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Theatre and Leadership, The Perfect Marriage

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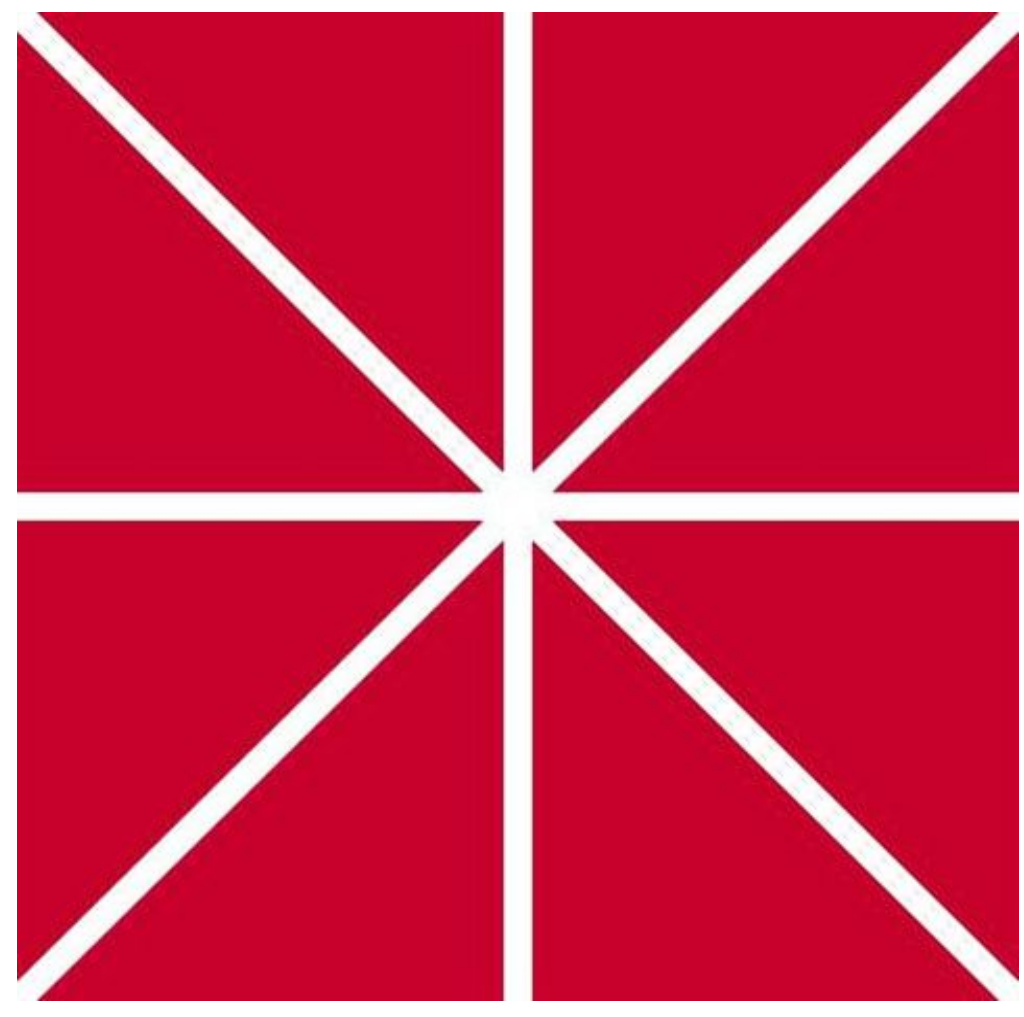


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Theatre & Leadership, the Perfect Marriage

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Methodology:

