of her class. Ms. Granholm is married to Harvard classmate, Dan Mulhern, and they have three children.



## New Stamp Honors Academy Alumnus John Cassavetes

**John Cassavetes '50** joins **Grace Kelly '49 (Princess Grace)** as the second alumnus of the Academy in recent years to be honored on commemorative stamps by the U.S. Postal Service. Academy alumna **Gena Rowlands '51**, was on hand for the ceremony to unveil the stamp of her late husband, who was saluted for his work as a director.

## Alumni Activities in Hollywood and New York City

### Dinner at Eight at Lincoln Center

On Sunday, January 12, 2003, the Academy held a theatre benefit in support of its Alumni Scholarship Fund, a newly established fund that is supported by individual contributions of alumni and friends of the Academy, and provides crucial support for talented and needy students. A production of *Dinner at Eight* was followed by a reception with Miss Ebersole in the Grand Lobby of the Vivian Beaumont Theatre. Donations to the fund may be sent to Alumni Scholarship Fund, 120 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Please specify which campus you wish to designate to receive your donation.

### Career Advisement

A Career Seminar for Alumni in New York was held on April 14th at the Mary MacArthur Theatre. This is the first in what is planned to be a series of "Conversations with Industry Professionals to Demystify the Business."

### Mixers at Hollywood Campus

The Alumni Association in Hollywood has held several mixers over the past year, including an evening of karaoke and a baseball game followed by a cookout. Both events drew enthusiastic support from Academy alumni in the Hollywood area.

Below: Madonna Young (left) and Betty Karlen (right) at Hollywood Mixers





Ileana Douglas '83

## Alumni Honors and Awards

(continued from cover)

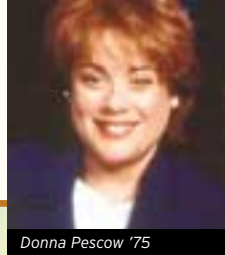
**Ileana Douglas '83** was nominated for an Emmy Award in the category of Guest Actress in a Drama Series for her role in HBO's *Six Feet Under*. She also appears in the upcoming films *Missing Brendan* and *The Kiss*. **Peter Bergman '75** recently won his third Daytime Emmy award for his ongoing portrayal of Jack Abbott in the long running drama *The Young and the Restless*. **Misty Cotton C'89** was nominated for an LA Ovation award for her performance in *Sideshow*, and won a Robby Award (from LA's showmag.com) for Best Actress in a musical. She also received rave reviews for her performance as "Fay Apple" in Stephen Sondheim's *Anyone Can Whistle* at the Theatre Musical Guild in Los Angeles. **Donna Pescow '75** costars in the TV movie *The Stevens Get Even*, the finale to her award winning series *Even Stevens*, for which she has been nominated three times for the Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series.



Peter Bergman '75



Misty Cotton C'89



Donna Pescow '75

## Giving: Dreams Become Reality

The financial support of our alumni and friends provides student scholarships, faculty development, student services, classrooms, theatres and operations. The Academy is a charity exempt from income, gift and estate taxes. The President's office in New York (212-686-9244) or the office of the VP Managing Director in Hollywood (323-464-2777) can provide more information about making our dreams become reality. We gratefully acknowledge some recent gifts from old and new friends.

### Shubert Foundation Grant

The Academy received an unrestricted grant of \$35,000 from the Shubert Foundation. This grant is directed by the Foundation toward strengthening the Academy's overall structure that nurtures its artistic process. Lee and J. J. Shubert established the Shubert Foundation in 1945 in memory of their brother Sam, and its mission is to sustain and advance the live performing arts in the United States.

### American Theatre Wing Scholarship

For many years, the Academy has received a scholarship grant from the American Theatre Wing, given to educational institutions where theatrical studies are the primary function. ATW Scholarships are awarded to promising graduating students in the craft of theatre. On December 6, 2002, The Wing held its annual luncheon at Sardi's for recipients of these grants. The Director of Instruction in New York, Thelma Carter, attended with the 2002 Wing Scholars Jack Walker and Jennifer Parker, shown here with ATW Chairperson Isabelle Stevenson.

