Friday, June 16, 2017

Commencement Program

Processional

National Anthem
Kyle James Frattini
Department of Theater Undergraduate

Welcome
Teri Schwartz
Dean, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television

Class of 2017 Student Remarks
Emma Dudley
Department of Film, Television and Digital Media Undergraduate
Margaret Shigeko Starbuck
Department of Theater Undergraduate

Commencement Keynote Speaker
Ava DuVernay
Filmmaker

Presentation of 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award in Film, Television and Digital Media
Justin Lin
Filmmaker

Presentation of 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award in Theater
Michael Stuhlbarg
Actor

Presentation of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award
Nadja Swarovski
Member of the Executive Board, Swarovski Crystal Business

Conferral of the Degrees

Class of 2017 Department of Theater Musical Performance
“Don’t Stop Believin’”
Words and Music by Steve Perry, Neal Schon and Jonathan Cain
Arranged by Roger Emerson

Performed by

Alma Mater
Aaron Lane Newman

Final Remarks
Teri Schwartz

Recessional
Dear Graduates:

Congratulations, UCLA Class of 2017! Today we join your family, friends, and the entire University of California community in celebrating the awarding of your hard-won degrees. You have worked diligently, often overcoming great challenges, to pursue your UC education.

As Jane Goodall said, “Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.”

You are now ready to go out into the world and make a difference, using your knowledge and skills for the betterment of your community, the nation and the world. The challenges we face today are significant. But as a UCLA graduate, you are well prepared to tackle them.

I hope you will always take great pride in what you have accomplished at the University of California, and in being a part of the UC family for life.

Go forth, Bruins, and make the world a better, brighter place. *Fiat lux!*

Most sincerely,

Janet Napolitano
President
Dear UCLA Graduate:

Congratulations! Today's Commencement is a joyful day for each of you and your families, a celebration of all that you have accomplished in your time at UCLA. A UCLA degree is highly respected and will serve you well in whatever you choose to do in the future.

As a graduate of UCLA, you are now counted among thousands of your fellow alumni who are exemplary leaders and tireless innovators dedicated to improving lives here at home and around the world. I encourage you to further the Bruin legacy of excellence and service, with the spirit of optimism that makes UCLA a special place. We look forward to what your future holds and will take great pride in your accomplishments.

Thank you for the many contributions you have made to our campus that have advanced our mission of education, research and service to California and beyond. You and your fellow students have enriched me personally, providing fresh perspectives and insights.

Your relationship with UCLA will continue throughout your life. I hope that you will take full advantage of the many resources available to our alumni and that you will remain engaged with campus. Remember that you are one of UCLA's best advocates and ambassadors. You are always welcome here.

Today is special, unlike any other day in your life. Enjoy this time with your family and friends in memorable ways. I am enormously proud of you, and I wish you a lifetime of fulfillment and happiness.

With very best wishes,

Gene D. Block
Chancellor
Dear Class of 2017,

Heartiest congratulations to each of you on this special occasion — the culmination of your academic career with us at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television!

As your dean, I am tremendously proud to have witnessed your remarkable talent and commitment to your creative work and research. You have accomplished great work during your time here with us at UCLA TFT. It is with tremendous pride and happiness that I extend to you, on behalf of the faculty and staff, warmest best wishes for having reached this momentous day.

You are about to embark on a new and exciting chapter in your life. As the next generation of inspiring artists, scholars and industry leaders, you have the great potential to make a difference in the world through the power of your stories, your research and your leadership.

As the newest members of our remarkable UCLA TFT alumni community, we encourage you to stay connected — not only to us but to each other — as you build dynamic and successful careers across entertainment and performing arts industries. Use your successes to make a difference in the world and to help the next generation of alumni who will one day join you in this outstanding network.

On this celebratory occasion, I am privileged to give you my heartfelt best wishes for the years ahead. I know that you will use your magnificent voices and meaningful stories to carry our UCLA TFT ideals forward to enlighten, engage and inspire change for a better world.

