

# Celebration of Graduates

April 30, 2021

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY** SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

# Celebration of Graduates

Opening Remarks

**Carol Becker**, Dean of Columbia University School of the Arts

Keynote Speaker, **Ayad Akhtar '02**

## FILM

Address to MFA in Film Graduates, **Hilary Brougher**, Chair of the Film Program

Recognition of MFA in Film Graduates

Address to MA in Film and Media Studies Graduates, **Ronald Gregg**, Director of the Film and Media Studies Program

Recognition of MA in Film and Media Studies Graduates

## THEATRE

Address to MFA in Theatre Graduates, **Brian H. Kulick**, Chair of the Theatre Program

Recognition of MFA in Theatre Graduates

## VISUAL ARTS + SOUND ART

Address to MFA in Visual Arts + Sound Art Graduates, **Matthew Buckingham**, Chair of the Visual Arts + Sound Art Program

Recognition of MFA in Visual Arts + Sound Art Graduates

## WRITING

Address to MFA in Writing Graduates, **Lis Harris**, Chair of the Writing Program

Recognition of MFA in Writing Graduates

Closing

Congratulations School of the Arts Graduates

# Ayad Akhtar

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ayad Akhtar is a novelist and playwright. His work has been published and performed in over two dozen languages. He is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Ayad is the author of *Homeland Elegies* (Little, Brown & Co.), which *The Washington Post* called “a tour de force” and *The New York Times* selected as a Top 10 Book of 2020, calling it “pitch-perfect...virtuosic.” His first novel, *American Dervish* (Little, Brown & Co.), was published in over 20 languages. As a playwright, he has written *Junk* (Lincoln Center, Broadway; Kennedy Prize for American Drama, Tony nomination); *Disgraced* (Lincoln Center, Broadway; Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Tony nomination); *The Who & The What* (Lincoln Center); and *The Invisible Hand* (NYTW; Obie Award, Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award, Olivier, and Evening Standard nominations).

Among other honors, Akhtar is the recipient of the Steinberg Playwriting Award, the Nestroy Award, the Erwin Piscator Award, as well as fellowships from the American Academy in Rome, MacDowell, the Sundance Institute, and Yaddo, where he serves as a Board Director. Additionally, Ayad is a Board Trustee at New York Theatre Workshop and PEN America, where he serves as President.

# MFA in Film Graduates

Lucía Aleñar Iglesias  
Henry Arroyo  
Adam Justin Baroukh  
Andrew David Bell  
Caroline Lai Hung Blair  
Minka Rose Bleakley  
Claire Sukii Brooks  
Manqing Cang  
Yurun Cao  
Ningxin Chen  
Po-Yu Chen  
Tj Choi  
Spencer Andrew Clawson  
Michael Christopher Dukas  
Jade Courtney Edwards  
Molly Jane Evans  
Brittany Gene Fauconnet  
Peter Edward Forbes  
Xiaoyu Fu  
Shu Gao  
Eden Hadad  
Tony Huang  
Flora Hwang  
Shan Jiang  
Tianyi Jiang  
Yue Jiang  
Max Wyman Wagner Kimble  
Kristin Marie Kohlmeyer  
Melik Kuru  
Yiyi Li  
Nina Mahesh  
Sean Patrick McAuliffe

Eric John Morton  
Selman Nacar  
Cameron Bruce Nelson  
Aden Paris  
Sushama Parmar  
Lyle Edward Nelson Parsons  
Harrison Bunkley Perkins  
James Vasco Rodrigues  
Tyler Alan St. Pierre  
Dhane Alexander Taylor  
Connie Tsang  
Gabriele Urbonaite  
Brian Francis Velsor  
Yueyi Xing  
Chien-Ni Yang  
Yutong Yang  
Christina Yeokyung Yoon  
Jingling Zhang  
Yixuan Zhou

