2023 COMMENCEMENT
COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
Friday, June 16, 2023

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM
JULIA PRUDENCIO

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

RECOGNITION OF MARSHALS
BRIAN KITE

CLASS OF 2023 STUDENT REMARKS
GIGI COPELAND
DEPARTMENT OF FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA UNDERGRADUATE

SARAH LOUISE ENZMINGER
DEPARTMENT OF THEATER UNDERGRADUATE

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
BRIAN KITE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
GINA PRINCE-BYTHEWOOD
DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
RACHEL HAUCK
SCENIC DESIGNER

RECOGNITIONS

CONFERRAL OF THE DEGREES
BRIAN KITE

CLASS OF 2023 DEPARTMENT OF THEATER
MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
“WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER (GRADUATION MIX)”
BY MATTHEW GIRARD AND ROBBIE NEVEL
PERFORMED BY
EJ CHEN, TOBIAS ECHEVERRIA, IAN GIBSON, WYATT LARRABEE, AVA LITCHFIELD, MARISA MOENHO, JULIA PRUDENCIO, MELISSA RAMONDELLI, FRANCA ROSENBLATT, ZOE SHYNGLE, COLE SISSER, LAUREN STEVENS, MARLEE BREEN TIERNEY, TIFFANY TO, VIRGINIA TRENT, MAZIE VOSS

ALMA MATER
MAZIE VOSS

FINAL REMARKS
BRIAN KITE

RECESSIONAL
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL V. DRAKE, M.D.

Congratulations, UCLA Class of 2023! 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 two 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
Members of the Class of 2023, take a deep breath: You made it.

Graduation offers a special moment to reflect on the past — to look back on your years of diligence and hard work. I hope you are proud of all that you have accomplished, and that your time at UCLA has broadened your perspectives, deepened your relationships and strengthened your skills. I encourage you to honor the family members, friends, and mentors who have helped you on this journey.

Graduation also offers 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, compassion, open-mindedness and excellence will serve you well as you enter this next chapter.

As you stand at this crossroads, looking both backwards and forwards, remember that our university and the Bruin community will always be anchors for you. Even though you are graduating, you remain a part of UCLA — now as one of our distinguished alumni.

Congratulations once again. We can’t wait to see all that you will accomplish. As John Wooden once said: “Become the best you are capable of becoming!”

Gene D. Block
Chancellor
A standing ovation for you, Class of 2023!

As the final edit on this act of your lives is locked, remember the stories you’ve spun, the insightful research you’ve conducted, the expressive images you’ve crafted, and the innovative projects you’ve realized. You’ve been exceptional! Your collective efforts as artists and scholars have left a deep and impactful mark on our institution and the wider community.

Through your scholarship and art, you have championed social justice, crafted stories that shed light on underrepresented voices, and employed your talents to echo the significant themes of our time. I have boundless pride in your accomplishments and the change-makers you’ve become.

While certain campus memories might fade, like your expertise at parking illegally in Lot 3 or our tragic vending machine selections, remember the Bruin spirit endures. Stay connected, provide each other strength and encouragement, and remember you’re now part of our vast and valued alumni network. We can’t wait to celebrate your future triumphs.

Well done, Bruins. You did it!

BRIAN KITE
Interim Dean
Gina Prince-Bythewood received her BA in Motion Picture-TV from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television in 1991. She is an award-winning director, writer and producer known for her films Love & Basketball (2000), The Secret Life of Bees (2008) and Beyond the Lights (2014). Prince-Bythewood most recently directed the critically-acclaimed film The Woman King (2022) received a BAFTA nomination for Best Director and an NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Directing in a Motion Picture. The film, inspired by true events, follows the emotionally epic journey of the Agojie, the all-female unit of warriors, who protected the African Kingdom of Dahomey. Prior to The Woman King, Prince-Bythewood directed the critically-acclaimed action-drama blockbuster film, The Old Guard (2020) based on a popular comic book series, becoming one of Netflix’s Top 10 most popular films of all time, marking Prince-Bythewood’s historic entry as the first Black female director on the list. Prince-Bythewood most recently directed the pilot and served as an Executive Producer of ABC’s limited series Woman of the Movement (2022), earning her a NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Directing in a Drama Series. Her upcoming television project will be Genius: MLK/X which will explore the formative years, pioneering accomplishments, dueling philosophies and key personal relationships of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. In March, Prince-Bythewood received the ACE Golden Eddie Filmmaker Award of the Year, which recognizes an artist who exemplifies distinguished achievement in the art and business of film.
Rachel Hauck received her BA in Theater from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television in 1990. She is a scenic designer best known for her Tony award-winning work on the groundbreaking Broadway musical *Hadestown* which explores the intertwining of two mythic tales – those of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone. Her recent projects include *Latin History for Morons* starring John Leguizamo, *Good Night, Oscar*, *Othello* and *Twelfth Night*. Her innovative designs on *Good Night, Oscar* secured her both a Jeff Award and a Tony Award nomination. Beyond her Broadway success, Hauck is a recipient of prestigious awards that recognize her enduring commitment to success. These awards include the Princess Grace Foundation’s Faberge Award, a Lily Award for Excellence in Set Design and an OBIE Award for Sustained Excellence. Hauck also serves as a founding member of Design Action Collective, an organization that aims to make a significant impact through design. She also holds a position on the Advisory Board for the American Theatre Wing, helping guide the future of American theater. For a decade, she lent her talents to the O’Neill Playwrights Conference as their resident Set Designer. In this role, she collaborated with over 70 playwrights, contributing to new works and further solidifying her integral role in the theater community.
CHANCELLOR’S MARSHALS

