TRAIN TO GAIN

VARIETY ROUNDS UP TOP
ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS AND
EDUCATORS AROUND THE GLOBE

■ By Nick Clement, Paul Gaita, Todd Gilchrist, Akiva Gottlieb and Malina Saval

EACH YEAR. VARIETY COMPILES A LIST

of the top entertainment education programs in the United States and abroad. This year, coronavirus has beset the world, forcing the temporary closure of colleges and universities, and that includes film and digital arts programs around the globe. But in the midst of this ravaging crisis, centers of higher education are implementing remote learning techniques to keep their students on track. Now, more than ever, it's a time for creativity to reign supreme, a time for artistry to thrive and a time for aspiring filmmakers - screenwriters, directors, animators, everyone, really - to harness this time of solitude and draft what could become the blockbusters. TV series and indie films of tomorrow.

Not only are these film schools and their faculty prepping students for successful careers in the entertainment biz, but they are also guiding them with structure, encouragement and artistic expertise through one of the most turbulent eras in modern-day society. •



LIANNE HALFON Producing Discipline Head American Film Institute Los Angeles

At AFI, Halfon's focus has been to design a program that teaches students the hard skills that producers need to know, from identifying material, to story development, production and post-production, with a concrete understanding of each process, "My favorite thing is to be in an intensive dialogue with the whole class, about something we've read. where it's part analysis and part on-the-spot discovery." Halfon says.

New strategies are being implemented. "I added the first workshop on documentaries last year, and we're going to continue to expand our focus on television and new media," she says.

Halfon's credits include "Juno" and "Ghost World."



GUILLAUME ARETOS

Department Chair, Entertainment Design Art Center College of Design Pasadena

Aretos has helped to put an emphasis on the school's much-buzzed game design track. "Our students work together to create stories, and then tell them visually for animation, live-action movies or games, mimicking the work environment they will encounter in the industry." he says.

He's excited about the technological progression of his department. "We use VR and motion-capture to design and build worlds that do not exist."

Aretos carries more than 20 years of experience as a concept artist, art director and production designer in the film and animation industries, with credits including "Shrek" and "Puss in Boots."

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Lianne Halfon

BEIJING FILM ACADEMY Beijing

The sole film academy in China and the largest school of its kind in Asia, the Beijing Film Academy has trained directors including Zhang Yimou and Chen Kaige over the course of its 65-year history. Students use the academy's four professional film studios and the latest film and production equipment as part of their studies; the school also hosts many of Asia's most important film festivals, including the Intl. Student Film and Video Festival.

BELMONT UNIVERSITYNashville

In Belmont's motion pictures department, students shoot and edit their first film immediately after the semester starts. The school boasts a 250-seat theater and sound-mixing stage and it's one of those rare film school programs in which students have access to cutting-edge Dolby Atmos sound-mixing equipment. Classes are offered in directing. writing, creative producing. screenplay analysis, cinematography, set management, film history and genre studies, among others.

BIOLA UNIVERSITY La Mirada Biola's School of Cinema and

Media Arts offers its graduating students ample opportunities to break into the biz. With more than \$3 million in state-of-theart technology and equipment and staffed with such industry professionals as screenwriter Chris Masi ("Being Mary Jane," "Graceland") and veteran TV writer-producer Michael Warren. Biola offers courses in both technical and creative aspects of filmmaking, with overall concentrations in entertainment producing, game design and interactive media and production. Students also have 24-hour access to the universi-

ty's 10.000-sa.-ft. studio.



ON SET. ON CAMERA. ON POINT IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY.

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Roy H. Park School of Communications



BOSTON UNIVERSITY Boston

Students get practical experience through media studies and skills at BU's Film & Television Program. As part of the school's College of Communication, they learn theory and technique through small classes with media professionals in every field, and apply that knowledge using the latest tech on faculty productions or through BU's student-produced content distribution network, butv10.

