



AIDS Benefit, 2017

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Dear Families and Friends,

Twelve short weeks ago we welcomed the Class of 2021 to our community with some of the most important words we'll say all year: "welcome home".

In those 12 weeks, new and veteran students alike have collaborated to create an enormous body of impressive work. From mainstage productions like *Sense and Sensibility* and *Merrily We Roll Along*, to the Figure Drawing and *Buildings and Blind Spots* gallery exhibits, to the jazz, classical, and vocal concerts, to the upcoming Senior-Choreographed Dance Concert and Media Arts Fall Showcase *Fear*, the emerging artists of the Academy community are continuously developing compelling, meaningful work.

In particular, we congratulate the students who produced the 2017 Annual AIDS Benefit. The student-produced event is one of The Academy's most important and popular traditions, raising thousands of dollars each year for charities like the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Make sure to save the date for two great events second semester: on Thursday, February 15, we will return to the Athenaeum Theatre for our annual *Showcase*, which will feature top work from across the school (and the presentation of our second-annual Faculty Legacy Award). And, on Friday, May 18, we will return to the Palmer House for our annual Gala. Stay tuned for ticket information, and we hope to see you there!

—Jason Patera
Head of School

APPLICATION FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

We invite you to submit your application to The Academy!

You will need to create a profile to begin the process. This will make it easy to save your application and continue later.

To learn more about The Academy, please consult our Admissions Calendar for visiting dates, including Parent Coffees, Academic Nights, and Open Houses. You can also register for our Summer and Saturday Programs.

Please note that the application is only open to students currently in the 8th, 9th, or 10th grades. For families outside of those grade levels interested in The Academy, please fill out our Request for Information, or contact the Admissions Office directly.

Congratulations on being one step closer to becoming an Academy student! We look forward to hearing from you.