Congratulations, once again, Class of 2017! All of us at UCLA TFT are very proud of each and every one of you.

Warmest good wishes,

Teri Schwartz
Dean
UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television
Nominated for the Academy Award and winner of the Peabody and BAFTA for Best Documentary, Ava DuVernay’s most recent feature, *13th*, was one of the most critically acclaimed films of 2016. In 2014, DuVernay directed the historical drama *Selma*, which garnered four Golden Globe nominations and two Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture. Her current directorial work includes the acclaimed series *Queen Sugar* and the upcoming Disney live-action feature film, *A Wrinkle in Time*.

DuVernay previously wrote, produced and directed the dramatic feature *Middle of Nowhere*, which earned her the 2012 Sundance Film Festival’s Best Director Award. In 2010, she wrote, financed, produced and directed her first narrative feature, *I Will Follow*. The family drama was hailed by critic Roger Ebert as “one of the best films I’ve seen about the loss of a loved one.”

DuVernay made her directorial debut with the critically acclaimed 2008 hip-hop documentary *This Is the Life* and has directed several network documentaries, including *Venus Vs.* for ESPN, about tennis player Venus Williams’ crusade for gender pay equality at Wimbledon and the French Open. She has directed significant short form work including *August 28: A Day in the Life of a People*, commissioned by The Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture as well as acclaimed fashion and beauty films for Prada and Apple.

Prior to filmmaking, DuVernay worked as a marketer and publicist for 14 years. Her award-winning firm provided strategy and execution for more than 120 film and television campaigns for acclaimed directors such as Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, Michael Mann and Bill Condon.

In 2017, DuVernay was named one of Fortune Magazine’s 50 Greatest World Leaders. A graduate of UCLA, she is the founder of ARRAY, a grassroots distribution and advocacy collective dedicated to the amplification of films by people of color and women, which was named one of Fast Company’s Most Innovative Companies.
Justin Lin is a Taiwanese-born American filmmaker whose movies have grossed more than $2 billion worldwide. Lin is responsible for re-booting the *Fast & Furious* franchise, along with groundbreaking work in virtual reality and innovative projects in both TV and film. Most recently, Lin directed the critically acclaimed blockbuster *Star Trek Beyond*, the final film in the modern *Star Trek* trilogy.

Lin began his career at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television where he studied film directing. He then went on to direct the box-office hits *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift; Fast & Furious; Fast Five; Fast and Furious 6; Touchstone Picture's Annapolis*; and *Finishing the Game: The Search for a New Bruce Lee*, which was released by IFC Films and The Weinstein Company after it successfully premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. His solo directorial debut, the critically acclaimed *Better Luck Tomorrow*, which he co-wrote, co-produced and edited, also premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and was nominated for a Film Independent Spirit Award. Lin helmed the first-ever live-action virtual reality short film for mobile devices, *Help*, in partnership with Google’s Spotlight Stories in 2015. He also directed several episodes of the cult TV series hit *Community*.

In 2012, Lin founded the production company Perfect Storm Entertainment with the intent of producing films and television with a global perspective. On the film side, the company currently has Netflix’s *The Stand Off*; on the TV side, it has CBS’ *Scorpion* and the upcoming *SWAT*, and Cinemax’s upcoming *Warrior*. Lin also founded the digital company YOMYOMF to give a new outlet for aspiring Asian American filmmakers. He is currently developing and producing several new television and film projects for CBS, Cinemax, Paramount, Sony and Warner Bros.
Michael Stuhlbarg has long been a lauded actor in the New York theater world, but his breakthrough film role was playing Larry Gopnik, the lead character in the Coen Brothers' A Serious Man, for which he received a Best Actor Golden Globe Award nomination in 2010.

