2021
GRADUATE CELEBRATION
GRADUATE CELEBRATION PROGRAM
Friday, June 11, 2021

CLASS OF 2021 DEPARTMENT OF THEATER MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
WHEN I GROW UP, FROM MATILDA THE MUSICAL
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY TIM MINCHIN
PERFORMED BY WALKER BRINSKELE, RIVA BABE BRODY, KIARAH DAVIS, TALIA GLOSTER, JOI MCCOY,
CAROLINE PERNICK, HANNAH ROSE, ABE SOANE

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF MARSHALS
BRIAN KITE
INTERIM DEAN, UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION

2021 SPEECHES
GENE BLOCK
UCLA CHANCELLOR
STEVE ANDERSON
INTERIM CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA
DOMINIC TAYLOR
ACTING CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF THEATER
DEMI RENEE KIRKBY
VALEDICTORIAN, DEPARTMENT OF THEATER
TIFFANY MARGARET ROWSE
VALEDICTORIAN, DEPARTMENT OF FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

LATIN HONORS RECOGNITION
BRIAN KITE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
NILO CRUZ
PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT

RECOGNITIONS
BRIAN KITE

CELEBRATION VIDEO
UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES
BRIAN KITE

FINAL REMARKS
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.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL V. DRAKE, M.D.

Congratulations, UCLA Class of 2021!

It is my honor to join your family, friends, and the entire University of California community in celebrating you and your wonderful accomplishment. Amid historically challenging circumstances across the globe, you have worked hard, persisted and persevered, in pursuit of your UC education.

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. This great university will always be a part of you, and UC will always be indelibly better for your time here as students.

UCLA alumnus and American hero Jackie Robinson once put it this way: “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.” You leave UCLA with the knowledge, skills, and confidence you need to go out into the world and create your future – and to change our planet for the greater good of all.

Your graduation is a milestone reflecting your resilience, your strength, and limitless hope for the future. The world faces unprecedented challenges. You are the leaders who will help heal what is wounded and right what is wrong. As you embark on this journey, know that you are ready. We are behind you, cheering you on, and wishing for ease, joy, and fulfillment in the path ahead of you.

Go forth, Bruins, and 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

Congratulations, Class of 2021!

Graduation is the culmination of many years of determination, diligence and hard work. I hope you are proud of all that you have accomplished, and that your time at UCLA has broadened your horizons, deepened your relationships, strengthened your skills and helped you grow as people.

I also encourage you to take time to honor those who helped you on your journey and have been rooting for you from the start — your family, friends, mentors and peers.

You are entering an era that needs your creativity, brilliance and passion. This pandemic has taught us important lessons about vulnerability and inequality, but also about service, empathy and community. As we recover from the pandemic, you are well-equipped to contribute to the creation of a more prepared, more resilient and more just society.

At UCLA we affirm values of compassion and inclusion, careful research and thoughtful analysis, innovation and collaboration. Those are the very virtues that will serve you as you make your way through this challenging moment and beyond.

This UCLA community you have been a part of, the community you helped create, and the broader alumni community you are now joining will be with you always. May they give you strength and inspiration.

Congratulations once again. We can’t wait to see where you’ll go from here.

Fiat lux.

GENE D. BLOCK

Chancellor
Dear Class of 2021,

Congratulations on your incredible UCLA TFT journey!

This has been an extraordinary year through which you have demonstrated creativity, flexibility and resilience. You and your peers are quite remarkable. You got it done. You are a UCLA graduate.

Though your current time at UCLA may be coming to a close, I hope that you will stay connected to each other and to us as Alumni. You will always be a Bruin! You have walked the halls of Macgowan and Melnitz, you have rehearsed your scenes by the benches, you have backed a truck up to the equipment loading zone, you have navigated your way through Melvyl and you’ve eaten Grapes with Egg at the once thriving Stage Canteen.

But it turns out that was just a beginning; the first act of your screenplay. Many adventures lie ahead. Go out into this challenging world and be bold, do good, live with empathy and embrace kindness.

We have always been and will continue to be incredibly proud of you and your accomplishments — past, present and future. What’s next? Everything. Go Bruins!

Warmly,

BRIAN KITE
Interim Dean
CHANCELLOR’S MARSHALS

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

THEATER
JOSH CONCEPCION
DEMI RENEE KIRKBY
LIAM N. P. KUHN
EMMA ROSE LUKE
EVA ZAPATA

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA
BUCK GODDARD
SARAH HAWBAKER
MOLLY MIELKE
CASEY PARTRIDGE
TIFFANY MARGARET ROWSE
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

THEATER

Degree Conferred
DANIELLE ALEXANDRA DAVIS HOWARD
Making Moves: The Performance of Black Bodies and the Function of Aesthetics in American Basketball

Degree Candidates
GUILLERMO AVILES-RODRIGUEZ
Moving Performances: Site-Based, Transit-Oriented Performance In and Through Chicanx/o Spaces in Los Ángeles and Beyond

CARLA ESTELLE NEUSS
Staging Mysteries: Transnational Medievalist Performance in the Twentieth Century

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degree Candidates
MICHAEL MURRAY REINHARD
The American Diva: Gender, Branding, and Celebrity in Cultural Industries, 1880-2020

MICHAEL STOCK
Always Crashing: Automobility and the Cinema

DANIEL AMSLER ZWEIFACH
Social Media Marquee: Marketing and Film
MASTER OF FINE ARTS

