MFA in Theatre Management & Producing at Columbia University

2022 Online Q&A
Steven Chaikelson  
Professor  
Theatre Management & Producing  
Concentration Director  

Victoria Bailey  
Adjunct Professor  
Theatre Management & Producing  
Concentration Advisor  

President  
Snug Harbor Productions  

Executive Director  
Theatre Development Fund
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

- Film
- Theatre
- Writing
- Visual Arts

Dodge Hall – 116th Street and Broadway
Theatre Program
The Oscar Hammerstein II Center for Theatre Studies

Offering MFA Degrees in:
• Acting
• Directing
• Dramaturgy
• Playwriting
• Stage Management
• Theatre Management & Producing
• Joint JD/MFA with Columbia Law School
Why an MFA?

• The Big Picture and In-Depth Study
• Expand Your Toolkit
• Colleagues
• Networking
• Teaching
• Inspiration

Class of 2017 at the Shubert Archive
Theatre Management & Producing Program Summary

- 8-10 Students per year
- 3 Year Program: 2 years of classes and 1 thesis year
- 60 Credits over the first 2 years / 4 semesters
- Producing/Management Requirement
- Company Management / Crew Assignment
- 3 “Internships”
- Free Tickets!
- Thesis
Faculty
Working Professionals

• Victoria Bailey (Theatre Development Fund)
• Renee Blinkwolt (Ars Nova)
• Jeremy Blocker (New York Theatre Workshop)
• Gigi Bolt (Arts Consultant)
• Chris Boneau (Boneau/Bryan-Brown)
• Chris Burney (New York Stage & Film)
• Carolyn Casselman (Davis Wright Tremaine)
• Steven Chaikelson (Snug Harbor Productions)
• Ellen Dennis (Producer)
• Nick Falzon (Disney Theatrical Group)
• Charlie Flateman (Shubert Organization)
• Robert Fried (Withum)
• Sue Frost (Independent Producer)
• Barry Grove (Manhattan Theatre Club)
• Kia Jones (K+K Reset)
• Justin Karr (Jujamcyn Theaters)
• Karen Kowgios (Withum)
• Dessie Moynihan (Shubert Organization)
• Michael Naumann (Theatre Development Fund)
• Amanda Pekoe (The Pekoe Group)
• Lisa Poyer (General/Company Manager)
• Darren Robertson (Lincoln Center)
• Karen Robinson (K+K Reset)
• Thomas Schumacher (Disney Theatrical Group)
• Rachel Sussman (Independent Producer)
• Donna Walker-Kuhne (Walker International Communications)
Students
Diverse Backgrounds and Experiences

- Columbia University:
  - One of the largest international student populations in the USA

- School of the Arts:
  - 31% of the student body is international
  - Students from 53 countries

- Theatre Management & Producing
  - 25% of the current student body is international
  - Students from across the USA and 4 other countries
Columbia Facilities

Morningside Campus

- Dodge Hall (116th Street)
- Columbia Law School (116th Street)
- Schapiro Theatre and Studio (115th Street)
- Teachers College (120th Street)
- Riverside Church (121st Street)
Columbia Facilities

Manhattanville Campus

- Lenfest Center for the Arts (129th Street)
- Nash Studios/Production Resources (133rd Street)
Manhattanville and the Lenfest Center for the Arts
New York City is your classroom
Individualized and Balanced Curriculum

• Individualized Program
• Commercial and Not-for-Profit (subsidized)
• Management/Administration and Producing/Entrepreneurship
• Building Skills and Tackling Industry Issues
• Industry History, Best Practices and New Frontiers
• National and International

Class of 2021 – Field Trip to *The Lion King*
Areas of Study

- Accounting and Finance
- Budgeting
- Contracts
- Creative Development
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Fundraising and Development
- History and Theory
- International Production
- Human Resources and Labor Relations
- Management and Administration
- Marketing and Audience Development
## TM&P Courses

### First Year
- Theatre Management & Administration I and II
- Budgeting and Reporting
- Marketing Tools and Audience Development
- Advertising for the Theatre
- Press and Publicity
- History and Theory of Theatre
- Issues in the National Not-for-Profit Theatre
- Critical Issues in Theatre Producing: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Arts
- Seminar in Law & Theatre (at Columbia Law School)
- Legal Writing Practicum
- Labor Relations & Collective Bargaining

### Second Year
- The Development Process
- Advanced Seminar in Theatre Management
- Accounting for the Theatre
- Theatre Practicum: Ticketing, Pricing & Inventory Control
- International Touring and Festivals
- Not-for-Profit Producing Partnerships
- Company Management
- The Role of the Producer I and II
- Creative Producing
- Digital Producing
- Reimagining American Theatre
- **NEW for 2023** Critical Issues in Theatre Management: Human Resources
Electives

- MFA Theatre Program
- MFA Film Program
- Arts Administration at Teachers College
- Columbia Business School
- Columbia School of Law
- Other Areas of the University

Class of 2023 at the Shubert Archive
Columbia University / Stage One Exchange Program

- London participants to NYC for 1 week
- Columbia students to London for 1 week
- Learn about different business practices
- Build relationships
Internships  
a selection of companies where students recently interned

