

MFA in Theatre Management & Producing at Columbia University

2024 Online Q&A



Class of 2018



Class of 2024

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS | THEATRE

THE OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II CENTER FOR THEATRE STUDIES

Theatre Management & Producing Leadership Team

Victoria Bailey

Associate Professor

Theatre Management & Producing
Concentration Advisor



Consultant/
Facilitator/Educator
Arts Professional

Steven Chaikelson

Professor

Theatre Management & Producing
Concentration Director



President
Producer and General Manager
Snug Harbor Productions

Christina Selby

Internship Coordinator and Advisor

Theatre Management & Producing
Concentration Advisor



Vice President
Production & Touring
Nederlander Organization

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

Why Columbia?

- Individualized Program
- Academic Studies and Professional Engagement
- Commercial and Not-for-Profit
- Management/Administration and Producing/Entrepreneurship
- Building Skills and Tackling Industry Issues
- Past, Present and Future: Industry History, Best Practices and New Frontiers
- National and International



Class of 2024 at our annual cocktail party



Class of 2024 and 2025 observing the load-in of
Here Lies Love at the Broadway Theatre

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 Requirements
- Company Management / Crew Assignment
- 3 “Internships”
- Free Tickets!
- Thesis



Class of 2026 at the Hudson Theatre

Adjunct Faculty – Working Professionals



Renee Blinkwolt



Gigi Bolt



Chris Boneau



Chris Burney



Carolyn Casselman



Ellen Dennis



Whitney Estrin



Nick Falzon



Charles Flateman



Robert Fried



Sue Frost



Adam Hess



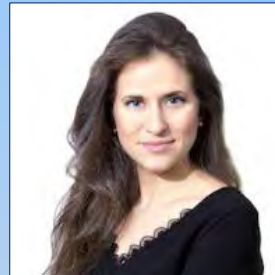
Kiah Jones



Justin Karr



Michael Naumann



Amanda Pekoe



Darren Robertson



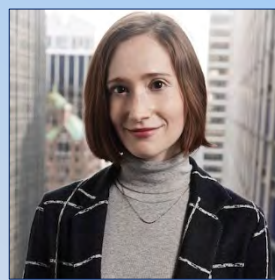
Karen Robinson



Christina Selby



Kimberly Shaw



Rachel Sussman



Donna Walker-Kuhne

Students

Diverse Backgrounds and Experiences

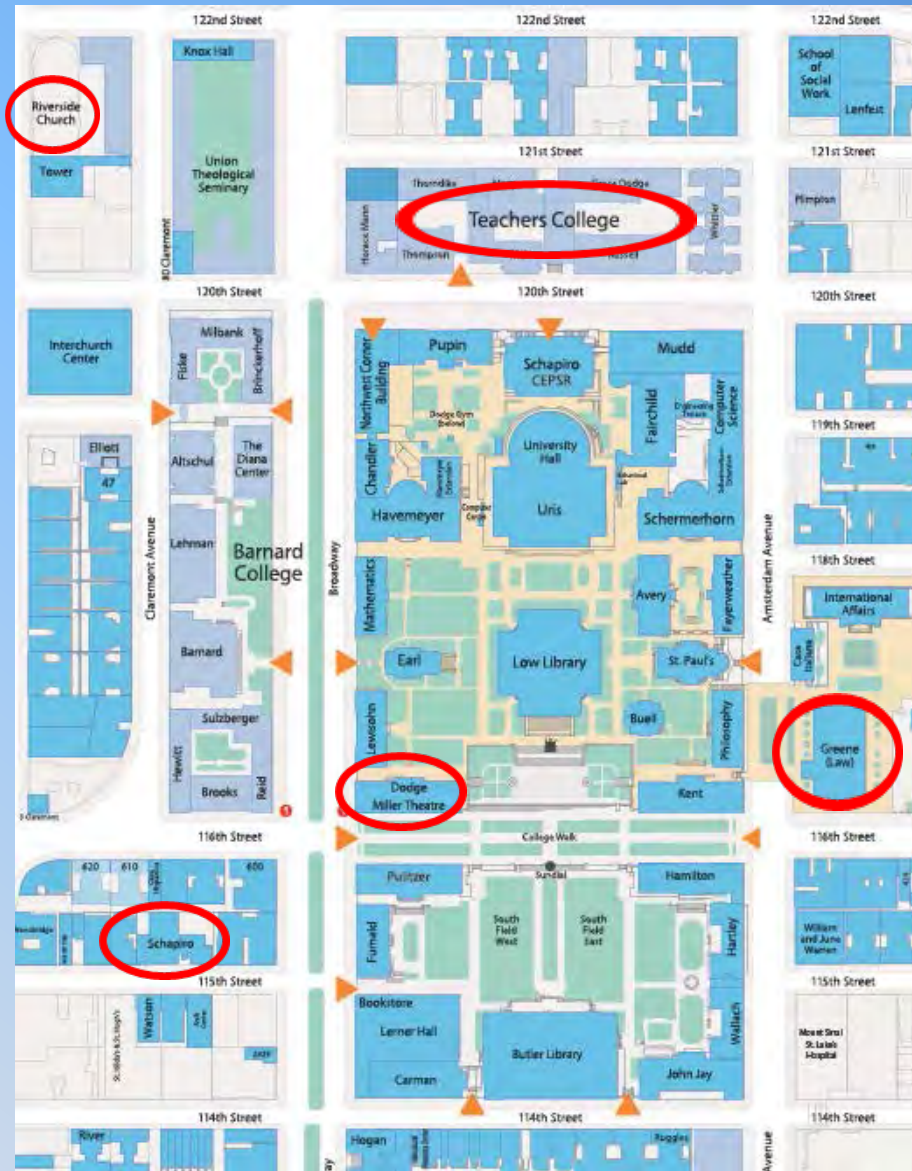


- Columbia University:
 - One of the largest international student populations in the USA
- School of the Arts:
 - 35% of the student body is international
