

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

September 2024

We hope you all had a nice summer full of rest and creativity.

As the new academic year begins, we are excited to resume our monthly alumni newsletter.

Our summer activities included the following: our alumni were [well-represented](#) at the Tribeca Festival where the CAA held a happy hour honoring our alumni filmmakers; we traveled to [Los Angeles](#) for the Columbia University Film Festival which was chock-full of alumni events; and several SOA alumni showed their work at the [Edinburgh Fringe Festival](#).

This month, alumni from the Stage Management concentration will gather for a [Sunday brunch](#). School of the Arts Dean Sarah Cole will travel to LA to host an [alumni panel](#) to discuss what's next for the film and TV industry.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, which includes a spotlight on Film Creative Producing alum, Apoorva Charan '18 and tips from the Artists' Resource Center on finding a job (plus a fun poll!).

As always, please continue to [keep us updated](#) on your work. Check out [Class Notes](#) for fellow alumni updates!

LAILA MAHER

DEAN OF STUDENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

JESSICA PIERSON

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

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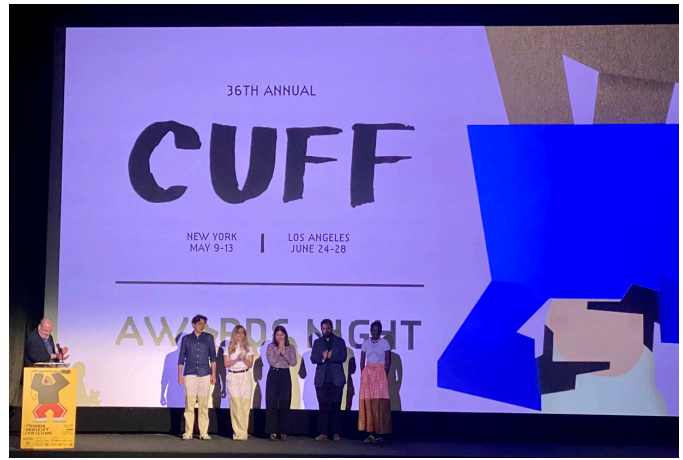
ALUMNI EVENTS



TRIBECA FESTIVAL

SOA alumni swept the 2024 Tribeca Festival. Click the image to read all about it!

Pictured: (from left to right) **Camille Hamadet '24** (Editor), **Will Pinke '23** (Assistant Director), **Wes Andre Goodrich '23** (Director), **Patrick Nichols '23** (Producer), and **Yoko Kohmoto '23** (Producer) whose film *Meal Ticket* played at Rising Voices.



CUFF LA

Alumni in Los Angeles gathered for a week of events culminating in a screening of Jury Selects in June.



EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL

Several alumni showed their work at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer. **Sam Gibbs '24** and **Emily Everett '24** shared their experience:

Bringing our show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival was beyond our dreams—a project that we started at Columbia for Sam's materials project, developed over the course of a year, and then brought to international audiences.



STAGE MANAGEMENT BRUNCH

The Office of Alumni Affairs and the Theatre Program are hosting a Sunday brunch for alumni, faculty, and students from the Stage Management concentration. If you'll be in NYC on September 22, click the photo to RSVP!



WHAT'S NEXT IN TV & FILM?

Join SOA and CUE in Beverly Hills for this exclusive conversation with **Simon Kinberg '03**, **Deborah Chow '03**, and **Kristen Konvitz '08**. **James Ponsoldt '05** is moderating, with an introduction by SOA Dean, Sarah Cole.

GET YOUR TICKET

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



SOA POP-UP SHOP

The School of the Arts is happy to present the very first SOA Merch Shop! Purchase school (and Program) branded t-shirts, baseball caps, water bottles, coffee mugs, sweatshirts, and so much more. The online store will be open through

September 17th.

CHECK OUT THE MERCH

ALUMNI NEWS



Rule of Two Walls, a visceral portrait of today's Ukraine through the lens of its artists directed by **David Gutnik '12**, was released in theaters.



Jacob Jaffke '10 produced *MaXXXine*, an American slasher film written and directed by Ti West.



Carla Stockton '16 is publishing her book, *Too Much of Nothing*, on October 29, 2024.



