

epiphany

The community magazine for The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, published by HSPVA Friends
2016-2017



HSPVA Friends launches capital campaign
to provide state-of-the-art programming
at Kinder HSPVA downtown

Writer and comedian Harris Wittels ('02)
honored as 2017 Distinguished Alumnus

Epiphany
2016-2017

ON THE COVER Charlie Wannal ('17) in *bobrauschenbergamerica*. Photo by Savanna Lim ('17)

Epiphany is published annually by HSPVA Friends and distributed to alumni, parents, and supporters of HSPVA and HSPVA Friends.

The mission of HSPVA Friends, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is to cultivate support and appreciation for The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts locally, nationally, and internationally in order to enhance educational, professional, and artistic opportunities for current and future students of HSPVA.

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Your Gift at Work: The Impact of HSPVA Friends

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, HSPVA Friends harnesses community support to ensure the continued excellence of The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Under the thoughtful leadership of the Board of Directors, we create opportunities for HSPVA students that prepare them for higher education and the professional world.

HSPVA relies on us to provide the essential building blocks of an arts education—supplies, equipment, teachers, and experiences—that allow graduates to emerge as leaders in their fields. The results of an HSPVA education speak for themselves: the 166 members of the Class of 2017 were offered more than \$36 million in college scholarships!

I am delighted to share highlights from HSPVA's 45th school year. Thanks to your generosity, HSPVA Friends built on the previous year's successes and continued to grow our programs and donor base. Between August 1, 2016, and July 31, 2017, HSPVA Friends disbursed more than \$620,000 for HSPVA programs. We also set aside more than \$300,000 for art areas and schoolwide programs in the 2017-2018 school year.

Soon, Kinder HSPVA will be a beacon of education downtown. On behalf of the HSPVA faculty and staff, we are extraordinarily grateful to the Houston Independent School District and the Kinder Foundation for providing the campus Houston's young artists deserve! The design and location of our new home symbolize HSPVA's historic role in the community: open, connected, energized, and cutting-edge. In the words of HSPVA Principal Dr. R. Scott Allen, "The new building is an apt emblem of HSPVA's activity, a parallel to the expansive imagination, scholarship, and innovation that have made these last three years among the most vibrant in the school's history."

HSPVA Friends is and will remain a grassroots effort. The vast majority of our donors give at or below the \$50 level, and that is our strength. That breadth of support allows the HSPVA faculty to depend on us for financial and volunteer resources year after year. With only three staff members, HSPVA Friends counts on more than 200 parent and alumni volunteers. Their gifts of time keep our operating expenses stable so that a higher percentage of each gift goes straight to HSPVA programs.

Thank you for your support of public arts education! We pledge to continue increasing opportunities for current and future students. I look forward to seeing you in the audience in 2018.

Alene Haehl Coggin

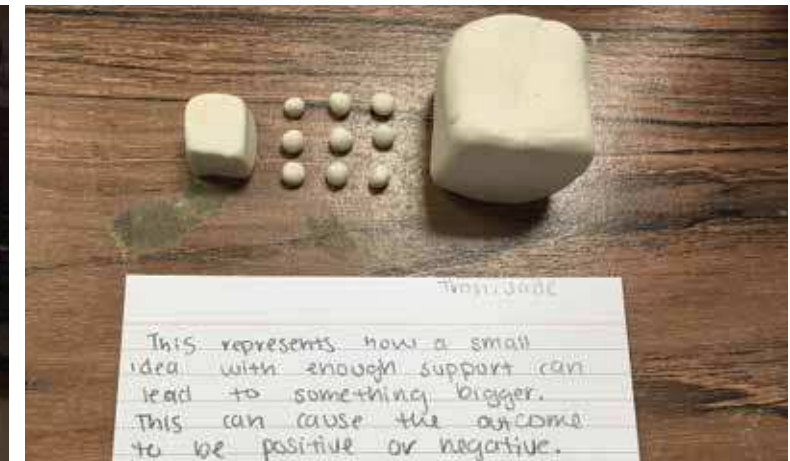
Alene Haehl Coggin ('05)
Executive Director, HSPVA Friends



HSPVA Principal Dr. R. Scott Allen, Executive Director Alene Haehl Coggin, and HSPVA Friends Board of Directors Chair Bob Boblitt.



