

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

October 2024

The semester is off to a great start with alumni events and gatherings!

In October, we co-hosted a brunch with Theatre's Stage Management alumni. It was wonderful to see so many of you and hear about the incredible projects you are working on!

Along with the Film program and Columbia University Entertainment (CUE), we co-hosted an alumni panel in Los Angeles on "What's Next in TV and Film." We were also so excited to welcome many of you back to campus for the Columbia Alumni Leaders Experience.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, which includes a spotlight on Acting Theatre alum, Tauriq Jenkins '15 and tips from the Artists' Resource Center on financial wellness.

As always, please continue to [keep us updated](#) on your work.

With warm regards,

**LAILA MAHER**

DEAN OF STUDENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

**JESSICA PIERSON**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

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### ALUMNI EVENTS

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### WHAT'S NEXT IN TV AND FILM?

SOA and CUE hosted an alumni panel on What's Next in TV and Film in Beverly Hills with **Simon Kinberg '03**, **Deborah Chow '03**, and **Kristen Konvitz '08**. **James Ponsoldt '05** moderated, with an introduction by SOA Dean, Sarah Cole.

**CLICK THE PHOTO TO WATCH THE RECORDING.**

*Pictured from left to right: SOA Dean Sarah Cole, James Ponsoldt '05, Deborah Chow '03, Simon Kinberg '03, and Kristen Konvitz '08.*



### STAGE MANAGEMENT BRUNCH

The Office of Alumni Affairs and the Theatre Program hosted a Sunday brunch for alumni, faculty, and students from the Stage Management concentration. It was so wonderful to see so many of you!



### COLUMBIA ALUMNI LEADERS EXPERIENCE

Columbia's alumni leaders returned to campus for a weekend of building connections.

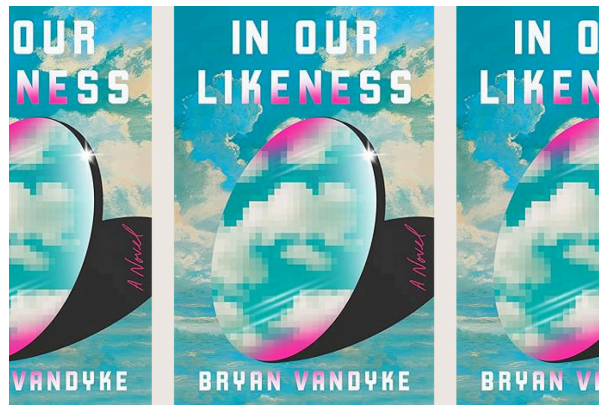
*Pictured from left to right: Associate Director of the Artists' Resource Center and Alumni Affairs **Jessica Pierson '18GSAS**, **Alece Oxendine '11**, **Karlee Rodrigues '18GS, '20SOA**, and **SOA Dean Sarah Cole**.*

### ALUMNI NEWS



*April*, a film directed by **Dea Kulumbegashvili '18** and produced by **Ilan Amouyal '17**, won the Special Jury Prize at the 81st Venice International Film Festival.

**Peter Forbes '21** was selected to join the Universal Studios Animation Writing Workshop.



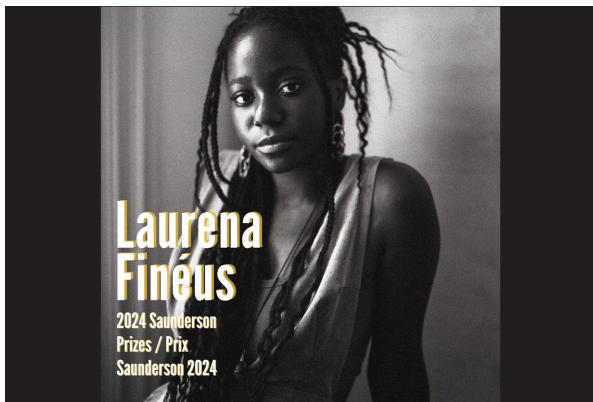
"Serranos", the O. Henry Prize-winning short story by **Francisco González '19**, was anthologized in *The Best Short Stories 2024*.

**Bryan VanDyke '00** published his debut novel, *In Our Likeness*, this month.



**Sabrina Victor '24** and **Aaron Joseph Anderson '24** star in the premiere of the James Ijames play *Good Bones* at The Public Theater through October 27, 2024.

