

The Chicago Academy for the Arts

News and Notables - August 2018

NEW AND FEATURED

Evan Boersma (Dance '17) was featured in the [Northwest Indiana Times](#) about his spot in the Joffrey Ballet.

Dominic Flynn (Music '14) is playing in Berlin on August 21, and his music will be performed by Open Strings Berlin.

Chandler Ford is part of Wagon Wheel Theatre's *Bridges of Madison County* in August and Variety Children's *Little Mermaid* in September.

Ari Fulton (Theatre '05) is the set designer for "The Breakup".

Alex Girav (Media Arts '13) debuted his film *The Night In All Things* at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Zachary Gonder (Dance '14) is dancing in "Four Quartets" at the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard.

Lauren Iacoponi (Music '11) is featured in in [Voyage Chicago](#).

Matthew Jazwinski (Music '20) performed at the Family Life Center at Lurie Children's Hospital for hundreds of kids. It was broadcast on Skylight TV.

Danielle Keys (Dance '14) recently danced at The Kennedy Center.

Alexa Jane Lewis (Musical Theatre '11) performed in *Nunsense* at the Gateway Playhouse and was featured in [Broadway World](#).

JP Moraga (Musical Theatre '02) is part of Kyoung's Pacific Beat's PILLOWTALK which will be touring to Chicago as part of "CAATA's Revolutionary Acts" Festival at Victory Gardens.

Sophia Pietrkowski (Theatre '14) is devising a piece with Elenna Sindler (Music '16) and T'Yanna Nicole Smith about women navigating public space after sexual trauma. This piece is explored

through a woman on the CTA experimenting with what it means to take up public space. She is also performing in Los Angeles in "Performing History" by Roger Guenveur Smith at The Bootleg Theater. Lastly, she has been cast in *This Side of Eternity: The Kristallnacht Story* at the Nebula Theater in Palatine.

Luke Sangerman (Music '15) played drums for Ravyn Lenae at Pitchfork Music Festival 2018.

Akenya Seymour (Music '11) released her new video "Decay" which details her battle with Lyme Disease.

Morgan Williams (Dance '08) is featured in the [Wisconsin Gazette](#) about their part in SueMo Dance Company.

Ivan Winslow (Media Arts '10) is now an Account Strategy Manager at Soulsight.

Annie Yokom (Musical Theatre '11) debuted her first single on iTunes called "It's A Good Day".

DANCE

Kevin Beverley (Dance '08) was featured on the [Hideaway Circus](#) podcast about his starring role in Cirque du Soleil's VOLTA. He is currently touring around Ottawa, Toronto, Miami, and Tampa.

Evan Boersma (Dance '17) 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.

Rena Butler (Dance '07) has been named a choreographic fellow at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.

Isaiah Day (Dance '20) was featured on ABC7. His video has been viewed over 100,000 times.

Tanji Harper (Dance '95) is the Artistic Director of The Happiness Club—a Chicago-based organization designed to encourage positive values and social change through the arts. The organization was recently recognized by the Obama Foundation.

Zach Jeppsen (Dance '19) was featured on the cover of the Chicago Tribune. The story of his incredible commute and love of Dance was also shown on The Jam TV Show, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and the Northwest Herald.

Delaney Kleber (Dance '14) is an analyst intern at Ascension Healthcare as she finishes her degree in math, actuarial science, and data mining at DePaul. She is prepping for her first actuarial exam.

Alli Riley (Dance '14) danced with Trifecta Dance Colletice at Vittum Theatre during the beginning of June.

Amber Robbin (Dance '07) is launching her own consulting business called [Agents of Change](#), designed to support social justice organizations and activists through outreach and speaking gigs at high schools and universities.

Kara Roseborough (Dance '14) is working with [Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre](#) before moving to Charleston, SC to dance with the [American National Ballet](#). In addition, she just finished writing a play and is currently editing a novel she wrote earlier this year.

Chloe Scott (Dance '14) an undergraduate student from ASU's College of Public Service and Community Solutions, joined the [SolarSPELL](#) project this year and traveled with the team to Vanuatu.

Maggie Vannucci (Dance '14) is living in Leeds, England. She is one of 14 dancers in the dance company VERVE. She is also completing her M.A. in dance performance.

Morgan Williams (Dance '08) is the co-founder of [SueMo: Dance Experience](#). She is also the director at Studio One Dance Company.

MEDIA ARTS

Chaz Allen (Media Arts '14) has a cassette coming out in July.

Jack Dunphy (Media Arts '11) wrote and edited the film *The Great Pretender* which has been selected for the Tribeca Film Festival.

