

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

DECEMBER 2016

Dear School of the Arts Alumni:

Winter is upon us and we will be taking a holiday break from our monthly newsletters in January. In our February missive, we are spotlighting couples who met while graduate students. *Did you fall in love at the School of the Arts?* If you would like to be included in our next newsletter, [fill out this form](#) by **January 9, 2017**.

Coming up later this month, we have a Columbia Alumni night out to *The Band's Visit* at the Atlantic Theater on Wednesday, December 14 followed by special conversation with the show's producer **Steven Chaikelson** '89CC, '93SOA, '93LAW. Tickets are sold out, but stay tuned for our next CAA Arts Access event in January.

We had many alumni, students, and faculty at [Art Basel Miami Beach](#) including **Lynne Golob Gelfman** '68, **Ian Hughes** '86, **David Altmejd** '01, **Mika Rottenberg** '04, Faculty **Nicola Lopez** '04, **Daniel Lefcourt** '05, **Eileen Quinlan** '05, **Alison Elizabeth Taylor** '05, **Emily Mae Smith** '06, **Tracy Molis** '11, **Rachel Rose** '13, **Julia Phillips** '15, **Cy Gavin** '16, **Ector Garcia** '16 and **Allison Janae Hamilton** '17. Congratulations to all!

Last month, we learned of [This is Not a Test](#), a documentary profiling performance artist and Theatre alum **Ken Dewey** '59. It was shown at DOC NYC. Theatre alum **Erwin Maas** '05 directed [Poison](#) at The Beckett Theatre to great acclaim. And our very own **Jeffrey James Keyes** '10 has made it to the [New York Times Best Sellers](#) list with *Killer Chef*.

In Writing news, alumna and adjunct professor **Mia Alvar** '07 was awarded the 2016 Kafka Prize for her debut story collection, [In the Country](#). **Dyannah Byington** '10 has her short story, [Cold Fish](#) published in Harper's Bazaar this December.

[Mal de Ojo](#), written and directed by **Solange Morales** '15, produced by **Diana Golts** '15 and assistant directed by current student **Federica Gianni**, premiered on HBO Latino on November 1. And congratulations to Film alum **Morgan Faust** '11 who was recently accepted into the [CBS Writer's Mentoring Program](#).

To keep receiving news and updates from the School of the Arts, please [update your contact information](#). If you know a fellow alum who is not receiving emails from us, but would like to, please direct them here.

As always, please continue sharing your news and achievements with us via [artsalum@columbia.edu](mailto:artsalum@columbia.edu) and be sure to [like our Facebook page](#).

Happy Holidays!

Best,

Laila Maher  
Associate Dean, Student and Alumni Affairs

Will you have a film at **Sundance Film Festival** this year? Please let us know if you or a fellow alum will be at Sundance by emailing the Office of Alumni Affairs at [artsalum@columbia.edu](mailto:artsalum@columbia.edu) with your name, graduation year, the name of the film, and your role.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

This edition of the Alumni Spotlight features Theatre alumnus **Michel Hausmann** '14. If you would like to submit your own stories to be included on our [website](#), you can do so at this [link](#).



**Michel Hausmann** '14 is a Venezuelan-born theater director, producer and writer. He is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Miami New Drama, the resident company and operators of the historic Colony Theatre on Miami Beach. Michel is the bookwriter and director of *The Golem Of Havana*, an original musical, which premiered at La Mama in August of 2013, received its world premiere at Barrington Stage Company in July of 2014, and had a critically acclaimed run at The Colony Theatre with Miami New Drama. Hausmann's Off Broadway credits include the New York Premiere of Vassily Sigarev's *Black Milk* at East