# MA in Film and Media Studies Graduates

Paul James Attard

Spandita Behera

Marissa Elaine C de Baca

Hexuan Cao

Po Chen

Madeleine Henderson Collier

Wiebe Copman

Simone Traenique Dill

Mark Sloane Pajel Ebbay

Zitong Feng

Maria Teresa Fidalgo

Joseph Anthony Fischer

Yinqi Huang

Jing Jiao

Zhiwei Jiao

Jing Peng

Juan Andrés Ramírez Vásquez

Kristen Rosemary Santer

Tessandra Zoe Smith

Qiuyuan Tang

Emma Rose Weeks

Yuke Xie

Zhe Xu

Xinlei Yu

Jialin Zhang

Tianpei Zhou

Jie Zou

# MFA in Theatre Graduates

Jon Andrew Bleicher  
Elana Marie Boulos  
John Patrick Brunner  
Josue Yvan Castañeda  
Emily Boyd Dahab  
Velani Penda Dibba  
Jake Glassman  
Camille Zamani Hayes  
Aimee-Marie Alvarez Holland  
Devon Rome Kidd  
Dimo Hyun Jun Kim  
Tatiana Liese Kouguell-Hoell  
Iris Luo  
Elizagrace Siobhan Madrone  
Kelley Lynne Moncrief  
Martin Michael Murray  
Ciara Ni Chuiric  
Adam Stockel North  
Kaitlin Anne Premus  
Samantha Nicole Pyne  
Cristina Maria Ramos  
Daniel Irving Rattner  
Megan Michele Savage  
Kristen Imani Spencer  
Thomas Benson Swayne  
Allison Rebecca Walters  
Annie Wang  
Alexandra Leah Weinstein  
Yuchen Xia



# MFA in Visual Arts + Sound Art Graduates

Aika Akhmetova

Henry Anker

Catalina Antonio Granados

Roni Aviv

Patrick Joseph Bayly

Eric Brittain

Rosana Cabán

Julian Callaghan

Fontaine Capel

Susan MB Chen

Joanna Cortez

Lauren Covey

Mónica María Félix

Baris Gokturk

Joan Devitt Hacker

Jennifer Marie Hassin

Yifan Jiang

Clare Hana Koury

Wai Lau

Sarah Lee

Yushan Liu

Paula Lou Lycan

Cara Lynch

Erica Joyuan Mao

James Josiah Allston Mercer

Kathryn Ann Miller

Diana Marie Palermo

Bradley McGilvary Pitts

Kiyomi Quinn Taylor

Meredith Pence Wilson

# MFA in Writing Graduates

Aaron Henry Aceves  
Estefania Acquaviva  
Antonio Addressi  
Valeria Agababaeva  
Aseye Ruth Agamah  
Nada Al-Fares  
Maria Theresa Allocco  
Elliot Franklin Alpern  
Harriet Anena  
Kayla Aleesha Bartee  
Clara Baselga-Garriga  
Mahreen Hamid Bashir  
Lindsay Carson Becker  
Kiley Brinker Bense  
Nathaniel James Berry  
Ottavia Jessica Brey  
Joseph Milton Brogdon  
Derek Matthew Brown  
Daniel Henry Burgess  
Christopher Sennott Burke  
Julia Delaney Cannon  
Vera Bocalandro Carothers  
Siyu Chen  
Sungyoon Cho  
Sonia Rae Christensen  
Shawn Anto Chundagal  
Anthony Cohen  
Allaire Rae Conte  
Ian Nicholas De Monico  
Audrey Cijia Deng  
Matthew Thomas Dix  
Adin Thompson Dobkin

Kimberly Anne Ence  
Shyanne Maria Figueroa Bennett  
David Kenneth Garczynski  
Sarah Gheyas Alawadhi  
Emma Victoria Ginader  
Laura Christine Gruszka  
Bailey Elizabeth Heille  
Kelley Sarah Hess  
Robiny Royal Jamerson  
Colin M. Johnson  
Kendra Ann Jones  
Arielle Helene Kaden  
Rachel Teresa Kang  
Rachel Elizabeth Keranen  
Joshua Khashayar Khabushani  
Olivia Margaret Lansdale  
Clark Hannah Taylor Lewis  
Xiang Li  
Theresa Kong Lin  
Mark Gregory Lopez  
Sofia Rose Majstorovic  
Austin Louis Mantele  
Oscar David Matallana-Correa  
Christina Milena McCausland  
Molly Louise McGhee  
Amanda Alexandria McLin  
Margaret Anne Meehan  
Leila Mohr  
Sarah Grace Monsen  
Abigail Rae Nehring  
Peter Henryk Niemczyk  
Emma Elizabeth O'Leary



# MFA in Writing Graduates (continued)

Carl-David Parson

Peter Theodore Patapis

Amber Ruth Paulen

Adrián Pérez

Ryan Donald Petersen

Leslie Pintchik

Krista Sue Pohlmeier

Santo Randazzo

Katrin Anna Redfern

Carliann Rittman

Chelsea Sylviolet Roberts

Sarah Mary Rosenthal

Nitzan Rotenberg

Adam Isaac Weiss

Schwartzman

Maria Nicola Loretto Manalo

Sebastian

Katherine Vernelle Seger

Gauraa Shekhar

Elena Maria Sheppard

Camille Hannah Shooshani

Arushi Sinha

Gordon Alexander Slater

Elias Peek Sorich

Elizabeth Pia Struzzieri

Sarah Margaret Tierney

Alexander Ulloa

Zoe Valery Rodriguez

Jasmine Shaadi Vojdani

Haley Anne Walker

Molly MacGregor Walker

Raffi Joe Wartanian

Emily Elizabeth Weitzman

Christopher Wright Williams

Shiying Xu