



**Purchase
College**

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Students in the Film BFA program Cinematography IV class work on advanced techniques in cinematography and lighting in one of several soundstages. Our film majors enjoy a high equipment-to-student ratio and have access to fully equipped newly renovated soundstages, a mix studio, an equipment store, state of the art screening rooms, and digital editing studios.

An

EXPERIMENTAL LAB

for CONTENT

CREATORS *and* MAKERS

Since the early 70s, Purchase College—or SUNY Purchase as it was known back then—has been churning out highly skilled and soulful actors, filmmakers, musicians, writers, visual artists, and theatre designers and technologists.

It was the brainchild of then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller to create a place where students of all means could receive high level artistic training comparable to the brand-named private schools. And the arts training would be paired with study in the liberal arts and sciences to ensure graduation of well-rounded thinkers.

Chosen for its proximity to New York City, Purchase would be home to the cultural gem of the public State University of New York system.

Not for the cultural elite, the novelty of this college, physically and philosophically, attracted the daring, gritty, and irreverent types who created the culture here that persists today.

The students who choose Purchase self-select the experience for what it *doesn't* offer as much for what it does—there's no pretense, no soft surroundings, no ego-stroking.

The experience here is hands-on and real. Passionate young people come for the intensity and the boundless creative freedom. They come to collaborate not compete. They come to make original work under the guiding eyes of working professionals. They come because they want to immerse themselves in doing the work.

And they dig in, right away, acquiring skill sets as they evolve into effective and accomplished industry professionals.

Original. Groundbreaking. Daring.

Lionsgate stands out for producing content that is “original, groundbreaking, and daring.” That describes perfectly the enduring ethos of Purchase College.





TRAINED *by* PROFESSIONALS

In addition to the esteemed and award-winning full-time faculty, the proximity to New York City allows Purchase to draw a multitude of working professionals as guest lecturers, adjunct faculty, and resident artists.



Emmy Award-winning Associate Professor of Theatre Design/Technology **Dave Grill '86** teaches lighting techniques drawing on the expertise amassed from more than 30 years in the business.

FACULTY

Below is a small sample of the faculty who teach full- and part-time in our schools and conservatories.



David Grill '86

Associate Professor of Theatre Design/Technology

From developing an expertise in lighting dancers working for his first major client, The Dance Theater of Harlem, to lighting Super Bowl Halftime Shows, Grill has been nominated for 14 Emmy Awards, winning five for Outstanding Lighting Design/Lighting Direction for Super Bowl Halftime Shows (2020, 2017, 2015, and 2013) and the Opening Ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Grill earned a 2023 Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Lighting Design of a Musical for work Broadway's *Bob Fosse's Dancin'*. Grill's lighting design and expertise are sought after worldwide.



Anita Yavich

Associate Professor of Theatre Design/Technology

Award-winning costume designer for theater, opera, and dance across the US and internationally. Her costume designs for Broadway include *Fool for Love*, *Venus in Fur*, *Chinglish*, and *Anna in the Tropics*; Off-Broadway shows include *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at MCC and *Soft Power* at The Public Theatre; and opera performances *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Metropolitan Opera and *Aida* at the San Francisco and Los Angeles Opera.

“Industry professionals prefer working with Purchase students because they’re ready. We really prep them—it’s like boot camp. And they have really great attitudes.” —Anita Yavich,

Associate Professor of Theatre Design/Technology



David Bassuk

Professor of Acting

Explores the integration of transmedia storytelling, gameplay, and immersive design into teaching stage directing, scriptwriting, and experimental performance; currently in Iraq teaching Spatial Narrative to support young storytellers, who’ve created an online alternate reality game that will intersect with live in-person events.



J.D. Zeik '82

Assistant Professor of Screenwriting and Film

Known for his original screenplay *Ronin* (1998) starring Robert DeNiro, Zeik wrote and produced the TNT film *Witchblade* (2000); adapted the *New York Times* best-selling novel *The Warded Man* (in development) for TV; and recently wrote the screenplay for a James Ivory biopic in pre-production about Italian American pop singer Jimmy Roselli. He’s currently working on a new TV series still in development, *The Analyst*, which he wrote and is showrunning with Barbara De Fina.



Sean Weiner '05

Assistant Professor of Cinema Studies

Founder and co-director of Untitled Filmmaker Org, which creates opportunities for the next generation of truly independent filmmakers from wide-ranging, intersectional backgrounds to develop and produce uncompromising, boundary-pushing films. He’s also a director, producer, writer, and performer at Private Cabin, a comedy arts collective based out of NYC.



Aryana Alexis Anderson '09

Lecturer of Film

Producer and director who's created and produced content for the Apollo Theater, Carnegie Hall, and other nonprofit and educational organizations, Anderson has worked on projects seen on PBS, World Channel, and Medici TV. She edited the documentary feature *Taking the First Step* (2012) and was the Digital Content Producer for Thomas Allen Harris' documentary series *Family Pictures USA* (2019).



James Spione '85

Lecturer in Film

Independent director and producer whose documentary work is available on digital platforms worldwide, Spione's film about national security whistleblowers, *Silenced* (2014), was nominated for a 2016 News and Documentary Emmy® Award, and his short, *Incident in New Baghdad* (2011), was nominated for a 2012 Oscar for Documentary Short Subject and won the Tribeca Film Festival Jury Award. He directed *Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock* (2017), about the standoff between the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and North Dakota law enforcement, which premiered at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival.