13th Theater and the New York premiere of *The Color Of Desire*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Nilo Cruz. In Caracas he was the Artistic Director of Palo De Agua, a leading Venezuelan theater company where he directed the world premiere of *Los Navegaos*, the last play by renowned Venezuelan playwright Isaac Chocrón as well as critically acclaimed productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Producers* that enjoyed an audience of 170,000 spectators. With Moisés Kaufman, he co-directed the Venezuelan

premiere of *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. Michel received a BA from Emerson College and an MFA in Theater Directing from Columbia University. Hausmann is a New York Theater Workshop 2050 Fellow, a Shubert Presidential fellow, an IRNE nominee, a Richard Rodgers Award finalist and a Knight Arts Award recipient. [www.miaminewdrama.org](http://www.miaminewdrama.org)

**Was there a specific faculty member or peer who especially inspired you while at the School of the Arts? If so, who and how?**

I profoundly cherish my time at Columbia. My relationships with Anne Bogart and Brian Kulick were nothing short of enlightening, and I was incredibly fortunate to share the experience with five other extraordinary peers. But I have to say that the person who has perhaps had the greatest impact on my life and work is Gregory Mosher. His class about the future of theater in America coupled with his unique insights as both a theater director and Artistic Director of major institutions helped shape my own life in the arts. The time spent in that class and my conversations with Gregory, ultimately motivated me to move to Miami and start my own theater company, Miami New Drama at the Colony Theatre in Miami Beach. And now, I am thrilled to be able to invite Gregory to direct the American premiere of the German play, *Terror*, at the Colony Theater in January!

**How did attending the School of the Arts impact your work and career as an artist?**

Not only did the experience impact it, it jump-started it. As an artist I was constantly challenged by the extraordinary opportunity of working so closely with the master artists on the faculty and alongside my fellow peers. On a more practical level, my thesis play at the School of the Arts, *The Golem of Havana*, went on to be staged around the country. My time at Columbia shaped me as an artist but it also launched my life in the American theater-scene professionally.

**What were the first steps you took after graduating?**

Step one: freak out. Step two: panic. Then, I began to apply for artistic fellowships and assist as much as I could. I was accepted to New York Theater Workshop's 2050 fellowship and that opened up many doors. After years in the City, I realized that as much as I love New York, I felt there were just too many wonderfully talented people fighting for the very few opportunities available. I thought to myself, I live in such a big and wonderful country and theater is needed all over America. So, I looked at the only major city without a regional theater and decided to move to Miami and try to establish one.

**What advice would you give to recent graduates?**

My two-cents is to explore the country. As much as we may be devastated by the recent election results, we must also own our share of responsibility. If we only concentrate on New York then we share the blame for the "fly over country" that revolted in this cycle. We need to take up arms and do work that enlightens and engages audiences and we must do it in places that need to hear those stories. [More](#)

**NEWS**



## Visual Arts

Visual Arts Alum, **Megan Foster '02** Opens Third Solo Show at Black & White Gallery. [More](#)



## Visual Arts

Nine Columbia Artists to Show at the 2017 Whitney Biennial. [More](#)



## Film

Alumnus **Greg Mottola's '91** *Keeping Up With the Joneses* Features All-Star Cast. [More](#)



## Film

**Johnny Ma's '14** *Old Stone* Opened at IFC November 30. [More](#)



## Theatre

Alumnus **Jason Jacobs '05** Directs *Lavender Songs* at the Playroom Theater. [More](#)



## Theatre

**Rachel Chavkin's '08** *Great Comet* lands on Broadway. [More](#)



## Writing

Writing Roundup: Nov. 28, 2016. Over the past couple of weeks School of the Arts students, alumni, faculty, and staff have been busy at work, publishing stories, translations, and books and giving interviews. [More](#)



## Writing

Interactive Writing Program Exhibition Asks, "Artists: What Do We Do Now?" [More](#)

## IN MEMORIAM

[Claire Labine](#) BFA '57

## ALUMNI BENEFITS

- + [Artists' Resource Center \(ARC\)](#)
- + [Update Your Information](#)
- + [Email Forwarding & CU Address](#)
- + [Online Alumni Community](#)
- + [CAA Arts Access](#)
- + [Complete List of Benefits](#)

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