Marissa Cameron (Media Arts '12) is a production artist at [Brandmuscle](#), working primarily with alcohol and beverage brands such as Smirnoff, Captain Morgan, Crown Royal, Jim Beam, Makers Mark, Jägermeister, and many others. She also serves as Secretary of [Chicago Women's Rugby Club](#), and is currently working on a documentary about the team, which was founded in 1976.

Alex Girav's (Media Arts '13) film *The Night in All Things* screened at the International Film Festival Rotterdam during the end of January. Last fall, his short film *Taksim Square* was selected for the Chicago International Film Festival.

Miguel Lucero (Media Arts '21) was featured on WGN TV with his family band Cielito Lindo Family Folk Music.

Jamie Weiss (Media Arts '17) has a photo series coming out called *The Institution Presents*.

MUSIC

Owen Cook (Music '12) works at the scientific manufacturing company Bruker Constructing, aligning and testing laser scanning microscopes. He has been working with massively powerful lasers in order to see images of tiny grains of pollen.

Haley Fairman (Music '13) is currently working in the country music department at Creative Artists Agency in Nashville.

Dominic Flynn (Music '14) recently recorded classical guitar works at Guitar Salon International. Also, he placed second in the Lee Ritenour International Classical Guitar Competition. He is now in the studio in advance of his upcoming European tour.

Natasha Gawrit's (Music '13) new single "Lost and Confused" was just released. Listen [here](#).

Monica George (Music '08) just earned a new position at Chicago Community Trust as Coordinator of Civic Engagement.

Isabelle Gillman (Music '17) hosts a radio show on KWUR 90.3 FM in St. Louis.

Jennie Horton (Music, '12) is performing fieldwork in Toronto's Kensington Market neighborhood, studying small music venues, the local musicians who play there, and how the spaces remain economically sustainable in a city where over half the independent venues have closed since 2015. Her work will be part of a podcast series on Kensington.

Craig Hurley (Music '86) is promoting his comic book Daylight Sucks. He has signed with Michelle Hayes for representation.

Nathan Laube (Music '04) was recently appointed to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as International Consultant in Organ Studies.

Vakarè Rūta Marshall (Music '04) teaches in Portland, OR and administers a small chamber music concert series. She just finished a performance of Hildegard's "Ordo Virtutum".

Dylan McKenzie (Music '04) is releasing a new EP with a show in Los Angeles, and preparing for a handful of acoustic shows in Europe. The new record can be found [here](#).

Collette McLafferty (Music '91) just had her new track "Birdseye View" with DJ Disciple signed to the veteran house music label Catch 22 Recordings. It is her first time collaborating with a Billboard-charting artist. So far there have been remixes in Spain, France, and the U.K.

Annemarie Pulawski (Music '09) is working with Gardeneers to fight food injustice by building school gardens with students and their communities. She is teaching youth to grow their own food, and connect with their health, communities, and the environment.

Sydney Radler (Music '15) is doing an Advocacy Internship for the summer in Washington, D.C. with The Trevor Project, a leader in LGBTQ Youth Suicide Prevention.

Raiye Rosado (Music '93) launched a new brewery called Rabid Brewing.

Leonardo Alexander Salinas (Music '15) is pursuing a Psychology undergraduate degree and plays music with his band. He also promotes shows for the local music scene in Lafayette, LA.

Tyler Schwartz (Music '03) funded his \$30,000 goal for ["Story Time Chess"](#), a game to teach children chess using silly stories, vibrant illustrations, custom chess pieces, a unique chess board, and an engaging card game.

Akenya Seymour (Music '10) recently sang background vocals on every track of Mavis Staples' upcoming album "If All I Was Was Black". She got to work with Mavis and producer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco). She performed on the main stage at North Coast Music Festival on September 1st.

Patrick Stratton (Music '08) performed at the Spring Awakening Music Festival, June 8 - 10.

Kasia Szczech (Music '13) is building the Magical Keys Studio to include private lessons for children with disabilities. She is also directing, producing, and conducting a Magical Keys Christmas show in collaboration with MusicChorale Choir as a community event in the southwest suburbs. She will be joining their team as an accompanist in the fall.

Nhyta Taguchi (Music '15) was recently a Library Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Festival with the Boston Symphony and is now an intern at MIT with their Student Arts Programming.

Stephanie Tonnemacher (Music '06) is the Creative Arts Coordinator at Christ Church of Oak Brook. She also teaches private voice, guitar, piano, and songwriting.

Nathan Urdangen (Music '12) will be joining the BMI-Lehman Engel Musical Theatre workshop this year as a composer.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Haley Bolithon (Musical Theatre '18) is playing "Wendla" in *Spring Awakening* with Blank Theatre Company at Frontier in Edgewater, September 6 - 30.