 - Students from 55 countries
- Theatre Management & Producing
 - 25% of the current student body is international

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



Class of 2018 – Field Trip/Theatre Tour

Areas of Study

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



Theatre Management & Producing Faculty

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
- **New!** Collaboration Intensive

Second Year

- The Development Process
- Advanced Seminar in Theatre Management
- Accounting for the Theatre
- Theatre Practicum: Ticketing
- 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
- Critical Issues in Theatre Management: Human Resources
- **New!** Public Sector Policy
- **New!** Unpacking the US Resident Theatre
- **New!** Collaboration Studio

Electives

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

Note that courses outside of the Theatre Program are subject to availability from semester to semester.



Class of 2023 at the Shubert Archive



Collaboration

- Collaboration Intensive and Collaboration Studio
- Classroom Projects
- First and Second Year Productions
- Third Year Mainstage Productions and Festivals
- Digital Storytelling Lab
- Extracurricular productions on and off campus



COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THE
ARTS

Digital
Storytelling
Lab 

Exploring
new forms
& functions of
storytelling

Columbia University / Stage One Exchange Program

- 1 Week NYC/London Exchange
- Learn about different business practices
- Build relationships



STAGE ONE



Internships

a selection of companies where students recently interned

- 101 Productions
- Ars Nova
- Barrington Stage Company
- Bespoke Theatricals
- Boneau/Bryan Brown
- Broadway Across America
- Broadway Asia
- Broadway and Beyond Theatricals
- Broadway Brands/Broadway Briefing
- Brooklyn Academy of Music
- Daryl Roth Theatrical Management
- Disney Theatrical Group
- En Garde Arts
- Joey Parnes Productions
- Junkyard Dog Productions
- League of Livestream Theatre
- Manhattan Theatre Club
- Marathon Digital
- Maximum Entertainment
- MCC Theatre
- New York Stage and Film
- New York Theatre Workshop
- Off-Broadway League
- P3 Productions
- Perelman Arts Center



