



Office for the Arts at Harvard

74 Mt. Auburn Street | Cambridge | Massachusetts 02138 | T 617 495 8676 | F 617 495 8690 | www.fas.harvard.edu/ofa

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release April 17, 2019

For More Information Stephanie Troisi (troisi@fas.harvard.edu), 617.495.8895

Office for the Arts Announces 2019 Arts Prize Winners

TWELVE HARVARD STUDENTS RECEIVE PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

(Cambridge, MA) — The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) and the Council on the Arts at Harvard, a standing committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, announce the recipients of the annual undergraduate arts prizes for 2019.

The awards, presented to more than 150 undergraduates for the past 36 years, recognize outstanding accomplishments in the arts undertaken during a student's time at Harvard. Council on the Arts members at the time of selection were: **Robin Kelsey** (Chair), Dean of Arts and Humanities; **Diane Borger**, Producer of the American Repertory Theater; **Federico Cortese**, Senior Lecturer on Music, Conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; **Jorie Graham**, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; **Jill Johnson**, Dance Director, OFA Dance Program, Senior Lecturer, Theatre, Dance & Media; **Sarah Lewis**, Assistant Professor of History of Arts and Architecture and of African American Studies; **Ruth Stella Lingford**, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; **Cathleen McCormick**, Director of Programs, Office for the Arts; **Jack Megan**, Director, Office for the Arts; **Diane Paulus '88**, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theater; **Matt Saunders '97**, Assistant Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies; **Elaine Scarry**, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value and Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows; **Marcus Stern**, Associate Director, American Repertory Theater/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training; **Yosvany Terry**, Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Jazz Bands.

-more-

Chloe Brooks '19, recipient of the Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts. The prize recognizes outstanding artistic talent and achievement in the composition or performance of music, drama, dance, or the visual arts. This prize honors the sum of a student's artistic activities at Harvard.

A resident of Quincy House and joint concentrator in English and Classical Languages and Literature with a secondary in Theater, Dance & Media (TDM), **Chloe Brooks** is awarded this prize in recognition of her acting. Brooks has appeared in numerous productions at a variety of venues across campus and at the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.), including the Loeb Experimental Theater (Loeb Ex), Loeb Mainstage, Cambridge Queen's Head Pub, OBERON, Farkas Hall, The Fogg Art Museum, and (most dynamically) a Harvard Shuttle bus driving around Cambridge. Additional roles include Blanche (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Antigone (*Antigone*), FIRST WOMAN (*Three Americanisms*), Sally Bowles (*Cabaret*), Mrs. Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*), Mabel (*Violet*), Persephone (*Polaroid Stories*), Rose (*The Room*), Galileo (*Life of Galileo*), and Marie in *Woyzeck*. She has also appeared in a number of student films. A 2017 OFA Artist Development Fellow, Brooks interned as an assistant director to Daniel Kramer during a production of Dmitri-Korsakov's *Sadko* at the Vlaamse Opera in Ghent, Belgium. She appeared in the Fall 2018 TDM production of *S.I.N.S.O.F.U.S.*, directed by Ashley Tata. She will be performing as Desdemona in *[OTHELLO] DESDEMONA* in April 2019, and as Nina in *The Seagull* in May 2019. A recipient of the Knox Fellowship for study in the UK, she will be pursuing an MFA in Acting in England next year.

Lance Oppenheim '19, recipient of the Council Prize in Visual Art. The prize recognizes outstanding work in the field of visual arts.

A resident of Adams House and concentrator in Visual and Environmental Studies (VES), **Lance Oppenheim** is awarded the Council Prize in Visual Art for his work in film. Oppenheim is a filmmaker who directs and edits documentaries, commercials, music videos, and short films. His work has been screened at more than 65 film festivals, including the Sundance Film Festival and Tribeca Film Festival, and featured by *The New York Times* (as three Op-Docs), Vimeo (as five Staff Picks), Short of the Week, *the Smithsonian*, *The Atlantic*, and PBS national broadcast. At Harvard, Oppenheim worked as Hasty Pudding Theatricals' first official documentarian and videographer, a film facilitator and proctor at the First Year Arts Program (FAP), and a Junior Editor and Filmmaker for *The Harvard Crimson*. Oppenheim received two nominations for the 2017 Cannes Young Director's Award and is a 2019 Sundance Ignite Fellow. He is in post-production on his first feature film, which is being produced by Darren Aronofsky '91 and *The New York Times*.

Ashley LaLonde '20, recipient of the Radcliffe Doris Cohen Levi Prize. The prize recognizes a Harvard college student who combines talent and energy with outstanding enthusiasm for musical theater at Harvard and honors the memory of Doris Cohen Levi, Radcliffe '35.