THEATER

Degrees Conferred
CYNTHIA SOPHIA ALVAREZ
JACOB LOUIS GARCIA
DAVID KEPNER
TAJI CAPRICE SENIOR
TIARA THOMPSON
JESSICA TOLTZIS
KENDALE WINBUSH
ZIHAN ZHAO

Degree Candidates
MARGARET ANNE COLVIN
BEIBEI HU
JUSTINE GA-YEE LAW
SALONI MAHAJAN
MADELINE EVAN MAHRER
KYLE JOSEPH MCCLOSKEY
DAYSHA VERONICA OMOREGIE EDEWI
ZHONGBO REN
KEREN ORIT ROSENTHAL
ELI JOSEPH SHERLOCK
HALEY BROOKE SILVER
MASTER OF FINE ARTS
FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degrees Conferred

KATHLEEN ADAMS
HENA ASHRAF
DJ AZUL
OWEN BOULD CAMPBELL
CARLO COSIO
NISSRYNE RIFAA DIB
BOYOON HA
JUN HEE HAN
YUE HUANG
JESSICA LEE KLEARMAN
CONGYING LI
CHELSEA ELIZABETH LINDSAY
YASHNA MALHOTRA
SERGIO DAVID MARQUEZ HERNANDEZ
LOURDES STEPHANIE MERCADO
MURONG MI
HAILONG NIU
JACLYN PARKER
MARIE ELAINE RICHARDSON
ANDREW JAMES RIEGER
KATHERINE ROCHE
DUSTIN JOSEPH ROMERO
MARNIE DAWN SALVANI
INGRID ANTOINETTE SANCHEZ
MRITTIKA SARIN
LEO SFEIR
PAUL RUSSELL SHEETS
GIONATAN TECLE
ANDREAS BJARNE FREDRIK THELANDER
EMILY TRUESWELL
DASHA ALEXANDRA TSEMA
KARLA D. VARGAS GASTÉLUM
AIDAN WEST
JORDAN WILSON

Degree Candidates

LUCAS ABREU
KIMBERLY ALEXIS ACOSTA
ELENA AKSENOVA
KRISTEN GIOVANNA ANGONESE
JERONIMO ARELLANO
ZACHARY JORDAN ARTHUR
OLIVIA CAROLYN BAGAN
ZAINAB OYINDAMOLA-IFE BAKARE
PAYTON NICOLE BERNHARDT
CHARLES STEVEN BROADBENT
GIULIA CARDAMONE
BEATRIZ CELANI DE MACEDO
ADAM HARTMAN DEIBERT
ROBERT DENFELD
KELLY DIAZ
ASHER MICHAEL EDELSON
VANITA ROISIN FLANAGAN
SARAH MARIE FLORES
CANDICE NICOLE GALLION
ISABELLA GARCIA
KELLY GAUDET
EVAN BLAKE GRAHAM
ROSALIND CHOMEL GRUSH
KODY GARRETT HAMILTON
JASON GEORGE HEDY
RACHEL HERSHKOP
JACOB HARRISON HIRSCH
CONNOR MORGAN HUCHTON
CHRISTOPHER COOPE JANNEY
MATTHEW DIAMANTE JENNINGS
CASEY KORNELIA KOLODIN
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AKINA VAN DE VELDE
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XIN AMY WEN
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MARIAN DYCUS WHITAKER
CAITLIN CHRISTINE WOLF
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YI CHI ZHANG
JENNIFER FENGYING ZHAO
MASTER OF ARTS
FILM, TELEVISION
AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degrees Conferred
KYLIE MARIE HARRIS
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BACHELOR OF ARTS

THEATER

Degrees Conferred

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MERCEDES ELENA APONTE  STEFANI MARIE HESTER
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DANIELLE LYNN BONGIOVANNI  EBONY JORDAN PRIDDIE
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§ SUMMA CUM LAUDE  † MAGNA CUM LAUDE  ^ CUM LAUDE

Degree Candidates

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SOE EMERITUS RECALL
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<td>Carl Franklin</td>
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<td>Pierce Brosnan</td>
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## ALUMNI HONOREES

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## COMMENCEMENT DEDICATION

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<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## UCLA MEDAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Carol Burnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Haskell Wexler, A.S.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Peter Guber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Nadja Swarovski</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHANCELLOR’S MEDAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>James Earl Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Francis Ford Coppola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Quincy Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Neil Simon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Edie Wasserman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Kirk Douglas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Sir Anthony Hopkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2021 GRADUATE CELEBRATION

CELEBRATION PRODUCERS
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Miebaka Opuiyo-Yohannes

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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
Production Management
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
Welcome to the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (UCLA TFT) alumni family! I am so excited to have you join the thousands of alumni who have come before you; I truly hope that you keep us updated with what you are working on — and we’d love to continue to have you come back to a variety of programs and events, as well as take advantage of UCLA TFT alumni resources. Be sure to connect with us to get the most out of being a part of our alumni community:

- Email us at alumni@tft.ucla.edu with your current non-university email address so we can send you our UCLA TFT newsletter.

- Join our UCLA TFT alumni network on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/TFTAlumniAffairs

- Sign up for UCLA ONE, www.uclaone.com, our interactive, online gateway for alumni-to-alumni mentorship, professional networking, peer-driven career advice and exclusive job leads.

Your graduation marks the start of your next great adventure! Keep in touch because we want to hear all about your accomplishments in the days, months and years ahead. Congratulations!

FREDERICK E. A. BUSH
Assistant Dean, Development & Alumni Affairs