### LCU Foundation Grant for Housing Assistance

In March, the LCU Foundation, serving young women in New York City since 1858, awarded the Academy in New York a grant of \$50,000 for housing stipends for female students, ages 18 to 30. This was a renewal of a grant, first given in the fall of 2002. The LCU was formed in 1857 to help young women, coming to the city for work or study, to find safe and suitable housing.

### Hollywood Foreign Press Association Grant

The Academy is pleased to acknowledge a first-time grant of \$5,000 from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in honor of Academy alumnus **Cecil B. DeMille '00**. HFPA, presenters of the annual Golden Globe Awards, announced the grant awards at their annual installation luncheon on August 19, 2002. Gene Hackman was the recipient of HFPA's Cecil B. DeMille 2003 Golden Globe Award for outstanding contributions to the entertainment field.

### Stanley Gorham Bequest (AADA Class of '33)

For many years, **Stanley Gorham '33** was a faithful member of the audience at Academy Company plays until an injury and failing health forced his move from New York City to a retirement community in upstate New York. Mr. Gorham's sister recently notified the Academy that he died on February 6th, leaving a bequest of \$10,000 to be used by the Academy wherever it is most needed to help the interests of the school. Among Stanley's classmates were **Jim Backus**, **Martin Gabel** and **Garson Kanin**.



Left to right: Jack Walker, Thelma Carter, Isabelle Stevenson and Jennifer Parker

# alumni spotting

Alumni notes for Americada are obtained primarily through research of trade publications, newspaper clippings and the Internet. Some come directly from alumni—the preferred method. Please submit your news to Americada's editorial office at AADA, 120 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Don't forget to include your class year, campus and type of program. The letters "N" and "C" preceding a class year from 1976 forward designate the New York or California campus, the year of California's first graduating class. "E" and "Sat" designate New York's Evening and Saturday divisions and "Sum" for the Summer Program at both campuses.

## ON STAGE

**Don Amendolia '66** directed **Joan Copeland '45** and **Dina Merrill '45** in The Colleagues Theatre company production of *Wit & Wisdom* at the Arclight Theatre in NYC.

**Cecilia Arana C'85** presented a one-person show entitled *Dreaming in Cuba*, which she performed in NYC and LA. She was also seen in a national Ford Windstar commercial.

**Neal Arluck '74** performed a reading of *Anyone Can Die* written by Philip Ardell at the HRC Showcase Theatre in Hudson, NY.

**Tom Atkins '67** starred in Michael Healey's *The Drawer Boy* at the O'Reilly Theater in Pittsburgh, PA.

**Armand Assante '69** starred in the films *Federal Protection* and *Partners in Action*, as well as a role on the TV series *Push, Nevada*. He stars in the upcoming films *Consequence* and *Citizen Verdict*.

**Amy Ball C2001** did a one-woman show at the Egyptian Area Theatre in Hollywood called *15 Minutes of Fem*.

**Lauren Bacall '42** costarring with Nicole Kidman and **Jeremy Davies C'90** in the upcoming *Dogville*, has recently filmed *The Limit*, in which she plays a woman who turns the tables on her kidnappers, and will again be starring with Kidman in *Birth*, also featuring **Novella Nelson '61**.

**Anne Bancroft '50** starred in a television remake of Tennessee Williams' *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, in which she played "The Contessa."

**Jessica Bassman (Sum)** had a non-speaking role in the motion picture *Catch Me if You Can* with Leonardo DiCaprio. She is now a member of the Eclectic Company Theater in Los Angeles.

**Lucas Beck N2002** performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Stratford Arts Commission in Connecticut.

**Graham Beckel '72** starred in *The Pennsylvania Miner's Story* and was featured in *Dark Blue* with Kurt Russell. Additionally, he is in the soon to be released *Two Days* with **Paul Rudd C'90**.

**Matthew Behan N2002** is appearing on Coney Island as "The Freak" in the runaway hit boardwalk attraction *Shoot The Freak*, featured in *Rolling Stone*.

**Gil Bellows C'87** starred in the TV movies *Second String* opposite Jon Voight and James Patterson's *1st To Die* opposite Tracy Pollan, as well as the theatrical release *Fast Food High*.

**Rachel Bernard N2002** appeared as Nora in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* in Nashville, Tennessee.



Anne Bancroft '50

**Jane Smith-Bernhardt '71** has been performing her adaptation of Jewish writer Etty Hillesum's Auschwitz diary. She compiled and played in a series of monologues during the 50th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation. She will also portray Julia Ward Howe, author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" at the Sherborn Library.