Susan Shopmaker

Lecturer of Acting

One of independent film's most respected casting directors, Shopmaker won the Casting Society of America's Artios Awards for Eliza Hittman's *Beach Rats* (2017) in 2018 and for Sean Durkin's acclaimed Sundance drama *Martha Marcy May Marlene* (2011). Also nominated for Darius Marder's Academy Award winning film *Sound of Metal* (2019), *Goat* (2016), *James White* (2015), *Afterschool* (2008), and Disney's *Enchanted* (2007); her TV casting work includes the Amazon series *Dead Ringers* (2023-) and both seasons of Terence Nance's *Random Acts Of Flyness* for HBO (2018-).



Ina Mayhew '81

Lecturer in Theatre Design/Technology

An acclaimed production designer, Mayhew has worked with directors and producers such as Spike Lee and Malcolm Lee, Ava DuVernay, Debbie Allen, Liesl Tommy and Tyler Perry (she designed 11 of his films) and designed for Lionsgate, Netflix, Warner Brothers, MGM, New Line, 40 Acres and A Mule, BET, HBO, MTV, Universal, PBS, and Island Pictures. Recent projects include production design on *Respect* (2021), Dolly Parton's *Christmas On The Square* (2020), Dolly Parton's *Heartstrings* (2020). Mayhew's first film was *Sidewalk Stories* (1989) with director and classmate Charles Lane '73-'80, a black-and-white silent film that won 12 awards, including the Audience Award at the 1990 Cannes Film Festival.



Daphne Pollon

Lecturer in Screenwriting

Spent 25 years as a writer and producer in television comedy. She's written for television series that include *It's Garry Shandling's Show*, *Murphy Brown*, *Style and Substance*, *The Job, Love and Money*, *My Adventures in Television*, and *Sullivan and Son*.



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1. Associate Professor of Theatre Design/Technology Anita Yavich won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Costume Design of a Play for *Legend of Georgia McBride* at MCC. 2. Lecturer of Acting Susan Shopmaker cast the Oscar-winning film *Sound of Metal* (2019). 3. Lecturer in Theatre Design/Tech Ina Mayhew '81 was the production designer for *Respect* (2021).



Photo Scott McIntyre for The New York Times

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4. Associate Professor of Theatre Design/Technology David Grill '86 won an Emmy® for outstanding lighting design/direction of the *Pepsi Super Bowl LIV Halftime Show* (2020) at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.
5. Lecturer in Film James Spione '85 wrote and directed the award-winning documentary *Silenced*.
6. Assistant Professor of Screenwriting and Film J.D. Zeik '82 is known for his original screenplay *Ronin* (1998) starring Robert DeNiro.



The FILMMAKERS

Film majors produce films all four years, immersed in all aspects of filmmaking—writing, cinematography, sound, directing, editing, and business—in narrative, documentary, and experimental genres. They take acting classes. They lead teams to make their own films and are crew members on their peers' projects. They leave as confident and innovative independent filmmakers and industry professionals.

Tom Cross '93 earned Oscar and BAFTA Best Editing award nominations his work on Damien Chazelle's award-winning *La La Land* (2016). He won an Oscar for editing *Whiplash*, directed by Chazelle. (Photo: Lionsgate)



FILMMAKERS



Chris Wedge '81 began his career as an effects artist for films such as *Tron* (1982). He founded Blue Sky Studios with others in 1987, which started out helping create visual

effects for television commercials and films like *Alien Resurrection* (1997) and *Fight Club* (1999). Wedge wrote and produced the animated short *Bunny* in 1998, earning him an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film, and directed the critically acclaimed feature film *Ice Age* (2002), establishing Blue Sky Studios as one of the top animation studios in the US. He directed *Robots* (2005), *Epic* (2013) and *Monster Trucks* (2016), and was executive producer of *Horton Hears a Who* (2008), *Rio* (2011), and *Ferdinand* (2017) among others. Disney acquired Blue Sky in 2019.



Hal Hartley '84 is a writer, director, producer, and composer whose films have won or received nominations at the highest echelon of film critique—Sundance Grand Jury Prize, Cannes

Palme d'Or and Best Screenplay, Berlin Film Festival, and Tokyo International Film Festival to name a few. The films include *The Unbelievable Truth* (1990), *Trust* (1991), *Simple Men* (1992), *Amateur* (1994), *Henry Fool* (1998), and *Ned Rifle* (2015). More recently, he directed Amazon Studio's *Red Oaks* (2015–2017), and his film *Where to Land* is in pre-production with Verdi Productions. *Kirkus Reviews* dubbed his debut novel, *Our Lady of the Highway*, one of the Best Indie Books of 2022.

“Purchase provided me with an introduction to the world’s variety as well as helping me discover what my aspirations actually were.”

—Hal Hartley '84



Michael Spiller '84, executive producer and director on Netflix's *Firefly Lane* (2021–23) and CBS' *So Help Me Todd* (2022–), started as DP on Hartley's most critically

and commercially successful movies, including *The Unbelievable Truth* (1989), *Trust* (1990) and *Amateur* (1994). Serving as cinematographer on HBO's *Sex and the City* (1998–2004) it's where he began directing. His career evolved to directing some of the era's most popular sitcoms, including *Scrubs* for NBC and ABC (2001–2010), Hulu's *The Mindy Project* (2012–17), and ABC's *Modern Family* (2009–2020), for which he won both a Primetime Emmy and a Director's Guild award for Outstanding Directing.