**Michael Karadsheh '22** performs in *We Live in Cairo* at the New York Theater Workshop through November 24, 2024.



**Laurena Finéus '24** was awarded The William and Meredith Saunderson Prize for Emerging Artists.

*JML NYC 02-23*, a book of photography by **Joseph Michael Lopez '11**, was published this month and featured in an article by *The Guardian*.

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Tauriq Jenkins '15** is a Khoi Leader, activist, artist, and academic. Tauriq was a founding director of the Independent Theatre Movement of South Africa, and Shakespeare In Prison South Africa, which trained actors in South African prisons. He is currently the interim chair of the South African Palestinian Arts and Culture Coalition, and Convenor of Save our Sacred Lands Campaign, a campaign that aims to protect

heritage under threat for First Nations, including San and Khoi communities. Tauriq holds an MFA from Columbia University and was an International Foreign Policy Fellow at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He was the Archie Mafeje PhD fellow at the Centre for African Studies at University of Cape Town. Tauriq has served as a Section 11 Human Rights Monitor for the South African Human Rights Commission. He is a Human Rights Defender for Frontline Defenders, The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, which has Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the UN. He is passionate about chess, writes poetry, and poetry on chess. Tauriq is currently working on Shakespeare to Gaza, a production in collaboration with the [Ashtar Theatre](#), based in Ramallah, with South African actors.

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

The faculty at the SOA has had a significance in my life. The late and beloved Prof Kristin Linklater taught me about a free, natural, and liberated voice. That art, activism, and politics co-exist, and the quality of expression lie in the specifics of an ongoing and embodied encounter with what surrounds one and our histories. I was the faculty assistant to Prof Christian Parker, who encouraged an interest in critical thinking and dramaturgy.

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

That a human being is by nature interdisciplinary and harnessing a wide set of expertise will deepen the reflexivity and authenticity of one's personal engagement with issues that matter in this world.

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

The US elections. Human rights issues such as anti-repression against black and indigenous bodies. Gender-based violence. Concerns on a growing right and white supremacy. I am very proud of our current students who have stood up against the tyranny of injustice against the genocide unfolding in Palestine in the face of severe pressure. The same way alumni did during the Anti-Apartheid struggle to end fascist oppression in South Africa. I wish you only love and solidarity.

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

For me, I could see the extraordinary and generous confluencing of faculty members' influence in each other's own work, so each class in a way was collectively yet uniquely brilliantly curated. The enigmatic presence of Ulla Woltz, with Anne Bogarts groundbreaking "view points" work on kinesthetics, together with Kristin Linklater and Andrea Haring's vocal work, created the memorable class that I believe has shaped a generation of artists.

***What were the first steps you took after graduating?***

Having had the opportunity to continue a journey of education at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) as a Fellow in the International Fellows Program (IFP) focussed on US Foreign Policy, I then enrolled in the MA programme in Oral History at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. I was part of the Harlem Shakespeare Company and performed the role of Ira Aldridge in the Sable Shakespeare Series based on the civil rights movement and Shakespeare. I worked and participated in the annual program that SOA hosts with Global Leadership Fellows of the World Economic Forum with Prof Andrea Haring, and directed a series of Black History Month productions at International House in New York while a resident there.

***What advice would you give to recent graduates?***

"The readiness is all, let be" - Shakespeare. Pivot your art on what is justly needed, anchor your politics with your art, and prove your actions on both.

## IN MEMORIAM

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## Martin Purvis '80

We are sad to learn of the passing of Film alum **Martin Purvis '80**. After his time at SOA, Martin went on to become a professor of information science at Otago University in New Zealand.

Read more about Martin's journey since SOA in the [Alumni Spotlight](#) we did on him in 2014.

# ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT TIPS FROM THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

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### QUICK TIP : FINANCIAL WELLNESS

October is the perfect time to focus on financial wellness and establish stability for the future. As the year winds down, assess your financial health by reviewing budgets and setting realistic savings goals. Use this month to eliminate any lingering financial "ghosts," like unnecessary debts and poor spending habits. By taking proactive steps now, you'll build a solid foundation for a prosperous new year and ensure a bright financial future. Therefore, our October 2024 Artists' Resource Center Quick Tip is all about a free resource that is available to Columbia students and alumni alike...**Columbia iGrad!**

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

If you have a Columbia University email address, go to [Columbia.iGrad.com](https://Columbia.iGrad.com) to set up your account. Answer a few questions about your financial habits, and then iGrad will recommend personalized resources that fit your needs. You can also use it to create a budget or financial plan, learn about savings, investments, and responsible credit card use, and how to navigate other major life money matters, such as buying a car or a house.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

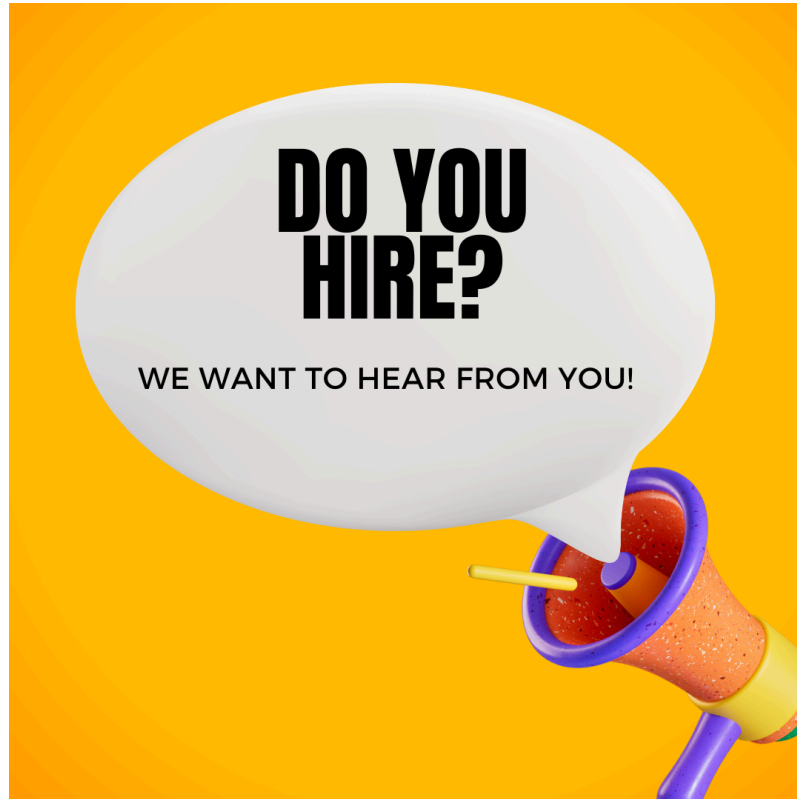
Columbia iGrad offers so many resources! After logging on, you'll take a Money Personality Quiz that will help iGrad suggest specific strategies tailored to your goals and interests. There's a budgeting tool where you can set goals, plan for expenses, and keep your finances on track. There are also tools, webinars, and articles on almost every subject from home financing to retirement plans, from managing debt to starting a savings account and investing. It is chock-full of resources!

#### THRIVE CREATIVELY, SUCCEED FINANCIALLY

Everyone deserves financial stability, and it doesn't have to be scary. iGrad can help you get there through proper planning and by de-stressing the entire process. iGrad offers mindfulness strategies that include a stress personality quiz, meditations, guided journaling, and even an 8-week Money

Mindfulness Program that will help you start building positive financial habits.

Get started today! And remember, you can use [Columbia.iGrad.com](https://columbia.iGrad.com) as an alum for as long as you want it — without ever paying a fee. The Artists' Resource Center wants you to thrive and succeed artistically and financially. If you need more support with your job search, help with networking tips, and making your application stand out, you can always set up an [appointment](#)! We're here for you!



### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE INTERVIEW QUESTION?

The Artists' Resource Center will be facilitating a workshop on best interview practices.

What is your favorite question to ask when interviewing a candidate for a position you are hiring for?

LET US KNOW

### ALUMNI BENEFITS

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[Artists' Resource Center \(ARC\)](#)  
[Update Your Contact Information](#)  
[Email Forwarding & CU Address](#)  
[Online Alumni Community](#)  
[CAA Arts Access](#)  
[Complete List of Benefits](#)

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