



2020 All-School Showcase, Thomas Mohr Photography

Dear Families and Friends,

For weeks now, I have been reminding people that it is the work of the artist that helps people pull through tough times. Some art gives us joy, and some art inspires us to take action. Some art reminds us that we're not alone in our anger or our despair and some art just takes us somewhere else for a while. (And these days, wouldn't we all like to go somewhere else for a little while?)

Now, more than ever, we need to work of the artist. While the end of the school year at The Academy isn't at all what we thought it would be just three months ago, I am happy to report that our community is rising to the challenge all organizations are facing right now.

When the COVID-19 crisis broke in Chicago, the faculty and staff pivoted to remote teaching and learning in a matter of days. Like schools everywhere, our academic courses began meeting virtually. Excitingly, however, our arts departments took on the challenge as well: private lessons are being taught on Zoom, dance classes are being livestreamed, and workshops and remote collaborations continue across the departments. Performances and exhibits haven't ceased either: each Friday night through May 15 we're livestreaming coffeehouse performances featuring students, faculty, and alums (see below for the links to watch), and work from across the school will be presented virtually throughout the next month.

We hope that you were able to attend our Art Matters Virtual Benefit last week. While we couldn't have an in-person Gala this year, we're deeply thankful so many of you tuned in to our virtual event and supported The Academy. See below for more Gala highlights.

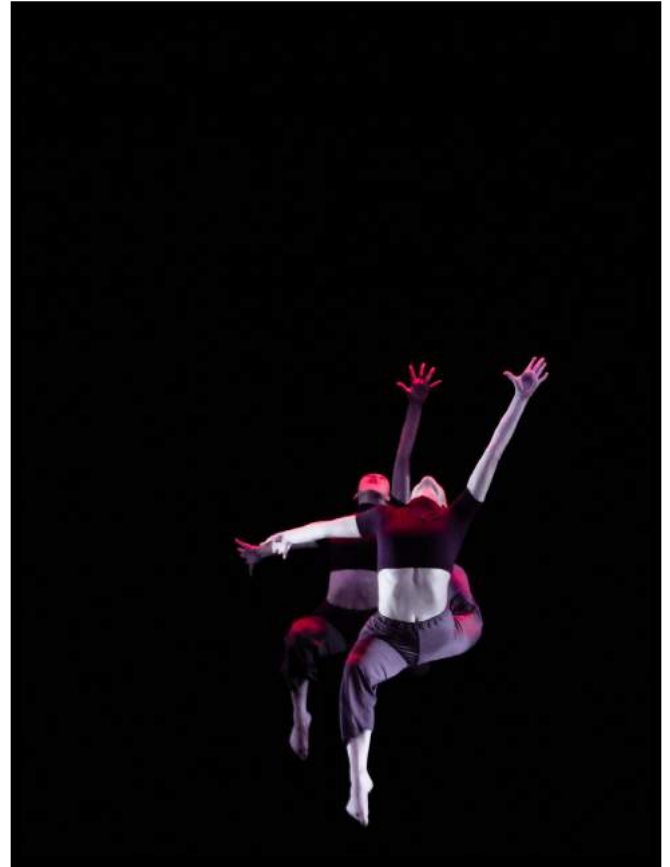
On behalf of the entire Chicago Academy for the Arts community, I'm wishing you health and comfort in the weeks ahead.

Jason Patera
Head of School

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Senior-Choreographed Dance Concert