Leslie Klainberg '85 is the Executive Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center, as well as an award-winning producer and director whose documentaries have screened at film

festivals such as Berlin, Sundance, Outfest, and Frameline, and have been broadcast on networks including Cinemax, AMC, A&E, The Independent Film Channel (IFC), WE, and PBS.



Tom Cross '93 won Oscar, Independent Spirit, and BAFTA Awards for Best Editing for his work on Damien Chazelle's *Whiplash* (2014) and earned Academy and BAFTA

Award nominations for editing the director's award-winning *La La Land* (2016). Additional projects include *Joy* with David O. Russell (2016), *Hostiles* for director Scott Cooper (2017), *First Man* directed by Damien Chazelle (2018), and *No Time to Die*, directed by Cary Fukunaga (2021/BAFTA for Best Editing), and *Babylon* for Chazelle (2022). He recently finished editing James Wan's upcoming film *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*.



Dani Michaeli '93, an Emmy-nominated writer for the animated series *Spongebob Squarepants* and *Harvey Beaks*, is supervising producer on the upcoming AppleTV+ series *Strange Planet*.



Andrew Buckland '94 earned his first Oscar editing the film *Ford v Ferrari* (2019) with collaborator Michael McCusker.



Azazel Jacobs '95, a critically acclaimed writer and director and the son of experimental filmmaker Ken Jacobs, directed *French Exit* (2021), wrote and directed *The Lovers* (2017), and directed, wrote and produced the two seasons of the ground-breaking SKY/HBO show *Doll & Em* (2014-15). His films *Terri* and *Momma's Man* premiered at Sundance in 2011 and 2008 respectively. *The New York Times*' declared *Momma's Man* "independent film defined."



Jessica Brunetto '04, a queer comedy director, writer, and editor who got started editing for Michael Moore, later worked on projects including *Broad City* (2014), *Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens* (2020), *A League of Their Own* (2022), and HBO's *Hacks* (2021), which earned her two Emmy nominations. Her directorial debut short, *Sisters* (2021), premiered at SXSW in 2021 and won Best Drama at the Female Voices Rock Film Festival.



Mattson Tomlin '12 is writer and director of *Mother/Android* for Hulu (2021), writer and producer of *Little Fish* (2020), and writer of Netflix's *Project Power* (2020).



Vuk Lungulov-Klotz '16, a transgender storyteller hoping to expand queer narratives in film, saw his debut feature *Mutt* (2023) compete at the Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals in 2023, where it received Special Mention for the Generation 14plus International Jury for Best Film, noted for its "surprising storytelling." It closed the New Director / New Films Festival in New York City.



Jordan Tetewsky '16 co-wrote and co-directed *Hannah Ha Ha* (2022), the team's first feature film, on a shoestring budget. A *New York Times* Critic's Pick, the film won the Narrative Feature Grand Jury prize at 2022's Slamdance Festival and the Ultra Indie Award Winner prize at the 2022 Woodstock Film Festival.



Hunter Zimny '16 shares the cinematography credit with the revered indie cinematographer Sean Price Williams on director Owen Kline's feature debut *Funny Pages* (2022), which earned praise from *Indiewire* and the *New York Times* for its "gritty texture" evocative of "classics of 1970s cinema."



Mariales Diaz '19, a queer, gender expansive Dominican immigrant, was one of ten named a Sundance Ignite x Adobe Fellow in 2021 and is working currently as an associate producer.



Kunga Choephel '23 had his senior thesis film, *This is Closest to how the last weeks of March felt like*, selected to screen at the 2023 NFFTY Festival, which celebrates emerging filmmakers from traditionally marginalized communities.



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1. **Chris Wedge '81** directed *Ice Age* (2002) for Blue Sky Studios, the award-winning animation studio he co-founded in 1987. 2. **Jessica Brunetto '04** edited HBO's Emmy-nominated *Hacks* (2021). 3. **Tom Cross '93** won several Best Editing awards for his work on Damien Chazelle's *Whiplash* (2014), including Oscar, Independent Spirit, and BAFTA Awards. 4. **Hal Hartley '84** directs **Parker Posey '91** on the set of *Fay Grim* (2006). 5. **Andrew Buckland '94** won his first Oscar editing the film *Ford v Ferrari* (2019) with collaborator Michael McCusker. 6. **Azazel Jacobs '95** directed and co-wrote *Terri*, nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance (2011). 7. Emmy-nominated writer **Dani Michaeli '93** is supervising producer on the upcoming AppleTV+ series *Strange Planet* (2023-). 8. *Mutt*, the debut feature written and directed by **Vuk Lungulov-Klotz '16**, competed in the U.S. Dramatic Competition at Sundance and received Special Mention for the Generation 14plus International Jury for Best Film at the Berlin Film Festival in 2023.





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The ACTORS

The actors from each class form a company when they enter, then go places they could never imagine. Even those who think they're prepared are pushed to their limits. Purchase is undeniably quirky. One result is a body of acting alumni who are notoriously undefinable. There's no such thing as a typical Purchase actor.

Students in the immersive Acting BFA program perform in several shows per year along with intensive training in dramatic literature and analysis, the history of theatre, stage combat, improvisation, physical comedy, makeup, acting for the camera to become well-prepared artists.

Purchase College is a member of the distinctive Consortium of Conservatory Theater Training Programs.



