
School of the Arts Alumni Newsletter | October 2023

1 message

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

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October 2023

GREETINGS FROM YOUR ALUMNI AFFAIRS TEAM

Dear School of the Arts Alumni:

Fall is here as we hit the ground running in the new academic year.

Thanks to all who signed up to be an Alumni Contact. We received a wonderful array of responses and are extraordinarily grateful for your volunteerism. Haven't signed up yet? You can do so [here](#).In September, the Artists' Resource Center (ARC), in collaboration with Columbia's Financial Wellness Initiative, held a "Financial Wellness for Artists" workshop. The discussion included [iGrad](#), a web-based financial literacy platform that is free to all students and alumni. It was great to see so many alumni and students in attendance. The ARC is holding a resume writing workshop in October (more on that below). We've also got some alumni panels in the works, so keep your eyes on your inbox for those as well.As always, we LOVE hearing about what you are working on. [Update us](#) so we can share it on our [Class Notes page](#), as well as our alumni social media pages on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and now [Instagram](#)!We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, which includes a section on resume tips as we gear up for ARC Resume Day on the 25th! Don't forget to follow the [Artists' Resource Center's LinkedIn page](#) to find grant, fellowship, and residency opportunities.

With warm regards,

Laila Maher
Dean of Student and Alumni AffairsJessica Pierson
Associate Director of the Artists' Resource Center and Alumni Affairs

NEWS FROM CAMPUS!



Columbia University Inaugurates its 20th President, Minouche Shafik (left) and the School of the Arts welcomes Interim Dean Sarah Cole (right).

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS! SKOO // N° 09

SKOO (Some Kind of Opening) Journal is an interdisciplinary journal with an editorial focus on publishing work across all programs of study (Film, Theatre, Visual Arts + Sound Art, and Writing). They are currently **accepting submissions** for their ninth issue which will be coming out November 13th. They encourage artists at any stage of their career to submit.

[Click here](#) for detailed instructions on submitting your work.

ALUMNI NEWS

FILM



Bag Lady, directed by **Max McGillivray '22**, co-written by Max & **Kristin Curtis '20**, and produced by **Kinder Labatt '22**, will screen at the Newport Beach Film Festival on October 14, and at the



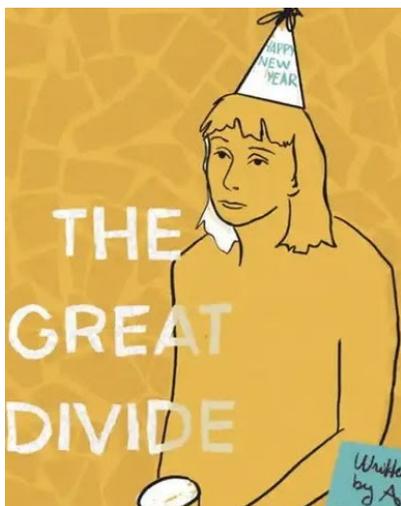
Jessica Levin '00 is an executive producer for the new limited TV series *Class of '09* (FX on Hulu).



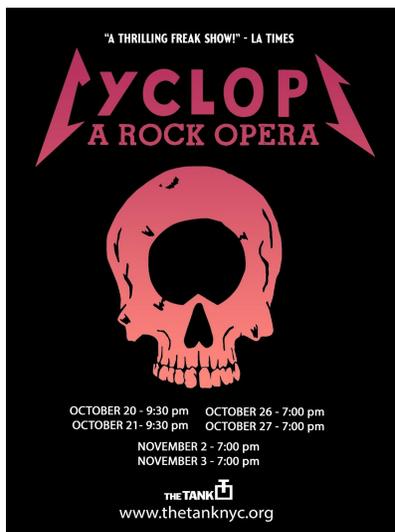
Wes Andre Goodrich '23 was recently named one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* 25 New Faces of Independent Film.

Eastern Oregon Film Festival
on October 19.

THEATRE



Scott Ebersold '14 will direct Amy Crossman's *The Great Divide* at Here Arts Center in New York, running until October 22.



Chas LiBretto's '16 Pulitzer-nominated *Cyclops: A Rock Opera* will run October 20-November 3 at The Tank in New York.



Christopher Maxwell '19 stage manages *As Much As I Can*, running October 6-21 at the Morgan Arts Complex in Chicago & November 3-18 at The Georgia Freight Depot in Atlanta.

VISUAL ARTS + SOUND ART



In the Spirit of Àṣẹ, a solo exhibition by **Adama Delphine Fawundu '18** is running until March 10 at The Newark Museum of Art.



Jaqueline Cedar's '09 solo exhibition opens October 19th at the Shelter in New York.



Vesna Pavlović's '07 photography exhibit, *Stagecraft* will be at the Harriman Institute from October 23 to December 15.

WRITING



Jeff McMahon '98 will be reading at the event, *New Work from Old Friends*, at Neilma Sidney Theatre on November 6 at 7pm.

Jared Jackson '20 has been awarded a MacDowell Fellowship.

