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**School of the Arts Alumni Newsletter | February 2024**

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**Columbia School of the Arts** <artsalum@columbia.edu>  
To: jp3709@columbia.edu

Wed, Apr 10, 2024 at 4:25 PM

A black rectangular banner with the text "COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font.

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

February 2024

We are ringing in 2024 with some incredible alumni events!

In January, our alumni were [well-represented](#) at the Sundance Film Festival. *The Stag*, written, directed and produced by **An Chu '22**, won the prestigious Short Film Jury Award for International Fiction.

Columbia University Entertainment (CUE) has already held two events in Los Angeles this year: the first with acclaimed Writer/Directors **Olivia Newman '12** and **Susanna Fogel '02CC**; and the second with New York Times bestselling author **Melissa De La Cruz '93CC**.

This month, our alumni reading series at KGB bar in NYC continued with work from **Gnaomi Siemens '18**, **Eyal Cohen '21**, and **Leila Mohr '20**. In addition, dozens of alumni traveled to the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Conference in Kansas City and attended our alumni gathering.

On February 15, the Artists' Resource Center is hosting a **virtual Career Expo** along with six other Columbia graduate schools. Alumni are welcome to [register!](#)

In this newsletter, the Artists' Resource Center is breaking down all you need to know about artist residencies. Speaking of artist residencies, don't forget that applications are open until February 16 for [Catwalk](#) in Hudson Valley.

As always, we love reading your [updates](#) and sharing your news on our [Class Notes page](#).

We wish you all the best in the new year!

With warm regards,

**LAILA MAHER**  
DEAN OF STUDENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

**JESSICA PIERSON**  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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### NEWS FROM CAMPUS

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(From Left) Alumni Leader Kate Flanagan '12, CAA Board Member Alece Oxendine '11, SOA Assoc. Director of the ARC & Alumni Affairs Jessica Pierson '18GSAS, and CAA Scholar Ivan Rome '24 attend the CAA Board and Association Presidents Luncheon on January 27 in Low Library.

### ALUMNI EVENTS

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**Sundance Film Festival 2024**



**CUE Event on Crafting Story with Acclaimed Writer/Directors**

SOA alumni and students gathered in Park City, UT in January for a toast to Columbia Filmmakers at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival.

Pictured from left: Yoko Kohmoto '23, current student Emily Everhard, Alece Oxendine '11, and current students Derin Çelik and Ivan Rome.

On January 9, CUE hosted a conversation with **Susanna Fogel '02CC** (co-writer of *Booksmart* and director of *Cat Person*), and **Olivia Newman '12** (writer/director of *First Match* and director of *Where the Crawdads Sing*). Moderated by Katherine Chang (Co-President of CUE), the panelists discussed their professional journeys, writing process, and directing for television and features.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**COLUMBIA** | SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**TEACHERS COLLEGE**  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**COLUMBIA**  
MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

**UNION**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**FEB 15**  
10AM-4PM

**COLUMBIA GRADUATE VIRTUAL CAREER EXPO**

Connect with top employers across a variety of industries for job and internship opportunities at this virtual career fair.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

### THIS THURSDAY!

We are thrilled to invite you to the **Columbia Graduate Virtual Career Expo**, an opportunity to connect with employers across a variety of industries that is exclusively open to students and alumni of Columbia University's School of the Arts, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, School of Professional Studies, School of Social Work, Teachers College, and Union Theological Seminary.

This virtual event will allow you to meet employers in group and 1:1 settings to share your resume and learn about open job opportunities. Advance registration is required for participation in this event.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ALUMNI NEWS



*Succession*, produced by **Scott Ferguson '90** and directed by **Shari Springer Berman '95**, swept the 75th Emmy Awards.



*Angels with Open Wounds*, written and directed by **Mathilde Hauducoeur '23** and produced and edited by **Adélaïde Pallincourt '22**, has its New York premiere at the No Budge Live #37 screening showcase at Nitehawk Cinema on February 15.



**Jane Marchant '18** was one of thirty-five writers awarded the 2024 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship.



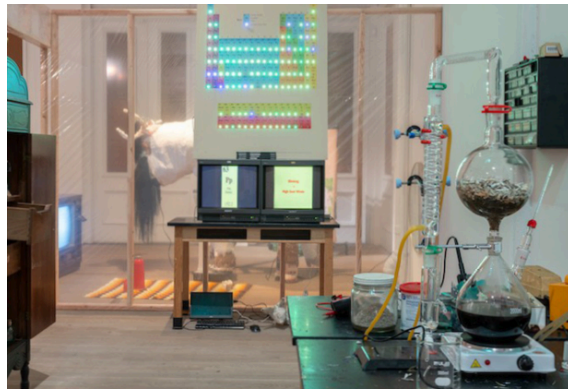
**Nathan Xavier Osorio '16** was named the winner of the 2024 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize for his collection *Querida*.