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THE ART OF ACADEMICS MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EDUCATION LINKS STUDENTS FROM EVERY ART AREA

It's not even 8:00am, but HSPVA's English II classroom is pulsing with activity. The desks are gone, and 28 sophomores are stomping the Juba dance into the linoleum floor. Guest artist Jennifer Mabus is visiting to teach a unique lesson plan: Dance as Protest. The musicians, writers, designers, actors, visual artists and, yes, a few dancers thump on the floor and thump on their bodies. They drop as Ms. Mabus explains the purpose of their thumping movement. "When cultures try to dominate each other, they take away each other's art. During colonialism, enslavers took away the drums of the enslaved." And so the class has reclaimed those drums with their bodies. They get up again, now that they better understand what they're doing, and the room resonates.

From the very beginning, The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts integrated exceptional academic studies with its arts curriculum. HSPVA's founder, Ruth Denney, directed art and academic teachers to work together to find natural connections between their fields. Forty-six years later, teacher Gabriela Diaz embraces that value in her English II course, where literature has expanded to become World Humanities. The course tackles an overarching thematic question inherent to HSPVA: What does it mean to be human? "I challenge our artists to find the commonalities in the human artistic experience," says Ms. Diaz. "With intellectual rigor, ethical reflection, and emotional engagement, we can create empathetic citizens as well as stronger readers and writers."

Ms. Mabus gently asks everyone to sit, and the students become aware of the energy they have created with their movement. She turns off the lights and projects "Strange Fruit," a dance choreographed by Pearl Primus in 1943. The dance accompanies the spoken poem by Abel Meeropol, but it is best known for accompanying the

haunting notes of Billie Holiday. Students begin to unwrap the piece to discover a brave message, a war cry from the arts, about lynching in America.

Ms. Diaz has a track record of pushing her students outside their comfort zones. In 2016, her classes engaged Dr. Alexander Byrd from Rice University's History Department in a conversation that confronted old images, shocking statistics, and new videos to expose both the roots and the repercussions of the lynch mob in America. Acclaimed sculptor and Visual Arts Department faculty member Tim Glover also taught students to analyze memorials and monuments as the class explored how art helps people to heal. The students discussed the importance of symbolism, composition, space, light, and materials before sculpting small memorials themselves using clay and drawing inspiration from either *Schindler's List* or *Lord of the Flies*. These exercises helped them to see parallels between the ways literature, film, and sculpture portray themes in order to engage society.

Today, the class is interpreting Harper Lee's messages in *To Kill a Mockingbird* using the basic dance theories they've learned from Ms. Mabus. Splitting into groups, the students choreograph short pieces of dance and then weave them all together as a class. "Ms. Mabus explained how a dance phrase represents a cause in the same way Harper Lee used her own work to represent a cause," reflected Kendall Zwang, who participated in the first Dance as Protest lesson. "The arts and classroom learning go hand-in-hand, and when integrated together, it helps us as students better understand what we are learning in both."

YOUR LEGACY. HOUSTON'S FUTURE.

KINDER HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS PREMIERING SOON IN DOWNTOWN HOUSTON



BUILD THE **Extraordinary** THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW HSPVA

The HSPVA community's dream of a new campus is becoming a reality! The campus is located at 790 Austin Street and is scheduled to open in the 2018-2019 school year. To ensure a margin of excellence from day one in the new facility, HSPVA Friends has committed to raising \$10 million to bridge the gap between the HISD bond funding and HSPVA's specific needs.

The campaign has already raised more than \$8.4 million, and we need your help to meet our \$10-million goal!

As a donor, your gift will complete art area classrooms and rehearsal spaces, four performance venues, including the Denney Theatre, and multiple indoor and outdoor common areas. It will provide school-wide audio and visual equipment, a

repair and replacement fund, and a curriculum endowment to ensure excellent, innovative educational programming. HISD is making this long-awaited move a reality, but they need our help to provide the custom features that make HSPVA a functional school for the arts.

To help us commemorate the generous contributions from HSPVA alumni, families, and members of the greater Houston community, sculptors Patrick Renner (Visual Arts '00) and Kelly O'Brien are creating two unique donor recognition installations for the new campus. We are thrilled to partner with local artists who have a deep appreciation for the HSPVA experience to celebrate the community's involvement. Renderings are available online, and recognition begins at just \$100.