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS

Valencia

Students and alumni of CalArts' School of Film/Video ("CalArtians") have been at the helm of 12 Academy Award winners for animated feature, including the past seven consecutive Oscars in that category, while toons directed by CalArts alumni grossed more than \$48 billion at the box office between 1985 and 2019. Netflix has recently tapped CalArts alumni to direct features and series for its animation studio, including the 2019 Oscar nominee "Klaus."

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY. NORTHRIDGE

Northridge

CSUN's Dept. of Cinema and Television Arts recently completed a production facility update that will give students access to cutting-edge technology in nearly every medium. The update, made possible by a grant from the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn., includes a state-of-the-art mixing console, new equipment, upgraded lab facilities and a motion capture room. The HFPA also gave a \$60,000 grant for student filmmakers to complete their senior thesis projects.

CENTRO DE CAPACITACIÓN CINEMATOGRÁFICA Mexico City, Mexico

Founded in 1975, the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica is a public federal film school that takes a deliberately broad approach to the study of the moving image, linking it with other disciplines and artistic practices. The school offers two primary programs of study: one in general film studies, the other in screenwriting. The CCC's Opera Prima project is an internal competition that gives young filmmakers the ability to produce a professional debut feature with significant institutional support. Alums include Oscar-nominated cinematographer Rodrigo Prieto ("Brokeback Mountain," "The Irishman").

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY Middletown, Conn.

The College of Film and the Moving Image at this liberal arts school offers an undergraduate major and minor focused on both the study and practice of filmmaking. According to the school, learning happens not iust in the classroom, but all over campus. A student-run film series programs classic and contemporary movies four nights a week, and the Reid Cinema Archive contains primary materials from the careers of Frank Capra, Ingrid Bergman and others. Recent graduates include Benh Zeitlin, who directed "Beasts of the Southern Wild" with a crew that included several fellow Weslevan alums.



REB BRADDOCK

Dean College of Motion Picture Arts Florida State University Tallahassee

A main architect of the college's production programs, Braddock has been with the school since it was created in 1989 when he was admitted to the very first MFA class. As dean, he also teaches one-on-one pitching and film marketing workshops.

"Our focus is on how filmmakers work together collaboratively," says Braddock of FSU's education model. "We take a group of diverse students, we put them together in teams and we have them do practical work solving problems that come along to make their movies."

COLORADO FILM SCHOOL

Denver

Providing students with hands-on experience is key to the Colorado Film School's approach to education. Students begin utilizing equipment in their first week, and have access to professional gear and a virtual studio system, FS Greenlight, which teaches budget management and story development. They can also work on documentaries for the state government or television advertisements for local businesses. Graduates have gone on to productions including "Avatar 2" and "The Walking Dead."



COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

Chicago

Students can pursue a BA in filmmaking or a BFA in cinema art and science at the school. A wealth of facilities, from camera and lighting equipment centers to post-production suites and screening rooms, are available for use, and students can also participate in internships with media entities (recent opportunities have included spots at Showtime Networks) or have the opportunity to connect with industry professionals through the semester in L.A. program.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY New York, N.Y.

Kathryn Bigelow, James Mangold, Lisa Cholodenko and Kimberly Peirce are among the celebrated filmmakers who took part in Columbia's School of the Arts' rigorous graduate and undergraduate programs. The school offers MFAs in screenwriting, directing and creative producing, as well as an MA and undergraduate degrees in film and media studies. The faculty includes such industry notables as writer-producer-director James Schamus, distributor-producer Ira Deutchman, filmmakers Katherine Dieckmann and Bette

Gordon and Emmy-winning

screenwriter Trey Ellis.

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY Chicago

Professional-level facilities. including three soundstages, motion capture stages and a 32,000 sq. ft. production space, are part of the undergraduate and graduate film program at DePaul. The former consists of a BA and BFA in animation, while graduate students focus on film and television; DePaul also offers a 10-week immersion program in Los Angeles and collaborations with the celebrated Second City improv school for undergrad and graduate degrees in comedy filmmaking.