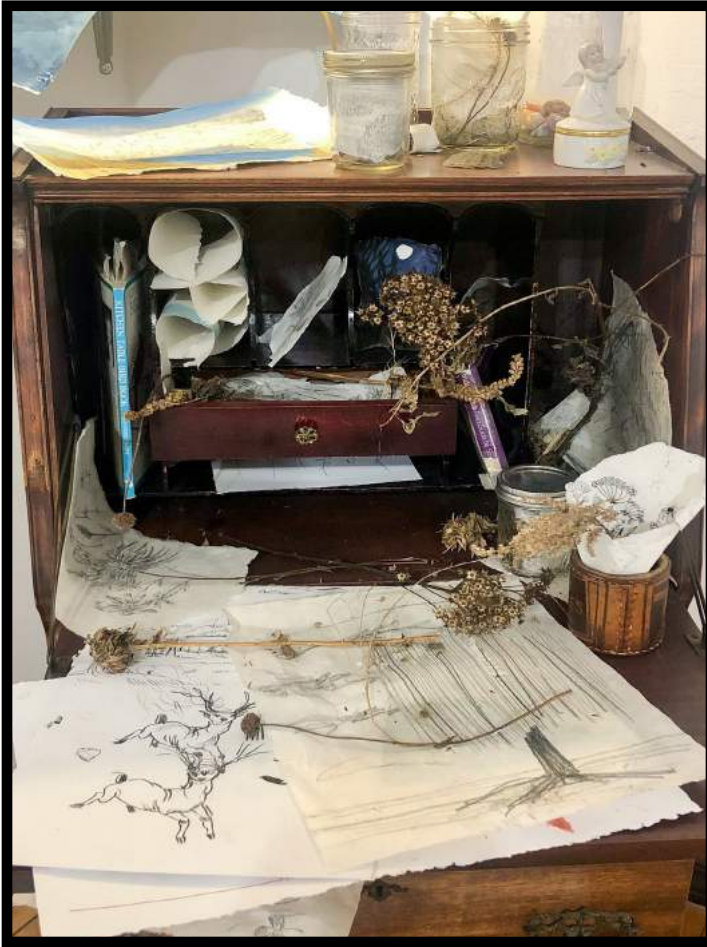
Shakespeare Festival: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