For more information on the new campus, visit www.hspvafriends.org/downtown. Together, HISD and the Build the Extraordinary capital campaign will address the school's long-term academic and artistic needs by bringing this state-of-the-art magnet school to fruition.

An Extraordinary Lead Gift

The Kinder Foundation, a supporter of HSPVA Friends since 2008, has contributed a lead gift of \$7.5 million toward the Build the Extraordinary capital campaign. In recognition of the Kinder Foundation's historic investment and in accordance with HISD policy, upon opening downtown the school will be named the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, or Kinder HSPVA.

Watch the construction progress live!

<http://app.oxblue.com/open/mccarthy/HISD>

We are very grateful to the Kinder Foundation and the HSPVA Friends Board of Directors for making our dreams come true.

- Pat Bonner,
Vocal Department



As a proud HSPVA alumna, it is an honor to give back to this magical place that gave me so much.

-Chandra Wilson (Theatre '87),
Honorary Campaign Chair



ART AREA

HIGHLIGHTS

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT EMPHASIZES SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Ask any of the art area teachers at HSPVA how to make a huge impact in the lives of students, and summer programs will be high on their list. When students participate in pre-college summer programs, they are exposed to new ideas and techniques from leading professionals in their field. Students return to HSPVA recharged, with a new outlook on their work and their post-graduation plans. They share their ideas with other students, and the whole department benefits from this new momentum. Summer programs also give students the opportunity to experience college life in a dorm and to figure out if an art school or conservatory is the right choice for them.

The Visual Arts Department is leading HSPVA Friends' effort to increase students' access to these prestigious opportunities by making summer program scholarships available to any junior who applies. As a result, during the summer of 2017, 75% of Visual Arts juniors participated in at least one summer program. Juniors win the scholarships by participating in a gallery show evaluated by professional artists and curators.



ILONA ALTMAN – UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S STAMPS SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM
HSPVA Art Guild Summer Program Scholarship

"I don't know if I would have ever had the confidence to call myself an artist without attending HSPVA. I know that I would not have been as passionate about the world. Through my drawing classes I really learned how to look deeply at the world around me. Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to attend a summer program. I am so thankful for HSPVA Friends."

BEATRICE MAYADAS – MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM
Watercolor Art Society–Houston Summer Program Scholarship

"Thank you very much for providing the means for me to continue my art studies and the advancement of my body of work. The classes I took will be instrumental in my growth as an artist. I am looking forward to using my design class to help develop my current illustrations as well as to see how I can merge this with my sculptural works."



LIMELIGHT: A NEW VOCAL TRADITION

The Vocal Department has stepped outside of the Denney Theatre and into the Commons for its biannual Limelight concerts! Open to vocalists of every grade level, students must audition to perform pop, rock, Broadway, jazz, R&B, country, or even original pieces they've written themselves. Soloists and small ensembles are welcome, and many of the singers collaborate with students in other art areas for accompaniment. The result is a concert evening that delivers thrill after thrill, as audiences never know what they'll be treated to next! The atmosphere is electric and communal, like a jazz club. Before and after their individual performances, vocalists mingle with the guests, joining them for complimentary coffee and gourmet desserts. Other students pack the double staircase to cheer on their friends. Though the venue is casual, the performances are anything but! So far, Limelight concerts have featured ukulele duets, fresh takes on classic hits, audience sing-alongs, and plenty of standing ovations! The next Limelight Concert is February 9, 2018.



Annalisa Tomicic (Vocal '20)



Daniel Boyd (Vocal '19)



Christian Burgs (Jazz '17) and Nick Vyner (Vocal '18)



Chase Duffin ('16)



Alejandra Blanco ('16)

SPOTLIGHT ON MARIACHI

Good luck finding a seat in the Mariachi concerts during Spaghetti Supper! HSPVA's Mariachi ensembles are the ultimate crowd pleasers. During school days, their musicality floods the hallways. Audiences at community gigs have been known to get up and dance... while the group is still warming up! And, if Mariachi Director William Hoffman meets his goals, this program is only going to get louder.

