
School of the Arts Upcoming - August/September 2026

Wed, Aug 19, 2026 at 9:37 AM



This summer, our Opera students travelled to the Czech Republic to perform at Prague Summer Nights! Faculty: Curt Pajer

As we return for the new school year, it is wonderful to see School of the Arts (SOAR) students representing Binghamton University in **international, national, and local venues**.

A few highlights: this summer, alongside music professor Curt Pajer, students performed in *The Magic Flute* at **Prague's historic Estates Theatre**. In September, students from Music, Cinema, and Art & Design will represent Binghamton at the **Bethel Woods Center for the Arts BuildFest** (with professors Sarah Nance and Shay Rabineau). And this spring, our Music students will perform at **Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall**!

In the next month alone, SOAR students are participating in these major regional arts events:

- Anderson Center Fall Arts Fest: 8/28
- PorchFest: 8/30
- Sonic Immersion documentary U.S. premiere @ HCS Vestal: 9/4
- Bethel Woods Center for the Arts BuildFest: 9/9–9/13
- LUMA: 9/11 & 9/12
- Broome Arts Street Festival: 9/19

All of this is in addition to the incredible range of programming from our departments, so be sure to subscribe to the [Arts Calendar](#) for details, and check out the highlights below!

Don't forget: **Festival of the Arts and Research Days will be held the week of April 26**, spanning both weekends. You can start planning now for how you would like to be involved.

Christopher Robbins
Founding Director, School of the Arts
Harpur College, Binghamton University

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Harpur College Week: November 1-7, 2026**

We encourage departments and programs to join us in engaging faculty, staff, alumni, and graduate and undergraduate students in celebrating their pursuit of study in Harpur College through programs, events, social media, etc. This year we're shining a light on the strong foundations and countless opportunities afforded to Harpur students during their college career and beyond with our theme: *Deep Roots, Broad Horizons*.

Submit your events [here](#).

Deadline for submission: October 2, 2026.

- **Eleventh Hour Literary seeking submissions**

Eleventh Hour Literary is a biannual journal sponsored by the Writing Institute. More information [here](#).

Deadline for submission: September 15, 2026.

- **First Friday Funding**

Support is available for student, staff, and faculty projects at Binghamton's First Friday.

Apply [here](#).

- **Want your event documented? Let us know!**

If you have an event you'd like photographed or filmed, please submit a request at least two weeks in advance to our Student Media Team.

[Media Team Request Form](#)



A particularly immersive moment from our latest SOARJam, an annual evening of interdisciplinary improvisation across the arts

In other news...

- A warm welcome to our newest School of the Arts faculty and staff:
 - Art & Design: **Alexandra McQuilkin** (Assistant Professor of Drawing and Foundations) and **Jill Lavetsky** (Painting Adjunct).
 - Art History: **Sonali Dhanpal** (Assistant Professor of Architectural History and Urban Studies)
 - Cinema: **Joel Anderson** (Lecturer of Film Studies), **Benjamin Stone** (Adjunct Lecturer), **Rebecca Chastain** (Lecturer), and **Bryson Cooley** (Administrative Assistant).
 - Music: **Yaël Weiss** (Assistant Professor of Piano and Chamber Music), **Alex Shiozaki** (Lecturer in Viola and Violin), **Joey Grunkemeyer** (Lecturer in Musicianship), **Dave Toulson** (Lecturer/ Opera Director), **Tristen Jarvis** (Adjunct Lecturer in Jazz Bass), **Tj Schaper** (Adjunct Lecturer in Jazz Trombone), **Ben Dettelback** (Adjunct Lecturer in Low Brass), **Eduardo Sepulveda** (Adjunct Lecturer in Oboe), **Andrew Zhou** (Adjunct Lecturer in Piano), and **Brooks Hafey** (Piano Technician).