*Bedbound*, which **Marc Atkinson '16** directed, was just listed as one of the top shows of 2023 in the UK and Ireland by The Stage. (Photo Credit: Landmark Productions)



*Three Scenes in the Life of a Trotskyist*, a new play by **Andy Boyd '18**, is offering discounted tickets to Columbia alumni for the February 25 performance. Use the code COLUMBIA for \$15 tickets. (Photo Credit: The Tank)



**Kelsey Shwetz '22** has been named an Autumn 2023 recipient of Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grants. (Photo Credit: Art Spiel)

*Zoo or an Orchestra*, the debut New York City solo exhibition of **Char Jeré '23**, runs at Artists Space until February 17. The exhibition is an exploration of the nonlinear temporality within the African diaspora through various art forms.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**So Young Shelly Yo '18** is a Korean-American filmmaker whose work has been supported by HBO, Tribeca, SFFILM, the Sloan Foundation, and others. Shelly's feature film, *Smoking Tigers*, was the winner of Tribeca x AT&T's Untold Stories and was awarded best screenplay, best performance, and a special mention for the Nora Ephron prize at the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival. Prior to *Smoking Tigers*, Shelly wrote and directed many short films including *Soft Sounds of Peeling Fruit*, *Crashing Wheels on Concrete*, and *Moonwalk with Me*. Most recently, Shelly was given the New Voices award at the 2023 Austin Film Festival and was selected as a 2024 BAFTA Breakthrough Talent. Shelly is currently in development for her next project.

***Was there a specific faculty member or peer who especially inspired you while at the School of***

***the Arts? If so, who and how?***

Christina Lazaridi is a faculty member who has inspired me immensely throughout my years at Columbia and someone I continue to keep in touch with to this day. Every class with Christina shifted my known knowledge of screenwriting and gave me a new perspective into the way I tell stories. I always left her class glowing from all the wisdom I soaked up in class. I took almost every class she offered while I was there. I still reference the notes from her class to this day and have sought out her advice during the writing of my first feature. I feel grateful to have met her.

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

Attending SOA has allowed me to meet some of my closest collaborators -- those whose work I admire and who I trust for notes with the first drafts and rough cuts. Though we are no longer in the close quarters at Dodge Hall, we continue to send films, books, writing, music...all of which continues to inspire me.

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

I wanted to get as much real world experience as possible so I took any job that I felt would nourish my creativity and nurture my voice as a filmmaker. I worked in writer's rooms as support staff, assisted commercial directors, researched and created pitch decks for production companies, tutored high school students, wrote script coverage, freelanced as a video editor, and more. These jobs gave me the opportunity to continue learning from other creatives and offered me the time and freedom to focus on my own writing and directing.

**IN MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of Purcell Scheu Palmer, who peacefully passed away on January 12, 2024, in her home at Catwalk. A dedicated supporter of the arts, Purcell's legacy lives on through the Catwalk Institute. Her brilliance and generosity enriched the lives of countless artists and scholars. She will be deeply missed, and a private memorial service will be held in early June to honor her extraordinary life.



The School of the Arts mourns the loss of Purcell Palmer. She and her husband founded the Catwalk Institute in 2004, an artists' residency program at their estate in Catskill, New York. Catwalk has served as a pastoral retreat for over 700 painters, sculptors, poets, writers, musicians and filmmakers, including over 200 Columbia alumni.

# ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT TIPS FROM THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

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### Quick Tips: Residency 101

Whether you're grant searching or looking for an opportunity to take your project to the next level, you may come across this term: "residency". But what exactly is a residency, and what is the difference between a residency, a fellowship and a grant? What are the benefits and challenges of an artist residency? The Artists' Resource Center is here to walk you through everything you need to know about artist residencies, so here we go:

#### The Low-Down

The two key elements of any artist residency are TIME and SPACE. Residencies are programs designed to host artists in a fixed location for a certain period of time, where they can access the host organization's resources while also setting aside designated and undistracted time to help enhance their work. Depending on the structure, residencies can last anywhere from a week to a year (or, in rare cases, longer). As part of a residency, artists are often provided with lodging and/or a designated work space, opportunities to showcase their work, and more.

#### Money Talk

Residencies can vary greatly in terms of cost. While some residencies, such as the multidisciplinary [MacDowell](#) residency, don't charge residency fees for accepted artists, many residency programs can quickly run up a four-figure bill, even if you're just staying for a week or two. Other factors to keep in mind are transportation costs to and from the residency location, as well as any lost income you may accrue while there. Many residencies charge an application fee, though fee waivers are usually available for those experiencing financial hardship.

#### Pros and Cons

Residencies allow you to work in a new environment, which can help you incubate ideas, focus on your work, and connect with artists outside of your existing network through workshops, social events, or collaborations. However, there could be downsides, too: The reality is that many residencies have limited funding and come with significant costs. And while some residencies provide life-changing opportunities, other unethical programs do exist and can turn out to be a money trap.

#### Start... Where?

We at the ARC are happy to help you comb through the vast landscape of available residencies and identify those most suitable for your artistic practice and your budget. Once you're ready to apply, we're also prepared to help you review your application materials and give you feedback. [Book an appointment](#) with us anytime!

## ALUMNI BENEFITS

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