The HSPVA Music Departments established the Mariachi program more than 15 years ago. Over the past five years, the popularity of the advanced performing group, Mariachi Los Pasajeros, has led to increased enrollment and the creation of an intermediate ensemble, Mariachi Nuevo Jalisco. These ensembles consist of many instruments: violin, trumpet, vihuela, guitar, guitarra de golpe, guitarron, and arpa jalisciense. All the students are also asked to sing.

"Traditionally, mariachi musicians are highly trained," explains Mr. Hoffman. "One of my goals is to break the negative stereotype that mariachi music is uncontrolled. Our violinists don't play differently than orchestral musicians, for example. We simply interpret the music in a different way. It's a different style, but not a different technique."

Along with their mariachi courses, Mr. Hoffman's students take music history and theory classes with other Music Department students as well as an elective, such as piano or choir. "In my opinion, mariachi is one of the best integrators of all the performing arts. There is a visual element in our performances that is reminiscent of dance and theatre. HSPVA is in a great position to be the model for mariachi education in the city. We can encourage it. We can push the boundaries of what music education programs include."

Other goals are contingent on financial resources. Donors to HSPVA Friends have provided a new guitarron, vihuela, and sound equipment, as well as beautiful new costumes that are better aligned to industry standards. With more classroom space and additional teaching personnel, HSPVA could accept more students into the program, create a third ensemble specifically designed to introduce students to mariachi style and customs, and allow other HSPVA music students to take mariachi as an elective.

Mr. Hoffman attributes the recent growth of the program not only to its students' successes but also to their participation in Houston community events. That legacy is carried on by alumni who continue to perform in the Houston area at a professional level. Several recent Mariachi graduates are continuing their music studies in college. Guitarist Chase Duffin ('16) currently attends UTSA, majoring in Vocal Performance with an emphasis on mariachi education. With alumni like that, the mariachi tradition will continue to thrive.

ANDREW WHITE AND FAREENA AREFEEN: HOUSTON'S FIRST YOUTH POET LAUREATES

HSPVA boasts Houston's first two Youth Poet Laureates: Andrew White (Creative Writing '16) in 2016 and Fareena Arefeen (Creative Writing '18) in 2017. Through a selection process led by Writers in the Schools (WITS) and the Houston Public Library, Andrew was chosen by Mayor Annise Parker and Fareena by Mayor Sylvester Turner to represent Houston with their powerful voices, leadership skills, and love of our city. As Youth Poet Laureates, Andrew and Fareena each received a book deal to publish a collection of poems, a scholarship, and a mentorship from Houston Poet Laureate Dr. Robin Davidson.

Andrew and Fareena exemplify HSPVA's partnerships with the Houston arts community and the diverse communities HSPVA draws from. While he was an HSPVA student, Andrew took playwriting and spoken word classes at the Alley Theatre and was a founding member of the Museum of Fine Arts' Houston Art for the New Generation (HANG) teen leadership group and the WITS Youth Advisory Council. He is currently studying writing at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Fareena is a first-generation American, known around HSPVA for her kindness, eloquence, impressive knowledge of punk rock music, and stunningly imaginative poetry. "I was always struggling to find my place, to feel a sense of community," Fareena told the audience at the annual WITS gala. "I love the way that words bridge people from all different walks of life. It provides a place where all of us—you and me—can meet and learn and grow. I could write about being a young Bengali woman, and part of my story would resonate with part of someone else's story and on and on. I want to tell other immigrants, like me, that their stories matter. I want to tell LGBTQ youth that their stories matter. I want to tell children living in poverty that their stories matter."



ART AREA

HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED



GRACE IN MOTION: A MULTI-GENERATIONAL DANCE PARTNERSHIP

In 2015 and 2016, the Dance Department teamed up with Hope Stone, Inc. for an exciting new outreach partnership: Grace in Motion. For eleven weeks, HSPVA dancers worked with members of the Brookdale Senior Living community to explore movement styles, including line dancing, Vogue-ing, the waltz, folk dance, and hip hop. Hope Stone founder Jane Weiner and HSPVA alumna Lauren Perrone Bay (Dance '00) then brought the young and old groups together to create duets that eventually became a unique work titled *save me the waltz*. The piece was performed at Brookdale Senior Living Solutions and in the HSPVA Denney Theatre.