- 101 Productions
- Ars Nova
- Atlantic Theatre Company
- Bespoke Theatricals
- Broadway and Beyond Theatricals
- Broadway Brands/Broadway Briefing
- Brooklyn Academy of Music
- Daryl Roth Theatrical Management
- En Garde Arts
- Irish Rep
- Junkyard Dog Productions
- Jujamcyn Theatres
- Manhattan Theatre Club
- Maximum Entertainment
- MCC Theatre
- New York Stage and Film
- New York Theatre Workshop
- RCI Theatricals
- Roundabout Theatre

- Signature Theatre
- Situation Interactive
- Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
- Thompson Turner Productions
- Theatre Development Fund (TDF)
- The Nederlander Organization
- The New Group
- The Play Company
- The Shubert Organization
- Walt Disney Theatrical Productions
- Williamstown Theatre Festival
Collaboration

- Collaboration Weekend
- Classroom Projects
- First and Second Year Productions
- Third Year Mainstage Productions and Festivals
- Extracurricular production on and off campus
Thesis

- 3rd Year
- 50-100 Pages
- Make an Argument
- Interviews
- Faculty and Outside Advisors
JD/MFA

Complete the JD and MFA in Theatre Management & Producing in 4-5 years.

- 4 years of fulltime study:
  - 5 semesters at Columbia Law School
  - 3 semesters in the School of the Arts
- Start the program in either CLS or SOA
- Thesis in Year 4 while taking classes or in Year 5
- Applicants apply separately to each school
Theatre Accountability Project

We run fall and spring **weekly webinar programs** on the business of theatre in partnership with **Black Theatre Coalition** and **Disney Theatrical Group**

Producing students have the option to enroll in the seminar entitled *Theater of Change: Reimagining Justice Through Abolition*, in partnership with **Columbia Law School** and **Broadway Advocacy Coalition**
Prince Fellowship for Creative Producers

Mentors
Kristen Caskey
Sue Frost
Thomas Schumacher
Jeffrey Seller
David Stone
Orin Wolf

2022-2023 Fellows
Cynthia Dorsey
Jamila Ponton Bragg
Front Row Productions Fellowship for Creative Producers

Mentors
Stephen Byrd
Alia Jones-Harvey
Willette Klausner
Eva Price
Jordan Roth

2022-2023 Fellow
Lamar Richardson
Financial Aid

• Fellowships for Years 1 and 2 generally range from $10,000 to $40,000 per year
• Additional opportunities for student coordinator employment in Year 2
• Shubert Internship Stipend in Year 3
Admissions

• What kind of students are we looking for?
• No GRE Required
• Creative Materials (Portfolio or Play Analysis)
• Application Deadline: January 5, 2023
• Admissions Committee and Interviews

Application available at https://arts.columbia.edu/apply/

For more information:
  Website: https://arts.columbia.edu/theatre-arts/
  Email: SOAadmissions@columbia.edu
  Phone: (212) 854-2134
Alumni

a selection of alumni accomplishments

- Renee Blinkwolt (Managing Director): Ars Nova
- Jeremy Blocker (Managing Director): New York Theatre Workshop
- Susan Booth (Associate Professor): Eastern Michigan University
- Thom Clay (Director of Theatre Management): Nederlander Organization
- Beth Dembrow (General Manager): MCC Theatre
- Kelvin Dinkins (General Manager/Asst. Dean): Yale Rep/School of Drama
- Andy Donald (Assoc Artistic Director): American Conservatory Theatre
- Steve Dow (Chief Administrative Officer): Roundabout Theatre Company
- Dave Ehle (Company Manager): Come From Away
- Jamie Forshaw (Executive Producer): MWM Live / Madison Wells Media
- Temple Gill (Director of Marketing): Huntington Theatre Company
- Jill Jefferson (Director, Advertising & Promotions): NYC Ballet
- Jessica Jenen (Producer/General Manager): Into the Woods
- Brandon Kahn (General Manager): Alley Theatre
- Danielle Karliner Naish (General Manager): RCI Theatricals
- Justin Karr (Vice President of Ticketing Operations): Jujamcyn Theaters
- Kappy Kilburn (Executive Director): Human Race Theatre
- Anah Klate (Audience Services Manager): Irish Arts Center
- Allie Lalonde (Producing Director): The TEAM
- Congzhou Li (President): Beijing ATW Culture Media Co.
- Eric Louie (Executive Producer): La Jolla Playhouse
- Hal Luftig (Producer): Kinky Boots, American Utopia
- Stacey McMath (Program Specialist): NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
- David Manella (Associate): Loeb & Loeb LLP
- Adam Miller (Associate General Manager): The Book of Mormon
- Faye Rosenbaum (General Manager): Martha Graham Dance Company
- Christina Selby (VP of Production & Touring): Nederlander Organization
- Aaron Simms (General Manager): The York Theatre
- Stephen Sosnowski (Chief Client Officer): SpotCo
- Michael Stotts (Managing Director): Paper Mill Playhouse
- Joel Szulc (Director of Finance): Theatre Under the Stars
- Halla Tryggvadottir (Performance Marketing Coordinator): Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
- Barbara Whitman (Producer): A Strange Loop, 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Fun Home, Oh, Hello, Fully Committed
Class of 2015 at Graduation

Class of 2018 with Professors Robert Fried and Karen Kowgios

Hamilton Opening Night Night in Chicago
Thank you for joining us for this session!

Any Questions?