

**Sands College of Performing Arts
Commencement Awards Ceremony
Class of 2026**



Friday, May 15, 2026

5:00 p.m.

Student Center, One Pace Plaza

New York City Campus

Vision

Sands College is a center for rigorous and responsive professional training for the stage, film, television, and media arts. Our world-renowned faculty ensures that our diverse and talented students have the artistic skills, intellectual sustenance, creative opportunities, and practical training. We are committed to supporting each unique journey, voice, identity, and experience.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Jennifer M. Holmes, Dean

University Awards

Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award

Michael Ryterski

Presented by: Nora Woolley

Graduate Outstanding Student of the Year Award

Massimo Manfredini

Presented by: Cihangir “Jee” Duman

Career Services Award

Grayson DiNino

Presented by: Helene Cruz

Departmental Awards

Actors Studio Drama School Academic Excellence (Acting)

Jordan Boone

Actors Studio Drama School Academic Excellence (Directing)

Aaliyah Jordan

Actors Studio Drama School Academic Excellence (Playwriting)

Ryan Reed

Presented by: Cihangir “Jee” Duman

BA Acting Academic Achievement Award

Katherine Spencer

BA Acting Leadership Award

Lucian Sheldon-Wesley

Presented by: Nora Woolley

BA Directing Academic Achievement Award

Sylvie Goodblatt

BA Directing Leadership Award

Jay Giffin

Presented by: Nora Woolley

Departmental Awards

BFA Acting Academic Achievement Award

Alec Lai

BFA Acting Leadership Award

John Eddy

Presented by: Julie Fain Lawrence-Edsell

BFA Acting for Film, Television, Voice-Overs, and Commercials
Academic Achievement Award

Jiana Casazza

BFA Acting for Film, Television, Voice-Overs, and Commercials Leadership Award

Benjamin Zack

Presented by: Di Quon Wilms

BFA Commercial Dance Academic Achievement Award

Amelia Dole

BFA Commercial Dance Leadership Award

Aiden Powers

Presented by: Lauren Gaul

BFA Musical Theater Academic Achievement Award

Maria Nalieth

BFA Musical Theater Leadership Award

Christy Do

Presented by: Amanda Flynn

Departmental Awards

BFA Production and Design for Stage and Screen Academic Achievement Award

Lindsey Hough

BFA Production and Design for Stage and Screen Leadership Award

Grayson DiNino

Presented by: Graham Kindred

BA Stage Management Academic Achievement Award

Nathan Kabrhel

BA Stage Management Leadership Award

Umaya Loving

Presented by: Graham Kindred

Presentation of Latin Honors

Presented by: Bette Kirschstein, Senior Associate Dean

Closing Remarks

Jennifer M. Holmes, Dean

Reception

Latin Honors

Eliza Abernathy**◇
Alex Aether*◇
Tayjairine Arrieta*
Eva Belfer*
Dawson Blackburn**
Isybella Boles**
Naomi Bowen**
Margaret Brockman*
Jersie Byford•
Francesca Cannava*◇
Jiana Casazza**◇
Brianna Castiller*
Helen Cheatom•
Tristan Collins•
Kiara Daniels**
Ella Davis**
Mickayla Davis*
Isabel Day Diggins*
Annabelle Delaluna- Howard**
Alexa Delgado*◇
Quinn Dembecki*
Samantha Denney**
Angela Di Lieto**
Grayson DiNino**◇
Amelia Dole**◇
Ruby Doran•
John Eddy*
Natalia Enriquez**
Eliana Estevez•

Jay Giffin**◇
Sylvie Goodblatt**
Simon Gottlieb*◇
Nicolas Greca•
Jacob Greening**
Cade Halvorson**◇
Connor Harman**◇
Charles Heinbaugh•
Thomas Henderson*
Emma Higton**◇
Lindsey Hough**
Mia Huether**
Emma Huffman**
Sophia Hwang**
Clayton Johnson*◇
Lucy Johnson*
Danielle Jones**
Aubrey Jones•
Dalton Joseph•
Nathan Judy•
Nathan Kabrhel**◇
Sean Kato**
Makenna Kemper*◇
Zaidy Kennedy**
Michael Kosmas*
Marilisa Kroon*◇
Alec Lai**◇
Lily Levine*
Isabella Lilavois*

