

# **2024 COMMENCEMENT**



## **COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM**

Friday, June 14, 2024

### PROCESSIONAL

**NATIONAL ANTHEM** ANNEMARIE VERKUYLEN

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

BRIAN KITE DEAN, UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION

### RECOGNITION OF MARSHALS BRIAN KITE

### **CLASS OF 2024 STUDENT REMARKS**

ADRIAN CLARK

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER UNDERGRADUATE

#### SAYESHA CHAUDHARY

DEPARTMENT OF FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA UNDERGRADUATE

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER BRIAN KITE

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

### RECOGNITIONS

### **CONFERRAL OF THE DEGREES**

**BRIAN KITE** 

#### CLASS OF 2024 DEPARTMENT OF THEATER MUSICAL PERFORMANCE "UNWRITTEN"

BY NATASHA BEDINGFIELD, DANIELLE BRISEBOIS AND WAYNE RODRIGUES

**PERFORMED BY** 

CASSIDY AMBERG, ROSE ANAYA, DAVIDE COSTA, GARY EASTON, CHLOE JOHNSON, TRENT LAWSON, GAVIN LEAHY, WES LIEBERMAN, KATHRYN MADIGAN, DANIA MALEKGHASEMI, NOELLE MERINO, IZZY ROTH, MAYA VALENCIANO, ANNEMARIE VERKUYLEN AND IRIS ZIETLOW

### ALMA MATER

**WES LIEBERMAN** 

FINAL REMARKS BRIAN KITE

RECESSIONAL



### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL V. DRAKE, M.D.



Congratulations, UCLA Class of 2024! It is my honor to join your family, friends, and the entire University of California community in celebrating you and your many accomplishments.

I hope you will always take great pride in what you have achieved at the University of California, and in being a part of the UC family for life. I wish you the best of luck in whatever comes next.

When NASA's Lucy mission launched three years ago, it was the first spacecraft sent to explore a population of asteroids orbiting in tandem with Jupiter. A plaque inside the craft bears the bilingual poem, "Sunriders," by former U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera – an alumnus of UCLA. This poem captures the essence of the discovery and knowledge-creation you have been engaged in during your higher education. It reads:

Lucy carried us

tumbling through planetesimal trails

love saved us

who will we be?

compassion

science

humanity -

Light

Bruins, we are proud of you. I know you will make the world a better, brighter place. Fiat lux – let there be light!

MICHAEL V. DRAKE, M.D. President

## LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

GENE D. BLOCK



Members of the Class of 2024, congratulations! You did it!

Graduating from college is an incredible achievement, and it offers us a special opportunity to reflect on your years of diligence and hard work. Your time here has undoubtedly been filled with challenges, growth, and unforgettable experiences. You faced truly unique circumstances as a class — including navigating the COVID-19 pandemic — and your resilience in the face of adversity and compassion for one another has been truly inspiring. I hope you are proud of all that you have accomplished, both as learners and as people.

Graduation also offers us a chance to look ahead — with excitement, curiosity and optimism — to the future that is about to unfold. The world urgently needs your creativity and passion. UCLA values of integrity, empathy, open-mindedness and a commitment to excellence will serve you well as you enter this next chapter of your lives.

I want to reassure you that your connection to UCLA does not end here. As alumni, you remain Bruins, and you will always have a home here. Whether you find yourself continuing your education or exploring new paths, know that our community is here to support you every step of the way. Take advantage of the resources and support services available to you as UCLA alumni and remember that you are part of a vast network of Bruins who are making a difference in the world.

On behalf of the entire UCLA community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. We can't wait to see all that you will accomplish. May your futures be filled with continued success, fulfillment and limitless opportunities. And remember, once a Bruin, always a Bruin.

