

# MFA in Theatre Management & Producing at Columbia University

2022 Online Q&A



Class of 2018



Class of 2020

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS | THEATRE

THE OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II CENTER FOR THEATRE STUDIES

## Steven Chaikelson

Professor

Theatre Management & Producing  
Concentration Director



President

Snug Harbor Productions

## Victoria Bailey

Adjunct Professor

Theatre Management & Producing  
Concentration Advisor



Executive Director

Theatre Development Fund



**COLUMBIA  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF THE  
ARTS**

Dodge Hall – 116<sup>th</sup> Street  
and Broadway

- Film
- Theatre
- Writing
- Visual Arts



# 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



Class of 2022 – Collaboration Weekend

# 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



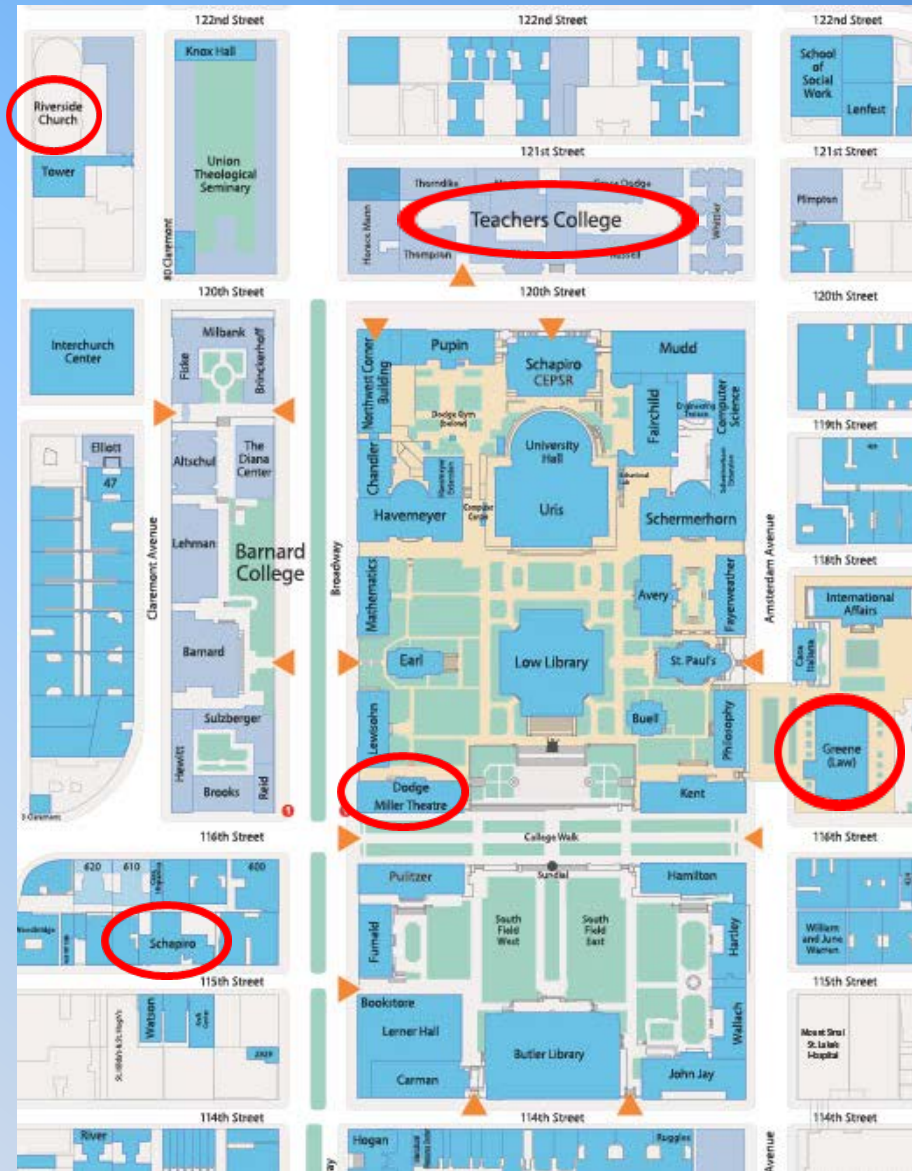
- Columbia University:
  - One of the largest international student populations in the USA
- School of the Arts:
  - 31% of the student body is international
  - Students from 53 countries
- Theatre Management & Producing
  - 25% of the current student body is international
  - Students from across the USA and 4 other countries



# Columbia Facilities

## Morningside Campus

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



# Columbia Facilities

## Manhattanville Campus

- Lenfest Center for the Arts (129<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Nash Studios/Production Resources (133<sup>rd</sup> Street)