Reflecting on the course, HSPVA Dance Chair Janie Carothers (Dance '84) said, "This creative process developed through the interaction of the young pre-professional dancers at HSPVA and the Brookdale Senior Living residents each week has brought a sense of compassion, giving, and an understanding of how the arts and dance can reach many people in our community. It is clear that this multi-generational project impacted all of the participants' lives—as dancers, as artists, and as humans."

"Grace in Motion gave me a new perspective by emphasizing that dance is not just meant to look pretty. It is meant to motivate and inspire. I'm grateful for the opportunity to dance in this new way, allowing me to reevaluate my goal in life to bring joy through dance," shared Madeleine Spence (Dance '18).



STUDIO SERIES: TRAINING FOR A FUTURE IN THEATRE

The HSPVA Theatre Department strives to give students a diverse foundation of rigorous theatrical training by exposing them to the whole art form. After surveying all areas of the theatre in their first two years at HSPVA, upperclassmen know that talent must be supported with work ethic, compassion, integrity, humility, and a sense of humor. To that end, over the last few years the Theatre Department has increased its focus on the Red and Grey Studio Series.

The Studio Series originates from a course called "Making a Pitch." All Theatre upperclassmen—in acting, musical theatre, or design—pitch a show concept to the theatre faculty who act as producers, choosing two or three concepts each semester to fund. The pitch can be based on a script the student wrote, a piece the student feels is undervalued, or a new spin on a classic. With the help of their classmates and a professional mentor from the local theatre community, the students whose pitches are selected oversee budgeting, casting, directing, and marketing their shows to a paying audience.

The Studio Series allows the department an outlet for more experimental pieces, perhaps with smaller casts or a high level of improvisation. Studio Series pieces have ranged from original children's theatre touring local elementary schools to avant-garde explorations of current social issues.

Acting teacher Matt Hune (Theatre '03) explains, "The Studio Series gives students the experience of, what I believe to be, the heart of American theatre. Most Broadway and regional productions start in small studio theaters around the country. It is a place where new and exciting work is developed, in an environment that encourages risk-taking. Most theatre in this country is that: small, scrappy, life-changing, and full of heart. The students at HSPVA are lucky; this gives them the skills to take on multiple roles within the art and business of theatre. It also pushes them to find that spark in themselves—the reason they want to go into theatre."

In the 2016-2017 school year, the Studio Series featured *King Lear*, *Smokefall*, *Hair*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The response is undeniable. Studio Series shows are selling out weeks in advance, and college representatives tell the faculty that HSPVA's Theatre graduates have never been stronger. The next Studio Series runs April 24-26, 2018.



Photos by Elena Margolin (Theatre '18)

HSPVA FRIENDS PRESENTS
The 11th Annual Encore Luncheon



Benefiting the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts



HSPVA Friends hosted its 11th annual Encore Luncheon—*Laughing Matters*—on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Each year, the Encore Luncheon honors an alum who has achieved extraordinary success. This year, over 300 guests celebrated the life of 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Harris Wittels (Theatre '02), who passed away in 2015. Wittels achieved great success as a comedian, writer, producer, and musician, all before the age of 30. He received two posthumous Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Comedy Series for his work on *Parks and Recreation* (2015) and *Master of None* (2016). Wittels was also a writer for *The Sarah Silverman Program* and *Eastbound and Down* and a regular guest on the popular podcast *Comedy Bang! Bang!* Perhaps his most lasting work is coining the term "humblebrag," which led to his 2012 book, *Humblebrag: The Art of False Modesty*.

Event Chairs Joan and Craig Murrin and Kate Murrin-Springer (Theatre '02) chose a stellar lineup to honor Wittels's comedy career! River Oaks Country Club was transformed into the set of a late-night show, hosted by seniors

Isabella Jarosz and Hank Funderburk, featuring an HSPVA big band and an uproarious performance by Musical Theatre and Dance students.

Special guests actor Adam Scott (*Parks and Recreation*) and Earwolf Podcast Network co-founders Jeff Ullrich and Scott Aukerman (*Comedy Bang! Bang!*) gave a moving and hilarious tribute to Wittels. They shared anecdotes about Wittels as a friend and coworker, including the joke he wrote for Barack Obama to deliver in his appearance on *Between Two Ferns with Zach Galifianakis*. Not many comedians get to write jokes for the President of the United States!

