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

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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
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 Chicana/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
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DAVID KEPNER
TAJI CAPRICE SENIOR
TIARA THOMPSON
JESSICA TOLTZIS
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BEIBEI HU
JUSTINE GA-YEE LAW
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OWEN BOULD CAMPBELL
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS</th>
<th>ALUMNI HONOREES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990 June Wayne</td>
<td>2000 Army Archerd</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991 Bella Lewitzky</td>
<td>2001 Louis J. Horvitz</td>
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<td>1992 Jack Valenti</td>
<td>2003 Moctesuma Esparza</td>
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<td>1993 James Earl Jones</td>
<td>2004 Gregory Nava</td>
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<td>1994 Peter Guber</td>
<td>2005 Geoffrey Gilmore</td>
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<td>1995 Quincy Jones</td>
<td>2007 Gene Reynolds</td>
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<td>1996 Debbie Allen</td>
<td>2008 Fred Roos</td>
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<td>1997 Warren Littlefield</td>
<td>2009 Ellen Geer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998 John Frankenheimer</td>
<td>2010 Felicia D. Henderson</td>
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<td>1999 Annette Bening</td>
<td>2010 John Rando</td>
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<td>2000 Joe Roth</td>
<td>2011 Charles Burnett</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001 Eva Marie Saint</td>
<td>2011 Mariska Hargitay</td>
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<td>2002 Martha Coolidge</td>
<td>2012 Shirley Jo Finney</td>
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<td>2003 Terry Semel</td>
<td>2012 Penelope Spheeris</td>
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<td>2004 Sherry Lansing</td>
<td>2013 Dustin Lance Black</td>
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<td>2005 Fay Kanin</td>
<td>2013 Kristin Hanggi</td>
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<td>2006 George C. Wolfe</td>
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<td>2007 Larry Gelbart</td>
<td>2014 Darren Star</td>
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<td>2008 Colin Callender</td>
<td>2015 Donna Deitch</td>
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<td>2009 Oliver Stone</td>
<td>2015 Sarabeth Grossman</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010 Peter Guber</td>
<td>2016 Robert L. Friedman</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer</td>
<td>2016 Gina Prince-Bythewood</td>
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<td>2012 Ron Meyer</td>
<td>2017 Justin Lin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013 Cathy Schulman</td>
<td>2017 Michael Stuhlbarg</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 Jane Fonda</td>
<td>2018 Judy Kaye</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Kevin Beggs</td>
<td>2018 Allison Anders</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Channing Dungey</td>
<td>2019 Julie Dash</td>
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<td>2017 Ava DuVernay</td>
<td>2019 George Takei</td>
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<td>2018 Carl Franklin</td>
<td>2020 Patricia Cardoso</td>
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<td>2019 Pierce Brosnan</td>
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<td>COMENCEMENT DEDICATION</td>
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<td>2012 Gilbert Cates</td>
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<td>2015 Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.</td>
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| UCLA MEDAL                           |                                       |
| 1985 Carol Burnett                    | 1998 Edie Wasserman                   |
| 2017 Peter Guber                      | 2005 Sir Anthony Hopkins              |
|                                         | 2006 Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.              |

| DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD           |                                       |
| 2017 Nadja Swarovski                  |                                       |

| 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

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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