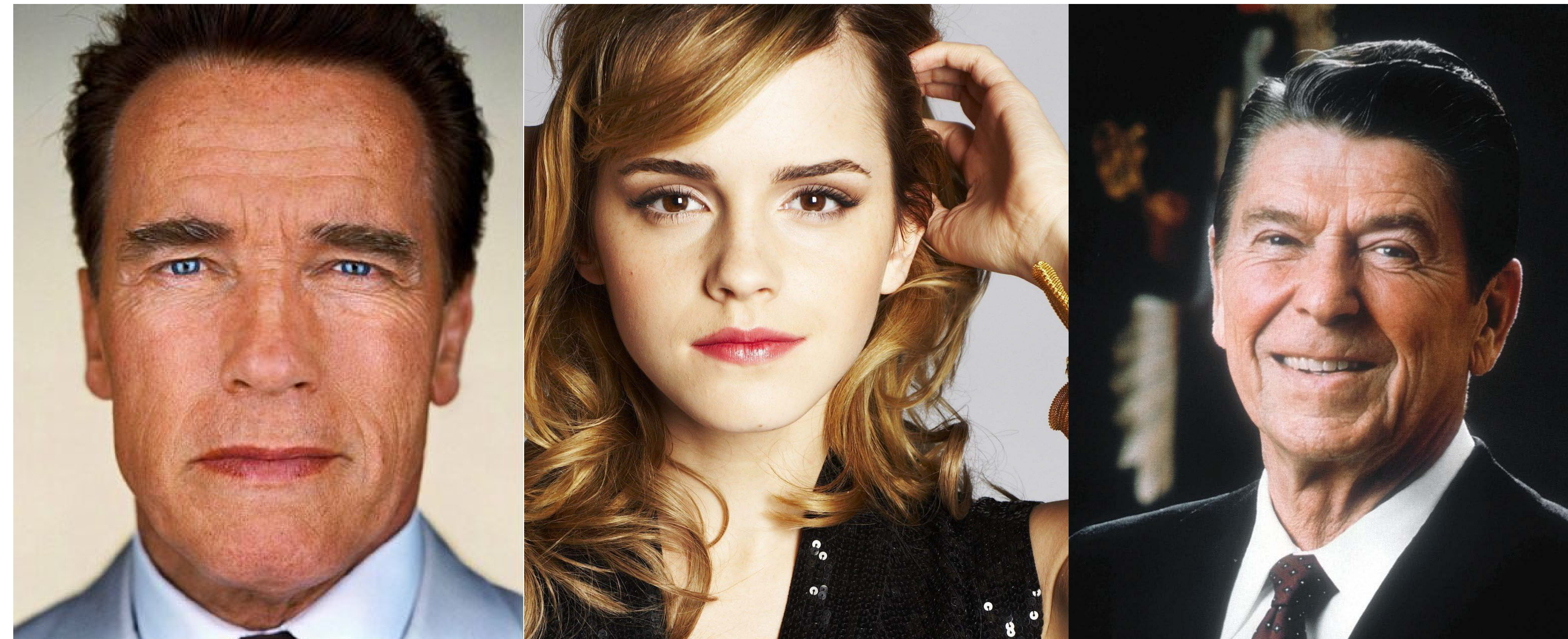
- ❖ Personal Interviews with Dr Theresa Dudeck, Chapman University Theatre Department, and Sahzeah Babylon, Chapman University Career Development Center
- ❖ TED Talks that focused on leadership and transferrable skills:
 - Simon Sinek's *How Great Leaders Inspire Action*
 - Stanley McChrystal's *Listen, Learn, ... then Lead*
- ❖ Articles that spoke about leadership, theatre, and transferable skills:
 - *Dramatics*' (Dec.2009 Edition) *Why Study Theatre*
 - *Forbes*' (Online) *What is Leadership?*
 - Tom Vander Well's *10 Ways Being a Theatre Major Prepared Me For Success*
- ❖ Analysis of three actors and actress who have transitioned to a role in leadership:
 - Emma Watson
 - Arnold Schwarzenegger
 - Ronald Reagan



Thesis:

As my four years at university are ending, I begin to critically think about my choice of study and ask, "did I make the right decision?" I am choosing to not go into my field which I spent the last four years studying, devoting my time to, and learning about and instead pursue my new-found passion for leadership. After expressing my change in path, many question "why study theatre," especially if one is not going into acting or directing.

This question of "why study theatre" often leads me to question and analytically break down why society should continue to teach theatre in schools and why as I student I should continue to study the subject. I begin to ask myself many other questions like, "why is theatre relevant now," "how can one benefit from a theatre education," "how can I apply my theatre education to another position," etc. Throughout this thesis, I will argue that theatre is a relevant and important topic to study. I will show how others like myself can utilize their theatre training to help benefit them, no matter what subject or path they follow, by transferring these theatre based concepts to my leadership development. I will be asking about why society should continue to study theatre and what benefit comes from continuing theatre. Furthermore, I will be asking how leadership and theatre are intertwined and utilizing other actors and actresses as my examples to show that the skill sets are a perfect marriage and that theatre is universal.



So What?:

Theatre is still important for us to teach because it provides a creative outlook for others to come watch and experience, as well as, creative output for the actors and crew teching the show. It gives an audience a chance to escape to the world that is being put forth by the director, actors, and technicians. The audience can relax and leave their world drama behind and for the next two to three hours are asked to only care and worry about the characters on stage. If done right, the audience should be able to do it with ease. Theatre should continue to be taught because it teaches students fundamental ethics. Most majors do not teach their students this, but in theatre one learns about professionalism, punctuality, time management, working hard, and respect. All of these transferable skills make someone a better applicant for a position.

Furthermore, leadership and theatre are the perfect marriage because the talents that they utilize are so similar and can be learned from each other. Abilities such as being able to problem-solve, being task oriented, creativity, motivation, determination, etc. These individual unique talents are what make each of these studies so great, but when one applies the training that is received as a theatre major and contributes that towards leadership, they have a unique perspective that makes them stand out. These two studies when working together provide an uncanny balance that is unmatched by other fields of expertise.

"All the world's a stage."

- William Shakespeare