A highlight of the luncheon was the live auction prize: a tour of the *Grey's Anatomy* set and lunch with another HSPVA Distinguished Alumna, Chandra Wilson (Theatre '87). Determined bidders raised an additional \$20,000 for HSPVA Friends! Aukerman, Scott, and Ullrich also stopped by HSPVA to share candid words of wisdom with current students.



- 1 Jeff Ullrich, Maureen Wittels, Adam Scott, Ellison Wittels, Scott Aukerman, Stephanie Wittels Wachs, and Michael Wachs
- 2 Nirja and Jay Aiyer
- 3 Jim and Jo Furr
- 4 Luncheon Chairs Kate Springer, Craig Murrin, and Joan Murrin
- 5 Scott Allen (HSPVA Principal) and Anna Eastman
- 6 Philip Paratore, George Lancaster, and Claudia Kreisle
- 7 Alene Coggin (HSPVA Friends Executive Director) and Barry Mandel
- 8 Gayle and Bob Eury
- 9 Wanda Adams (HISD Board President), Austin Thomas, and Susan Elmore

SAVE THE DATE! THE 2018 ENCORE LUNCHEON IS MARCH 2!
HONORING HSPVA'S 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST
SUSAN CHOI (THEATRE '86)

Community News

CURRENT FACULTY/STUDENTS:

HSPVA Girls Chorus, directed by **Julia Hall** (Vocal '77), performed at the Texas Music Educators Association annual conference in February 2017. Out of 137 submissions, only ten ensembles were selected for this prestigious honor.

HSPVA's 2016-2017 All-School Musical *Urinetown* was nominated for eight Tommy Tune Awards, including Best Supporting Actress (**Savanna Menzel**, Theatre '19) and Best Featured Actress (**Alexis Perry**, Vocal '17).

Theatre Department Chair **Paul Davis** and Creative Writing Department Chair **Judith Switek** were selected as Fund for Teachers Fellows. This summer, they explored the art and cultural history of Bali and Australia's Darwin Festival.

Jordan Oakley (Theatre '18) won Princeton University's Ten-Minute Play Contest for her play *Three Months*.

Eka Savajol (Creative Writing '20) won the slam poetry contest at the Alley Theatre in November 2016.

ALUMNI OF THE 00S:

Alexandria DeWalt (Instrumental '17) performed in the 2017 GRAMMY High School Jazz Choir.

Elle Cox (Visual '17) was named one of 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts for 2017. Visual Arts Department Chair **David Waddell** (Visual '99) traveled to Washington D.C. with Elle and was named a 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Distinguished Teacher.

Jazz pianist **James Francies** (Instrumental '13) signed with Blue Note Records, one of the most prolific jazz music labels in the world.

Wiley DeWeese (Instrumental '10) made his Broadway debut conducting the orchestra of *Amélie*.

Ashley Mayeux (Dance '07) joined the company of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Dylan Conner (Visual '07) installed a new sculpture, "Firefly Field," in Woodland Park, Houston's second oldest park.

Cameron Ross's (Theatre '06) short film *Black Movie Night* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and the Next International Film Festival Houston.

Justin Prescott (Dance '06) received the coveted Gypsy Robe on Broadway. The Gypsy Robe is presented to the "Gypsy" who has performed in the most Broadway musicals on a chorus contract.

Jarvis B. Manning, Jr. (Vocal '05) made his Broadway debut in *Motown the Musical* at the Nederlander Theatre. Jarvis and **Jared Joseph** (Theatre '05) recently appeared in the world premiere of *Ain't Too Proud: The Temptations Musical* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

Joanna Hubbard (Theatre '05) and **Clara Marsh** (Theatre '17) played to rave reviews in *The Last Wife* at Houston's Main Street Theater.

Nneka Okafor (Theatre '04) is currently starring in *Too Heavy for your Pocket* Off-Broadway.

Cellist **Seth Parker Woods** (Instrumental '03) was featured in *Strings Magazine*.

Elle Johnson (Theatre '03) and **Dime Davis's** (Theatre '04) short film *Sugar* premiered at the Museum of Fine Arts' Houston Cinema Arts Festival.