A resident of Adams House and concentrator in Sociology, **Ashley LaLonde** is awarded the Radcliffe Doris Cohen Levi Prize for her work in musical theater productions as a singer and actor. LaLonde has appeared in a variety of roles at Harvard and also at the A.R.T. With the A.R.T., LaLonde has performed in five new musicals, Sammi Cannold's production of *Violet*,

Sergio Trujillo's production of *Arrabal*, Jenny Koons' production of *Burn All Night*, Zack Winokur's production of *The Black Clown*, and Diane Paulus' 10th anniversary musical, *ExtraOrdinary*. At Harvard, she has performed as Velma Kelly (*Chicago*), Mercedes Herrero (*The Laramie Project*), the Witch (*Into the Woods*), and Female #1 (*35mm: A Musical Exhibition*). Most notably, LaLonde played a leading role in the Hasty Pudding Theatricals show which established her as one of the first ever women and the first ever black woman to perform with the Pudding. She plans to pursue a career in theater.

Inaara Shiraz '19, recipient of the Louise Donovan Award. The award recognizes a Harvard student who has done outstanding work behind the scenes in the arts (e.g., as a producer, accompanist, set designer, or mentor and leader in the undergraduate arts world).

A resident of Eliot House and joint concentrator in History & Literature and Theater, Dance and Media, **Inaara Shiraz** is awarded the Louise Donovan Award for her contributions to the theater community as a producer, technical director, and administrator. Shiraz has worked on a variety of undergraduate theatrical productions in various capacities. With BlackCAST, the Black cultural theatrical organization on campus, Shiraz staffed productions such as BlackCAST's original 2017 musical *Underground* and 2016 production of *Black Magic* on the Loeb Mainstage, *Bootycandy* in Farkas Hall, and *Songs of the Harlem River* in the Loeb Ex. Shiraz has also worked on TDM's Fall 2017 production, *The Owl Answers* in Farkas Hall, *Trans Scripts – Part I: The Women* on the Loeb Mainstage, and *Into the Woods* at OBERON. Shiraz has served as a Student Body Representative with TDM, as a Proctor for the First-Year Arts Program (FAP), and as Historian on the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club (HRDC) Board (2016-2017.)

Anna Antongiorgi '19 and Tiffany Lau '19 recipients of the Suzanne Farrell Dance Prize. Named for the acclaimed dancer and former prima ballerina of New York City Ballet, the prize recognizes a Harvard undergraduate who has demonstrated outstanding artistry in the field of dance.

A resident of Winthrop House and concentrator in English, **Anna Antongiorgi** has been extensively involved with the Harvard Ballet Company (HBC) as a performer, producer and choreographer, with her work featured in *The Giver*, *The Road Less Taken*, *Cityscapes*, *Oz*, and *In Passage*. Antongiorgi has also served as HBC's President in 2018, presenting two shows on the Loeb Mainstage, *Out of Orbit* and *on quarter*. Antongiorgi has also performed with the Harvard Dance Project (HDP) in which her poetry has been featured. She has continued to explore how poetry can inform dance (and vice-versa) including a production of her senior thesis work, *the body as a lasting thing* at Leverette House Library, for which dancers performed choreography inspired by Antongiorgi's poetry. This spring, she is working on HBC's show, *in search of, as a dancer* and choreographer, and HDP's *SEMINAL VOICES*.

A resident of Eliot House and joint concentrator in History & Literature and Theater, Dance & Media, **Tiffany Lau** has been an active performer and leader in Harvard's dance community,

having collaborated in more than 30 productions on campus. A six-time Hong Kong national medalist in figure skating, she turned her focus to dance and choreography after retiring from international competition. Since then, Lau has directed the Harvard-Radcliffe Modern Dance Company, Expressions Dance Company, and the annual An Evening with Champions figure skating show benefitting the Jimmy Fund. Lau choreographed Harvard's first dance senior thesis on the performance of identity and mourning, and she has worked with choreographers Karole Armitage, Peter Chu, Chanel DaSilva, Shamel Pitts, Silas Reiner, Francesca Harper, and Jill Johnson. Lau is choreographing a Bauhaus centennial tribute performance for the Harvard Art Museums and performing in new experiments with the methods of Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, and Bill T. Jones in the Harvard Dance Project's *SEMINAL VOICES*.

Sherry Gao '19 and Claire Rivkin '19, recipients of the Robert E. Levi Prize. This prize acknowledges a Harvard College senior who has demonstrated outstanding arts management skills over the course of an undergraduate career. The recipient's dedication, organizational talent and creative problem solving, as well as ability to nurture artistry, have been critical factors in the success of one or more arts organizations and/or projects. The award honors the memory of Robert E. Levi, Harvard College class of 1933 and Harvard Business School, MBA, 1935.

A resident of Currier House and concentrator in Chemical and Physical Biology, **Sherry Gao** has worked as a stage manager and producer of more than 15 productions on campus. Gao served as a producer for TEATRO's *In the Heights* in OBERON, *Next Customer, Please* in the Agassiz Theater, *Dryside* on the Loeb Mainstage, and Lowell House Opera's *Le Comte Ory* as the 2018 Pechet Opera Fellow. As a stage manager, Gao has worked on the SKETCH Comedy Show, *Calamus*, and South Asian Association's *Ghungroo*. Gao has also served as Vice President on the HRDC board and has worked as a Music Artistic Intern with the A.R.T. and Programming Intern with the Harvard Dance Program. Gao has also contributed to the arts as a performer with the Harvard Radcliffe Modern Dance Company and Harvard Expressions Dance Company. Gao served as co-producer of the original student written musical *The East Side* at Farkas Hall, the inaugural performance by the Asian Student Arts Project (ASAP).