ACTORS

NO INTRO NECESSARY



Stanley Tucci '81, Steven Weber '83, Wesley Snipes '84, Edie Falco '86, Adina Porter, Parker Posey '87-'90



Jay Sanders '76: Best known for theatre, IMDB still lists 153 projects, on TV: *Sneaky Pete* (2017–2019), *The Sinner* (2018), and *Law and Order: Criminal Intent* (2011); in films: *Revolutionary Road* (2008), *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004), and *JFK* (1991); and video game voices in two *Red Dead Redemption* titles and *Manhunt 2*.



Bob Clohessy '81: Known best for TV roles in *Blue Bloods* (2010–2023), *Boardwalk Empire* (2010–2011), *Oz* (1999–2003), and *Hill Street Blues* (1986–1987); and appearances in films, *The Avengers* (2012), *The Place Beyond the Pines* (2012), and *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013).



Seth Gilliam: Best known for portrayals of Ellis Carver on *The Wire* (2002–2008), Clayton Hughes on *Oz* (1999–2001), and Father Gabriel Stokes on *The Walking Dead* (2014–2022).



Matt Molloy '86: Actor and producer who recently starred in ABC's *Alaska Daily* (2022–2023) with Hillary Swank, and whose breakout role was Howard in *In the Company of Men* (1997).



Bill Sage '88: Appeared in over 140 theater, film, and television productions as an actor and producer.



Orlagh Cassidy '90: Award-winning Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional theatre actor, known as the "Queen of Dialects" at Purchase, has an extensive career in audiobooks.



Shea Whigham '93 recently starred as G. Gordon Liddy in the Starz series *Gaslit* (2020). He received his first big break in 2000—a starring role in the film *Tigerland*. A prolific actor who's appeared in dozens of film and television roles, notably HBO's *Boardwalk Empire* (2010–2014), *First Man* (2018) and *Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part One* (2023). He's been in five films that were Oscar® nominated for Best Picture: *Silver Linings Playbook* (2012), *American Hustle* (2013), *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013), *Vice* (2018), and *Joker* (2019).

“When someone goes to Purchase, I assume that they’re the kind of actor who won’t sit around and wait for someone to make a choice for them and who will create a roaring fire from very little tinder.”

—Micah Stock '11

Nicco Annan '98 as Uncle Clifford in
STARZ P-Valley. (Courtesy / Starz).





“There is a quality of daringness. There is something different in our folks being willing to take risks and push themselves.”

—A. Dean Irby,
Associate Professor of Acting and award-winning director and actor



1. Guest star **Steven Weber '83** and star **Malcolm Goodwin '03** on the set of the CW's *iZombie* (2015–2019). 2. **Zoe Winters '07** appeared in three seasons of HBO's *Succession* (2018–2023) as Kerry, assistant to Logan Roy, part of the cast who won a SAG Award in 2022 for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series. 3. **Shea Whigham '93** as G. Gordon Liddy in Starz's *Gaslit* miniseries, described as a “landmark role” and “one that will be celebrated and studied for decades to come.” (rogerebert.com). 4. **Oona Roche '17** as Pete Davidson's sister in Peacock's *BUPKIS* (2023–). **Edie Falco '84** plays his mother in the comedian's quasi-autobiographical comedy. 5. **Chris Perfetti '11** plays Jacob Hill as part of the critically acclaimed ensemble cast of Quinta Brunson's hit comedy *Abbott Elementary* on ABC (2021–2023), winner of the 2023 SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series.

ACTORS



Nicco Annan '98 plays the one of the most daring roles seen on television to date—Uncle Clifford on the acclaimed Starz series *P-Valley* (2020–), a role he originated on stage in the Katori Hall play *Pussy Valley* (adapted for the TV show) at the Mixed Blood Theatre in 2015.



Malcolm Goodwin '03: Known for portraying Detective Clive Babineaux in the acclaimed CW series *iZombie* (2015–2019), appeared in at least 50 films and television shows, recently as Oscar Finlay on Amazon Prime's *Reacher* (2022–).



Zoe Winters '07: Portrayed Kerry in the HBO sensation *Succession* (2019–2023). An accomplished theatre actress, she received a 2020 OBIE Award and Lucille Lortel Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play for *Heroes of The Fourth Turning* at Playwrights Horizons.



Rosal Colón '08: Played Ouija in three seasons of Netflix's *Orange is the New Black* (2016–2018) and Juliana in the Starz series *Power Book III: Rising Kanan* (2021–2022). Colón debuted on Broadway in *A Free Man of Color* (2010) and returned in *Between Riverside and Crazy* (2022).



Kate Murray '08: Casting director at The Public Theatre.



Jason Ralph '10: Starred as Quentin Coldwater on NBC's *The Magicians* (2015–2019) and known for roles on Amazon Prime's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (2022–2023), NBC's *Aquarius* (2015–2016), and CBS's *Madam Secretary* (2015).



Emily Fleischer '11: Casting on features, shorts, and series including seasons two and three of Hulu's *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* (2021–2023), *Grand Army* (2020) for Netflix, and Paul

Schrader's Oscar-Nominated *First Reformed* (2017). Nominated for Artios Awards in 2020 and 2021 with Susan Shopmaker for her work on Terence Nance's *Random Acts of Flyness* (2018) for HBO and Darius Marder's Oscar-winning *Sound of Metal* (2019).



Chris Perfetti '11: Part of the critically acclaimed ensemble cast of the ABC smash-hit *Abbott Elementary* (2021–2023).



Micah Stock '11: Starred in Hulu's *Kindred*, Netflix's *Bonding*, and appeared in the film *Maggie Moore(s)* (2023).



Marcus Callender '12: Known as shady cop Ray-Ray on the Starz hit series *Power* (2016–2017) and *Power Book II: Ghost* (2022), appeared steadily on primetime network TV, theatre, and film, like *Straight Outta Compton* (2015), MTV's *Eye Candy* (2015), and is a cast member on Hulu's *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* (2019–2023).



Sydney Cole Alexander '15: Played Natalie in Apple TV+'s *Severance* and appeared in Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have It* for Netflix and CBS's *Limitless*.



Shayan Sobhian '17: Actor and musician best known for seven seasons playing Behrad Tarazi, one of the first Iranian-American superheroes, on the CW series *DC's Legends of Tomorrow*.



Oona Roche '17: Known for roles in *The Nest* (2020) and *The Morning Show* on AppleTV+, she plays sister of comedian Pete Davidson on Peacock's *BUPKIS*, his quasi-autobiographical comedy.



Sean Kaufman '22: Starred in Amazon Prime's hit *The Summer I Turned Pretty*.

The

BACKSTAGE ARTISTS

It's unlikely to enter a theatre in Manhattan where a Purchase grad isn't on site. The professional training in Theatre Design/Technology program is delivered by working professionals who understand the rigors of the industry. They hold students to incredibly high standards—the standards expected of anyone working in the field.

From the exploratory first year, students learn every aspect working on actual productions before choosing a focus. Then advanced study and practice, coupled with liberal arts courses, ensure graduates leave as mature theatre professionals.

The strength of the network reflects the extensive training—Purchase grads hire Purchase grads because they know what it takes to graduate. And they know they'll be capable.

As with all Conservatory of Theatre Arts productions, Theatre Design/Technology BFA students led all aspects of this production of María Irene Fornés *Fefu and Her Friends*—from set, costume, and lighting design to stage management to technical direction.





BACKSTAGE



Suzanne McCabe '86 is a successful costume designer for TV series including *Sneaky Pete* (2015-17), *Silicon Valley* (2014), *Nurse Jackie* (2009-10), and movies such as *I Think I Love My Wife* (2007), and *Something's Gotta Give* (2003). Recently, she designed costumes for *Tulsa King* (2022-) for Paramount+.



James Youmans '86 is a scenic designer and owner of Youmans Designs, a firm that creates award-winning scenery for Broadway, live theatrical, and special events, as well as broadcast television studio sets, corporate events, and media environments for clients including Disney Theatrical, IBM, New York Life, Miller Coors, NBA, Universal Studios Hollywood, Hershey Park, ESPN Classic, and The Golf Channel.



Matt Conover '88 is Vice President of Disney Live Entertainment at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA.



Patrick Fahey '91 is owner of 8 Hands High, which focuses on environmental design and management for entertainment, including the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square; the NBA 2K League broadcast on Twitch; a lavish black-tie affair hosted by Oprah Winfrey to celebrate the career of designer Ralph Lauren to benefit his cancer foundation; and a reboot of the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* at Radio City Music Hall, among many others.



Shawn Kaufman '96 is an Emmy-nominated lighting designer with over 20 years of international experience in television, fashion, special events, theatre, opera, experiential and ephemeral design. He's currently lighting director at the *Drew Barrymore* (2021-23) show and worked as lighting designer for *Harry* (2016-18), Harry Connick Jr's talk show, receiving Emmy nominations at both. Other TV projects include *Project Runway*, CNBC's studio re-light, *Wendy Williams*, and *Rachael Ray Live*.



Rebecca Yarsin '02 is a casting director for theatre, film, and television at House Casting.

“In order to be a good set designer, you really need to know how all of the departments who work under you do their jobs. [At Purchase] you learn how all the different teams and departments collaborate together to create a set design, and I think that is the most valuable experience.”

—Melissa Shakun '08



1. Environmental design and management firm 8 Hands High, owned by Patrick Fahey '91, has produced every New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square since 1998. 2. A student operates the tech during a Purchase Repertory Theatre performance. 3. Youmans Designs, owned by scenic designer James Youmans '86, designed the broadcast television studio set for the *NBC News' Democratic Debate* on NBC News (2016). 4. Melissa Shakun MFA '08, art director on *Saturday Night Live (SNL)*, designs scenery and art directs the live sketches, which earned an Emmy® Award win and nomination for Outstanding Production Design for seasons 46 and 47. 5. Heather Wolensky '05, production designer for *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* (NBC), co-heads the art department and heads up all remote shoots, including "Courtesy of the Gentleman at the Bar" with Brad Pitt.



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1. Hanadi Khurma MFA '11, costume designer on *Holy Spider* (2022), runs her own costume work space and rental house, where she collaborates with costume designers from around the world. 2. Student at work in the costume shop. 5. SKK Designs, owned by Shawn Kaufman '96, provided lighting design and production services for the *Netflix Presents: Playlist live performance of The Harder They Fall* (2021) soundtrack. 3. Student applies makeup to an actor in a Purchase Repertory Theatre performance. 4. Jennilee Aromando '16 was Lead Illustrator for the *CNN New Day* set, a project that received an Emmy nomination for Scenic Design.

BACKSTAGE



Heather Wolensky '05 currently works as production designer for *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* (NBC), heading up all remote shoots, and co-heads the Art Department.

She was scenic designer for *Springsteen on Broadway*.



Melissa Shakun MFA '08 is an award-winning art director with over a decade of experience in television, film, and theater. Currently the art director on *Saturday Night Live (SNL)*,

she designs scenery and art directs the live sketches, which earned an Emmy® Award win and nomination for Outstanding Production Design For A Variety, Reality Or Competition Series for seasons 46 and 47. Prior to *SNL*, Shakun served as art director for NBC's musical production of *Jesus Christ Superstar Live* (2018), which earned her first Emmy® Award win for Outstanding Production Design For A Variety Special.



Hanadi Khurma MFA '11 started her career on the feature film *The Hurtlocker* as an assistant to the late costume designer George L. Little. The experience led to Purchase. She

now runs her own costume work space and rental house, where she collaborates with costume designers from around the world.



Kat DeNeve '12 works for NBC Universal as the Art Director for *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.



Jennilee Aromando '16 is currently a 3D Designer at the branding agency Wasserman. In her former role as a 3D illustrator at the Jack Morton Worldwide agency, she received an Emmy nomination for Scenic Design as the Lead Illustrator for the *CNN New Day* set. She is also a freelance theatre designer.



Lizzie Mahoney '18 is a lighting director for NBC Sports on a team that received an Emmy Award (Tokyo Olympics) and Emmy nomination (Super Bowl Pregame Show) for Outstanding Technical Team Studio, both in 2022.



Otto Martinian '21 is currently the Production Manager for The Jazz Club at Aman New York and was previously Lead Set Electrics Technician for Netflix's *Snack vs. Chef* (2022).

“You're educating the people that are helping you to create the art. Be gracious about that, because without that support staff, no one is really ever going to be as good as they could be, if they want to do it on their own.”

—David Grill '86 Associate Professor of Theatre Design/Technology

The WRITERS



Bryan Korn '12 is series producer and writer on the hit Netflix animated series *Hilda*.

“Purchase has a long tradition of teaching some of the most innovative individuals working in film and theatre today. We’re proud to showcase the next generation of talented writers and shine a spotlight on their fresh perspectives and voices. We’re excited about helping our students and recent alumni get noticed by film makers, producers, and other creators.”

—A. Dean Bell '83

Playwriting and Screenwriting trains students to write for both stage and screen... by writing. Structured within the context of a liberal arts education—students must minor in a non-theater/film related field of study—the program turns out strong writers who have something meaningful to say. Seniors work with faculty mentors to develop a substantial senior project: a full-length play, feature-length screenplay, teleplay, or documentary script to fully comprehend the art and craft of writing compelling stories for theater, film, and television.



Playwright **Brian Otaño '11** has written episodes of *The Horror of Dolores Roach* (2023) and *Cruel Summer* (2021) for television and has signed a deal to create, produce, and write TV projects with Amazon Studios.



Bryan Korn '12 is series producer and writer on the hit Netflix animated series *Hilda* produced by Silvergate Media. In its second season, *Hilda* (2018-2020) was awarded a 2021 Daytime Emmy® in the category of Outstanding Children's Animated Series alongside an award for Outstanding Editing in a Daytime Animated Series. Korn also worked extensively on the sci-fi preschool series *Octonauts* (2015-2017), for Disney Jr., and on the show *Chico BonBon: Monkey With a Toolbelt* (2020).



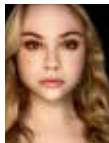
Ebony Washington '15 won the Grand Jury Prize Silver Award for Best Drama at the LA Motion Picture Festival for *Colors* (2019) the short film she wrote and directed. She's currently Writers' Assistant on *Grey's Anatomy* (2020-2023).



Shonnon Marshall '22 was one of only 12 selected for the prestigious Black Boy Writes/Black Girl Writes Mentorship Initiative for 2023, a yearlong initiative.



Laila Wilson '22 is an alumna of the Warner Bros. Discovery Access Early Career Bootcamp and a former Current Programming Intern at The CW Network. She was a Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive participant, a member of the inaugural class of The Peter Roth Internship Program at the Paley Center for Media, and a Television Academy Foundation Internship Program finalist. Wilson won the YoungArts competition for original screenplay. She's currently pursuing an MFA in Film with a concentration in TV Writing.



Claire Giegerich '23 won the NFFTY (The National Film Festival for Talented Youth) Story Starts Here: Screenplay Competition for her script *The Winters*, the first she ever entered.

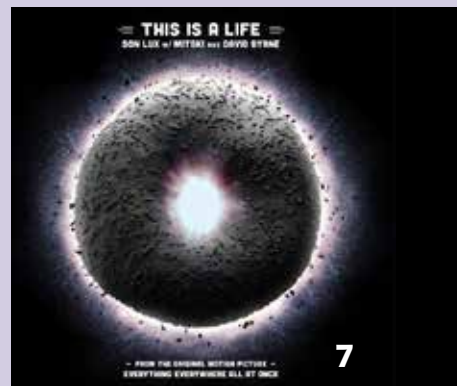
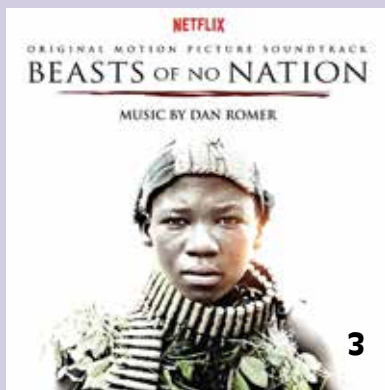


THE HELIOTROPE LIST

The Purchase version of the Black List offers screenplays, plays, and teleplays written by students in the Playwriting & Screenwriting program, selected by faculty for inclusion. (The school's unofficial colors are heliotrope and puce.) Associate Professor of Practice in Screenwriting **A. Dean Bell '83** helped create the list.

An award-winning writer and director himself, Bell has a wide variety of film, television, and media experience. His second feature film, *What Alice Found* (2003), garnered a Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival. He also developed the nighttime drama *Step Dude* for Fox Broadcasting, and was writer, director, and showrunner on the long-running ESPN series *SportsFigures* (1995-2007), which won major education media awards including a regional Emmy, a Hugo Silver Plaque, and four Clarion Awards. His work has been seen on PBS, Comedy Central, Disney Channel, USA Networks, ESPN, Travel Channel, CBS, Nickleodeon, Sundance Channel, and IFC.

The MUSICIANS



The Conservatory of Music encourages students to branch out, stretch their skills, and collaborate across disciplines as they create original music.



Regina Spektor '01

The singular voice and unique style of the singer-songwriter garners Spektor critical acclaim, such as legendary musician and producer Jeff Lynne who calls her voice “brilliant,” and composer/lyricist Lin-Manuel Miranda who dubs her “a genius.” Her music lends itself to create memorable moments in film and TV—her song “Us” opens the film *(500) Days of Summer* (2009) and “You’ve Got Time” is the main title theme song for Netflix’s *Orange Is the New Black* (2013-19), which was nominated for Best Song Written for Visual Media at the Grammy Awards in 2013.



Dan Romer '04

A versatile and award-winning composer, songwriter, and music producer, Romer received Emmy nominations for “Unbroken Circle,” written for HBO’s *Station Eleven* (2021-22), and the score for Netflix’s original documentary, *Chasing Coral* (2017). He’s composer for the TV series *The Good Doctor* (2017-23) on ABC and the Hulu original *Ramy* (2019-22).

He composed the critically acclaimed score for the four-time Oscar-nominated *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (2012); *Beasts of No Nation* (2015); and earned a 2022 Grammy nomination, Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media, for his work on the underscore for the film adaptation of the stage musical *Dear Evan Hansen* (2021).

Romer composed the music for Ubisoft’s flagship video game *Far Cry 5* and produced several worldwide hit singles for numerous acclaimed artists, including, A Great Big World and Christina Aguilera’s Grammy®-winning “Say Something,” and Shawn Mendes’ “Treat You Better.”



Dan Deacon '04

An eccentric recording artist and performer, renowned for his studio albums of innovative electronic music and his live performances in both contemporary and classical settings, Deacon also has an extensive body of work in film scores, including Netflix’s *Hustle* (2022) and Jessica Kingdon’s *Ascension*, which won Best Documentary Feature at Tribeca 2021 and earned a nomination for Best Documentary Feature at the 2022 Academy Awards. Deacon’s work on the film took home the Best Score prize at the 2022 Cinema Eye Honors.



Mitski '13

The cult pop singer, who Iggy Pop called “the most advanced American songwriter,” and who *The Guardian* describes as “the US’s best young singer-songwriter,” collaborated with Son Lux and David Byrne on “This Is A Life,” the theme song that runs over the closing credits of the award-winning sensation *Everything Everywhere All At Once* (2022). The work received an Oscar® nomination for Best Original Song.

1. Dan Romer '04 composed the critically acclaimed score for the four-time Oscar-nominated *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (2012) 2. the music for Ubisoft’s flagship video game *Far Cry 5*, and 3. Netflix’s *Beasts of No Nation*. Among the extensive body of work in film scores by Dan Deacon '04 are the documentary 4. *Well Groomed* (2019) and 5. Netflix’s *Hustle* (2022). 6. “You’ve Got Time,” the main title theme song for Netflix’s *Orange Is the New Black* written, composed, and performed by singer/songwriter Regina Spektor '01 was nominated for Best Song Written for Visual Media at the Grammy Awards in 2013. 7. Mitski '13 collaborated with Son Lux and David Byrne on “This Is A Life,” the theme song that runs over the closing credits of the award-winning sensation *Everything Everywhere All At Once* and received an Oscar® nomination for Best Original Song.



The

CROSSOVER ARTISTS

1



6



2



5



3



4

The environment at Purchase nurtures creativity across disciplines. Those impacting the cultural landscape don't just come from the conservatories. The accepting and eccentric community nurtures all majors to find their voice and share it.



Abel Ferrara '73 *Political Science*
Essential New York City independent filmmaker of gritty and provocative urban crime thrillers, such as *Ms .45* (1981), *King of New York* (1990), *Bad Lieutenant* (1992), and *The Funeral* (1996).



Donald Margulies '76 *Visual Arts*
Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *Dinner With Friends*, he's developed numerous screenplays, teleplays and pilots for HBO, Showtime, NBC, CBS,

Warner Bros., TriStar, Universal, Paramount, and MGM. The film of his screenplay, *The End of the Tour*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2015, was nominated for the Film Independent Spirit Award and the UCLA Scriptor Award for Best Screenplay.



Susie Essman '77 *Urban Studies*
Comedian and actress best known for bringing the unforgettable Susie Green to life on *Curb Your Enthusiasm* (2000-).



Manohla Dargis '85 *Literature*
Chief film critic for the *New York Times* where she's worked for nearly 20 years.



Mark Viniello '92 **BALA: Biology, Anatomy, Visual Arts, and Sculpture*
Combined study of sculpture and anatomy on his way to fulfilling his dream of becoming a special effects and makeup artist for film and television. Projects including HBO's *True Blood* (2010-14), *Stranger Things* (2016), *Pirates of the Caribbean At World's End* (2007) and *Dead Man's Chest* (2006), *Austin Powers The Spy Who Shagged Me* (1999), *Spider-Man* (2002) and *Spider-Man 2* (2004), among many others.



Amanda Seales '03 **BALA: African American Studies and Visual and Performing Arts*
Blending humor and intellect to tackle serious subjects, the actress, comedian, writer, and producer is the creator/host of the hit live music comedy game show, *Smart Funny & Black*, hosted and co-wrote the 2020 BET Awards, and hosts the popular podcast, *Small Doses: Potent Truths for Everyday Use*, which led to a book of the same name. Seales' debut stand-up special, *I Be Knowin*, premiered on HBO in January 2019 and she was the series regular Tiffany on HBO's *Insecure* (2016-2021).



Tanairi Sade Vazquez '10, *Dance*
Accomplished dancer who appeared on Broadway in *West Side Story* and *Hamilton*, turned to acting and landed the first role she auditioned for as Annie Valdez in season three of *Orange is the New Black* (2015). She then played Charita, a Shark girl in *West Side Story* (2021).

*For intrepid thinkers whose passion and purpose lie between or encompass a field of study not articulated in the current majors mix, the BA in Liberal Arts allows students to create their own majors.

1. Abel Ferrara '73 behind the camera on *Bad Lieutenant* (1992), the cult film starring Harvey Keitel, which screened in the *Un Certain Regard* section at the 1992 Cannes Film Festival. (Credit: MARKA / Alamy Stock Photo) 2. Writer, comedian, and actress Susie Essman '77 as Susie Green opposite Larry David in HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. 3. Still from *Bad Lieutenant* (1992), Abel Ferrara '73. 4. Special effects and makeup artist Mark Viniello '92 with his creations. 5. Amanda Seales '03 in her debut stand-up special, *I Be Knowin*, premiered on HBO in January 2019 (Photo Credit: HBO / Craig Blankenhorn) 6. Tanairi Sade Vazquez '10 as Annie Valdez in season three of *Orange is the New Black*.

WHY PURCHASE?

Stats and Facts

TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT*

3,226 (3,149 undergraduate, 77 graduate)

UNDERGRADUATE DEMOGRAPHICS*

43% identify as **underrepresented minority** (URM) students

39% identify as **Black** (13%) or **Hispanic** (26%)

Recognized by the federal government as an **Hispanic Serving Institution** (HSI)

40% are from **Westchester County** and **New York City**

POINTS OF PRIDE

- Alumni and faculty have won countless awards and nominations, including **Oscar, Emmy, Tony, Grammy, Golden Globe, BAFTA, Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Obie, Sundance, Cannes, Pulitzer, Princess Grace, and MacArthur**, among many more.
- **Fulbright Hispanic Serving Institution Leader** designation by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).
- *The Hollywood Reporter*
"The World's 25 Best Drama Schools, Ranked" #2
Mentioned in "2022's Top 25 American Film Schools, Ranked"
- *U.S. News & World Report* 2022–2023
One of the nation's top liberal arts colleges and #8 on the "Top Public Schools" list.
- *The Fiske Guide to Colleges* 2023
One of 300 of the "best and most interesting" colleges in the U.S., Canada, and the UK.

LOCATION IS EVERYTHING

Our 500-acre campus lies on the eastern edge of Westchester County between White Plains and Greenwich, CT, less than 20 miles from Great Point / Lionsgate location in Yonkers.

THE POWER OF SUNY

Created out of a commitment to opportunity and access and designed to meet diverse needs across a vast geographic landscape, The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States with 64 institutions serving nearly 1.3 million students in credit bearing courses and programs and through continuing education and community outreach programs. Nearly 3 million SUNY alumni are located around the globe, each making their own unique impact.

*Figures for 2022–2023

Bold. Original. Innovative. Daring.

The same words that describe Lionsgate and Great Point also capture the ethos of Purchase College.

As brand leaders in delivering the highest quality content to audiences worldwide, you rely on professionally trained artists and craftspeople. We are brand leaders in training the unique workforce you need to succeed.

You chose Yonkers for its proximity to NYC and easy access to highly credentialed crew members at any given time. We're less than 20 miles away, and we have cohorts of students being trained by many of those very same working professionals you value. Moreover, countless have trained here themselves.

You're putting down roots in the community. The Purchase roots run deep in the New York metropolitan area and beyond. For instance, Hudson Scenic Studio has counted on Purchase to provide highly skilled students as interns and graduates as staff members for decades.

Think of us a key component in a pipeline that runs from local public schools through the SUNY system directly to Great Point Studios + Lionsgate's benefit.

Let's work together.

Milagros (Milly) Peña, PhD

(She, Her, Hers)

President


Purchase College, SUNY

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LIONSGATE™





Marisol, by José Rivera, featuring the Purchase Repertory Theatre's Acting BFA students. Theatre Design/Technology BFA students provided all design and tech. **Ta'Neesha Murphy '21**, in the role of the Angel, went on to appear in the world premiere of Erika Dickerson-Despenza's acclaimed play *Cullud Wattah* at The Public Theater in fall 2021.

Costume designed by **Chris Prussen '21**, who's now on staff at the Metropolitan Opera as a costume craftsman and milliner.
(Photo by Zoë Markwalter)