Dere D Bloch

**GENE D. BLOCK** Chancellor

### LETTER FROM THE DEAN

**BRIAN KITE** 



As we mark the close of this chapter in your lives, it's important to reflect on the incredible narratives you've woven, the groundbreaking research you've conducted, the evocative art you've created, and the innovative solutions you've engineered. Amidst a complex world, your resilience and adaptability have shone brightly. You've made an indelible impact on our institution and extended communities through your relentless pursuit of excellence.

On a journey that presented unique global challenges, you rose to champion equity, shared stories that amplified marginalized voices, and leveraged your talents to address the pressing issues of our era. Your dedication and creativity in navigating these turbulent times fill me with immense pride. Class of 2024, you are truly change-makers poised to shape a better world.

Though some memories on campus may eventually grow distant, remember that the Bruin spirit remains ever vibrant. Stay connected, uplift each other, and continue to draw strength from our extensive and supportive alumni network. We eagerly anticipate celebrating your future triumphs.

Congratulations, TFT Bruins. You did it!

Warmly,

-Kit

BRIAN KITE Dean

## KEYNOTE Address

### TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY Artistic Director, Geffen Playhouse



Tarell Alvin McCraney is Artistic Director of Geffen Playhouse. In this role, he is responsible for identifying, developing, and programming new works and re-envisioned classics. He sets the strategic artistic course for the Geffen's Gil Cates and Audrey Skirball Kenis Theaters. McCraney is an award-winning writer, producer, and educator, best known for his acclaimed trilogy, The Brother/Sister Plays. His script In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue is the basis for the Oscar-winning film Moonlight directed by Barry Jenkins, for which McCraney and Jenkins also won a Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar. He is an ensemble member at Steppenwolf Theatre and a member of Teo Castellanos D-Projects in Miami, a graduate of New World School of the Arts, The Theatre School at DePaul University, and the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Warwick. He was recently Co-Chair of Playwriting at the David Geffen School of Drama, where he remains on faculty. He is an associate at the Royal Shakespeare Company, London, and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Writers Branch).

## CHANCELLOR'S MARSHALS

Recognized for outstanding academic achievement and identified by the Blue and Gold Fourragere

### FILM, TELEVISION And Digital Media

SAYESHA CHAUDHARY ANJELICA HYMEL

### THEATER

ADRIAN CLARK BENJAMIN MICHAEL GURIEN SUSSKIND

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

### FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

### **Degree Conferred**

BRANDON ROBERT GREEN Dissertation Title: The Artist's Code: Technology and the Optimization of Creativity in Hollywood

### **Degree Candidates**

ZAMA DUBE Dissertation Title: Visualizing the Wake: A Black Feminist Grammar for Visual Dissent in the African Diaspora

BRITTANY JUDITH GREEN Dissertation Title: Bingeing Difference: Netflix, Advocacy, & Disability

KRISTA SHANITA JONES Dissertation Title: More Than Just a Kiss: Finding the Black Sexual Image in Classical Hollywood Cinema 1929-1941

YUNYI LI Dissertation Title: One World, One Dream: Infrastructure, Building Asia, and the Olympic Games in Tokyo and Beijing

ZIZI LI Dissertation Title: Specters of the Influencer Ecosystem: Labor and/as Infrastructure on the beyond Digital Platforms

## DOCTOR OF Philosophy

### THEATER

### **Degree Conferred**

YUN-PU YANG Dissertation Title: The Eroticism of Peking Opera Kunsheng from the 1880s to the 1980s

IYANNA HAMBY Dissertation Title: Returning to the Vessel: Archival Opacities and Fabulating Black Futures Post Reconstruction to Present