Shakespeare Festival: *Macbeth*



Visual Arts Winter Juried Exhibition



The Marriage of Figaro

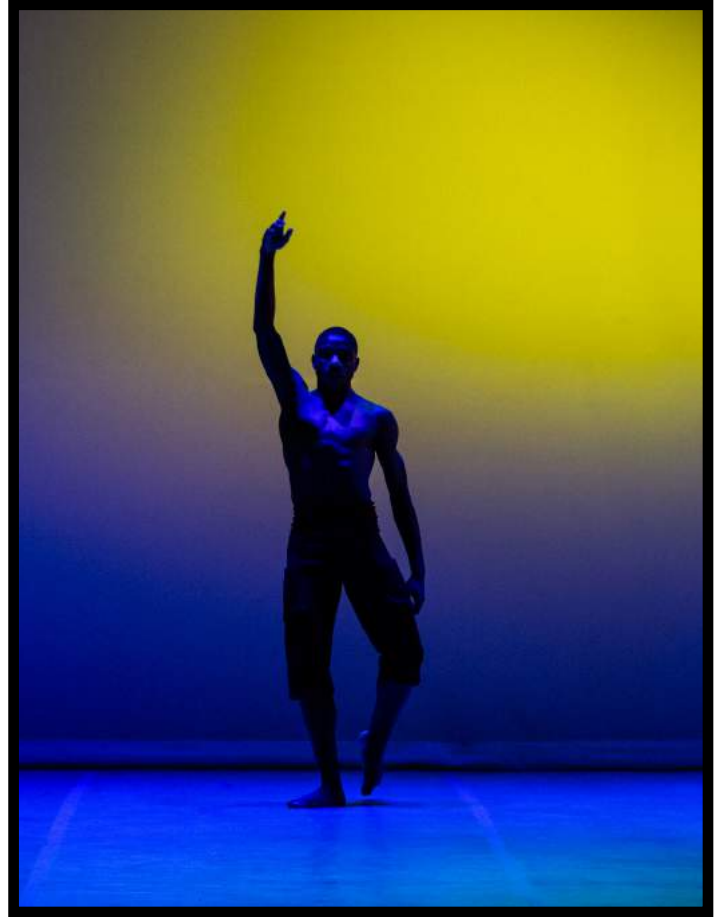


Black History Month Assembly



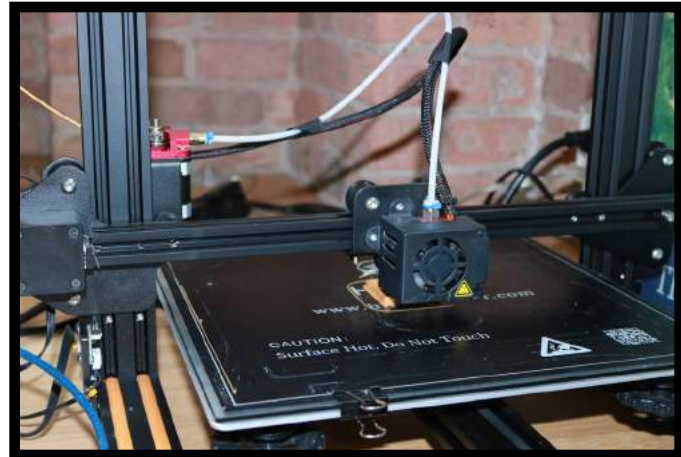
All-School Showcase 2020





Math & Science Faculty Print 3D PPE

Alex Cassidy and Rita Dawod (Math & Science faculty) are working hard to 3D print face masks, ear savers, and face shields to donate to hospitals that are in need of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic!



Quarantine Film Recommendations



Media Arts Department Chair Jessi Meliza and Media Arts faculty Sneza Zabic and Sarah Hiatt recommend some films to watch while in quarantine! Enjoy.



[View Article Here](#)

Jazz Appreciation Month Lectures

Head of School Jason Patera is livestreamed discussions about important jazz albums during Jazz Appreciation Month. See below for talks about Benny Goodman and Ella Fitzgerald.

[View Benny Goodman Lecture Here](#)

[View Ella Fitzgerald Lecture Here](#)



Art Matters Virtual Benefit

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a part of our 2020 Art Matters Virtual Benefit on Saturday, May 2nd.

From our students' incredible performances, to [honoring Chicago arts icon Sarah Solotaroff Mirkin](#), to Justin Tranter's surprise text cameo at the end of the night, it was an event that we'll never forget!

We know you're eager to watch the performances again, so [click here to see the program from Saturday](#). We updated the program to include links to all of the performances and videos. Enjoy!

The Academy relies on nearly \$1 million in gifts each year to bridge the gap between tuition revenue and operating costs, and our annual gala — obviously canceled this year — typically accounts for nearly half of that. Eager to help in these uncertain times, Trustee Patty Hunt and her husband Ken generously offered to match others' donations that evening, up to \$150,000. This display of leadership and support inspired our community to give, and we raised more than \$360,000 — exceeding our goal — thanks to donors like you and Patty and Ken. Thank you Patty and Ken for your extraordinary support.

The success of an event of this magnitude and complexity — especially in the context of an international crisis — relies heavily on a small army of tirelessly committed people. We're deeply thankful to our Art Matters Virtual Benefit co-chairs Nora Fleming and Marina Claudio, the entire Virtual Benefit committee, our Board of Trustees (including Trustee Carlos Claudio for his amazing [pre- and post-show DJ mix!](#)), our faculty and staff (including our heroic Benefit production crew), our students, families, volunteers, and YOU: our loyal donors, supporters, allies, and friends. The Academy changes lives every single day, and it wouldn't be possible without you.

With much gratitude,

Jason Patera
Head of School

Admissions for the 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Future Academy Parents and Students,

Your interest in The Chicago Academy for the Arts means you already know you love intricate science labs, dive into reading thought- and discussion-provoking novels, and revel in complex math problems just as much as you focus in dance rehearsals, laser in filming original pieces, and concentrate on doodling in your sketchbook. An Academy education is all about exposing you to what you are passionate about and exploring ideas and facts that inform academics and the arts, while building the foundation for whatever you decide to do next. Our recent graduates will attend schools like MICA, Juilliard, Princeton, and Stanford, continuing their education in a variety of fields, including computer programming, international relations, business, and of course, the arts.

While The Academy's building is closed, the school community is thriving remotely in a robust learning environment. We will coordinate virtual events so that you may learn more about The Academy and meet our students, parents, faculty and administrators. Please stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks or visit The Academy's Admission Calendar.

We are excited to learn more about you as a student and your family, and dedicated to ensuring that your admission process goes smoothly in light of this unprecedented time. Please reach out to Jessie Phelan or me any time.

Kind regards,

Kitsana Salyphone

Director of Enrollment Management

ksalyphone@chicagoartsacademy.org

Jessie Phelan

Senior Admissions Associate

jphelan@chicagoartsacademy.org



Enrollment for the 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Academy Families,

We are grateful that you value the unique high school experience that The Chicago Academy for the Arts offers to our students. We are committed to providing a foundation on which to build a lifetime of successes and connections, and thrilled to embark on another school year with you.