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

0range

Newly appointed Dodge College of Film and Media dean Stephen Galloway aims to build more connections between Hollywood and the school by providing students with professional-level experience that they can later apply to industry jobs. Students can utilize three industry-standard-size soundstages, a 6,000-sq.-ft. scene shop and 7,000-sq.-ft. prop-and-set warehouse to bring their ideas to screen.

INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Dublin

The only institute of its kind in Ireland, IADT offers undergraduate degrees in an array of film and television disciplines, including production, animation and design, as well as a postgraduate degree in screenwriting. Small class sizes focusing on projects, interaction between the creative, business and tech schools and exceptional facilities - including a Digital Media Incubation Centre on campus - are among the highlights of the IADT experience. Graduates include Oscar-nominated cinematographer Robbie Ryan ("The Favourite").



EMERSON COLLEGE

Boston and Los Angeles

Approximately 1,700 students explore an array of disciplines in Emerson's visual and media arts program, including film and video production and writing for film and television. The college recently initiated a three-year BFA program in film arts in partnership with the Paris College of Arts, as well as an emerging media lab that allows students to attend classes in both Boston and Los Angeles and work on animation, photography and design projects.

EAST COAST STUDIES

Boston's Emerson College, located in the city's Back Bay area, affords film students use of the school's high-tech postproduction facilities.



Pursue your passion for directing, producing, screenwriting, cinematography, post production, immersive media, animation, and so much more at **The Lawrence Herbert School of Communication**. Learn film and television by doing — using the same equipment as the professionals. Work in the Herbert School's top-tier facilities. Build your professional network through year-round internship opportunities in nearby New York City, and connect with a supportive network of industry-leading alumni from coast to coast.





Paris

The admissions process for the French state film school is so rigorous that it was the subject of an entire documentary, 2016's "The Competition." For those who make the cut, La Femis offers training in not just directing, screenwriting and producing, but also distribution and theater management. La Femis doesn't maintain a permanent faculty, so students receive support from 500 professional tutors. Famous alums include directors Claire

Denis ("High Life") and Celine

Sciamma ("Portrait of a Lady

on Fire").

GERASIMOV INSTITUTE OF CINEMATOGRAPHY

Moscow

Founded in 1919, the world's oldest film school has trained some of the pioneering figures in the history of cinema. including Sergei Eisenstein and leading Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky, Students explore all areas of film and television. production as part of a humanities-based curriculum; foreign students with a university degree can enroll in a shorter, three-year program or participate in extended education in various media disciplines.

ITALIAN NATIONAL FILM SCHOOL

Rome

Located near Cinecitta Studios in Rome, the National Film School - part of the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia - is not only the oldest film school in Western Europe, but also one of the most competitive in Italy, Students are selected through a rigorous audition process to enroll in such courses as production, direction, animation and screenwriting, taught by top figures in international cinema. Among its graduates are director Michelangelo Antonioni and cinematographer Vittorio Storaro.



RUSSELL HARBAUGH, GEOFF TARSON

Assistant Professors The Lawrence Herbert School of Communication Hofstra University Hempstead, N.Y.

Harbaugh leads several screenwriting workshops and a script analysis course, while Tarson teaches various television writing classes, "Just recently, there was a substantial renovation and modernization to one of our TV studios in the building," says Tarson. Harbaugh says they've "developed a BFA program in writing for the screen, which we hope will offer our students deeper study in writing for film, television and the spaces between."

LODZ FILM SCHOOL

Lodz, Poland

Poland's national film school offers full-time studies in four departments - film and television direction, cinematography/TV production, acting and production organization — as well as part-time, post-graduate studies and doctorates in specific disciplines. Nearly 300 student film projects are produced each year with the assistance of artistic supervisors and professional post-production facilities. The school can also count such leading world cinema figures as Krzysztof Kieslowski and Andrzej Wajda among its alumni.



SCREEN TIME

Students at Hofstra University's department of Radio/Television/Film get hands-on experience learning a panoply of filmmaking tools.