**Lucas Blondheim N2001** appeared in a staged reading of Arthur Miller's *Incident at Vichy* with F. Murray Abraham at the John Houseman Theatre, and is one of six actors recently admitted to Lifetime Membership in The Actors' Studio following a three-part audition.

**Michael Brandon '67** is starring in the mega-hit Royal National Theater comedy *Jerry Springer—the Opera* in London. It first appeared at the 2002 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Broadway's major theater owners are reported to be interested in a future American production.

**Lisa Brescia N'91** (Lisa Eiesland) is getting rave reviews nationwide as Amneris in the national tour of Elton John and Tim Rice's musical *Aida*. She is also a regular performer at the Goodspeed Opera House where last summer she played Jenny Gurney in Craig Carnelia's *Actor Lawyer Indian Chief*.

**Beth Broderick C'77** recently finished a six-year run as *Sabrina the Teenaged Witch's* Aunt Zelda, and is starring in the upcoming film *The Inner Circle*.

**Allison Cahill N'81** appeared in the lead role of "Roxie" in the Pittsburgh Musical Theatre production of *Chicago* in Pennsylvania.

**David Cantor '72** appeared as Sir James Porter in the Stony Hills Players production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

**Carmen Casanova C'90** was featured opposite Cary Elwes in the award winning TV series *The Outer Limits*.

**Dominic Catrambone C'98** costarred on the UPN sitcom *Girlfriends* this past September.



Michael Brandon '67



Lisa Brescia N'91

**Bob Chiavaroli N'82** appeared in the role of Oscar Madison in Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* with the Somerset Valley Players. Andy Gordanier played the role of Felix Ungar.

**Jake Coe N2003** recently played Valentine in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at Different Stages in Austin, Texas. He also was a principal in two music videos, Divide's *Ask Me to Hush*, and Brooks and Dunn's *Red Dirt Road*, both of which will be in circulation on MTV2 and CMT this year.

**Enrico Colantoni N'83** starred in Fox's *The First \$20 Million Is Always the Hardest* and Steven Soderbergh's *Full Frontal* with Julia Roberts. He also played the title role in *Uncle Vanya* at the Lillian Theater in Los Angeles.

**Lynn Cole N'80** is appearing in commercials and theatre in Atlanta, GA, and has done several national tours with stars Madeline Kahn, Howard Keel, and Robert Goulet.





# News from Academy Trustees

**Former Trustee Conrad Bain '48** has been elected an Honorary Trustee of the Academy.

**Bill Blinn '57** recently won the Best New Play Award at the Stage Three Theatre Festival in Northern California for his play *A Short Stay at Carranor*. His most recent play, *Isosoles* is in development at Theatre West in Hollywood, and he is currently co-producing the Warner Brothers theatrical feature *Starsky and Hutch*, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, based upon the highly successful television series created by Mr. Blinn in the 1970s. The film is scheduled for released in the spring of 2004.

**Alan Fischer** has formed a new investment firm, Fischer & Co. LLC, with his son Jeff Fischer.

**Carol Nadell** was a featured panelist at *Actorfest 2002* in New York.



Conrad Bain '48

**Ted Tulchin (aka Stanley Tulchin)** was a producer of *Fortune's Fool* on Broadway, which was nominated for Best Play, and swept Tony, Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Awards for Best Actor in a Play for Alan Bates and Best Featured Actor in a Play for Honorary Trustee **Frank Langella**.



Robert E. Wankel, Greg Gerard, Claudia Faris, Alan Fischer

## A Note from Alum Association Chair

*Richard Pierce*

Members of The Alumni Association on both campuses are planning fall reunions and we urge you to become involved in the planning as well as the attending of the events by contacting the alumni office in New York ([alumni@ny.aada.org](mailto:alumni@ny.aada.org)) or in Hollywood at ([alumni@ca.aada.org](mailto:alumni@ca.aada.org)). Alumni Relations Director Betty Lawson will let you know about the New York plans and Marc Cinquanta, Alumni Coordinator in Hollywood, will let you know about their local plans. The Players, a club for actors in New York City, has been reserved for the weekend of October 18th for one of several events being planned for New York's reunion.