Recently, enrollment contracts for 2020-2021 were emailed with a deadline to submit the signed enrollment contract with non-refundable deposit by April 3rd. We are committed to supporting your family's enrollment for next year. Please reach out to Director of Enrollment Management Kitsana Salyphone at ksalyphone@chicagoartsacademy.org with questions about the enrollment contract or next year any time.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration, we are looking forward to returning to campus and sustaining the experience and level of excellence that we have been accustomed to in our community.

Kind regards,

Kitsana Salyphone

Director of Enrollment Management

ksalyphone@chicagoartsacademy.org



The Academy in the Media

Ethan Radaza (Music '23)
Featured in the Chicago SunTimes

"I always wanted to do music, but I always thought I would have to have another plan," Ethan said. "There would not be as much focus on music in high school and I would just have to deal with it, and practice on my own."

After attending two week-long summer sessions at the performing and visual arts high school, Ethan knew that he wanted to pursue his dream of studying music there full-time.

He endured the "big" audition process because arts are "as important as academics" at The Academy, he said. The teachers are invested in the students' artistic and academic success, he said.



*Ethan Radaza (Music '23)
James Foster/For the Sun-Times*

Read Full Article Here



*Ethan Radaza (Music '23) and Sarah Stevenson (Music '21)
James Foster/For the Sun-Times*

The Academy in the Media

Jason Patera on Comcast Newsmakers



[See Full Video Here](#)

Matthew Jazwinski (Musi '20)

Featured in DownBeat Magazine's Student Music Awards

Matthew Jazwinski (Music '20) is a winner of DownBeat Magazine's Student Music Awards! He has been acknowledged in the "Blues/Pop/Rock" category for high schools. Congratulations Matthew!

[Read Full List Of Winners Here](#)



The Academy in the Media

Jason Patera on WGN Radio



[**Listen to the Interview Here**](#)

Jason Patera on FOX32 Chicago



[**See Full Video Here**](#)

Virtual Coffee House

The Chicago
Academy for the Arts



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUSE PERFORMANCE

Fridays at 7:00 p.m. Live on YouTube.



Every Friday night at 7:00 p.m., join The Academy for our Virtual Coffee House performances! We stream live student and faculty performances for everyone in our community.

“Art is the highest form of hope.”

YouTube Coffee House Links:

April 24: View Show [Here](#)

May 1: View Show [Here](#)

May 8: Stream Show [Here](#)

May 15: Stream Show [Here](#)

Alumni Updates

Maisie Schloss (Visual Arts '09)

After graduating from The Academy in 2009, Maisie attended Parsons School of Design in New York City and began her career in the fashion industry. She interned for Opening Ceremony and worked in swimwear before making the big move to California to work for Kanye West's brand Yeezy. In just a few short years, she worked her way up from an assistant to head womenswear designer for the brand. She gained Kanye's attention not only for her work and talent, but also her own personal style. In 2018, he encouraged her to start her own label, offering her his support and seed funding. Maisie's label, Maisie Wilen (her mother's maiden name), quickly gained recognition from critics, style influencers, and celebrities.



You can see her in magazines including Vogue and W Magazine and gracing the Instagram pages of celebrities such as the entire Kardashian-Jenner family, Camila Mendes, and Rowan Blanchard. Her first collection can be purchased from one of 25 retailers including Opening Ceremony and Net-A-Porter. In 2019, she was named one of [Forbes 30 Under 30 for Arts & Style](#).

Alumni Updates

Heather Day (Visual Arts '08)

Heather Day received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art before moving to San Francisco “on a whim” to experience life on the West Coast. Her contemporary abstract expressionist style, along with her curated approach to social media, has quickly and steadily gained her a big following as well as patrons such as AirBnB, Facebook, YouTube, Google, JCrew, Warner Bros., SnapChat, DropBox, and the Chicago Philharmonic.



Her murals and large canvases have been shown in galleries in major cities around the United States and South Korea. In 2019, she worked with Facebook on a project that paired her painting process with augmented reality to create a large-scale installation with Facebook Camera in Facebook’s headquarters. Heather also has a solo exhibition at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art this year and a residency at the Vermont Studio Center.