Emily Skillings '17 has been awarded a 2023 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in Poetry.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Celine Song '14 (Theatre) is a playwright and filmmaker whose debut feature, *Past Lives*, opened to overwhelmingly high praise at its Sundance premiere. Loosely based on and inspired by Song's own

life experience, *Past Lives*, which she wrote and directed, was released by A24 in Summer 2023. The film is on many Oscar pundits' lists as the best of 2023 and has already earned two Hollywood Critics Association Midseason Film Awards for Best Indie and Best Screenplay.

As a playwright, Song is best known for *Endlings*, which premiered in 2019 at American Repertory Theater and had its New York debut in 2020 at New York Theatre Workshop. She has been a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and a semifinalist for the American Playwriting Foundation's Relentless Award. During the New York Theatre Company's virtual 2020 season, she presented live on Twitch, *The Seagull on the Sims 4*. Song also wrote on the first season of the Amazon series, *Wheel of Time*.

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

Yes, Chuck Mee and Anne Bogart changed my life and made me the writer/director that I am. Chuck taught me to have no heroes, only peers. He also taught me that if I am completely enthralled by my own work, since I am a human being and not an alien, there ought to be other human beings that are also completely enthralled by it. He also taught me how to parse through a piece of text to excavate the worldview of the author, which has proven completely invaluable. Anne taught me: "Show up on time. Pay attention. Speak from the heart. Have no expectations." These four things apply to everything in life. She also taught me that every "yes" is made up of an infinite number of "no's," and that the audience sees what the actors see.

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

Completely! It was the first step towards becoming a professional artist.

What were the most pressing social/political issues on the minds of the students when you were here?

War. Oppression of every kind. Race, gender, and class. Pressing issues do not change.

What was your favorite or most memorable class while at the School of the Arts?

Collaboration.

What were the first steps you took after graduating?

Trying to feed myself, pay my rent, and stay sane while trying to write something of meaning with no prospects in sight. I sent my plays to every place with an open submission policy.

What advice would you give to recent graduates?

The first year after graduating is unbelievably difficult because of the crushing uncertainty re: whether you'll make it as a professional artist. You shouldn't try to delay it or escape it or you'll have the breakdown later and it'll only be heavier with the weight of the years you've wasted not letting it be as difficult as it is. Face it head on, let it be hard and let it suck. The only way out is by writing something great, so writing should become your #1 priority. You have to apply to everything knowing that you'll probably be rejected, and you have to try everything you can to keep yourself writing. It's never humiliating to try your hardest to write the best thing in the world. You are likely going to fail, but you also might succeed - either way, you have nothing to lose. You may have a trust fund, which I know helps, or you may have debt, which I know is tough - but we are all equals in front of the blank page.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS | ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER



SOA Students and Alumni attended the ARC workshop, *Financial Wellness for Artists*, in September.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT TIPS FROM THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

Quick Tips: Writing Your Resume

So, you're on the job market and need to spruce up your resume. You may be approaching your resume as a boring list of past job responsibilities, but it's so much more than that! In fact, your resume is an employer's first impression of you. It communicates your qualifications and your brand—who you are and what makes you different. A great resume helps you stand out in a sea of applicants. The Artists' Resource Center is here to help you create a strategically targeted, polished resume that can help you land that first-round interview. Here are some of our favorite resume tips:

- Keep a **comprehensive master resume** that includes all relevant information about your career and education. The master copy should be adapted to each specific job you apply for.
- Remember to **boost experience that is most related to the job description**. If you're applying for various positions, reorganize your resume to include relevant experience that addresses job qualifications. That means you might be making several different resumes, different for each job.
- **Focus on results, not responsibilities**. Instead of solely listing all of the tasks you were charged with, think about presenting measurable results. Wherever you can include numbers, do it!
- Add **keywords from the job description** to your resume.
- **Never lie** about your experience. Someone will find out, and it's not worth it.
- Use a standard **font no smaller than size 11**. The resume should **ideally be one page long** (and absolutely no more than two pages) and **no more than 1000 words**. Don't over-stuff your resume as making it easy to read will go a long way!
- Your resume is also your first writing sample for your potential future employer. Show that you can be **spotless and precise** in your use of language! Avoid typos, repetitions, and boilerplate phrases—instead use specific, [active verbs](#), and clean prose.

[Jobscan](#) is our favorite tool for tailoring your resume to a specific job description. Some companies use Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) to search and filter resumes by keywords, meaning your resume could get rejected before a recruiter even looks at it! Jobscan helps your resume get to the top of the pile by ensuring you include the right key words.

Need some examples?

Here are some samples of different types of resumes:

- [Standard resumes and Academic Curriculum Vitae \(CV\)](#)
- [Artists' resumes](#)

Looking for some personalized help with your resume and in the New York City area? **Join us for ARC Resume Day on October 25th at 12:30pm** where we'll go over some resume tips and tricks and provide one-on-one coaching! [RSVP here](#) and bring your resume!

Not in the NYC area? We've got you covered! Make an [appointment](#) with our ARC Fellows who can virtually review your resume.

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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