

Dear Friends,

It is said that “art is the lie that tells the truth”. And in this post-truth world, it is immediately obvious that we need what art gives: hope, beauty, a reminder that we’re not alone in our pain, and joy.

Art is also about transformation: both for the audience, and for the maker.

When I first walked through The Academy’s doors nearly three decades ago, I was immediately aware that it was a place so used to being visionary and resourceful that it didn’t look or feel anything like what I thought school was. There was Shakespeare right there in the stairwell; a hallway converted into a theater, and a lobby that felt like my living room.

Months later I was in The Academy’s production of *Little Shop*, playing drums up on a scaffold at the back of the theater. I understand now that transformation of space — not a hallway, but a gallery; not a classroom, but a theater; not a school, but a home — has for four decades been the context in which our school transforms people.

We have shinier stuff now, and fresher paint. New windows, and nicer floors. But the spirit of what we do — transforming people through relationships with art, relationships with excellence, and relationships with each other — has and will never change.

The outcomes speak for themselves. I am proud to announce that the Class of 2022 has won more than \$6 million in scholarships to the best colleges in the world, accepted to schools from UCLA and USC to Juilliard and NYU. They are ready to make their mark on the world in a stunning array of career paths, in the arts and well beyond. And, they’re following in the footsteps of our alums, whom you see and hear every single day, on the Billboard charts, on Broadway, on the New York Times Bestseller List, at the Grammys, and in Forbes Magazine.

While the money and accolades are impressive, perhaps what most importantly defines our alums is that they’re good people. I have never been more aware of this than in the weeks following the news that I had a life-changing brain tumor. ([I’m okay.](#)) I know that the love and care sent my way is a byproduct of the community that forty years of Academy students have built.

This education transforms people by harnessing their imagination. And, it happens because this community, fueled by our common passion, and common purpose, is “home”. (I hope you’ll take a look at our new video [“The Academy is Home”](#).)

Happy summer, friends,

Jason Patera
Head of School

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BLACK EXCELLENCE AND JUBILATION SHOW



PATERA FUN RUN



MUSIC DEPARTMENT FIELD TRIP

Chicago Symphony Orchestra



THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Little Wars



SPRING DANCE CONCERT



WINTER JURIED EXHIBITION



STITCHED TOGETHER

Media Arts Spring Festival



BEHIND THE SCENES

VIEW PILOT HERE

MUSICAL THEATRE DEPARTMENT

A Chorus Line



BRUSH UP YOUR SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL



SENIOR LUNCHEON



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!



HEAR FROM ACADEMY FAMILIES

Izzie Claudio (Musical Theatre '22)



“It feels like we are a big family that cares for one another. Spending time with other parents at performances or talking to teachers while visiting the school is like connecting with old friends. It brings out the best in us.”

[READ FULL STORY](#)

HEAR FROM THE CLASS OF 2022



MIA NADBORNE
THEATRE



INDIA RENTERIA
MUSICAL THEATRE

“I directed the AIDS Benefit this year and I remember after the last performance the whole cast was on stage, and the cast was made up of students from all departments and all grades. I just really felt this strong sense of community. There’s that word again. But we were all happy and crying, so united in that moment. If I were to describe The Academy to someone else, I would want to talk about that moment. We were all in the same place, feeling the same things, and united as a group.”

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! Hear from seniors Mia Nadborne and India Renteria on their favorite Academy memories, what they’ll miss the most, and advice for incoming freshmen.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

HEAR FROM ACADEMY FAMILIES

Bazyli Siwek (Music '22)



BAZYLI SIWEK

Music '22

“Bazyli thrived at The Academy both as a musician and academically due to the great balance that the school provides for the two. The school fosters very deep personal connections between students and faculty, connections that I’m sure will last a lifetime.”

[READ FULL STORY](#)

[BAZYLI ON WFMT](#)



HEAR FROM THE CLASS OF 2022

“I’m going to miss the sense of creative freedom. I’m free to explore so many different things and have the time to work on my art. That feels really special. And I’m definitely going to miss the sense of creative energy throughout the building.”

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! Hear from seniors DeeDee Kinzie, Gabe Bell, and Sloane Dyer!

[READ FULL STORY](#)

GABE BELL
MEDIA ARTS



SLOANE DYER
MUSIC



DEEDEE KINZIE
Visual Arts



40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Thank you to everyone who made the 40th Anniversary Gala one of our most successful celebrations in the history of The Academy. With the outstanding support of our community, we raised nearly half a million dollars, all of which goes towards underwriting tuition assistance. Between the breathtaking student performances, special alumni appearances, and the public return of Jason Patera post-surgery, it was a night to remember. A special thank you to our presenting sponsors, Patty & Ken Hunt and our Co-Chairs, Mara Georges and Rusty Hernandez-Sanfilippo!

If you're interested in being involved in next year's Gala or would like to learn more about gift options, please reach out to Director of Development [Evan Pazkowski](#).



2022 SUMMER PROGRAM



The 2022 Academy Summer Program is a wrap!

It was a joy to have these kids as part of the Academy community the last two weeks. They worked extremely hard throughout the intensive, and their dedication and passion were evident in the inspiring sketching, painting, dancing, singing, filming, writing, and acting we saw during their final presentations. Our faculty is so happy to have had the distinct pleasure of working with these students. We hope they feel proud of what they accomplished working with their peers within the Academy curriculum.

A NOTE FROM ADMISSIONS



The Chicago Academy for the Arts is still accepting 2022-2023 applications for students in 9th through 11th grades. During rolling admissions, applications will be considered based on grade and art department availability and applicants will be contacted by the Admissions Office to schedule an audition on an individual basis. The first step of the application process is to learn more about The Academy through our events and programs. We look forward to guiding you through our process and learning more about you and your family!

Amanda Avery Director of Enrollment Management
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Nina Karakos Admissions Associate
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THE ACADEMY BLOG

Taking Laughter Seriously



Read below from Humanities Department Co-Chair Nick Roux. He reflects on Jason's diagnoses and finding humor in every situation.

[READ FULL POST](#)

THE ACADEMY IN THE MEDIA

“Black Excellence and Jubilation Show” on ABC7 Chicago



[VIEW FULL SEGMENT HERE](#)

THE ACADEMY IN THE MEDIA

“Winter Juried Exhibition” on WGN9 Chicago



[VIEW FULL SEGMENT HERE](#)

THE ACADEMY IN THE MEDIA

“Stitched Together Pilot Premiere” on Chicago Reader and FOX32 Chicago



[READER ARTICLE](#)

[VIEW FOX32 SEGMENT HERE](#)

THE ACADEMY IN THE MEDIA

“40th Anniversary Gala” on ABC7 Chicago and WGN



40 Years Of Chicago Academy For The Arts

[VIEW WGN SEGMENT HERE](#)

[VIEW ABC7 SEGMENT HERE](#)

ACADEMY MERCH & APPAREL



The Academy Merch Store is back!

Over 20 new items have been added to our merch store!
Click below to browse our new collection.

[VIEW ACADEMY MERCH STORE](#)

FOLLOW US

Be sure to follow The Academy on social media!

#SmartArtistsSmartArt #ArtMatters