Students and Alumni on the job at 101 Productions

- Playwrights Horizons
- RCI Theatricals
- Signature Theatre
- TBD Theatricals
- Tectonic Theatre
- Thompson Turner Productions
- Theatre Development Fund (TDF)
- The Broadway League
- The Nederlander Organization
- The New Group
- The Pekoe Group
- The Play Company
- The Shubert Organization
- Vivacity Media
- Webb Management
- Williamstown Theatre Festival

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



Industry Partnerships



Producing Fellows selected through our **Prince Fellowship** and **Front Row Productions Fellowship** take classes with the producing students. Recent fellowship projects include *How to Dance in Ohio* and *Suffs*, both of which were produced on Broadway last season by fellowship alumni.



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**

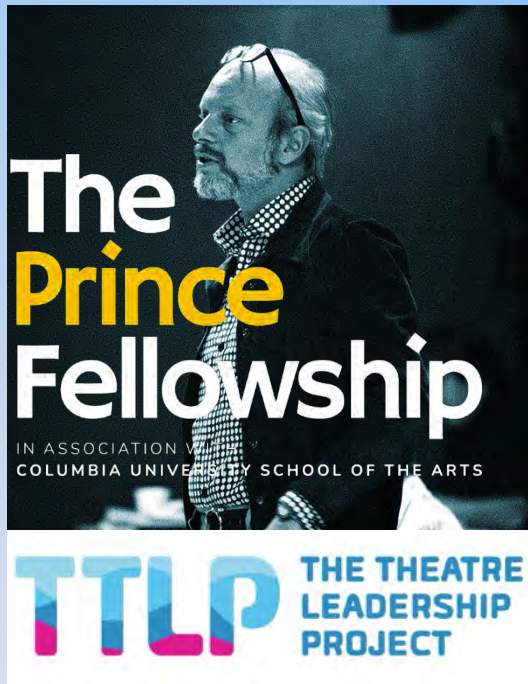


We developed a weekly seminar series on the business of theatre in partnership with **Black Theatre Coalition** and **Disney Theatrical Group**



Through our collaboration with **Stage One** and the **Society of London Theatre**, second year students spend a week in London learning about UK producing models.

Prince Fellowship for Creative Producers

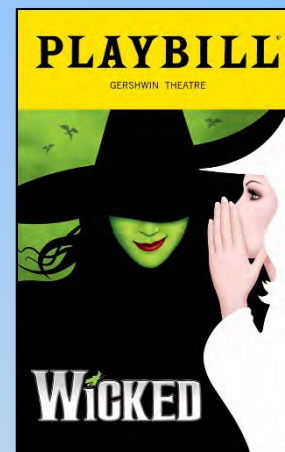
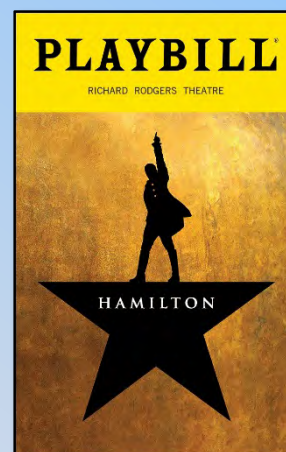
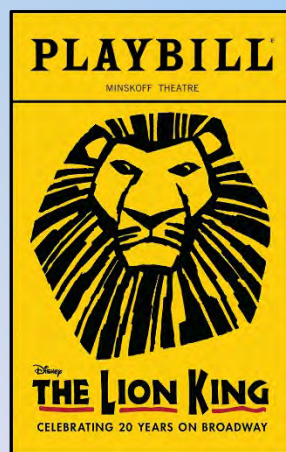
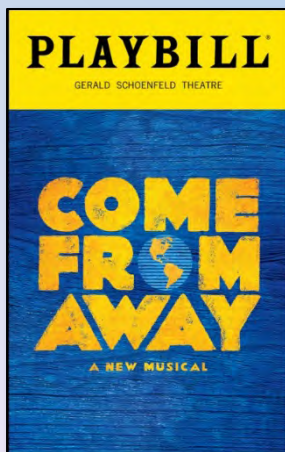
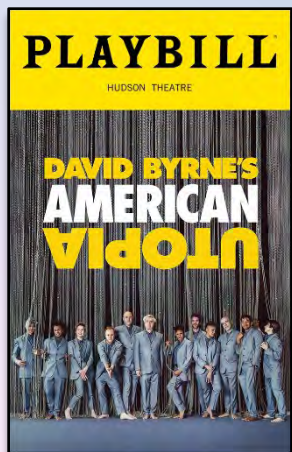