His other films include Miss Sloane with Jessica Chastain; Marvel's Dr. Strange; Denis Villeneuve's Arrival; Jobs, directed by Danny Boyle; Trumbo with Bryan Cranston; Miles Ahead with Don Cheadle; Ed Zwick's Pawn Sacrifice; Steven Spielberg's Lincoln; Woody Allen's Blue Jasmine; Cut Bank; Hitchcock; Men in Black 3; Martin Scorsese's Hugo; Ridley Scott's Body of Lies; Tim Blake Nelson's The Grey Zone; Sophie Barthes' Cold Souls; and Martin Scorsese's short homage to Alfred Hitchcock, The Key to Reserva. He played the role of New York City mob boss Arnold Rothstein on HBO's award-winning series Boardwalk Empire and has had a recurring role on the Amazon series Transparent. Upcoming projects include Luca Guadagnino's Call Me By Your Name, Guillermo Del Toro's The Shape of Water and Hulu's The Looming Tower. He can currently be seen in the third season of FX's Fargo.

In 2005, Stuhlbarg was a Tony Award nominee and a Drama Desk Award winner for his performance in Martin McDonagh's The Pillowman. He has also been honored with the New Dramatists Charles Bowden Actor Award and the Elliot Norton Boston Theatre Award, the latter for his performance in Long Day's Journey into Night. His other Broadway credits include the National Actors Theatre productions of Saint Joan, Three Men on a Horse, Timon of Athens and The Government Inspector; Ronald Harwood's Taking Sides; Sam Mendes' revival of Cabaret; and Tom Stoppard's The Invention of Love.

Stuhlbarg has worked numerous times with the New York Shakespeare Festival. His critically acclaimed credits include Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Twelfth Night, the title role in Richard II and Hamlet in Oskar Eustis' production of the famous tragedy, for which he won a Drama League Award.

Other off-Broadway credits include David Warren's staging of The Voysey Inheritance (Obie and Callaway Awards and a Lucille Lortel Award nomination); Cymbeline, reprising his role in a U.K. stint of the production; Old Wicked Songs (Drama League Award recipient); Measure for Pleasure (Lucille Lortel Award nomination) and The Grey Zone.

Stuhlbarg studied at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School. He also studied at the Vilnius Conservatory in Lithuania's Chekhov Studies unit, now the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre; at the British-American Drama Academy at Baliol and Keble Colleges in Oxford; and, on a full scholarship, with Marcel Marceau.
Nadja Swarovski is the first female member of the Executive Board of Swarovski, the world’s leading crystal manufacturer. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Daniel Swarovski, who founded the company in the Austrian Alps in 1895. Today the Swarovski Group turns over €3.4 billion a year.

Nadja has driven a program of creative collaborations that have revitalized the company over the past 20 years. In addition to leading the company's global branding and communications, she has commissioned new installations, artworks and products celebrating crystal that have continually positioned Swarovski at the vanguard of creative and lifestyle trends. From Alexander McQueen to Daniel Libeskind, the relationships she has built with figures in the worlds of fashion and jewelry, design and architecture, film and art, have established her as one of the world’s leading creative patrons. Nadja also oversees Swarovski’s Sustainability initiatives and philanthropic programs, and chairs the Swarovski Foundation.

In fashion, Nadja has built on Swarovski’s legacy of collaborating with the industry’s leading lights and emerging talents, implementing groundbreaking designer support and catwalk initiatives including the Swarovski Collective (founded in 1999) and Runway Rocks (founded in 2003).

In 2007 she developed Atelier Swarovski, a cutting-edge jewelry and accessories line featuring collaborations with designers including Christopher Kane, Viktor & Rolf, Jean Paul Gaultier and Karl Lagerfeld. Atelier Swarovski was joined in 2016 by Atelier Swarovski Home, a home décor brand created in partnership with innovators such as Daniel Libeskind, Ron Arad, Tord Boontje, Fredrikson Stallard and rising stars Raw Edges.

Nadja has also strengthened Swarovski’s relationship with the film industry through partnerships with costume and set designers. Swarovski crystals have been featured in movies including *The Young Victoria*, *Black Swan* and *Skyfall*. In the music industry she has overseen collaborations with costume designers for performers such as Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez and Madonna.