Alumni Updates

Brittney Mack (Musical Theatre '08)

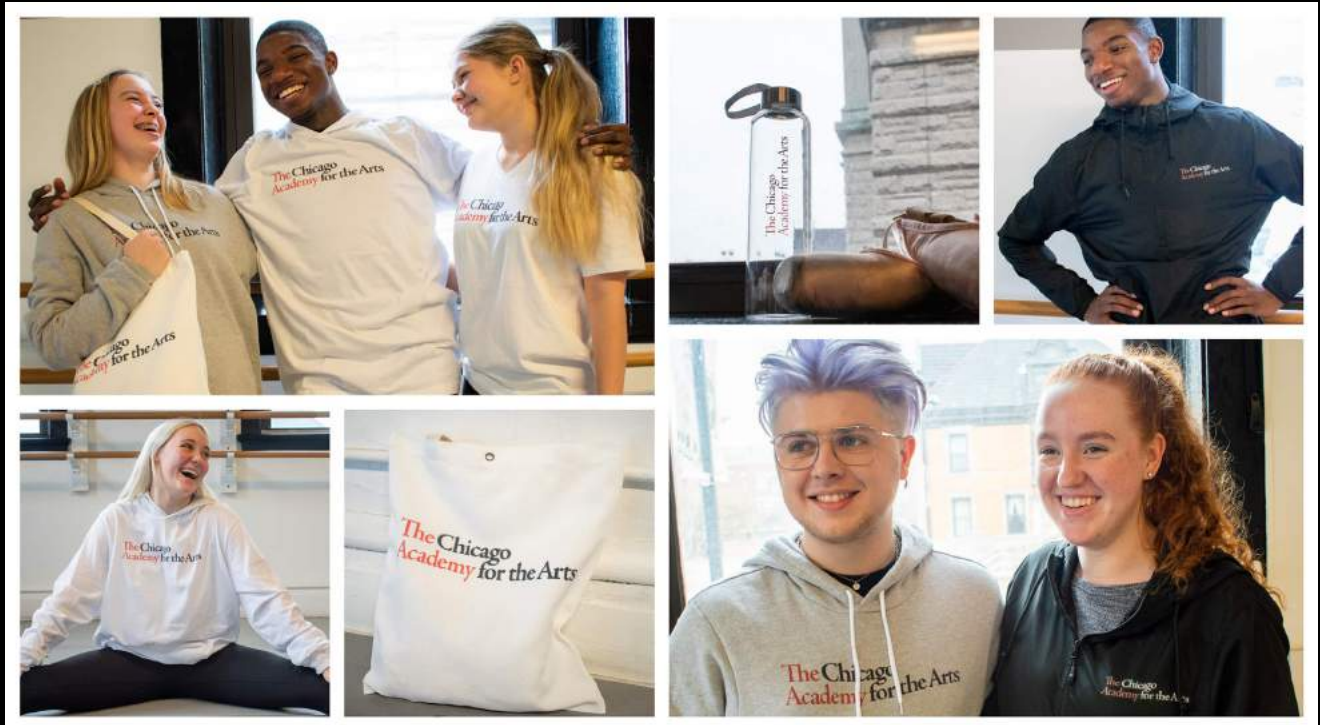


Flipping through a recent edition of *Vogue*, you may spot Musical Theatre alum Brittney Mack as she gears up for her Broadway debut as Anna of Cleves in *SIX*. Following her graduation from The Academy, Brittney has performed all across the United States including several regional tours, the national tour of *Memphis*, off-Broadway's *Black Nativity*, and a spot on Fox's *Empire*. Brittney landed this role of a lifetime by answering Chicago Shakespeare Theater's general call. Brittney worked closely with creators to make sure Anna of Cleves came to life on stage and it has obviously worked. The North American premiere of *SIX* in Chicago

was met with rave reviews and will soon make its way to Broadway. Don't miss Brittney as she sings Anna's anthem "Get Down" at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre in NYC.



Academy Merch & Apparel



Academy Merch and Apparel!

Chicago Academy for the Arts merch and apparel — just in time for the graduation season! All items are ordered online and shipped directly to you.

A portion of the proceeds go directly to The Academy.

Order today and show your Academy spirit!

[Order Here](#)

Follow Us!

Be sure to follow The Academy on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)!

We use the hashtags **#SmartArtistsSmartArt**, **#ArtMatters**, and **#CAArts**

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