Members of the Alumni Association in New York served as hosts at the Academy's reception for the 2003 graduates, their families and friends – greeting guests and giving out gift bags to graduates which contained special Alumni Association pens, a letter from our Association and complimentary magazines, such as The Ross Report, Variety and The Hollywood Reporter to start them in their new careers. These same gift bags were given out to Hollywood campus graduates at their graduation reception.

Alumni are welcome to attend Academy Company performances on both campuses, and notices of performance dates and ticket information are posted on our website at [www.aada.org](http://www.aada.org). On behalf of the Alumni Association, I urge you to keep in touch, let us know your e-mail address and your latest accomplishments. And, please support our alma mater to the best of your abilities.



The New Yorker in New York

## ATTRACTIVE NEW HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ACADEMY STUDENTS

The Academy now offers attractive housing options for students on both campuses through special arrangements with nearby services. In Hollywood, Oakwood Worldwide provides furnished apartments with many amenities, including a swimming pool and fitness center. In New York, The New Yorker, a hotel near campus offers 24-hour security, a fitness center, private bathrooms, as well as single or double occupancy rooms. A full description of these options plus many more are available on the Academy's website [www.aada.org](http://www.aada.org).



Oakwood Worldwide in Hollywood

## NEW YORK CAMPUS GETS A FACELIFT

A recent structural review of the Academy's historic Stanford White building at 120 Madison Avenue by architectural and restoration specialists revealed the need of repairs on the building's façade. Scaffolding has been erected and work began June 1st, with an expected completion date by Labor Day. In addition, the building's delicate brickwork and masonry will be cleaned and the windows repaired and painted. The Academy also plans to install an Academy banner on its façade once the renovations are complete.

## BUILDING FIRST RATE ACADEMY COMPANY PRODUCTIONS

Academy Company play productions in Hollywood and New York have drawn special attention for their production values and directions over the past two years. In keeping with the Academy's objectives of building first rate Academy Companies and productions, Academy President Roger Croucher created Company Manager positions at both campuses. Shown below are two productions from this past season. *Pterodactyls* by Nicky Silver, directed by T. Ryder Smith, a guest director in New York, and *The Laramie Project* by Moises Kaufman, directed by Howard Shangraw, a member of the Hollywood faculty.



Pterodactyls



The Laramie Project

## ACCREDITATION: TRANSFERABLE CREDITS

Chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, the Academy is accredited by the New York State Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education (NYSBOR), the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSCHE), Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). Within the past two years, the Academy successfully completed progress reports to NYSBOR, MSCHE and NAST. Academy credits are transferable to colleges throughout America, but the number depends upon the applicant's choice of college and desired degree. Academy graduates have attended many colleges including Columbia, Yale, Harvard, Pace, Hunter, City University of New York, Cal State Fullerton, the University of Southern California, the University of California Berkley and numerous other educational institutions.



AADA Hollywood 2002 Graduating Class

# THE Class of 2002

AADA's Spring 2002 *Americada* went to press just before our 2002 graduation ceremonies, but our publication is pleased to present these graduates and their featured speakers, Tony Randall in New York and Kevin McCarthy in Hollywood, in this issue.



Tony Randall



Left to Right, Seated: Marguerite Artura, Roger Croucher. Second Row: Kevin McCarthy, Diana Douglas Darrid, Conrad Bain, Madonna Young. Back Row: Adam Scott, Basil Hoffman, George Coe, Zuleikha Robinson, Jennifer Coolidge.



AADA New York 2002 Graduating Class



AADA Hollywood 2003 Graduating Class

# THE Class of 2003

AADA Hollywood's 27th graduation ceremony was held at the El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood on May 17th, 2003. Board Vice Chairman **Bill Blinn N'57**, welcomed the 48 graduates and their families and introduced Academy President Roger Croucher. The featured speaker was **Robert Gossett N'76**, award-winning film, stage and television actor best known for his theatrical performances, such as *Fences* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. Award presenters included **Bret Jasmer C'88**, who formerly appeared as Sly Donovan in the daytime drama, *The Bold and the Beautiful* and the horror cult film *Leprechaun 4 - In Space*. **Eric Nenninger C'99**, who is appearing in *Jeepers Creepers II* and had the recurring role of "Eric" on *Malcolm in the Middle* made the closing remarks.