Jamire Williams (Instrumental '02) released his solo percussion album, *EFFEKTUAL*.

Matt Mullenweg (Instrumental '02) was one of five recipients of a 2016 Heinz Award. He was also named one of *Fortune Magazine's* 40 Under 40.

Justin Simien's (Theatre '01) new Netflix series *Dear White People*, based on his film of the same name, premiered to critical acclaim. Netflix recently renewed the show for a second season.

ALUMNI OF THE 90S:

Stephanie Wittels Wachs (Theatre '99) and **Matt Hune** (Theatre '03) opened Rec Room, a recreational performance space for experimental theatrical events and workshops. Their recent production of *The Dead Rockstar Sing-a-Long Club*, featured **Daleton Lee** (Instrumental '99), **Mahogane Medlock** (Vocal '09), **Wesley Whitson** (Theatre '13), and **Nathan Richardson** (Theatre '17).

Walter Smith, III (Instrumental '98) was appointed to the faculty of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music as Associate Professor of Jazz Studies.

Kendrick Scott (Instrumental '98) released his album, *We Are the Drum*.

Robert Hodge's (Visual '98) latest collaborative exhibit "Two & 1/2 Years: A Visual Celebration to the Spirit of Juneteenth" premiered at the Galveston Arts Center.

Mike Moreno (Instrumental '97) released his fifth album, *Lotus*.

Robert Glasper (Instrumental '97) won the 2017 GRAMMY Award for Best Soundtrack Compilation for *Miles Ahead* and the 2017 Emmy Award for Outstanding Original Music and Lyrics (with Common and Karriem Riggins) for "Letter to the Free" from the documentary *13th*.

Mekeva McNeil (Theatre '96) joined the HSPVA Theatre faculty.

Rachelle Mendez (Theatre '94) won the 2017 Emmy Award for Outstanding Informational Series or Special as the Co-Executive Producer of *Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath* on A&E.

Anne Bates (Theatre '94) completed an Off-Broadway run in *The Effect* at the Barrow Street Theatre.

Kimberly Hebert Gregory (Theatre '92) co-stars in the HBO comedy *Vice Principals*, as well as in *Kevin (Probably) Saves the World* on ABC.

ALUMNI OF THE 80S:

Chandra Wilson (Theatre '87), Emmy Award-winning actor, director, and producer, was inducted into the Texas Film Hall of Fame.

Brad Rushing (Visual '83) was the director of photography and an associate producer for the award-winning short film *Pony*.

K. Todd Freeman (Theatre '83) is Mr. Poe in *A Series of Unfortunate Events* on Netflix.

Dr. Simon Rowe (Instrumental '80) and **Jason Hainsworth** (Instrumental '92) head up San Francisco Conservatory of Music's newly launched Roots, Jazz, and American Music bachelor's degree program. **Christian Burgs** (Instrumental '17) is a student in the first class.

ALUMNI OF THE 70S:

Barry Coffing (Vocal '79) is the founder and owner of Springboard South, a Houston summer music festival. This summer marked the sixth year of the festival.

Mark Seliger (Media '77) released his new book, *On Christopher Street: Transgender Stories*.

Tracy Shayne née Tracy Schwartz (Dance '76) was in the short film *How You Look at It*, which has appeared in eight film festivals.

RETIREMENTS

Cyndy Ogden
Theatre Department Chair

Mrs. Ogden retired in 2017 after 13 years nurturing creativity and independent thought in the HSPVA Theatre Department.

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Pierce Brumback (Theatre '74)

Ricky Estrada (Media '74)

Stewart Hartsfield (Visual '78)

Mary Catherine Farias (Vocal '82)

Claire Loe (Media '82)

Frankie Renee Sherrard (Vocal '82)

Peggy Brando Zepeda (Media '82)

Melony McGhee (Vocal '84)

Sebastian Whittaker (Instrumental '85)

Hayden Fosdick (Visual '03)

John Brooks (Media Faculty)

Donna Cameron (Dance Faculty)

Harold McManus (Math Faculty)

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Each year, HSPVA Friends volunteers contribute countless hours and resources to their respective departments and to the school as a whole. Thank you!