Latin Honors

Manrui Liu*	Kristopher Pruitt*
Leonardo Lockhart•	Matthew Rees**
Mckenna Logan*◇	Max Reihls*
Chijioke Louis*	Inez Ricciuti*
Umayya Loving*	Lena Rodriguez•
Rebecca MacLeay•	Ryely Rogers*◇
Sophia Markstrom*	Ross Rosetti**◇
Grant Mateo**	Safara Rowland**◇
Megan McAdoo*	Michael Ryterski**◇
Emma McWilliams*	Arwen Saenz*
Andrea Mendoza Roca•	Kaitlyn Schieble*
Miles Menendez*	Hannah Schultz**◇
Kedrik Merwin*	Riley Sessions*
Maria Nalieth**◇	Abdourahmane Seye•
Ramatoulaye Ndiaye*	Jillian Shaughnessy•
Zachary Neiman-Macak**	Lucian Sheldon-Wesley**
Kaylyn Nelson**	Sithumini Sinley*
Madeline Novak*	Katherine Spencer**
Liam Oettinger•	Charlie Steiner*
Duncan Oldham*	Jaylah Symonette*
Mason Olshavsky**	Connor Tapp*◇
Marina Palarca*	Elena Tarpley*
Claude Paolucci**◇	Isabella Tedesco*◇
Katherine Pappas**	Ashley Thomas*
Daniella Perez*◇	Alice Tinari•
Grace Pierlott*◇	Ryleigh Todd*
Aiden Powers**◇	Cal Wright**
Jake Pranian*	Benjamin Zack**

** *Summa Cum Laude*, * *Magna Cum Laude*, • *Cum Laude*, ◇ *Pforzheimer Honor College*,
Honors are awarded pending computation of final grades.

Sands College of Performing Arts

Administration

Jennifer M. Holmes, Dean

Bette Kirschstein, Senior Associate Dean

Cihangir “Jee” Duman, Chair, Actors Studio Drama School

Lauren Gaul, Chair, Commercial Dance, Musical Theater

Graham Kindred, Chair, IPE, Production Design, Stage Management

Grant Kretchik, Chair, Acting, Acting for Film, Television, Voice-Overs,
and Commercials

Faculty

Susan Aston

April Bartlett

Cosmin Chivu

Ianthe Demos

Jay Duckworth

Holly Evans

Amanda Flynn

Lauren Gaul

Shonica Gooden

Brendan Hughes

Scott Jovovich

Adrienne Kapstein

Graham Kindred

Grant Kretchik

Ka'ramuu Kush

Julie Lawrence-Edsell

L Morgan Lee

Andreas Manolikakis

Jamibeth Margolis

JV Mercanti

Lester Shane

Matthew Stern

Matsy Stinson

Di Quon Wilms

Sheri Wilner-Deering

Nora Woolley

Sands College of Performing Arts

Staff

David Biondi, Director of Budgets and Finance

Patrick Brennan, Technical Director

Austin Brion, Production A/V Supervisor

Heidi Choi, Film Production Manager

Kristiana Cowcer, Assistant Production Manager

Ana Mari De Quesada, Repertory Season Academic Manager

Cihangir “Jee” Duman, Chair, General Manager

Amanda Estrella, Assistant Technical Director

Caton Hamrick, Costume Shop Manager

Jamie Honigman, Assistant Director of Advisement

Laurie Brown Kindred, Senior Director of Operations and Production

Desiree Narciso, Director of Marketing and Communications

Wayne Petro, Director of Enrollment

Tyler Rowe, Director of Assessment and Academic Programs

Kyle Saavedra, Academic Advisor

Christopher “Chips” Schultz, Sound Engineer

Timothy Smith, Production Electrician

Neil Totton, Manager of Professional Development, ASDS

Madeline “Maddie” Webb, Head Electrician

Chriz Zaborowski, Head Carpenter

PACE
UNIVERSITY

Sands College of Performing Arts