Kitsana Salyphone
Director of Enrollment Management



Start Your Application

Full Admissions Calendar

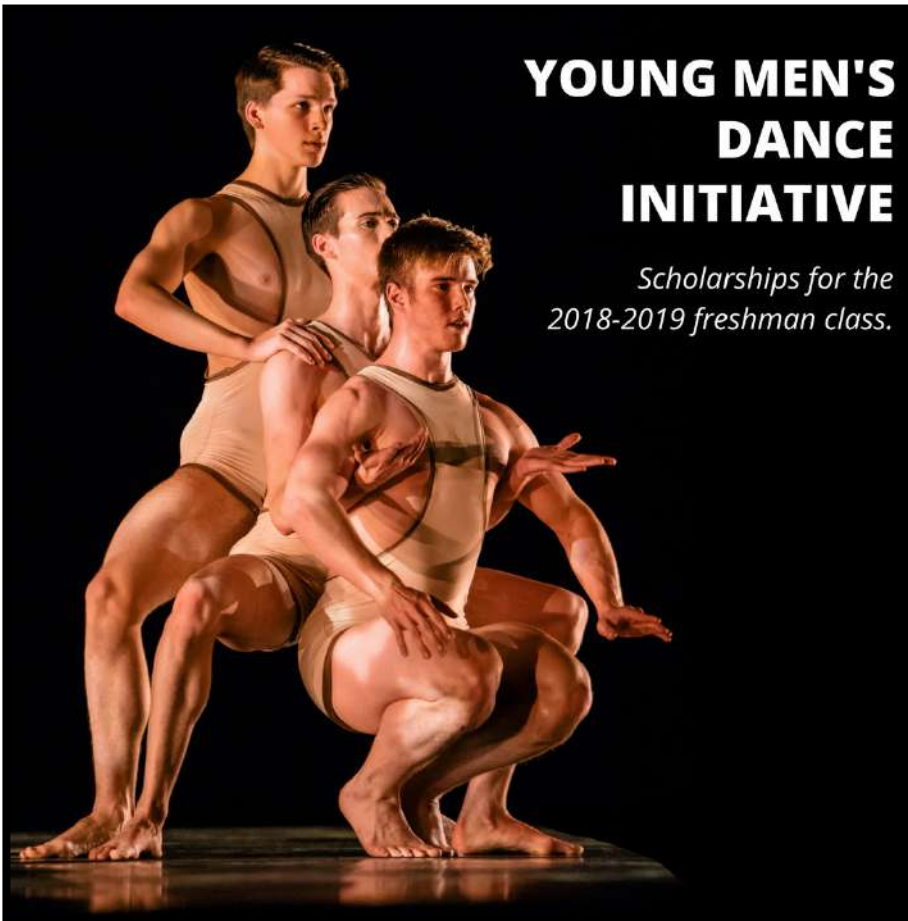


Register for Summer and Saturday Programs

2017 SUMMER PROGRAM



YOUNG MEN'S DANCE INITIATIVE



YOUNG MEN'S DANCE INITIATIVE

*Scholarships for the
2018-2019 freshman class.*

Each year, The Academy identifies three elite-level freshman male dancers to receive the Rusty and Jeffrey Sanfilippo Young Men's Dance Initiative scholarship. Selected dancers will receive tuition assistance for up to the entire cost of tuition. In creating this initiative, The Academy aims not only to recruit, support, and train young men with significant dance potential, but to serve the dance community at-large. Proper ballet programs need male dancers, and any serious dance program has a ballet component. We are excited and inspired about the Young Men's Dance Initiative, and that through it The Academy can help guide more young male dancers into higher education and careers in the art form—in Chicago's celebrated dance community and beyond.

[More Information](#)

Photo by Kyle Flubaker

FEATURED DONOR: RUSTY HERNANDEZ

"Dance is an art form that can communicate regardless of language, without music, without props — just with physical movement. You tell a full story that anybody can understand. It has the ability to rip through your chest and grab your heart. I'm happy to do my part in promoting it."



Rusty Hernandez has been a supporter of The Academy for almost two decades. Earlier this year, he founded the Rusty and Jeffrey Sanfilippo Young Men's Dance Initiative. Rusty sat down with Academy Marketing Director Tim Butler to discuss his inspiration and goals for the scholarship. Click below to read more.

[Read More](#)



*An online journal assembled and curated by
The Chicago Academy for the Arts Media Arts Department.*

Animation, Creative Writing, and Film

GERMINATE SUBMISSIONS

Calling all young writers, animators, and filmmakers!
Click below to submit your work to *Germinate*.

Once a year, The Chicago Academy for the Arts publishes *Germinate*, an online journal comprised of creative writing, film, and animation. The journal is meant to provide a published platform for professionally recognized and aspiring storytellers of multiple disciplines. Each edition features work from professionals working in the Chicagoland area, Academy alumni, and most importantly, young, emerging artists. The Academy Media Arts Department curates submissions to publish professional-quality work.

Do you know any young writers or filmmakers who may be interested in submitting work for our publication?

The next issue of *Germinate* will be published in April. Submissions for the next edition will be evaluated through January, but *Germinate* accepts submissions year-round.



Now accepting submissions from students in grades 6-12!

Submissions accepted year-round. The deadline for April's issue is January 8th.

Submit Here

FIVE QUALITIES OF A SUCCESSFUL MEDIA ARTIST



By Jessi Meliza
Chair, Media Arts Department

"What does it mean to audition as a writer, filmmaker, or animator? We'll be looking at your past work, in addition to some of your written thoughts on media that you already consume. So what are we looking for when we finally get a chance to meet you?"

Some of us tell stories loudly and excitedly, standing in front of a group and waving our hands to make a point. Others of us take the time away from the crowd, crafting a tale with interesting visuals or evocative language. No matter what we put into the world, we are striving to make connections."

More from Jessi Meliza

STUDENTS IN THE MEDIA

Sydni Bennett crowned Miss Illinois Teen USA

Sydni Bennett (Dance '19) is in the Chicago Tribune! She recently made history as the first African American to be crowned Miss Illinois Teen USA in the pageant's 34-year existence. Congratulations Sydni!

**More from the
Chicago Tribune**



Princess Lang in Billy Elliot

"One scene-stealer is Princess Isis Z. Lang who takes the typically throwaway role of 'Debbie Wilkinson', the bored daughter of a dance teacher, and thrusts that character to the heart of the show. She's terrific."

Congratulations to Princess (Musical Theatre '20) on the great review!

**More from the
Chicago Tribune**



NEWS & NOTABLES

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Evan Boersma

Akenya Seymour

Congratulations to Academy alumni Evan Boersma (Dance '17) and Akenya Seymour (Music '10) on their recent accomplishments! Evan joined The Joffrey Ballet as a full company member. After graduating from The Academy, Evan joined the studio company at Joffrey, but earned the opportunity to be part of the full company in only a few months.

Akenya sings on Mavis Staples' upcoming album *If All I Was Was Black*. Akenya sings background vocals on every track and got to work with Mavis and producer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco).