### **Degree Candidates**

VABIANNA SANTOS Dissertation Title: Concentric Eden

## **MASTER OF FINE ARTS**

### FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

### **Degrees** Conferred

YUXIN CHA ZAHIDA PIRANI MICHAEL PLEWA

### **Degree Candidates**

MARION ADOU RUBY ROSE BADEN **BRIDGETTE BARON** HADEN BESWICK-HALE HARRY BIRCH GARRETT BOUDREAUX CARA-LYNN BRANCH COURTNEY CHAPMAN **CLIFFORD CHI** DEREK DEROCHE SIERRA FALCONER MATTIE FRIBERG OSCAR GERVET KHALIF J. GILLETT MORGAN SAYERS GOLDSTEIN SONIA INES GONZALEZ PEDRO PABLO HERRERA MURCIA RHFTT HIPP NIKI IYER AMANDA F. JAEGER ROBERTO JIMENEZ EMMA KANTOR KAITH KARISHMA DAVID SUNGHO KIM HOPE ANN KINDRED CORALINE YANG KONG LUKE LACASA TIM J. LIM

PAUL ANTHONY LUNA TYLER GENET LYNCH LANHUA MA ASHWIN MITCHELL SARAH MORALES STEPHANIE MARIE MORALES MACEDO ISA MORENO **BENNETT SCOTT MORGAN** HAGAR MOUHKTAR **KEVIN NAIL** BAILEY ELIZABETH NEMIROW ALICE PARK TYRUS NIGEL PARKS NEIL PATEL DEMENTRI WILMOS PAUL RUNZE QIU MARIANA RODRIGUES SERRA SILVA NICOLAS ROSE SHUMPEI SAKAI CASEY SHANAHAN TAIGE SHI SIMON PETER SMITH HENRY DUGAN STALEY JENAE "NAE" NYKOL TALISON ANGIE VIDAL KUBESSI TARA NICOLE WILSON NICOLE WOLF CARISSE JASMIN ZEPEDA

## **MASTER OF FINE ARTS**

### THEATER

Degree Conferred

EVA ZAPATA

### **Degree Candidates**

ERIK MICHEL ALKIRE EMMA MARGUERITE BEEMAN ELLE ERICKSON MARIE FUCILE DJ HILLS MICHELLE JOO ALLY JEAN MCGREEVY DAVID H. PARKER GABRIEL TIMOTHY RODRIGUEZ KAITLIN AUDREY TRIMBLE RANDY WONG-WESTBROOKE MARII YOSHIDA YUVAL ZEHAVI

## **MASTER OF ARTS**

### FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degree Conferred FREDERICO FORREST LYNCH RIBEIRO

### **Degree Candidates**

NOURA ALABOUDI JACOB EDWARD ASCHIERIS KYLE THOMAS BOROWSKI QUINTON BROWN ANNABELLE COOK FIONA MELISSANDE DEANE-GRUNDMAN JONAH DESNEUX BRITTNEY NICHOLE FINLEY TONY HERNANDEZ ZICHEN LIANG CHRISTIAN PARKER **EVAN CHARLES ROBINSON** SOPHIA DORA SANTOS PAVEL SAVGIRA KAYLA MACENZIE SLOAN KYLA YEIN

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS**

### FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

### **Degree Candidates**

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MAHMOUD ABOBAKER ALEX ALJOUNI\* JOSEPH BAILEY SAQQARA (LUX) CARROLL SAYESHA CHAUDHARY\* EMILY CHUNG ASIA MICHELLE DAYS SOFIE KATELYN DEL BARRIO MAGDALENA FRIGO ANGELICA LILIANA GONZALEZ REBECCA HOFMANN-LOYD\* ANJELICA HYMEL EVAN IBARRA\* CHRISTOPHER HARRIS JORDAN MARIALENA LAMPRIANIDIS\* GERALD LINGARD SANAZ MAHDI SOFIA MORRIS NATALIA PACHECO LUCIAN PATTON ROAN PEARL KATELYNN ADELINA PEREZ VICTORIA SANTORSIERO SKYE ELLA SCHOENHOEFT\* TATIANA SHKLIAR FATIMA ZAHRA TAGHLAOUI SAMANTHA UMBAY

\*LATIN HONORS (SPRING OR SUMMER 2024 CANDIDATES WHOSE CURRENT GPA QUALIFIES THEM FOR LATIN HONORS. LEVEL OF LATIN HONORS IS DETERMINED BY FINAL GPA.)

