

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

May 2019

Dear School of the Arts Alumni,

It's that time of year when bleachers and tents cover campus in preparation for graduation. You can watch the University Commencement next Wednesday at 10:30 AM via a [live webcast](#). Following, at 2:00 PM, is our School of the Arts Convocation, which will stream from our [homepage](#). Our featured speaker will be [Oskar Eustis](#), Artistic Director of The Public Theater. We look forward to welcoming our new graduates into the alumni community and invite you to watch along with us.

Film

Manila is Full of Men Named Boy, written & directed by **Andrew Stephen Lee** '18, co-written by **Emre Gulcan** '17 and **Neda Jebelli**, co-produced by **Mica Coburn** '17, and executive produced by **Valerie Castillo Martinez** '16, was nominated for [Best Short Film](#) at the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (FAMAS) Awards. **Bertha Bay-Sa Pan** '97's short pilot, *Lucy in the Sky*, starring Whoopi Goldberg, Catherine Curtin, and Danny Burstein, screened at the Newport Beach Film Festival on April 28, and will also screen at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and the Indy Shorts by Heartland Film Festival. *Green*, a short film directed and co-written by **Suzanne Andrews Correa** '17, and produced and co-written by **Mustafa Kaymak** '14 & '17, continues its great run with screenings at the Seattle International Festival and Palm Springs International Festival. Also credited on the film are **Pinar Yorgancioglu** '16 (Editor), **Nicolas Becerra** '18 & **Fabio Montanari** '16 (Assistant Directors), **Mark Anthony Castillo** '18 (Line Producer), **Emre Gulcan** '17 (Digital Imaging Technician), and **Bam Johnson** (Camera Operator). **Zachary Morrison** '18, fresh off of a win at the student Emmy's for *Everything's Fine: A Panic Attack in D Major*, has won Best Student Film at the Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival and the West Chester Film Festival. *To Live To Sing*, directed by **Johnny Ma** '14, was selected for the Director's Fortnight segment at Cannes, as was *Cancion sin nombre (Song Without a Name)*, written and produced by **Melina León** '08 and **Michael J White** '06, and directed by Melina, making her the [first Peruvian female director](#) selected for Cannes.

Bora Kim '11's film *Beol-sae (House of Hummingbird)* won the Golden Tulip Award for Best Film at the [Istanbul Film Festival](#). It also received multiple awards at the Tribeca Film Festival, including for Best Cinematography, Best Actress, and Best International Feature Film. The film was co-edited by **Colin Elliott** '12. Congratulations to our many filmmakers who are also screening at [Tribeca](#): *Ballet After Dark*, edited by **Leticia Akel Escárate** '18; *Clementine*, written & directed by **Lara**

Gallagher '14; *Halston*, written, directed and produced by [Frédéric Tcheng '07](#), consulting produced by **Jennifer Grausman '05**; *Lost Transmissions*, written and directed by **Katharine O'Brien '12**; *Low Tide*, written and directed by **Kevin McMullin '14**; *The Short History of the Long Road*, produced by **Bettina Kadoorie '17**; and *St. Louis Superman*, co-directed by **Smriti Mundhra '09** and **Sami Khan '09**. *Keep It Together*, a feature project written and directed by **Bane Fakhri '19** and produced by **Federica Belletti '18** and **Birgit Gernböck '16**, was selected as one of the recipients of the Tribeca Film Institute's Tribeca All Access grant. Following its screening at Sundance and Tribeca, *Halston*, will have a theatrical release on May 24. Stay tuned!