A resident of Adams House and concentrator in History & Literature, **Claire Rivkin** has been an active member of the Hyperion Shakespeare Company throughout her years at Harvard and has been integral to its revitalization on Harvard's campus serving as Treasurer, Historian, President, and Scene-Recital Co-Chair. In addition to her administrative roles, Rivkin has stage managed *The Bowling Green Community Players Present: Twelfth Night* in the Loeb Ex, *The Little Years* in the Science Box Theater, and *Macbeth* in the Agassiz Theater. As a producer, Rivkin has been essential to Hyperion Shakespeare Company's semesterly *Scene Recitals*, which offer opportunities to act and direct in a production in which all those who audition are given roles and no prior experiences is necessary. Rivkin will be publicity representative for Hyperion's production of *Julius Caesar* in Swedenborg Chapel in April 2019.

Claire Dickson '19 and Brian Zhao '19, recipients of the Robert Levin Prize in Musical Performance. This prize has been established to recognize an extraordinarily gifted undergraduate musician, preferably of the senior class. The award honors Robert Levin '68, Professor Emeritus and former Dwight P. Robinson Jr. Professor of the Department of Music at Harvard University.

A resident of the Dudley Co-op concentrating in Psychology with a secondary in Music, **Claire Dickson** is a vocalist and composer who has performed regularly on campus including with the Harvard University Choir, Harvard Jazz Bands, and independent projects. She has also studied abroad at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, the Banff Jazz Workshop (2016) and taken performance-oriented courses with Vijay Iyer, Yosvany Terry, and Esperanza Spalding. In 2018, she received an Artist Development Fellowship to study vocal performance under Grammy Award-nominated vocalist and composer Theo Bleckmann in New York City. She is working as a co-leader of the band Myrtle.

A resident of Cabot House enrolled in the Harvard/NEC joint five-year AB/MM program for cello performance and a concentrator in Economics with a secondary in Statistics, **Brian Zhao** is co-recipient of the 2019 Robert Levin Prize. He is also the 2019 Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra (HRO) Concerto Competition winner and performed Elgar's Cello Concerto with the HRO in March 2019. Zhao performs on campus with the Brattle Street Chamber Players. He has attended the Heifetz International Music Institute and the IU Jacobs School of Music Summer String Academy. In 2015, he toured China with the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra and has performed with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. Zhao studies under Laurence Lesser.

Jacob Roberts '19, recipient of the Jonathan Levy Award. This prize recognizes the most promising undergraduate actor at the College.

A resident of Lowell House and concentrator in Theater, Dance & Media, **Jacob Roberts** is a recipient of the Jonathan Levy Award. Roberts has been an active member of the Harvard arts community working in diverse roles which include acting, writing comedic musical theater, improvising, and performing stand-up comedy. Roberts has acted in four Hasty Pudding Theatricals shows and also wrote the book and lyrics for HPT 169 and the lyrics for HPT 170. Outside of Hasty Pudding Theatricals, Roberts' experience has ranged from concentration productions with TDM to theater in unconventional venues with Harvard's experimental Goat Exchange Ensemble, of which he is a founding member. Some recent roles of Robert's have included Reina Terror (*HPT 171: France France Revolution*), Man 2 (*Three Americanisms*), and Mitch in (*A Streetcar Named Desire*). He has also studied sketch comedy with the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York City. Upon graduation, Roberts plans to pursue a career in the performing arts.

Gabrielle Preston '20, recipient of the Alan Symonds Award. The Alan Symonds Award, administered by the Office for the Arts and given by the Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players in honor of Alan Symonds '69-'76, HRG&SP alumnus and former Technical Director for Harvard College Theatre, recognizes outstanding work in technical theater and commitment to mentoring fellow student technicians.

An affiliate of Dudley House and concentrator in Anthropology, **Gabrielle Preston** has served as a scenic designer, technical director, technical producer, facilitator, director, and creator of many productions and projects, in a variety of theater and gallery spaces. A 2019 Artist Development Fellow, Preston works primarily with Harvard's BlackCAST, the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, HRDC, Harvard's Theater Dance & Media Department, and with Renegade, and will perform in *Utopia* in May 2019 at OBERON.

#####

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) supports student engagement in the arts and integrates the arts into University life. Through its programs and services, the OFA teaches and mentors, fosters student art making, connects students to accomplished artists, commissions new work, and partners with local, national, and international constituencies. By supporting the development of students as artists and cultural stewards, the OFA works to enrich society and shape communities in which the arts are a vital part of life. For more information about the OFA, call 617.495.8676, or visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu