

AMDA

AMDA College of the Performing Arts

LOS ANGELES

Graduation Ceremony

October 24, 2020

GRADUATION CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION Video Presentation

WELCOME David Martin, President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSES Sarah Stiles
Kyle Scatliffe

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRADUATES Video Presentation

MESSAGE TO GRADUATES AMDA Faculty
and Staff

CLOSING David Martin

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Welcome to AMDA's Summer 2020 Virtual Commencement!

Today is about you. What you have accomplished in your final two semesters is truly inspirational. Our AMDA community — YOUR AMDA community — stands in awe. To persevere in the face of uncertainty is the hallmark of a true artist. In this one endeavor, you have succeeded beyond all measure. Your determination, flexibility, and refusal to be defeated has been a joy to witness.

We are here at this meaningful crossroads to celebrate you, our soon-to-be graduating students and your families. Of the many silver linings that have come from this global crisis, one enduring truth we have been reminded of is that we are a family — your AMDA family — you, your faculty, your staff, your fellow alumni, and your parents and families — we have joined together more deeply than ever, and in so doing have become an even richer, more loving community.

Commencement means “beginning,” and we are all, indeed, beginning a new chapter now. May this next chapter in our journey be filled with wonder, joy, strength, kindness, and courage. And let’s hold each other in our hearts along the way.

We miss you, we love you, and we can’t wait to be together with you again.

Congratulations to you all!

Jan and David Martin
Presidents

THE AMDA MISSION

AMDA provides rigorous, performance-based training and an industry-focused education experience, one that inspires excellence and prepares artists with an appreciation for the universal power of transformation through art. AMDA's education philosophy is based on close collegial interaction between instructors and students — in class, in production and through active mentorship.

AMDA is committed to providing an unsurpassed performing arts education to a diverse community of creative artists. AMDA serves as both school and stage where students are given the support and opportunity to define their own personal objectives and to develop and refine their own distinctive artistic voices.

AMDA strives to create an environment for students to develop the skills, confidence, imagination and power to contribute to their community as artists, entrepreneurs, visionaries, lifelong learners and conscientious citizens of the world. Above all, AMDA wants to teach students that commitment and passion are the hallmarks of a successful and joyous career.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

SARAH STILES



AMDA alumna and two-time Tony Award Nominee Sarah Stiles starred as Sandy Lester in the Broadway smash hit *Tootsie*. In addition to a Tony Award nomination, Sarah earned Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Award nominations for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical for her performance as Sandy. Her debut 5-Track EP, *You Can Ukulele With Me*, was released this past August by Broadway Records. Sarah is currently filming the multi-cam NASCAR comedy series “The Crew for Netflix,” starring as Beth Paige.

Sarah previously starred on Broadway in several productions, including *Hand to God* (as Jessica, for which she received her first Tony nomination), *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*, *Avenue Q* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Sarah voiced the leading role of Spinel in the animated musical film *Steven Universe: The Movie* and limited series “Stephen Universe Future,” alongside such stars as Estelle, Aimee Mann and Uzo Aduba, as well as Broadway legends Patti Lupone and Christine Ebersole. On television, Sarah stars on EPIX’s critically acclaimed series “Get Shorty.” She also recurs as Bonnie Barella on Showtime’s hit series “Billions.”

Sarah’s additional film and television credits include Steven Soderbergh’s psychological thriller *Unsane*, “I’m Dying Up Here,” “Blacklist,” “Dietland” and the animated “Sunny Day” for Nickelodeon. Sarah also lends her voice on the recording of Pasek and Paul’s *James and the Giant Peach* and in the post-apocalyptic musical podcast, *Bleeding Love*, which was released earlier this year.

In 2016, Sarah penned her solo show, *Squirrel Heart*, which she performed to sold out audiences at Joe’s Pub at the Public Theater in NYC. A return engagement of *Squirrel Heart* was presented at Joe’s Pub in 2017. This past May, an archived recording of *Squirrel Heart* was streamed online as part of Joe’s Pub Live! – a free series of live-streamed and archived performances.

Sarah congratulates the newest AMDA graduates and wishes them the best in their next endeavors!

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

KYLE SCATLIFFE



Kyle Scatliffe, a proud graduate of AMDA, made his Broadway debut as Enjolras in the Tony Award-nominated revival of *Les Misérables*. Kyle's stellar performance was reprised and featured in the CBS broadcast of the 2014 Tony Awards. Kyle's next Broadway role was Harpo in the 2015 Tony Award-winning revival of *The Color Purple*. After touring the country as Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson in the national tour of *Hamilton*, Kyle reprised his role on Broadway before joining the company of Broadway's *To Kill A Mockingbird* as Tom

Robinson. The Broadway production of *To Kill A Mockingbird* went on to play a one-night-only performance at Madison Square Garden for a crowd of 18,000 public school students.

Shortly after graduating from AMDA, Kyle was chosen to participate in Town Hall's *Broadway Rising Stars*, a highly selective national showcase that introduces audiences to young performing artists. Kyle soon made his West End debut as Haywood Patterson in London's *The Scottsboro Boys*, earning a Laurence Olivier Award nomination for Best Actor in a Musical. Additional theatre credits include Mitch Mahoney in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee: The Musical*, Reginald F. Lewis in *Reginald: From Baltimore to Billionaire*, Jim in *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* at the New York City Center, Coalhouse in *Ragtime*, Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!*, and Marley in *A Christmas Carol: The Concert* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, which was broadcast on PBS. Kyle has twice appeared in *Broadway Unplugged*, the critically-acclaimed annual Town Hall concert, and is a recurring guest at BroadwayCon.

Kyle's TV credits include the roles of Aaron Whittles in NBC's "Chicago PD" and Grant in "Bull" on CBS.

Kyle extends a big congratulations to AMDA's Summer graduates and welcomes them into "the room where it happens."

CANDIDATES *for* GRADUATION

ASSOCIATE OF OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMS

Zoe L. Blake

Kendra Middleton

Isley Ford

Annika Corene Rudolph*

Tajzon James

Alexa Jewel Shepherd

Erykah Johnson

Joshua Taylor

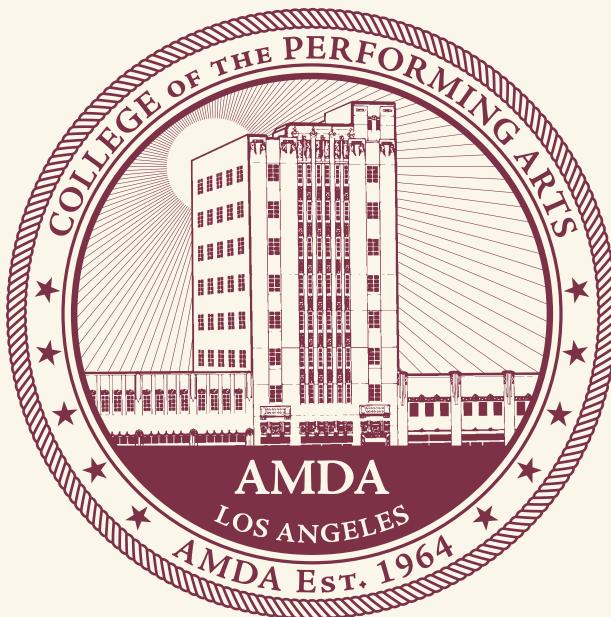
Mikayla Laven

Megan Vargas*

Sophia Marks*

Katelyn Wisocky*

*Graduating With Honors



CANDIDATES *for* GRADUATION

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS PROGRAMS

Alicia Marie Allen

Rylee Dianne Altenburg*

Careliseo Blair*

Kayla Assimacopoulos*

Nicole Banchs-Falcon*

Alisha Barnett*

Ruby Veronica Barrios*

Sara Elizabeth Blair*

Patrick Wallace Brady

Morgan Bronk Lutz*

Serena Burns*

David Andrew Calvillo

Aaron Michael-Rees Camitses*

Sa'Quan Carr

Skylar W Chapin

Jalen Ty'ron Chatman

Mardacia Colbert

Kevin Edward Collins*

Tyler Allen Coon

DeAnna Elise Dumas*

Jalen Elston

Ank-Tyree Freely

Isabella Fuson*

Heidi Gallegos*

Robyn Glover

Haley Don Grier*

Daja Janice Harris

Catherine Heneghan*

Natalie Joyce Hilton

Jane Isaac

Tejawanna Marche' Jefferson*

Taylor Marie Jones*

Arsalan Ali Khan

Olivia Flor Kunes*

Tuscanie Lane*

Erika Alejandra Medina*

Aria Jade Miller*

Isabella Moore*

Julio Alberto Morales

Nambi Namirembe Mwassa

Shiann Nave

Gabriel Vernon C. Nunag

Victoria Nwanso

Bleu O'Brien

Armie Jane A. Pascual*

Jordan Perez

Vanessa Pluviose*

Aura Reza

Kylie Justine Salceda

Isabella Silecchio*

Amha Dasta Amandla Selassie Umoja*

Dominique Kaimana Wade*

Alexandra Malia Walsh*

Makenzie Annalee Wernholm*

Justen West

Jacob Matthew Wetmore*

Michael Williams*

Ellen Willmarth*

AMDA PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREE PROGRAMS

BFA Degree in Acting

BFA Degree in Music Theatre

BFA Degree in Dance Theatre

BFA Degree in Performing Arts

AMDA's Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Degree Programs were created to provide an extraordinarily innovative curriculum and a special environment for the performing artist. As the institution is uniquely devoted entirely to the performing arts, each program contributes to the others and to the whole in a powerfully synergistic manner. The BFA programs at AMDA foster artistic excellence, interdisciplinary learning, socially engaged performance and the spirit of collaboration. AMDA challenges its students to grow as artists and individuals and to explore the world of performing arts through performance and creation. Our prestigious faculty cultivates, nurtures and prepares students through rigorous and comprehensive training.

Included in the program structure are carefully curated courses from the liberal arts canon designed to provide a core education relevant to the life and career of a working artist. Students gain the solid entrepreneurial foundation necessary to thrive in the performing arts industry and become innovative contributors to society.

AMDA PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE OF OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAMS

AOS Degree in Acting

AOS Degree in Musical Theatre

AOS Degree in Dance Theatre

The Associate of Occupational Studies (AOS) programs encourage individual artistic growth and discovery within a comprehensive yet concise four-semester structure. The carefully crafted curriculum provides opportunities for intense and focused development of essential skills and techniques. Each student's individual passion, imagination, and creativity are cultivated within a variety of performance opportunities offered each semester. AMDA's faculty, known for maintaining active involvement in the professional performing arts industry, are an integral part of each student's learning outcomes and success. Course work in the AOS programs emphasizes a respect for craft combined with demanding standards, mirroring those necessary to succeed in the competitive professional performing arts industry.

THE AMDA LEGACY



AMDA New York on W. 61st Street



AMDA New York on Broadway

Celebrating more than 50 years as one of America's premier conservatories for the performing arts, AMDA is recognized throughout the industry for its rich history and tradition of launching some of the most successful careers in theatre, film, and television. AMDA began its journey in 1964 with the philosophy that the training of all performing artists — whether they be actors, singers, or dancers — is greatly enhanced by including an immersive, multi-disciplinary curriculum. This concept of “cross training” was cutting edge at the time; no other program offered this innovative form of training. The

institution quickly established itself as an integral part of the New York performing arts community, garnering early support from Broadway's theatre elite, including Sammy Davis Jr., Dina Merrill, Carol Channing, Richard Burton, and renowned actress Elizabeth Taylor.

AMDA soon became known throughout the performing arts world for critically acclaimed fundraising productions, which gave tribute to such luminaries as Stephen Sondheim, Julie Styne, Ira Gershwin, and Cole Porter. These shows featured numerous icons of the stage and



AMDA Los Angeles on Yucca Street

screen, such as Angela Lansbury, Liza Minnelli, Bette Midler, and Kevin Kline.

Under David Martin and Jan Martin's leadership, AMDA grew exponentially in both size and scope, developing innovative programs of study while achieving national accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). In 2003, AMDA opened its Los Angeles campus in Hollywood, fulfilling the Martins' long-term vision for the school to be centered in the two Performing Arts capitals of the world. AMDA now offers multiple Bachelor of Fine Arts and Associates

of Occupational Studies programs, as well as a Bachelor of Arts program.

For more than 50 years, AMDA has set the standard in Performing Arts higher education. Today, AMDA is a thriving institution and community which includes thousands of prominent alumni in every field of the entertainment industry as well as in countless other professions across the globe. As we look forward to the next 50 years and beyond, our commitment to nurture citizens who shape the life of our local, national, and global communities, remains as strong as ever.

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6305 Yucca Street

Los Angeles, California 90028