THE LOS ANGELES FILM SCHOOL

Los Angeles

Located in the heart of Hollywood, Los Angeles Film School has offered students degrees in film production, digital filmmaking, animation, music production, entertainment business and writing, since 1999. Its alumni include Oscar-nominated film editor Martin Pensa ("Dallas Buyers Club") and film and music video director Hannah Lux Davis, who has worked with Ariana Grande, Halsey and Demi Lovato.



YA'KE SMITH

Associate Professor & Associate Dean for Diversity Equity and Inclusion Moody College of Communication, Radio-Television-Film Dept. University of Texas at Austin

Smith teaches directing workshops, while also serving as the first diversity, equity and inclusion leader. "Our goal is to support students who felt marginalized in the past," he says. The school has an emerging program revolving around 3D animation and visual effects and black sitcom writing. "We're always trying to stay in tune with the larger areas of the industry," he says.



MICHELLE AMOR

Clinical Professor of Screenwriting, School of Film and Television Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles

Gillie serves as a faculty adviser for the school's Storytellers of Color Organization. The recent trend in students shifting from film to TV is noticeable. "While I understand it from a practical standpoint, it's sad that we're not getting as many original feature film script ideas," says Gillie, who is serving her third term as co-chair of the WGAW Committee of Black Writers. "You're good enough," she tells them. "Your art is good enough."



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MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Los Angeles

After decades as a go-to location for film and television production from "Beverly Hills, 90210" to "Veep." Mount Saint Mary's appeals to creative hopefuls as much for its proximity to Hollywood as its educational pathways to careers in Hollywood. Concentrations in acting, screenwriting, cinematography, directing, editing, producing, visual effects and more offer a thorough overview of the contemporary entertainment industry. Meanwhile, a longstanding relationship with Sunset Gower Studios offers production space for students to put their studies into practical use.

NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL

London

Opened in 1971, the NFTS claims to offer more behindthe-camera courses than any other film school, with hands-on instruction in not just directing and cinematography, but also script supervision and production accounting. Courses are designed for students with at least a little experience. the school says most students are in their early 20s to mid-30s when they arrive. Senior teaching staff includes filmmaker Alex Garland, and the school hosts dozens of exclusive. star-studded masterclasses each year. Successful alums include Oscar-winning cinematographer Roger Deakins, "Wallace & Gromit's" Nick Park and directors Lynne Ramsay and David Yates.

NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY

Combining state-of-the-art facilities and equipment with its international campuses and interactive learning opportunities, NYFA immerses students from day one in a curriculum designed and taught by industry professionals. Utilizing satellite programs from New York to Los Angeles to Australia and Beijing, faculty focus on disciplines spanning all forms - and platforms - of the moving image, emphasizing everything from production to preservation. Featuring youth programs, fine arts degrees and graduate opportunities, NYFA serves creatives through all stages of their entertainment education and growth.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Evanston, Ill.

After launching an Open TV distribution platform in 2015 to create and distribute programming outside of the Los Angeles bubble, Northwestern's School of Communication wraps plans this year for a state-of-the-art 24,000-sq.-ft. creative hub for MFA programs including four multi-use black box spaces outfitted with A/V equipment for film screenings, a gallery space, plus teaching and administrative offices. The center fulfills ambitions to expand interdisciplinary graduate programming with curricula in playwriting, television writing and comedy while developing partnerships with established Chicago arts organizations and audiences.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN — MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee, Wis.

The filmmaking programs at the Peck School of the Arts include undergraduate degrees in film and animation, and an interdisciplinary graduate degree in film that focuses on non-commercial time-based art. The curriculum offers a mixture of the practical and the theoretical, with an emphasis on flexibility and collaboration. The school's UWM Union Cinema offers a wide range of adventurous programming, including weekly Experimental Tuesdays and a Documentary Frontiers program that takes an expansive view of nonfiction cinema



PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Malibu

Relocated from South Los Angeles to Malibu in 1972, the campus of this private research university offers students a picturesque backdrop for study, backed by Christian principles. Undergraduate communications and film studies programs teach form, technique, history and criticism while instructors in each course pose moral, aesthetic and ideological questions to students. Seaver College promotes understanding of communication methods and systems while cultivating attitudes of intersectionality and interconnectedness.