# Manhattanville and the Lenfest Center for the Arts



**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

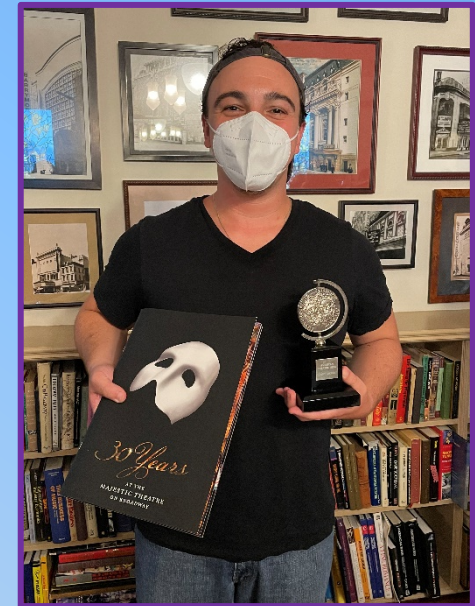
- The Development Process
- Advanced Seminar in Theatre Management
- Accounting for the Theatre
- Theatre Practicum: Ticketing, Pricing & Inventory Control
- International Touring and Festivals
- Not-for-Profit Producing Partnerships
- Company Management
- The Role of the Producer I and II
- Creative 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

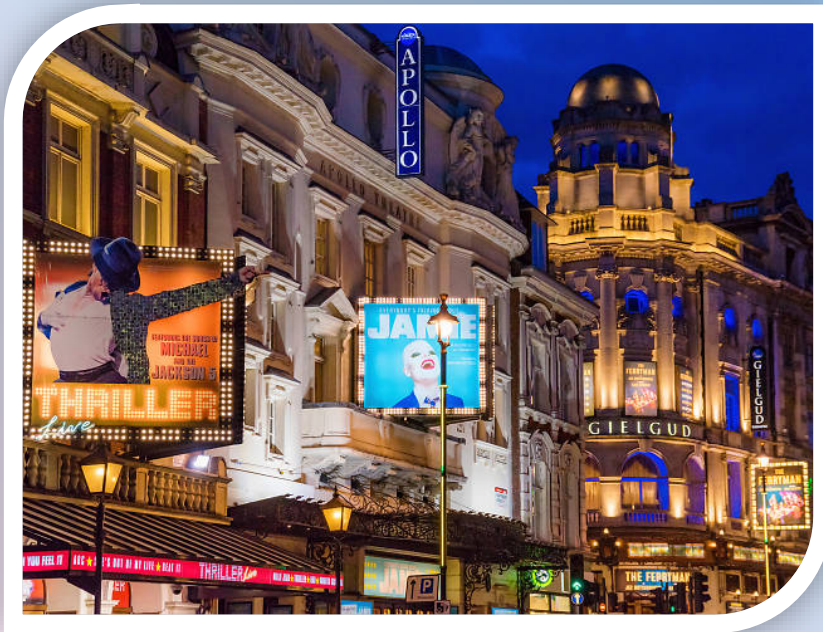




# Columbia University / Stage One Exchange Program



- 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 Theaters
- Manhattan Theatre Club
- Maximum Entertainment
- MCC Theatre
- New York Stage and Film
- New York Theatre Workshop
- RCI Theatricals
- Roundabout Theatre



Students and Alumni on the job at 101 Productions

- 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

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Theatre  
Accountability  
Project