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS**

### THEATER

### **Degrees Conferred**

KELSEY ATOOSA ARAGHI^ WINTER HAGSTROM ANA HICIANO DE GÓNGORA SARAH LINA SPARKS^ MEGAN T TRUONG^

 Ŧ MAGNA CUM LAUDE
 § SUMMA CUM LAUDE
 ^ CUM LAUDE

### Degree Candidates

CASSIDY JEAN AMBERG ELIZABETH V F BAKER **ISAIAH ROBERT BOWES** SOPHI JOAN BOYLAN **OLIVIA SUNSHINE BRAUN** TRISTAN BROUSSEAU ZOE MARGARET BUERKLE JULIANA SIMONE CARRASCO **NOE CERVANTES\*** ADRIAN CLARK DAVIDE COSTA MACI ALEXIS DISMUKE ZOË MORGAN DOLL **CLAIRE MICHELE DOUCET\*** GARY ROBERT EASTON JASPER FLIOT LUCA JOHN FILIZ **RACHEL RISCHARD FROST\*** SYRA GALÁN LUQUE SARAI GARCIA MICHAEL PETER GUARASCI **KENNEDY ELEXIS HARRIS KELSIE ESTELLE HØJ** SAMANTHA CHANTÉ JACKSON JALISSA ARIE JACKSON CHLOE FAITH JOHNSON\* TRENT ANTHONY LAWSON GAVIN WILLIAM LEAHY WES LIEBERMAN\*

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\*LATIN HONORS (SPRING OR SUMMER 2024 CANDIDATES WHOSE CURRENT GPA QUALIFIES THEM FOR LATIN HONORS. LEVEL OF LATIN HONORS IS DETERMINED BY FINAL GPA.)

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**LECTURERS** Continued ALEKSANDR PEVEC AASHA RAMDEEN AARON RHYNE LAUREN ROARK LEON ROTHENBERG SHOSHANA RUBIN JANE RUHM PABLO SANTIAGO-BRANDWEIN NATHAN SCHROEDER ELI SHERLOCK **ROSHNI SHUKLA** PETER SHUSHTARI JONATHAN SNIPES KATHRYN STRATFORD NATSUO TOMITA JESSIE VACCHIANO HANS VERMY JONATHAN WANG ANDRE WASHINGTON MARK WORTHINGTON ALEXANDRA WRIGHT STEVEN YOUNG LISA ZAMBETTI LEAH ZHANG AMANDA ZIEVE

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### ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

PAUL GIRARD

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## **PAST HONOREES**

### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

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| 1990 | June Wayne                 |
|------|----------------------------|
| 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            |
| 2017 | Ava DuVernay               |
| 2018 | Carl Franklin              |
| 2019 | Pierce Brosnan             |
| 2021 | Nilo Cruz                  |
| 2022 | Troy Kotsur                |
| 2023 | Gina Prince-Bythewood      |
|      |                            |

### **ALUMNI AND 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 Felicia D. Henderson John Rando 2010 **Charles Burnett** 2011 2011 Mariska Hargitay 2012 Shirley Jo Finney

- **Penelope Spheeris** 2013 **Dustin Lance Black** 2013
- Kristin Hanggi 2014
  - Wendy C. Goldberg
- 2014 Darren Star

2012

- 2015 Donna Deitch
- 2015 Sarabeth Grossman
- 2016 Robert L. Friedman
- Gina Prince-Bythewood 2016
- 2017 Justin Lin 2017
  - Michael Stuhlbarg
- 2018 Judy Kaye
- 2018 **Allison Anders**
- 2019 Julie Dash
- 2019 George Takei
- Patricia Cardoso 2020
- 2022 Amy Aniobi 2023 **Rachel Hauck**

### COMMENCEMENT DEDICATION

- 2012 **Gilbert Cates**
- 2015 Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.