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

THEATER
SARAH LOUISE ENZMINGER
SABRINA MAY HARRIS

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA
EMMET VERA ROSE ABRAMS
GIGI COPELAND
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

THEATER

Degree Candidate
CLARA MARGARET WILCH
Dissertation Title: Arctic Icescapes: Negotiating Climate Change through Performance Practices

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degree Candidates
LAUREN DEBRA BOUMAROUN
Dissertation Title: Everyday Cosplay: Costume Adaptation and the Fan Fashion Industry

MONICA R. SANDLER
MASTER OF FINE ARTS

THEATER

Degree Candidates
MALICK CEESEAY
BENEDICT CONRAN
AMY BETH HIGDON
DAVID MENDEZ MATEU
STACI MIZE
CLARA RYU
YASAMIN SARABIPOUR
ANNA CATHERINE WATTS
SOPHIA WELTMAN
YI LIN ZHAO
MASTER OF FINE ARTS

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degrees Conferred
RAQUEL ALICIA HAGMAN
BENJAMIN HOWARD
AARON MOUNT LEMLE
GIOVANNA EVA MOLINA

NU NGUYEN
SARAH NIXON
INDIRA SATYANARAYAN SOMANI
JINSUI SONG

Degree Candidates
RANDA MAGDI ALI
JESSICA O ASUELIME
TYLER COMEAU
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DANIELLE HENSLEY CRIQUI
ISABELLA PERRON DE MARTE
HAMOUN DOLATSHAHI
JAHMIL EADY
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TAYLOR GOETHE
WILLIAM GUNDLACH
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ASHTON WILLIAM KELLMAN-HOLMES
ZIYAO LIU
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JENNIFER LEIGH REED
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BALCA ELIF SAGMANLI
JON SANTANA
WEI SHEN
ALEKSANDRA TIMAN
CHIH CHING TSENG
GABRIELLA WILTZ
CHEYENNE WOODWARD
MASTER OF ARTS

FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Degree Candidates
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM HECKMANN
BACHELOR OF ARTS

THEATER

Degrees Conferred

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ADRIANNA KIM CISCONE^  VIRGINIA E TRENT
PARAVI DAS  GIL WEISSMAN
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† MAGNA CUM LAUDE  § SUMMA CUM LAUDE  ^ CUM LAUDE

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FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA

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† MAGNA CUM LAUDE

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KENNETH JORDAN BECKFORD
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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: Colin Callender
- 2008: Fred Roos
- 2009: U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
- 2010: Ron Meyer
- 2011: Cathy Schulman
- 2012: Shirley Jo Finney
- 2013: Dustin Lance Black
- 2014: Justin Lin
- 2015: Sarabeth Grossman
- 2016: Amy Aniobi
- 2017: Ava DuVernay
- 2018: Michael Stuhlbarg
- 2019: Julie Dash
- 2020: George Takei
- 2021: Patricia Cardoso
- 2022: Amy Aniobi

**COMMENCEMENT DEDICATION**
- 2012: Gilbert Cates
- 2015: Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.

**UCLA MEDAL**
- 1985: Carol Burnett
- 2009: Haskell Wexler, A.S.C.
- 2017: Peter Guber

**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 Ger
- 2010: Felicia D. Henderson
- 2010: John Rando
- 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
- 2017: Justin Lin
- 2017: Michael Stuhlbarg
- 2018: Judy Kaye
- 2018: Allison Anders
- 2019: Julie Dash
- 2019: George Takei
- 2020: Patricia Cardoso
- 2022: Amy Aniobi

**CHANCELLOR’S MEDAL**
- 1993: James Earl Jones
- 1994: Francis Ford Coppola
- 1995: Quincy Jones
- 1996: Neil Simon
- 1998: Edie Wasserma
- 2002: Kirk Douglas
- 2005: Sir Anthony Hopkins
- 2006: Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**
- 2017: Nadja Swarovski
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT
& ALUMNI AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EVENTS &
PROTOCOL
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! We are excited for you to join your fellow Bruin alumni; please update us with your whereabouts and achievements — we’d love to have you come back to our programs and events, and also have the opportunity to boast about you! Connect with us to get the most out of being part of our alumni community:

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

- Find us on 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.

Please keep in touch because we want to hear all about your accomplishments in the days, months and years ahead. Congratulations!

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BRIAN KITE
Interim Dean