- Theatre: **Felipe Panama** (Assistant Professor of Dance and Musical Theater), **Ankita Raturi** (Assistant Professor of Dramatic Literature), **Austin Kiley** (Musicianship Adjunct Lecturer), **Erica Cruz Hernandez** (Lecturer in Acting), **Lindsay Rapport** (Lecturer in Dance), **John Cockerill** (Musical Director), and **Rebecca Rayne** (Instructional Support).
- BUAM: **Kelly Fancher** (Art Preparator/ Communications Assistant).
- Creative Writing: **D.M. Aderibigbe** (Assistant Professor of English).
- Congratulations to School of the Arts Faculty for being selected as **2026 BCAC Arts & Clean Energy Awareness Grantees**:
 - **Colin Lyons** (Art & Design), **Elizabeth Mozer** (Theatre), **Sarah Nance** (Art & Design), and **Christopher Robbins** (School of Arts) for their project "Lithium Landscapes: The Battery Dance" (dance performance).
 - **Kari Varner** (Art & Design) and **Jacopo Mazzoni** (DiDa) for their collaborative project "Helio-View" (drone photography, large-scale cyanotype & 3D prints).
- **Marnie Wrighter**, Interim Director of the Anderson Center for the Performing Arts, has been recognized for her professional excellence and dedication to her work with the **SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Professional Service**. Congratulations, Marnie!
- **The Binghamton University Art Museum** (BUAM) launched Black Art @ BUAM in 2023 as a theme to unite our commitment to uplifting and showcasing Black art with acquisitions, exhibitions, community engagement, and campus partnerships. SUNYCUAD (Council for University Advancement) recognized our efforts with a **2026 "Best of Category" award for Excellence in Strategy: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**. Congratulations, BUAM!
- **Tommy Iafrate** (Theatre) was the Music Director/Conductor for "*Grease*" at *Theatre by the Sea* in Matunuck, RI this summer.
- **Christopher Robbins** (School of the Arts) attended Nes Art Residency in Skagaströnd, Iceland.
- Continuing the School of the Arts' strong representation in the program, another SOAR faculty member has been selected as a *Broome County Arts Council Artist in Residence* (AiR)! Congratulations to **Alisha Sickler Brunelli** (Art & Design), the 2026–27 BCAC AiR.

- Composer Elaine Hagenberg invited the Binghamton Downtown Singers to sing at a Gala Concert in one of Paris's historic cathedrals, Église Saint-Sulpice in June 2026. Under the direction of **Robbie Manners** (Music), alumni class of 2023 (Master of music in choral conducting) and Concert and Facilities Manager for Binghamton University Music Department, the Binghamton Downtown Singers joined with singers from sixteen choirs from across the United States, Spain, and France. For more information about the choir, visit: downtownsingers.org or follow them on social media.
- **Andy Horowitz's** (Theatre) aggressively post-modern, acrobatic dance troupe, Galumpha, performed in Burlington, VT on July 30, 31, and August 1, and in Great Barrington, MA on August 4. Along with Horowitz, current Binghamton Theatre student, Foster Beach, and recent Binghamton Alum, Serena Gay, comprised the trio.
- **D.M. Aderibigbe's** (Creative Writing) poem, "The Porter," from his book 82nd Division, was published by *Poetry Daily* on August 15, 2026. He also recently appeared on *RATTLE Magazine's* Rattlecast, where he read and discussed poems from the book.
- From Binghamton University's [Desktop Discovery series: School of the Arts Director **Christopher Robbins** bonds with his daughter over art and skateboarding](#)
- [Grants support new research on role of AI in the arts:](#)
Music (**James Budinich** and **Gregory Evans** with guest violist Stephanie Griffin), Cinema (**Magdalena Bermudez** and **Jason Bernagozzi**), Art & Design (**Christopher Swift** and **Alexandros Skouras**, with **Ruth Carpenter** and **Gregory Hallenbeck** of Digital and Data Studies), Comparative Literature (**Junting Huang**, with **Sujoy Sikdar** from the School of Computing and **William Hayes** of Psychology).

To have your update featured, please fill out this [form](#).

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

August/September 2026

Please see below for highlights from each department, and check out the [School of the Arts calendar](#) for much, much more. [Subscribe from your phone](#) for easy access.

MUSIC

Music Department Season Announcement



THEATRE

Theatre Department Season Announcement



[Auditions Page](#)

[Productions](#)

ART AND DESIGN

Florencia Escudero's exhibition "Alien Archive"

On View 8/27-9/24/2026

M-F | 9-5 p.m.

- Artist Lecture: 8/27 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Opening: 8/27 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Rosefsky Gallery (FA 259) | Free Admission





ANDERSON CENTER

Summer Concert Series

So Good! The Neil Diamond Experience starring Robert Neary

8/28 | 8 p.m.

Osterhout Concert Theater | [Ticketed](#)

SOAR @ Porchfest

8/30 | 1 & 3:30 p.m.

36 Lincoln Ave, Binghamton | Free Admission



BU ART MUSEUM

Exhibitions opening:

- **Mountains and Water: Traditions in East Asian Art**
- **Capturing Music: Material Culture and Changing Notations in Medieval Music**
- **Frames Within Frames: Intimacy through Visual Exchange**
- **Hands ON! Experiencing Art through Touch**



9/3 | 5 p.m.

BUAM Galleries | Free Admission

CREATIVE WRITING

Distinguished Writers Series with Novelist Alexandra Kleeman

9/17 | 6 p.m.

Alumni Lounge, Old O'Connor Hall |

Free Admission



ART HISTORY

VizCult Series

Zeke Saber (Cinema, Binghamton University)

9/30 | 5 p.m.

LN 1106 | Free Admission

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BOX OFFICE**

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