PRATT INSTITUTE

Brooklyn

Pratt promotes its educational boundaries well outside its campuses in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Its programs emphasize both local communities around the school and the diverse cultures of students and faculty. Undergraduate film and fine arts programs teach students the basics in production and theory with an eye on current standards while encouraging creative exploration, boundary-pushing and personal discovery.



IDRISSOU MORA-KPAI

Assistant Professor, Media Arts, Sciences and Studies Roy H. Park School of Communications Ithaca College New York

At Park school, six overlapping programs offer a hands-on filmmaking education. Mora-Kpai is developing a program to take students to Cannes to participate in the annual global film event from the inside. "International festivals like Cannes can expose American students to a diversity of voices from our heterogeneous world," Mora-Kpai says. "Good cinema education must go hand in hand with an education in critical thinking and an open mind."

SAN FRANCISCO STATE

San Francisco

Featuring one of the most diverse student bodies in the country, it's no surprise that one of the core principles for its college of liberal and creative arts is social engagement. Paired with creative expression and critical thinking, faculty offer an in-depth education covering the language and mechanics of cinema as a medium and art form across all platforms in order to nurture authentic, individual voices for and from each student Meanwhile, graduate programs encourage mastery, critical examination and experimentation in cinema production and history.

SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

Savannah, Georgia

SCAD's film and TV programs train students in both the technical and conceptual aspects of filmmaking, with a focus on career preparation. The school offers a BFA, an MA or an MFA, which can be completed either in Savannah or Atlanta. In Atlanta, students have access to a 60,000-sq.-ft. digital media center, and on the main campus, there's the Savannah Film Studios, a 22,000-sq.-ft. production facility. SCAD's GradPath also enables students to complete an accelerated BFA and MA in as few as four years or a BFA and MFA in five.



SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Bronxville, N.Y.

This tiny liberal arts college is well-stocked with a soundstage, editing lab and animation studio. In addition, the Cinema Sarah Lawrence program offers a unique semester-long "study away" intensive on the Bronxville, N.Y., campus that immerses students in every aspect of making a feature film Directors LL Abrams and Brian De Palma are among the school's most famous alums; the latter taught at the school and filmed his 1980 comedy "Home Movies" with a crew of Sarah Lawrence students.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Los Angeles

Admission is highly competitive at the oldest and largest film school in the U.S., which has seven divisions that cover the entire spectrum of media-making. The School of Cinematic Arts' BA, BFA and MFA degrees are focused on both the craft and the business of Hollywood, training students not just for careers in filmmaking, but also for posts at talent agencies, management firms and international distributors. The production facilities, archives and libraries are vast and comprehensive, and the alumni network is a who's-who of industry movers and shakers.

THE STUDIO SCHOOL

Los Angeles

After rebranding from the Relativity School in 2017, the Studio School has been inspired by feedback and guidance from artists, industry insiders and thought leaders so that the curriculum evolved into cross-disciplinary collaboration to generate real-world insights and practical experience. Career-focused programs and college-level learning objectives taught by industry professionals prepare students for diverse, ever-evolving workplace challenges.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

A film and media BA from Stanford grounds students in a global history of cinema. One popular course offers a comparative approach to Hollywood and Bollywood musicals, and spring seminars focus on Stanley Kubrick and Howard Hawks. The documentary film and video MFA program, which admits only eight students per year, emphasizes formally bold approaches to stories about social change. Several recent MFA thesis films have been showcased by the New York Times' Op-Docs series.

SYDNEY FILM SCHOOL

Sydney, Australia

Based at Waterloo Studios, a full-fledged production facility in New South Wales, the school's emphasis is on honing your craft as soon as possible. The school offers one-year diplomas, advanced diploma and certifications in screen and media, all geared toward entry into the film/TV industry. One benefit for student filmmakers: Sydney Film School shares its studio with the prestigious Sydney Actors School and collaborations between directors and actors are encouraged.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Syracuse, N.Y.