Melanie Braxton (Musical Theatre '04) is training performers to fly (aerial effects) in productions on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, in addition to teaching and performing stage combat.

Maggie D'Angelo (Musical Theatre '13) is currently interning for the nonprofit organization [The American Solar Energy Society](#) in Boulder, CO. She is serving on their National Solar Tour as their National Conference Programs Manager, managing media partnerships and organizing for their upcoming national tour. Their mission is to provide educational and community resources to

promote sustainability and the transition to 100% renewable energy. She just received her Bachelor's Degree in sociology from CU-Boulder.

Audrey Flegel (Musical Theatre '01) is in the latest [Progressive Insurance Commercial](#).

Desiree Gorzela (Musical Theatre '05) is working in LA as a music therapist at a state psychiatric hospital.

Savannah Hoover (Musical Theatre '12) is currently a musical theatre styles dance teacher with an after-school program at Ravenswood Elementary for students 3rd-8th grade.

Ilyssa Kosova (Musical Theatre '15) is helping to create a devised theatre piece with [YEPP](#), a company which creates healing and unity with LGBT+ youth experiencing homelessness.

Brian LeTraunik (Musical Theatre '14) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX. He is writing a book about the history of contemporary stage combat, to be published by Routledge in 2020.

Jose Ramos (Musical Theatre '11) was recently featured in the *Chicago Med* episode "Ties That Bind".

Alex Reznik (Musical Theatre '97) is an executive producer on the new Netflix show *Seven Seconds*.

Domino Rosa (Musical Theatre '15) is organizing pride events for his magazine Super Dope&Extra Lit Magazine to celebrate the often overlooked queer people of color in the twin cities. He'll also be teaching at Northwestern's Cherubs program in July.

DeMone Seraphin (Musical Theatre '93) is the founding artistic director of [The New American Theatre Co N.Y.](#)

Emma Thatcher (Musical Theatre '10) has a short film coming out called [Soomin](#).

THEATRE

Izzy Chern (Theatre '17) is traveling to Zanzibar to teach theatre.

Winter Dunn (Theatre '10) is a producer of the film *Jezebel*, one of three narrative films selected for Tribeca Film Institute's new program for films in post production. It will be premiering at this year's festival in September.

Albina Katsman (Theatre '09) is producing and starring in a new TV series [So Foreign](#).

Sarah McGinnis (Theatre '07) was just named to the Artistic Design Team as a Global Platform Artist for the number one hair product company in Italy.

Kevin Mimms (Theatre '08) was featured in the TV show *SWAT* during the episode "Seizure".

Leah Orleans (Theatre '13) has two-person comedy and circus show called Acrobatrix that will begin their fifth year of touring.

Sophia Pietrkowski (Theatre '14) is working with Collaboraction Theatre Company this summer with Elenna Sindler (Music '16). They are having auditions for [Peacebook](#) on June 17th at Collaboraction in Wicker Park. Peacebook is a city-wide festival made up of 21 short pieces of Dance, Theatre, Music and other performances all focused on moving towards peace in the City of Chicago.

VISUAL ARTS

Jo Cosgrove (Visual Arts '03) is teaching outdoor education in Maryland. She makes art in the form of [bookbinding](#).

Olivia Mulholland (Visual Arts '18) received a Gold Key portfolio scholarship award for her "The Body" portfolio at The Scholastic Midwest Regional Awards. She also won a Silver Key portfolio award for her second portfolio submitted "The Body 2".

Richard Torres (Visual Arts '14) has been teaching dance and art classes for [Family Focus](#).

Alexis Yracheta (Visual Arts '19) had her work auctioned at [Marwen Art Fair](#) on November 3rd and was accepted to the [New Hampshire Institute of Art](#) summer pre-college program where she was awarded a \$1000 scholarship!

She also was accepted for the second year into 21 Minus at the [Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago](#). She'll be working on an interactive installation that will be on exhibit June 16th from 1-6 p.m.

Six Visual Arts Department Class of 2018 students **Olivia Mulholland, Violet Moyer, Elise Robinson, Audrey Landgren, Molly Block,** and **Maddie Madura** were all winners in [Illinois High School Art Exhibition](#) (IHSAE) Senior Exhibition. \$43 million in scholarships was awarded to 312 seniors in the event, and the six seniors from The Academy won over \$1 million of the \$43 million. Academy junior Maxine Zhou's drawing won the Gold Medal and was chosen as one of 20 works to be a part of a newly created traveling show (see drawing below). Lily Boyle's sculpture won her a two-week course of her choice at the [School of the Art Institute of Chicago](#). Alexis Yracheta's mixed media piece won a scholarship to the [New Hampshire Institute of Art](#) Pre-College Program.