The Columbia MFA Program in Stage Management:

Training Tomorrow’s Theatrical Leaders
The Stage Management MFA at Columbia: A Video Overview

https://youtu.be/3vxaOF5h0uM
We are the only MFA Stage Management Program in NYC. Plus we offer AEA membership to two of our third-year Stage Management students.
MICHAEL J. PASSARO
Adjunct Associate Professor
Stage Management Concentration Advisor

• Currently Production Stage Manager of the Broadway-bound *Bright Star* by Steve Martin & Edie Brickell

• Production Stage Manager on over 25 Broadway productions along with numerous corporate and non-profit events
Why Choose Columbia?
Some recent alumni are employed by the following:

- Wicked (Broadway company)
- A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder (National Tour)
- Cirque du Soleil
- Disney Shanghai
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival
“The City Is Your Classroom”
Comprehensive curriculum: five major areas of study

• Leadership
• Skills & Methodologies
• History & Literature
• Theater Admin
• New Frontiers
Internal Practice Opportunities

- Columbia productions
- Collaboration class
External Practice Opportunities

Recent Internships and Field Studies have included:

• New York Theatre Workshop
• Finding Neverland (Broadway)
• Woodshed Collective
• MCC Theater
• Gigi (Broadway)
Faculty: Subject Matter Experts

Your faculty are professionals working in the following venues:

- Broadway (Wicked, Bright Star, Dames at Sea, Finding Neverland, The Phantom of the Opera, Eclipsed, Gigi, just to name a few)
- Off-Broadway (The Public Theatre, Roundabout Theatre, Signature Theatre)
- Regional (Berkeley Rep, La Jolla Playhouse)
- Metropolitan Opera
- American Ballet Theater
- ABC/NBC Television Networks
Program Goals

• Expand your toolkit
• Increase your contacts
• Spark your inspiration
How do we create work?

We believe in the necessity of collaboration.
Year 1
- Leadership for Stage Managers
- Stage Management Methodologies I: Musicals
- Team Dynamics
- History and Theory of Theatre
- Theatre Management & Admin: An Overview/Contracts
- Directing for Stage Managers
- Collaboration
- Production Management
- New Frontiers (Met Opera and ABT)
- Collaboration
- Internships
- ASM on Columbia Productions

Year 2
- Stage Management Methodologies II: Plays
- Stage Management Methodologies III: Cue Calling and Documentation
- Stage Management Methodologies IV: Next Steps
- Special Topics in Stage Management: Technical Theater Practicum
- Special Topics in Stage Management: TV/Dance/Corporate Events
- Electives
- Field Studies
- PSM on Columbia Productions

Year 3
- PSM of a Columbia thesis production
- Stage Management MFA Thesis paper
- Stage Manager for Classic Stage Company Young Company Production (or another AEA opportunity)
- Additional Internship (or completion of required internships from Year 1)
The Program in Numbers

- Number of applicants for 2015-16: 30
- Number of incoming students in 2015-16: 7
- % of incoming students receiving scholarship aid: 85%
- Range of institutional financial support: Generally between $10,000 & $25,000 for the first year with potential increases in the second year through a combination of scholarship and service.
Meet Some of Our Recent Graduates...
Kate Dial (‘15)

https://youtu.be/IJIBADtNsUE
Garrett Rollins (‘15)

https://youtu.be/ePPzlONxJko
Caroline Watters (‘14)

https://youtu.be/H6zM2SYPTGo
Want to learn more?

2015 Stage Management Year in Review:  

Application and admissions FAQs:  
http://arts.columbia.edu/theatre-arts-faq

Profile of Michael J. Passaro in Backstage:  

Profile of Michael J. Passaro in The New York Times: NY Times
For more information or to apply, visit: arts.columbia.edu.

Email: admissions-arts@columbia.edu
Phone: (212) 854-2134

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 5, 2016