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

BLACK THEATRE COALITION



MOBILIZE · IMPLEMENT · TRANSFORM

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

BROADWAY  
**ADVOCACY**  
COALITION

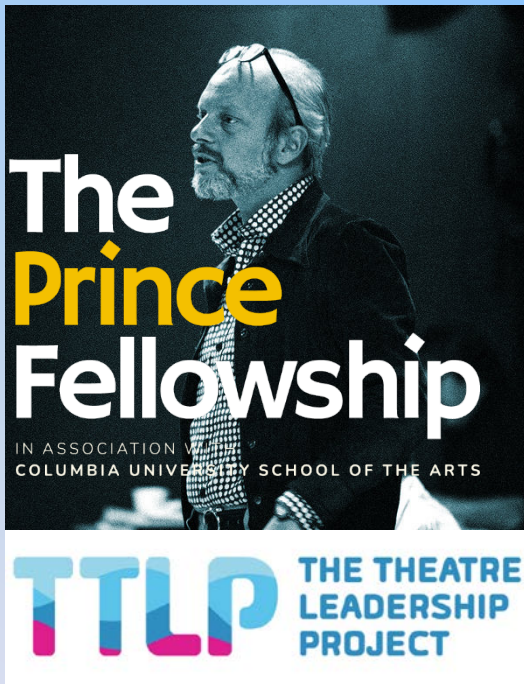


COLUMBIA  
LAW SCHOOL

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

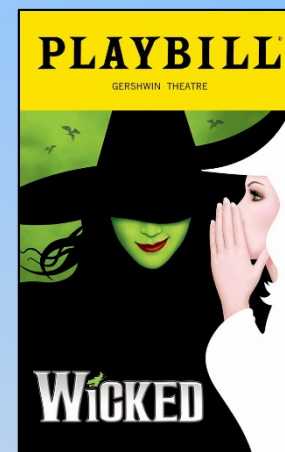
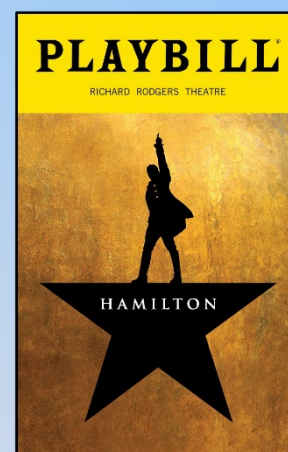
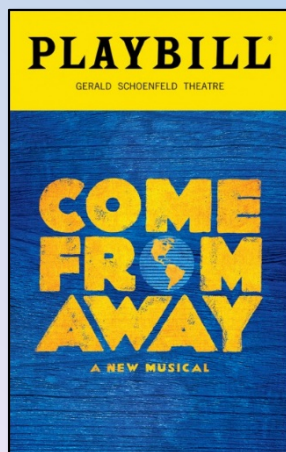
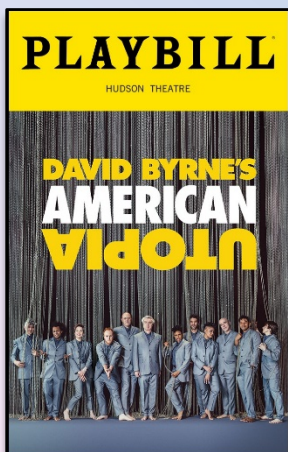


## Mentors

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



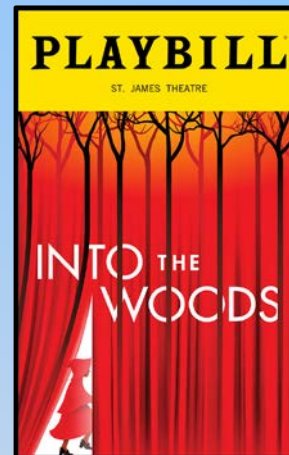
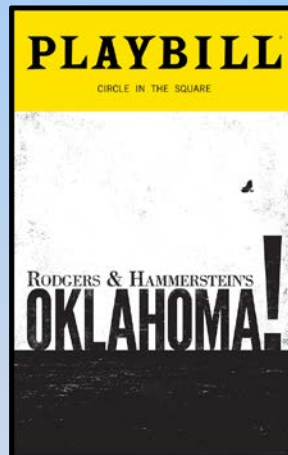
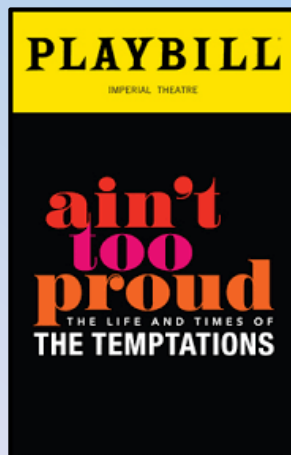
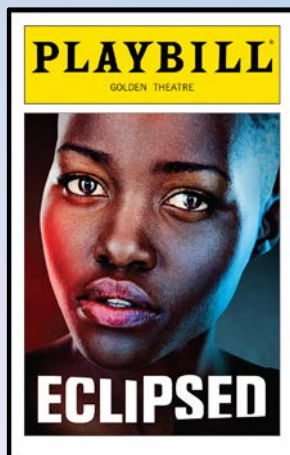
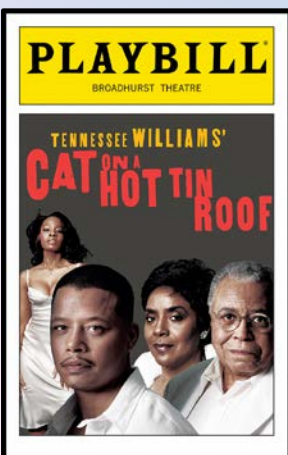
## Mentors

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](mailto: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 Klata (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, 25<sup>th</sup> 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 in Chicago





**Thank you for joining us for  
this session!**

**Any Questions?**