GUILDS

The Art Guild, The Creative Writing Guild, The Instrumental Guild, and The Theatre Guild are dynamic parent volunteer groups that bring art area families together. Combined, the four Guilds managed more than \$180,000 on behalf of their art areas during the 2016-2017 school year. As a result, HSPVA students had access to special trips, new equipment, inspiring guest artists, and exclusive opportunities for college auditions and portfolio reviews.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Our annual Middle School Workshops provide opportunities for students in grades 6-8 to participate in classes taught by HSPVA upper-classmen. While participation has no effect on a student's application to HSPVA, the workshops provide excellent educational opportunities and unique introductions to the HSPVA campus. Visit www.hspvafriends.org for more information on upcoming Middle School Workshops.



Middle school students take a theatre class led by HSPVA students.



45TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER SETS FUNDRAISING RECORD

HSPVA's longest-running fundraiser, the Music Departments' annual Spaghetti Supper, was brought under the HSPVA Friends umbrella in 2015. Thanks to dozens of exceptional volunteers and lead corporate sponsors Russo's New York Pizzeria and Salata, the 45th Annual Spaghetti Supper grossed more than \$45,000—a new record!

2017-2018 HSPVA Friends Community Events

OCTOBER 19 – 46th Annual Spaghetti Supper

OCTOBER 28 – Creative Writing Middle School Workshop

OCTOBER 28 – Vocal Middle School Workshop

NOVEMBER 4 – Piano Middle School Workshop

NOVEMBER 4 – Visual Arts Middle School Workshop

NOVEMBER 11 – Dance Middle School Workshop

NOVEMBER 11 – Band, Jazz, Mariachi, and Strings Middle School Workshops

DECEMBER 2 – Theatre Middle School Workshop

DECEMBER 2 – Visual Arts Middle School Workshop

MARCH 24 – Theatre Guild Gala

APRIL 7 – Art Guild Print Show

All proceeds benefit HSPVA programs. Visit www.hspvafriends.org for more information!

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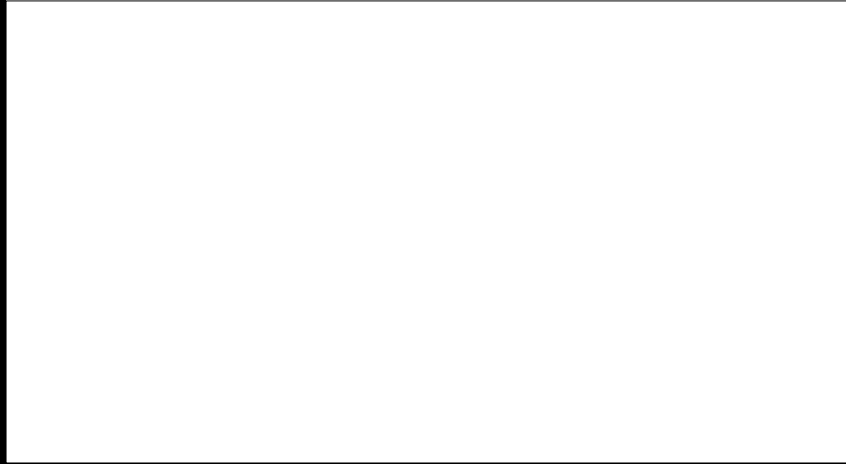
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Congratulations, Madrigal Singers!

The HSPVA Madrigal Singers became the first group from an HISD campus to win the 2016 San Antonio Madrigal and Chamber Choir Festival (SAMCCF) and to be named Honor Choir, which gave them the featured performance at the 2017 festival. The SAMCCF is the most prestigious choral competition in Texas, and high schools in the running to win this competition are considered among the best in the nation. Vocal Department teachers Shannon Carter, Julia Hall, and Pat Bonner agree that the entire ensemble earned this achievement through months of hard work. They competed against 41 choirs from across Texas and presented a program of the highest possible artistic standard. Congratulations, Vocal Music Department.

HSPVA Friends Mission

The mission of HSPVA Friends, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is to cultivate support and appreciation for The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts locally, nationally, and internationally in order to enhance educational, professional, and artistic opportunities for current and future

students of HSPVA. Each year, HSPVA Friends provides critical art area support and school-wide programs, as well as college and summer program scholarships. For more information, visit www.hspvafriends.org.