AADA New York 118th Graduation took place on April 28, 2003, at the Majestic Theatre, generously provided by the Shubert Organization. Board Chairman Bob Wankel welcomed the 74 graduates and their families, and Trustee Greg Gerard introduced Academy President Roger Croucher. Other Trustee participants included Alan Fischer, Claudia Faris and Carol Nadell. The speakers and award presenters included three Academy graduates: Featured speaker **David Eigenberg N'86**, currently appearing on Broadway in the award-winning production of *Take Me Out*, Closing speaker **Jonathan Dokuchitz N'86**, currently on Broadway in the *Burt Bacharach* and Hal David musical *The Look of Love*, and **Robert Creighton N'92**, soon to co-star on Broadway with Jackie Mason in the upcoming production *No Room for Laughter*. Director of Instruction Thelma Carter was recognized for the anniversary of her 25 years of service to the Academy.



David Eigenberg N'86

Jonathan Dokuchitz N'86



AADA New York 2003 Graduating Class

# The American Academy of Dramatic Arts

*America's First Drama Conservatory, founded 1884*

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Marguerite Artura, VP, Managing Director  
AADA Hollywood

Robert Reddington, Chief Financial Officer; COO  
AADA New York

Thelma Carter, Director of Instruction  
AADA New York

Madonna Young, Director of Instruction  
AADA Hollywood

Elizabeth Lawson, Director of External Affairs & Alumni Relations

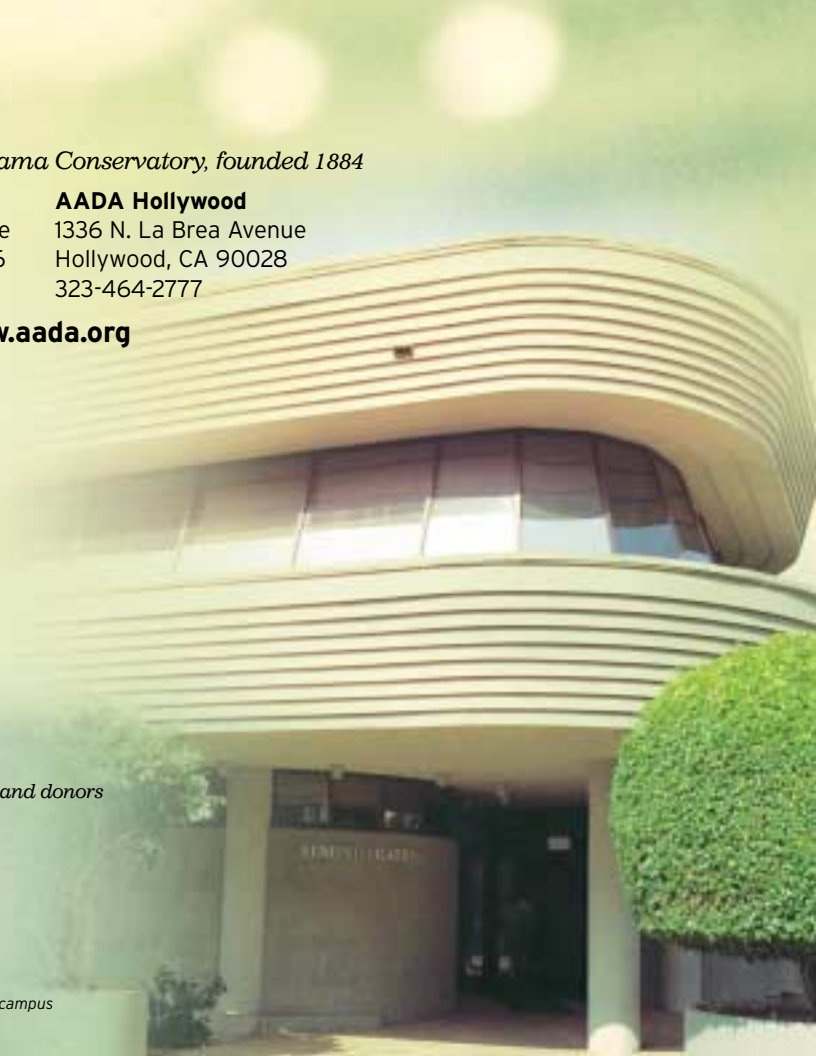
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*Right: AADA Hollywood campus*



# AMERICADA

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