### UCLA MEDAL

| 1985 | Carol Burnett          |
|------|------------------------|
| 2009 | Haskell Wexler, A.s.c. |
| 2017 | Peter Guber            |

### **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.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2017 Nadja Swarovski

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### 2024 COMMENCEMENT

#### COMMENCEMENT PRODUCERS

ANNA GUZMAN, CRYSTAL SANTANA CHRISTINA VACCHIANO

ANNOUNCER MIEBAKA YOHANNES

### **STAFF VOLUNTEERS**

DOLANN ADAMS HERLICH AGUILUZ SONIA AVILA CONTRERAS **BRIAN BROWN** LAURA CAMPBELL AARON D. CERVANTES ANDREA DAVIS ELLIOTT DELGADO ANNA GUZMAN RYAN HAMILTON CATHERINE HERNANDEZ-SHIBATA KARL HOLMES LIBBY JOURDAN AMANDA KIBILOSKI BARRETT KORERAT **BRANDON KARSH** ERIC LARNER THIENTAM NGUYEN JUAN NUÑEZ JUDY RAYOS LISA REEVE MELINDA ROBLES GINA SALEMI GAYLE SEREGI TORY STEWART THAI SUKRACHAN ALLISON TAKA ANNA WATTS NATALIE XAVIER

#### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

JONATHAN BURKE JEREMY MANN MICHAEL SELLERS AUSTIN TAYLOR CHRISTINA VACCHIANO DANIELLE WHALEY MIEBAKA YOHANNES

### THEATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES

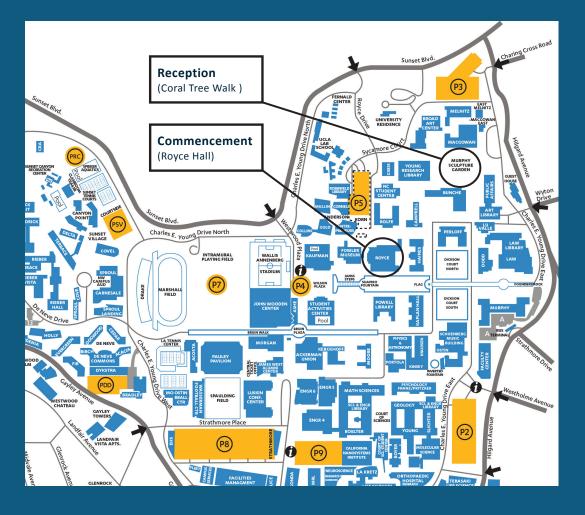
TOM COLEN MELIH ERCAN ANTHONY JONES CHRISTINA MONTANO JAMES PORTER PIA SHEKERJIAN JEFF WALLACE ERNESTO YBARRA

### SPECIAL THANKS

ACADEMIC PERSONNEL 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 & PROTOCOL

OFFICE OF 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

UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION ACKNOWLEDGES THE GABRIELINO/TONGVA PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL LAND CARETAKERS OF THE LOS ANGELES BASIN AND SOUTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS. AS A LAND GRANT INSTITUTION, UCLA ALSO PAYS RESPECT TO TONGVA ANCESTORS, ELDERS AND RELATIVES - PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING.

### WELCOME NEW UCLA TFT ALUMNI!

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

Welcome to the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (UCLA TFT) alumni family! We are thrilled to have you join our vibrant community of Bruin alumni. Please keep us updated with your exciting journeys and achievements — we can't wait to see you at our programs and events, and share your successes with pride! Stay connected with us to make the most of your alumni experience:

• Email savila@tft.ucla.edu to update your email and mailing address to receive communications, news and alumni event invitations.

• Find us on Instagram, LinkedIn and the Facebook UCLA TFT Alumni Affairs Group keeps our alumni connected for networking, social engagement and job opportunities.

• Join UCLA One, UCLA's dynamic online platform for mentorship and learning about the latest job and training opportunities.

We eagerly look forward to celebrating your accomplishments in the days, months, and years ahead. Congratulations and welcome!

Warm regards,

AARON D. CERVANTES Executive Director of Development





## UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television

