THEATRE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCING

The goal of the program is to educate and inspire a new generation of creative managers and producers. The curriculum balances content-driven courses that emphasize the skill sets necessary for a career as a producer and manager with issue-oriented courses that explore the challenges facing the theatre industry. Study of commercial and not-for-profit theatre is equally weighted with an emphasis on the collaboration between the two business models.

The program features a unique blend of two years of classroom study under the supervision of a faculty consisting of leading New York City-based theatre professionals, and a minimum of three internships that may be pursued at any time during the first two years or in the third year while writing the thesis.

Our graduates are both entrepreneurial and highly employable, and our growing network of adjunct faculty, guest speakers, and alumni continues to raise the profile of program graduates both nationally and internationally.

January 5, 2016

SELECTED ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JOHN ALEXANDER (’10), Executive Director, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego
RENEE BLINKWOLT (’10), Managing Director, Ars Nova
JEREMY BLOCKER (’08), Managing Director, New York Theatre Workshop
DEAN CARPENTER (’09), General Manager, Second Stage Theatre
CARRIE CASSELMAN (JD/MFA ’03), Associate, Entertainment/Theatre Division, Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison; Adjunct Faculty, Columbia University School of the Arts
JILL JEFFERSON (’06), Marketing Manager, New York City Ballet
JACQUI KAISER (’09), General Manager, The TEAM
ALANA KARPOFF (’05), Press Representative, Jeffrey Richards Associates
ANAH KLATE (’10), Associate Theatre Manager, Jujamcyn Theaters
ERIC LOUIE (’10), Associate Producer, Old Globe Theatre
HAL LUFTIG (’84), Producer, Kinky Boots, Evita, Catch Me If You Can, Come Fly Away, Legally Blonde, Movin’ Out, etc.
MARISSA SCHWARTZ (’12), Producing Associate, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre
STEPHEN SOSNOWSKI (’06), Vice President of Media and Account Services, SpotCo Advertising, NYC
CHRISTOPHER TAGGART (’10), Assistant Company Manager, Aladdin, Walt Disney Theatrical Productions, Broadway
AARON THOMPSON (’10), Associate General Manager, Daryl Roth Productions
BARBARA WHITMAN (’05), Producer, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Fun Home, Of Mice and Men, Hands on a Hardbody, Red, Next To Normal, Legally Blonde, Spelling Bee, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, 33 Variations, Mary Stuart, etc.
THEATRE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCING
SAMPLE CURRICULUM

Year 1: Fall Semester
Theatre Mgmt & Admin I – Steven Chaikelson
Budgeting and Reporting – Michael Naumann
Press, Publicity & Audience Development – Chris Boneau
History of Theory of Theatre – Arnold Aronson
Advertising for the Theatre – John Lanasa

Year 1: Spring Semester
Theatre Mgmt & Admin II – Steven Chaikelson
Fundraising and Marketing: Tools – Victoria Bailey
Seminar in Law & Theatre (at Columbia Law School) – Steven Chaikelson
Legal Writing Practicum – Carolyn Casselman
Accounting for Theatre I – Robert Fried

Year 2: Fall Semester
Advanced Seminar in Theatre Management – Peter Entin
Development Process – Barry Grove
Accounting for Theatre II – Robert Fried
Company Management – Rina Saltzmann
The Role of the Theatre Producer (Part 1) – Sue Frost and Chris Burney

Year 2: Spring Semester
Critical Issues in Theatre Producing – Thomas Schumacher
The Role of the Theatre Producer (Part 2) – Sue Frost and Chris Burney
Issues in National Not-for-Profit Theatre – Gigi Bolt
Creative Producing – Steven Chaikelson
Theatre Management Seminar: Advanced Budgeting – Jeremy Blocker

Electives: Students are encouraged to take advantage of the wide course offering at Columbia, and past students have found particular interest in electives offered by Columbia Business School and Teachers College.

Theatre Management & Producing Thesis: MFA Theatre Management & Producing students must write a 50-100-page thesis in order to graduate. The thesis is a position paper, supported by primary and secondary research and interviews, that addresses any area of the theatre industry: commercial, not-for-profit, local, national or international. The paper is generally written during the 3rd year under the supervision of a faculty advisor and industry reader.

Joint JD/MFA Theatre Management & Producing Program: Through a joint-degree program with Columbia Law School, students can complete the requirements for both the JD and the MFA in Theatre Management & Producing in four or five years, depending on how quickly the thesis is completed. Over four years (8 semesters), students spend 5 semesters in the Law School and 3 semester in the School of the Arts.

All applicants must complete separate applications and be accepted to both schools before they may be matriculated into the joint program. Candidates for the JD degree should consult with the Law School and with the School of the Arts Admissions Office before applying and should note that they must meet the separate admissions deadlines established by the School of the Arts and the Law School.

For more information, please contact Steven Chaikelson at sec11@columbia.edu.

More information about the JD/MFA program can be found at http://www.law.columbia.edu/jd_applications/admissions/jointdegree.

THEATRE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCING
SELECTED CURRENT AND RECENT STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

RYAN BOGNER (’13), Line Producer, Williamstown Theatre Festival
ALONA FOGEL (’12), Press Assistant, Boneau/Bryan-Brown
JENNIFER HOGUET (’12), General Management Assistant, New York Stage & Film
MATTHEW KAGEN (’13), Assistant to producer Anne Hamburger
BRANDON KAHN (’17), Production Stage Manager, Williamstown Theatre Festival
ANTHONY FRANCAVILLA (’12), Producer, When Last We Flew (Fringe Festival Best Play 2010)
CAOLAN HUNTER (’17), Digital Communications Strategist, American Repertory Theater
CHRISTINA MACCHIAROLA (’13), Marketing & Communications Associate, The New 42nd Street / New Victory Theatre
KYLE CADOTTE (’17), Associate General Manager, En Garde Arts
EVAN O’BRIENT (’12), General Management Associate, Snug Harbor Productions, Inc.
DANIELLE VON GAL (’12), Executive Assistant and Development Associate, The Araca Group
NICOLE CHALAS (’17), Executive Director, Zvi Dance