Mentors

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

2024-2025 Fellows

Eric Emauni
George Strus



Financial Aid

- Fellowships for Years 1 and 2 generally range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year
- Whitman Fellowship covers full tuition for Years 1 and 2
- Additional opportunities for student service positions
- Shubert Internship Stipend in Year 3

Admissions

- Application Materials:

- ☐ Transcript
- ☐ No GRE or other testing required
- ☐ 3 Letters of Recommendation
- ☐ 2 Essays: Personal Statement and Statement of Objectives
- ☐ Creative Materials (Portfolio or Play Analysis)
- ☐ Application Deadline: **January 7, 2025**
- ☐ Admissions Committee and Interviews

- For More Information:

- ❖ Website: <https://arts.columbia.edu/theatre>
- ❖ Email: SOAadmissions@columbia.edu
- ❖ Phone: (212) 854-2134

Alumni

a selection of alumni accomplishments

- Kendra Bator (General Manager): Mirvish Productions
- Jeremy Blocker (Head of Live Creative Producing): Audible
- Susan Booth (Associate Professor): Eastern Michigan University
- Thom Clay (Director of Theatre Management): Nederlander Organization
- Beth Dembrow (General Manager): MCC Theatre
- Kelvin Dinkins (Executive Director): American Repertory Theatre
- Andy Donald (Assoc Artistic Director): American Conservatory Theatre
- Steve Dow (Deputy Director): Marin County Dept of Cultural Services
- Dave Ehle (Company Manager): *Redwood The Musical, Come From Away*
- Jamie Forshaw (Executive Producer): MWM Live / Madison Wells Media
- Temple Gill (Director of Public Affairs): Huntington Theatre
- Jovan Hannah (Assoc GM): 321 Productions, *Death Becomes Her*
- Jill Jefferson (Director, Acquisition Marketing): New York City Ballet
- Jessica Jenen (Producer): *Parade; Into the Woods; Gutenberg The Musical!*
- Brandon Kahn (General Manager): Alley Theatre
- Danielle Karliner Naish (General Manager): RCI Theatricals
- Kappy Kilburn (Executive Director): Human Race Theatre
- Anah Klate (Audience Services Manager): Irish Arts Center
- Allie Lalonde (Director of Development): New York Theatre Workshop
- Congzhou Li (President): Beijing ATW Culture Media Co.
- Eric Louie (Artistic Producing Director): La Jolla Playhouse
- Hal Luftig (Producer): *Kinky Boots; American Utopia; Here Lies Love*
- Anthony McDonald (Executive Director): Shubert Theatre, New Haven
- Stacey McMath (Senior Consultant): Webb Management
- David Manella (Associate): Loeb & Loeb LLP
- Adam Miller (General Manager): *The Book of Mormon*
- Faye Rosenbaum (Dir of Business Continuity): Martha Graham Dance Co.
- Christina Selby (VP of Production & Touring): Nederlander Organization
- Stephen Sosnowski (Managing Director): SpotCo
- Michael Stotts (Managing Director): Paper Mill Playhouse
- Thomas Swayne (Executive Producer): Stage Entertainment
- Halla Tryggvadottir (Director of Marketing & Audience Development): Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
- Jessica White (Business Affairs & Legal Counsel): Disney Theatrical Group
- Barbara Whitman (Producer): *Good Night, Oscar; A Strange Loop; Fun Home*



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!

Any Questions?

Steven

sec11@columbia.edu

Tory

vb12@columbia.edu