[See Full List of News & Notables](#)

The Chicago Academy for the Arts

ALUMNI PARTY



Dear Alums,

Thank you all for such a terrific alumni party in August! To those who couldn't attend, I hope to see you next year.

I am proud to announce the recipients of our first annual Alumni Grants! We received around 20 proposals, seeking almost \$40,000 in support. **All** of the proposals were compelling, and I am so proud to be part of a place where our alums are making such incredible work.

Ultimately, the committee elected to award a number of smaller grants to spread around the impact of the available money. We are thrilled to announce grants from \$300 - \$1,000 in support of these fantastic projects:



Photos by Kristine Sherred

Vakaré Rūta Marshall received a grant in support of her project *Eve Song*, a collaboration with members of Portland's Disability Art and Culture Project. *Eve Song* is a song cycle by composer Jake Heggie; the project "will increase accessibility to classical music while promoting women of all abilities in an empowering light".

Sojourner Zenobia received a grant in support of her project "Femme-Body", an interdisciplinary work supported by the Links Hall Co-Mission Residency, and by Academy alum Jonathan Alsberry.

Carsen Joenk received a grant in support of a theatrical project that will tour public high schools with a workshop to engage students in the making of political theatre.

Akenya Seymour received a grant in support of the development of *Moon in the 4th*, a tangible body of musical work "designed to uplift, inspire, and evoke love."

Finally, **Lauren Ike** received a grant in support of her project *Unpacked: Mobile Gallery*, an alternative artist-run cooperative that exhibits innovative artists across disciplines through a mobile gallery or "pop up truck show".

We are deeply thankful to (and impressed by) everyone who submitted proposals. We certainly wish that we could fund *all* of them, and I am looking forward to using the proposals in conversations with donors to increase funding for another round of alumni grants next year.

-Jason

More Photos from the Alumni Party!

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



Figure Drawing Exhibition

2017 AIDS Benefit

The three sold-out shows of the 2017 AIDS Benefit featured original student work and compelling performances. The show helped Academy students raise nearly \$8000 for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.





Merrily We Roll Along



Buildings and Blind Spots **Visual Arts Department and the Architecture Biennial**



This year, as a precursor to our exhibition as a concurrent program with the Chicago Architecture Biennial we ventured into the surrounding urban environment in search of commonly overlooked spaces. We were encouraged to take pictures, make sketches, and develop our own projects. The goal was to bring these overlooked spaces into The Academy's galleries through abstract representation. All of us convened, shared our ideas, and formed groups depending on which of us had converging trajectories. We formed our groups around six topics of interest: "Old/New" - buildings and materials; "Nature" - city planning and natural sprawl; "Layers and Crevices" - history of consumption through trash pileup; "Time" - same spaces represented at different times; "Light" - its impact on the materials as well as reflective materials, and "Psychology of Space" - the way space impacts learning and interaction." -- **Molly Block**, Visual Arts '18

Don't miss the conclusion of the Department's exhibition at their artist talk on November 29th.

The Chicago Academy for the Arts

2017-2018 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

- 15 Visual Arts Department
Figure Drawing Exhibition
21, 22, & 23 Student-Produced
AIDS Benefit

OCTOBER

- 10 Music Department Jazz
Concert
13, 14, & 15 Musical Theatre
Department Fall
Production of
*Merrily We Roll
Along*
20, 21, & 22 Musical Theatre
Department Fall
Production of
*Merrily We Roll
Along*
(Second Weekend)
24 Music Department Classical
Recital

NOVEMBER

- 2 Music Department Mozart
Classical Recital
2, 3, & 4 Theatre Department
Fall Production of
Sense and Sensibility

- 3 Visual Arts Department
Alumni Exhibit
14 Music Department Classical
Recital
16 & 17 Media Arts
Department Fall
Showcase
28 Fall Jazz Concert

DECEMBER

- 5 Music Department Classical
Recital

JANUARY

- 20 Senior-Choreographed
Dance Concert
25-28 Musical Theatre &
Theatre Department
Shakespeare Festival

FEBRUARY

- 2 Visual Arts Department
Winter Juried Exhibition
6 Music Department Classical
Recital
15 All-School Showcase

MARCH

- 6 Music Department Jazz
Concert

- 8 Media Arts Department
Winter Juried Festival
15, 16, & 17 Theatre
Department
Spring Production
23 Visual Arts Department
Senior Exhibition
27 Music Department Jazz
Vocal Showcase