Theatre

Dramaturgy alumna **Lonnie Firestone '08** has been producing a wonderful new theatre podcast, [places, everyone](#). Her most recent episode features fellow alumna **Jocelyn Bioh '08**. **Jeff Janisheshki '05** directed an adaptation of the Philip Glass opera, *In the Penal Colony*, with the California Repertory Company in collaboration with Long Beach Opera and Rising Scholars. The show received an excellent review in [The LA Times](#), which included a profile of a formerly incarcerated actor involved with the project. The American Shakespeare Center (ASC) is pleased to announce **Anchuli Felicia King '18's** *Keene* as a winner of [Shakespeare's New Contemporaries](#) (SNC). She will receive a \$25,000 award and have her play produced alongside its Shakespeare partner in 2020. *Beginning*, directed by **Marc Atkinson '16**, has had its run extended at The Gate in Dublin, following [great reviews](#). Powerhouse Theatre's [new season](#) includes work by alumni **Harrison David Rivers '09**, **Saheem Ali '07**, **Jocelyn Bioh '08**, and **Christopher Burney '94**. The upcoming season at [Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company](#) will include *Shipwreck: A History Play About 2017*, directed by **Saheem Ali '07**, and *There's Always the Hudson*, written by and starring **Paola Lazaro-Muñoz '13**. Paola will also be starring in [Patty's Auto](#), Fox's new ensemble comedy pilot from writer and *The Big C* creator Darlene Hunt. [You Never Touched the Dirt](#), written by alumna **Zhu Yi '13**, and [Lunch Bunch](#), directed by alumna **Tara Ahmadinejad '14**, can be seen as part of Clubbed Thumb's Summerworks festival. **Sophia Skiles '99** stars in [The Oresteia](#), adapted by Ellen McLaughlin, at Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington DC. *On That Day in Amsterdam*, written by **Clarence Coo '10** and directed by **Kareem Fahmy '07**, has been selected for the [2019 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab](#). Kareem was also the [Phil Killian Directing Fellow](#) at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Dramaturgy alumni **Philip Santos Schaffer '18** and **Anna Woodruff '18** were featured in *The New Yorker's* "The Talk Of The Town" for their work on the play [The End of the World Bar and Bathtub](#). Philip Santos Schaffer is the playwright and performer, Anna Woodruff is the dramaturg. WAAFRICA 123 by **Nick Hadikwa Mwaluko '10** will be produced by [WORLD Pride](#), NYC Pride, and NQT at IRT Theater from June 20 - 23.

Rachel Chavkin '08 was recently profiled in [American Theatre](#). She was nominated this year for a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award for her direction of *Hadestown*. Also nominated for [Tony Awards](#) were **Barbara Whitman '05**, Co-Producer of *Burn This*, and the producing team of *What the Constitution Means to Me*, **Jon Bierman '83**, **Aaron Glick**, Theatre Fellow, and **Rachel Sussman**, Theatre Fellow. **Danielle Karliner '13**, is the General Manager. Both *Hadestown* and *What the Constitution Means to Me* originated at New York Theatre Workshop, where alumnus **Jeremy Blocker '08** is the Managing Director. **Charles Browning '06** was nominated

for a [2019 Drama Desk Award](#) for Featured Actor in a Play for *Fairview*, this year's winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. There will be an encore run of *Fairview* June 2-30 at Theatre for a New Audience. Also nominated for Drama Desk Awards are: *Usual Girls*, **Ming Peiffer** '16, Playwright, **Tyne Rafaeli** '14, Director (Outstanding Play, Outstanding Director of a Play); and *What the Constitution Means to Me*, **Tatiana Pandini** '16, Associate Director (Outstanding Play); *Oklahoma!*, **Mikhaela Mahony** '19, Assistant Director (Outstanding Revival of a Musical); *Fiddler on the Roof*, **Max Sterling** '17, Assistant Director (Outstanding Revival of a Musical).

Visual Arts

Pooneh Maghazeh '11 and **Yasi Alipour** '18 were in a show titled *A Rain of Light and Death* at [17 Essex](#). One River School awarded Cameron Welsh '16 a \$5,000 arts award. **Nadja Verena Marcin** '10 will be showing work at La Mama La Galeria as part of the [The 2019 Whitney Houston Biennial](#). **Esteban Cabeza De Baca** '14 was featured in [The New York Times](#) as an artist to watch. His solo show at Boers-Li will be up through May 25th. **Victoria Roth** '14's show *Spleen* will be up at [Brennan & Griffith](#) until May 26. **Ilana Harris-Babou** '16, **Korakrit Arunanondchai** '12, and **Iman Issa** '07 are in the [2019 Whitney Biennial](#), which will be up until September 22. **Rocio Olivares** '17 and **Alex Strada** '16 will have work on display at the EFA Project Space until June 1 as participants in the [2018-2019 Whitney Studio Program](#). **Uri Aran** '07's *Two Things About Suffering* was at the [Walker Art Center](#) as part of their series "Platforms: Collection and Commissions." **Cristina Camacho** '15 has an upcoming solo show, [/ˈvʌlvə/](#) that will be at Praxis Art May 16 - July 6. **Nancy Cohen** '84 is in a new group show, *Summation & Absence*, that will be up at [BioBAT Art space](#) through August 16.

