

MFA in Theatre Management & Producing at Columbia University

2020 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 – 116th 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
- 60 Credits over the first 2 years / 4 semesters
- Producing/Management Requirement
- 3 Internships
- Collaboration Weekend
- Crew Assignment
- 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 (*Come From Away*)
- Barry Grove (Manhattan Theatre Club)
- Justin Karr (Jujamcyn Theaters)
- Karen Kowgios (Withum)
- Dessie Moynihan (Shubert Organization)
- Michael Naumann (Theatre Development Fund)
- Amanda Pekoe (The Pekoe Group)
- Lisa Poyer (Company Manager)
- Darren Robertson (Lincoln Center)
- 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:**
 - 28% of the student body is international
 - Students from 50 countries
- **Theatre Management & Producing**
 - 35% of the current student body is international
 - Students from 6 countries

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
- Labor Relations
- Management and Administration
- Marketing and Audience Development

Courses

First Year

- Theatre Management & Administration I and II
- Budgeting and Reporting
- Accounting for the Theatre
- Fundraising & Marketing
- Advertising for the Theatre
- Press & Publicity
- History and Theory of Theatre
- Issues in the National Not-for-Profit Theatre
- 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
- 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
- **NEW** Digital Producing
- **NEW** Reimagining American Theatre
- **NEW** Critical Issues in Theatre Producing: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Arts

Electives

- Theatre Program
- Film Program
- Arts Administration
- Columbia Business School
- Columbia School of Law
- Other Areas of the University

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



STAGE ONE

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



Manhattanville and the Lenfest Center for the Arts



Our new theatre opened in Fall 2017

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.
Applicants must apply separately to each school.

Theatre Accountability Project

Theatre
Accountability
Project

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

BLACK THEATRE COALITION



MOBILIZE · IMPLEMENT · TRANSFORM

Fall 2020: We created a **weekly webinar series** on the business of theatre in partnership with **Black Theatre Coalition**

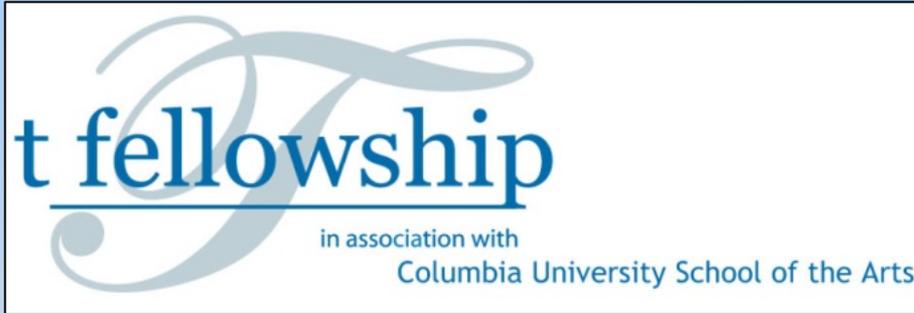
BROADWAY
ADVOCACY
COALITION



COLUMBIA
LAW SCHOOL

Spring 2021: Producing students will join **The Theater for Change: Reimagining Justice Through Abolition**, Columbia Law School's partnership with **Broadway Advocacy Coalition**

T Fellowship for Creative Producers



Current Mentors

Kristen Caskey

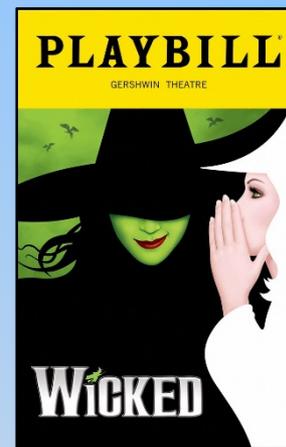
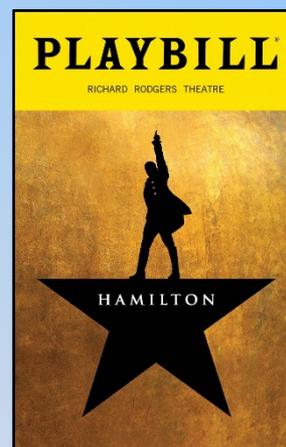
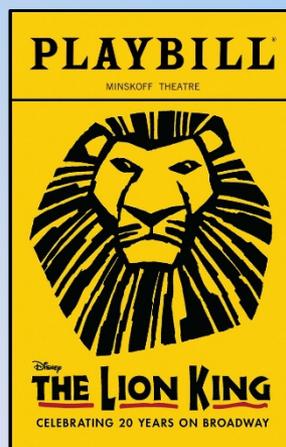
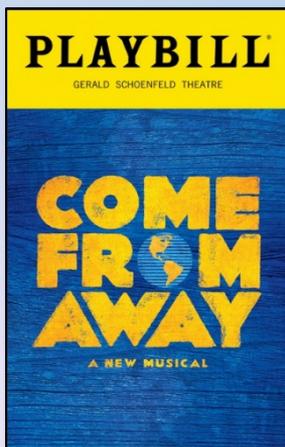
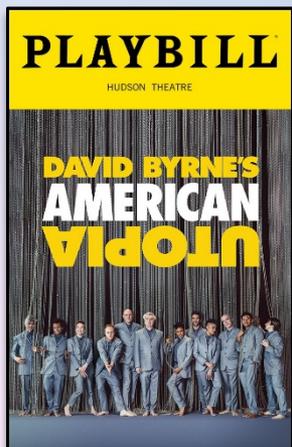
Sue Frost

Thomas Schumacher

Jeffrey Seller

David Stone

Orin Wolf



Financial Aid

- Need-based and Merit-based awards available
- Financial Packages for Years 1 and 2
- Additional opportunities for student coordinator employment in Year 2
- Fellowships generally range from \$10,000 to \$30,000 per year
- Shubert Internship Stipend in Year 3

Admissions

- What kind of students are we looking for?
- No GRE Required
- Creative Materials
- Application Deadline: **January 5, 2021**
- Admissions Committee and Interviews

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

For more information:

Website: <https://arts.columbia.edu/theatre/>

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): The 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 (Senior General Manager): Broadway Asia
- 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
- Allie Lalonde (Producing Director): The TEAM
- Eric Louie (Producing Director): 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
- Stephen Sosnowski (VP of Media and Account Services): 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): *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 in Chicago



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

Any Questions?