APRIL

- 24 Music Department Classical
Recital
20, 21, & 22 Musical Theatre
Department
Spring Production
27 Visual Arts Department
Spring Exhibition
27, 28, & 29 Musical Theatre
Department
Spring Production
(Second Weekend)

MAY

- 1 Music Department Jazz
Concert at Jazz Showcase
5 Faculty and Guest-
Choreographed Dance
Concert

COMING UP AT THE ACADEMY

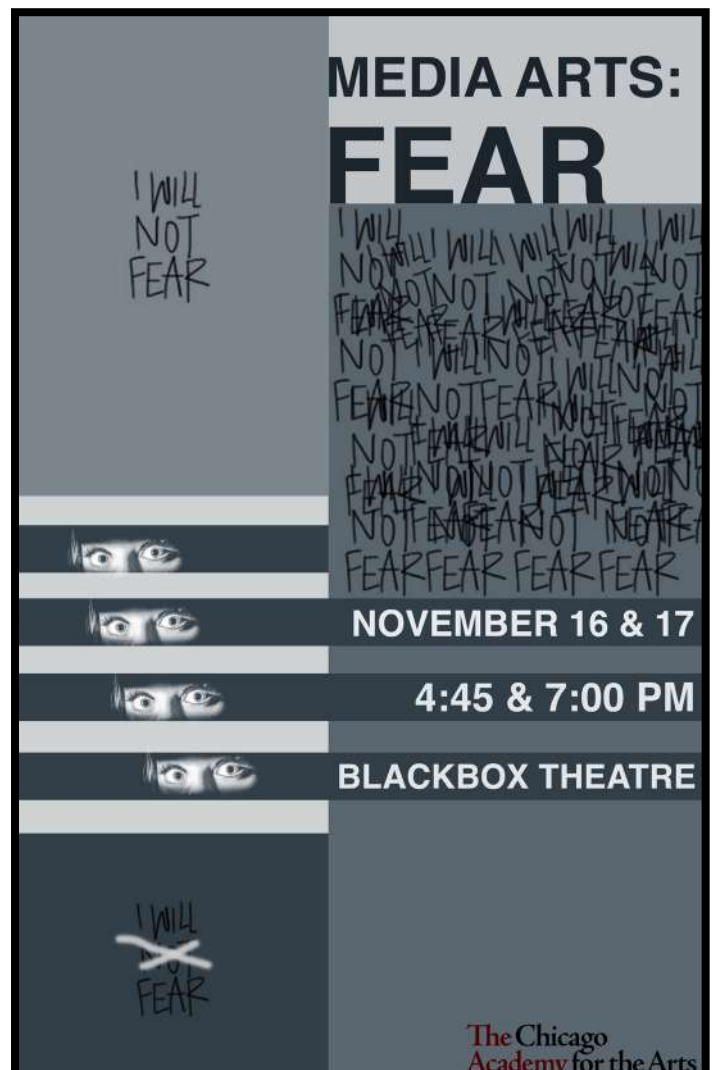
The November 28th Jazz Concert will be held at Winter's Jazz Club! The performance begins at 6 p.m. Click below for tickets.

Tickets



Join the Media Arts Department November 16th and 17th for their fall Fall Showcase *Fear*. Click below for tickets.

Tickets



COMING UP AT THE ACADEMY

Annual Fundraising Gala



2017 Gala Co-Chairs

More Information

Friday, May 18, 2018
Palmer House Hilton

Mark your calendars for our most important fundraising event of the year. Last year's Gala was a fabulous success, thanks to our incredible co-chairs Emily Barr & Scott Kane and Kelly & Mike Finnerty, the entire Gala Committee, the amazing generosity of our families and friends, our beautiful and fierce honoree Janet Davies and MC Micah Materre, and the tremendous teamwork of the faculty, staff, and students.

To learn more about how you can help build on last year's success and make the 2018 Gala our best ever, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Judith Feldman
Director of Development

All-School Showcase



She Kills Monsters Preview, Showcase 2017

More Information

Thursday, February 15th, 2018
Athenaeum Theatre

"All of us, the arts and academic faculty, the performers we have just watched, the parents who support us, and the alums have joined us tonight—each one of us is responsible for sustaining the life of that legacy. Each one of us, in no small and insignificant way, has contributed to a kind of collective memory of the Academy experience. And I am proud and grateful to be among the team of teachers, administrators, parents, and, of course, students who mold and pass that legacy along to the next cohort of Academy members."

Tim Tynan
Faculty Legacy Award Recipient, Showcase 2017