Becoming Carly Klein, a new novel by **Elizabeth Harlan '87**, is being published by Spark Press in September 2024.



Kate Flanagan '12 stars in *Penitentia*, a legal crime thriller that finished a successful festival run

Emily Cosimar '16 was named Executive Artistic Director of Oklahoma City Repertory Theater last fall and was released on Apple and Amazon.



Victoria-Idongesit Udondian '16 received an Anonymous Was A Woman Environmental Art Grant for her project, *Okrika' Reclaimed!*.

Prince Street Gallery is currently showcasing *Bicoastal*, a compelling new series of works by **Gina Werfel '79**.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Apoorva Charan '18 is an LA-based producer who was born in India, raised in Northern California, and started her career as a digital producer in Singapore. Her producorial feature debut, *Joyland*, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival (2022) and won the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize, the Queer Palm, and Best International Film at the Independent Spirit Awards (2023). The film was Pakistan's entry to the 95th Academy Awards, was the first film from Pakistan to make the shortlist, and has screened at festivals around the world including Sundance, TIFF, and BFI London Film Festival. An alumna of

Columbia University's MFA Film program, Charan has produced multiple award-winning short films including *Lonely Blue Night* which won the Audience Award for Best Short Film at AFI Fest 2020 and is available to stream on HBO Max, *空间 Distance* which won Film Pipeline's Best Film Award in 2020, and *Interiors* which premiered at TIFF in September 2018. She has also served on the jury for Palm Springs Short Film Festival. Charan was a 2019 Project Involve Creative Producing fellow, a 2020 Film Independent Creative Producing Lab fellow, a 2021 Women in Film Emerging Producers fellow, a 2022 Sundance Creative Producing Lab fellow, a 2023 BAFTA Breakthrough, a 2024 Gotham-Cannes Producers Network fellow, and has worked in development at Big Beach, Walt Disney Studios' live action department and at Blue Harp. Through her film and TV production company, All Caps, Charan aims to produce unique narratives for a global audience.

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

I was so inspired by Jack Lechner, Maureen Ryan, Ira Deutchman and continue to be so! Jack is incredible at balancing fine narrative taste with audience appeal, and producing his own films while continuing to teach. Maureen brings the most integrity to producing. She is such an excellent professor and is incomparable when it comes to the details of physical production. Ira Deutchman brings producing students to Cannes every year! An exhausting task, which he clearly continues to have the passion for. I was lucky to be one his students who visited the festival alongside him and love crashing his annual Columbia dinner.

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

Attending the School of the Arts impacted my work and career greatly! From teaching me how to produce a film, to shaping the narratives I'm drawn towards, and the creative collaborators I surround myself with - I have a lot to thank the School of the Arts for.

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

We were students in 2016 during the Clinton / Trump election. That should tell you everything about what was on our mind.

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

Elements of the Dramatic Narrative by Andy Bienen. I loved it so much I took it for the second time as a Teaching Assistant. It's an incredible course that breaks down the elements of a compelling story.

What were the first steps you took after graduating?

I moved to LA and got a job at a production company. Being able to observe producers assess potential films, make financing and distribution decisions, and understand the landscape of the industry was integral to my learning.

What advice would you give to recent graduates?

Be persistent but patient! Our careers and lives are long. :)

ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

CAREER DEVELOPMENT TIPS FROM THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

QUICK TIP: OUR FAVORITE JOB BOARDS!

September, much like January, marks a period of fresh beginnings. With summer behind us and people returning from their holidays, it's time to get back to the usual routines. The leisurely pace of summer combined with an increased demand for filling roles makes the fall one of the prime times to secure a job. Therefore, our September 2024 Artists' Resource Center Quick Tip is a collection of some of our favorite job boards!

Theater Jobs are spread between a few key job boards. [Playbill](#) is where you can find a wide variety of jobs, from acting gigs to company management work. We really love the [Opera America Job Board](#) too, for you guessed it, opera jobs! And for those design or technical jobs, check out [SETC Job Board](#). For the actors among us, [Actors' Access](#) is one of the key places to check out!