Since 2012 she has led Swarovski’s sustainability strategy, ensuring that ethical and environmental standards are embedded in the company’s business practices as it pursues its aim of becoming a world leader in sustainable luxury. Nadja chairs the Swarovski Foundation, which she established to consolidate the company’s long-term commitment to charitable giving. With a focus on education, the Foundation supports projects that foster creativity and culture, meet social needs and promote wellbeing, and conserve natural resources.

Born in Germany, Nadja is an Austrian and American citizen, and was educated in Europe and the United States. After graduating from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1992, she completed a graduate course in fine and decorative arts at Sotheby’s in New York. She is currently based in London.
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Recognized for outstanding academic achievement and identified by the Blue and Gold Fourragere:

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Margaret Shigeko Starbuck

Film, Television and Digital Media

Courtney Taylor Burness
Emma Dudley
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Film, Television and Digital Media

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Lindsay Giggey
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Bryan Wuest
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Jonathan Zakin

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1991 Bella Lewitzky
1992 Jack Valenti
1993 James Earl Jones
1994 Peter Guber
1995 Quincy Jones
1996 Debbie Allen
1997 Warren Littlefield
1998 John Frankenheimer
1999 Annette Bening
2000 Joe Roth
2001 Eva Marie Saint
2002 Martha Coolidge
2003 Terry Semel
2004 Sherry Lansing
2005 Fay Kanin
2006 George C. Wolfe
2007 Larry Gelbart
2008 Colin Callender
2009 Oliver Stone
2010 Peter Guber
2011 U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
2012 Ron Meyer
2013 Cathy Schulman
2014 Jane Fonda
2015 Kevin Beggs
2016 Channing Dungey

Commencement Dedication
2012 Gilbert Cates
2015 Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.

UCLA Medal
2009 Haskell Wexler, A.S.C.

Alumni Honorees
2000 Army Archerd
2001 Louis J. Horvitz
2003 Moctesuma Esparza
2004 Gregory Nava
2005 Geoffrey Gilmore
2007 Gene Reynolds
2008 Fred Roos
2009 Ellen Geer
2010 John Rando
2010 Felicia D. Henderson
2011 Charles Burnett
2011 Mariska Hargitay
2012 Shirley Jo Finney
2012 Penelope Spheeris
2013 Dustin Lance Black
2013 Kristin Hanggi
2014 Wendy C. Goldberg
2014 Darren Star
2015 Donna Deitch
2015 Sarabeth Grossman
2016 Robert L. Friedman
2016 Gina Prince-Bythewood

Chancellor's Medal
1993 James Earl Jones
1994 Francis Ford Coppola
1995 Quincy Jones
1996 Neil Simon
1998 Edie Wasserman
2002 Kirk Douglas
2005 Sir Anthony Hopkins
2006 Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Producer
Daniel A. Ionazzi, Jr.

Production Management
Bridget Kelly, Kellie Knight, Kevin Service, Christina Vacchiano

Announcer
Paul M. Wagar

Audio Supervisor
Jonathan Burke

UCLA Gluck Brass Quintet
Olivia Aoki – Trombone
Marc Bolin – Tuba
Tristan Hurd, David Pittel – Trumpets
Rachel O’Connor – Horn

Commencement Coordinators
Dean Dacumos, Sandy Hall, Crystal Santana, Ashley Ahwah

Special Thanks
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Business Office
Dean’s Office
Department of Film, Television and Digital Media
Department of Theater
Information Technology
Marketing and Communications
Office of Development & Alumni Affairs
Office of Special Events and Protocol
Royce Hall Events
Student Services
“Hail to the hills of Westwood
to the mighty sea below;
Hail to our alma mater,
she will conquer every foe.
For we’re loyal to the Southland,
her honor we’ll uphold,
We’ll gladly give our hearts to thee,
to the Blue and to the Gold.”

— Jeane Emerson ‘29