Considered one of the top iournalism schools in the country, the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications maintains stellar programs in broadcasting as well as film and television. Partnered with the School of the Visual Arts, Syracuse first teaches undergraduates about media in both technique and theory, including how audio and video are used to tell stories. Subsequent years focus more intently on individual student interests and goals, with a wide variety of extracurricular activities to gain experience in their chosen field.



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY New York, N.Y.

Founded on the principle of creating work for critique, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and the Kanbar Film Institute enable students to create numerous short films during their time in the program the more work they make, the better. Maintaining the internationalism of its program in a city with a rich history of cultural diversity, NYU brings together people from around the world while upholding the voices that define the film marketplace with influences from many traditions.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY Berkelev

The department of film and media emphasizes both film history and theory. Undergraduates can discover global genres and the history of avant-garde film, while graduate students can tackle Freud and Lacan and the intersections of film and architecture. The campus is home to the Pacific Film Archive, making Berkeley a year-round hub for visiting filmmakers and essential international programming, which recently included retrospectives of David Lynch and Agnès Varda.



TOM NUNAN

Lecturer and Adviser UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television Los Angeles

For 26 years, Nunan has taught the graduate Producers Program, focusing on how the industry works. "Students are so eager and excited about their projects and their enthusiasm and energy is one-of-a-kind," he says. "When I graduated from UCLA TFT in 1984, most students were interested in breaking into the movies," he says. "Today, the majority of students see more opportunities in TV. streaming in particular." Nunan is founder and partner of film-TV production company Bull's Eye Entertainment.

UNIVERSITY OF **MICHIGAN**

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Formerly known as Screen Arts and Cultures, the Film, TV and Media department is focused on both critical studies and creative production. The FTVM covers media from across the globe, and production training for screens of every size. The doctorate program is interdisciplinary in emphasis, but begins with coursework covering the historical and theoretical foundations of cinema and media. The school's archival holdings include materials from Robert Altman and Orson Welles.



ASH SMITH

Assistant Professor of Emerging Media Arts University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lincoln, Neb.

Smith's background as a speculative artist, designer and researcher ties into her role as a professor focusing on filmmaking and storytelling on new platforms. "There are so many important stories that need to be told from so many different perspectives from across the world," she says. The school's new center for emerging media arts will emphasize elements of virtual reality and mixed media. "I'm drawn to immersive storytelling and the idea that you can create content through world building," says Smith.



HERE'S JOHNNY

Students gather at Nebraska's Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts.

> "Because of our location, we really form a tight-knit artistic community."



JOY GOODWIN

Director of Graduate Screenwriting University of North Carolina School of the Arts Winston-Salem, N.C.

For almost 50 years, the UNC School of the Arts has generated scores of now-famous alumni who've made a mark in the biz. Goodwin, who leads its new screenwriting graduate program, credits inclusivity and intimacy for the high percentage of students who advance professionally. "Because of our location, we really form a tight-knit artistic community." Goodwin says. "Our faculty have amazing credentials, yet they also have the time and the inclination to be truly dedicated mentors."

VANCOUVER FILM SCHOOL

Vancouver, Canada

The premier post-secondary entertainment arts institution in Canada for more than 30 years, the Vancouver Film School offers prospective students an intensive one-year film production program taught by industry professionals. The program has yielded alumni who were credited on 17 of the 20 highest-grossing films worldwide in 2019 alone. Among the VFS grads making an impact in the entertainment industry are Neill Blomkamp ("District 9") and filmmaker-author-podcaster Kevin Smith.

YALE UNIVERSITY New Haven, Conn.

Yale's Film and Media Studies program is oriented around the history, theory, criticism and production of cinema and other moving-image media, with an undergraduate major and a graduate degree. Coursework might include a seminar on black media and poetics centered around the FX show "Atlanta," or a survey of East Asian martial arts films from Kurosawa to Wong Kar-wai. Resources include the Yale Film Study Center, which regularly screens classic and contemporary 35mm prints from the archive.

Joy Goodwin