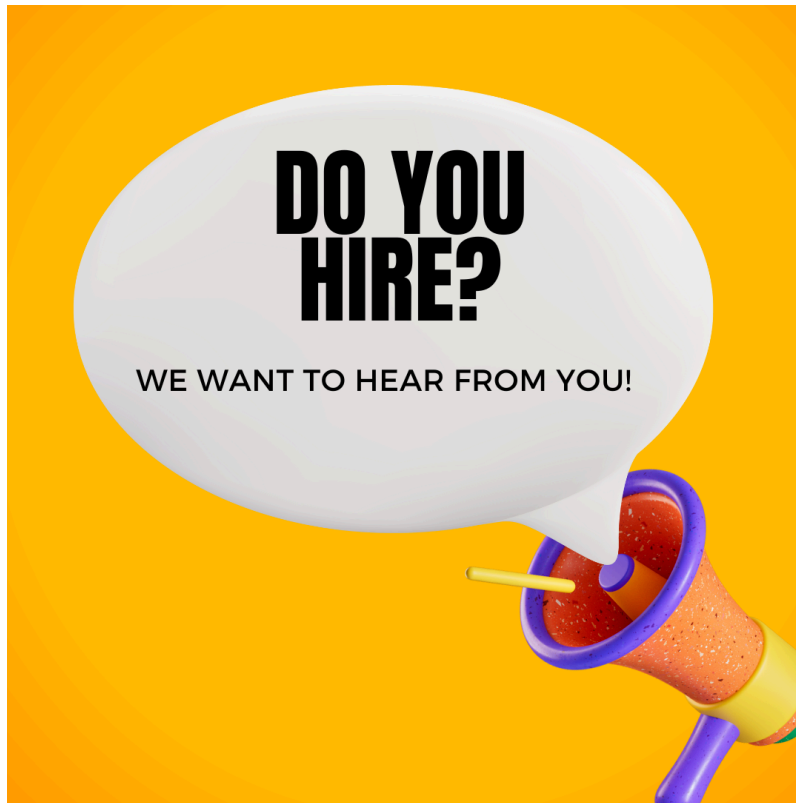
We may not have to tell you that **Film Jobs** are mostly word of mouth and networking, but there are a few boards that can help guide your search or inspire your next chapter. We love [StaffMeUp](#), where you can apply for crew jobs and also find crews for your next film! Check out [Video Collective](#), it has all jobs from temp to Studio jobs and you don't need an account to browse! Also check out, [The Anonymous Production Assistant](#) website for all sorts of Entertainment jobs including the UTA job list.

When it comes to **Visual Arts Jobs**, we love [NYFA's Job Board](#), where you can filter results by Industry/Sector so you can see all sorts of visual arts related jobs. We also frequent [ArtJobs](#), which has a full listing of visual art jobs that you can filter by region, state, and even international jobs. And don't forget to check out [CAA Jobs and Opportunities Boards](#) for a smattering of education jobs along with various job listings.

There are so many **Writing** Job boards out there! Our favorites include [Publisher's Marketplace](#), which is predominantly for publishing jobs, [Freelance Writing Gigs](#), which is updated daily with various freelance writing gigs and [Mandy Hofmockel's Substack](#) which is refreshed often with journalism and news media jobs and more! Be sure to check out [Kaitlyn Arford's LinkedIn post](#) which includes more job boards and job newsletters!

Looking for some **Education jobs**? From Administrative to Faculty positions, we love [Academic Job Wiki](#) which is an aggregate source that includes user-added updates to open positions throughout the application process. If you're looking for a searchable source, try [HERC Jobs](#) or [Educaloxy](#) which focuses on Academic jobs in Education, Arts, and Languages!

But did you know that 60% of jobs are found through networking - not online job boards? So if you've tried the job board route and haven't been successful, don't fret! Reach out to the Artists' Resource Center and set up an [appointment](#). We can help you strategize on your job search, help you with tips on networking, and make your application stand out!



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

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

Office of Alumni Affairs

Columbia University School of the Arts
305 Dodge Hall, MC 1808
2960 Broadway
New York, NY, 10027
arts.columbia.edu/alumni-affairs
artsalum@columbia.edu



This e-mail was sent by Columbia University, 622 West 113th Street, New York, NY, 10025 US

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