Writing

Abigail N. Rosewood '17's debut novel, *If I Had Two Lives*, was published by Europa Editions. **Aaron Hamburger's** '01 new novel, *Nirvana Is Here*, will be released May 14th. He'll be reading at KGB on May 16th. You can check out his [full tour schedule here](#). **Sarah Arvio** '83 finished a whirlwind book tour for her translations of Federico Garcia Lorca. You can read a thorough and glowing review of the new book [here](#). **Christina Chiu** '00 has received the [James Alan McPherson Award](#) for her novel *Beauty*, which will be released next year with 2040 Books. **Helen Schulman** '86 received a [2019 Guggenheim Fellowship](#). **Peter Filkins** '83 has released his latest book, the biography, *H.G. Adler: A Life in Many Worlds*, published by Oxford UP on May 12. **Xuan Juliana Wang** '11, a former Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, has published [Home Remedies](#), a collection of stories. **Joni Marie Iraci** '17's debut novel, *Reinventing Jenna Rose*, will be released on May 15. There will be a book launch at Shakespeare & Co. on June 27.

The upcoming issue of our student-run literary magazine, *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art*, will feature work by Jenny Holzer, Patti Smith, Jesse Paris Smith, Eileen Myles, Duy Doan, Lili Kobielski, Donika Kelly, and more. Founded by students at Columbia in 1977, this marks the forty-first year of the journal and its fifty-seventh issue. Interested alumni can [subscribe](#) at a discounted rate.

This will be our last newsletter before our summer hiatus, but please continue to send your updates to artsalum@columbia.edu, and like and follow our [Facebook Page](#). You can also keep an eye out for exciting new alumni achievements on our Twitter feed by following [@cusoaalumni](#).

Have a great summer, and I look forward to writing you again in the fall.

Best,
Laila Maher
Dean, Student and Alumni Affairs

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

This edition of the Alumni Spotlight features Visual Arts alumnus **Hugh Hayden '18**. If you would like to submit your own stories to be included on our website, you can do so at this [link](#).



[Hugh Hayden '18](#) was born in Dallas, Texas in 1983 and lives and works in New York City. He holds an MFA from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University. His work was the subject of a solo exhibition at White Columns in New York in 2018, and has been included in numerous group exhibitions including JTT, New York (2018); Clearing, New York (2018); Tanya Bonakdar Gallery (2018); PPOW Gallery, New York (2017); Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York (2017); Postmasters Gallery, New York (2016); MoMA PS1, Rockaway Beach, New York (2014); Socrates Sculpture Park, New York (2014); and Abrons Art Center, New York (2013), among others. He is the recipient of residences at Glenfiddich in Dufftown, Scotland (2014); Abrons Art Center and Socrates Sculpture Park (both 2012), and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (2011).

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

As both his student and TA, Rirkrit Tiravanija offered me an alternative perspective on my work that tended to always be pretty unique, and challenged me to think in more expansive ways.

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

I started carving wood after picking up some scraps on the way to Prentis. As a whole the grad program provided me a dedicated time and space to nurture and develop my creative ideas and engage with critical dialogue around my work and that of peers as well as pursuing a diverse offering of courses outside of the Visual Arts Program that could further enrich my practice.

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

The 2016 election/Trump presidency and the high cost of tuition at Columbia...I wish we could have talked somewhat more about the art that was being made...

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

My first semester I took "Image Worlds," a writing course taught by Hilton Als that was offered to all disciplines in the School of the Arts. Not only did it introduce me to a wide range of literature and film that engaged art history but also was a chance to meet students from film, theater, and writing.

What were the first steps you took after graduating?

I quit my architecture job to go collect wood at the Texas/Mexico border for a show the coming fall at Lisson Gallery.

What advice would you give to recent graduates?

Don't burn bridges! Think both macro and micro, not just about short term gains but rather creating, maintaining, and sustaining a lifelong career and meaningful relationships.

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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