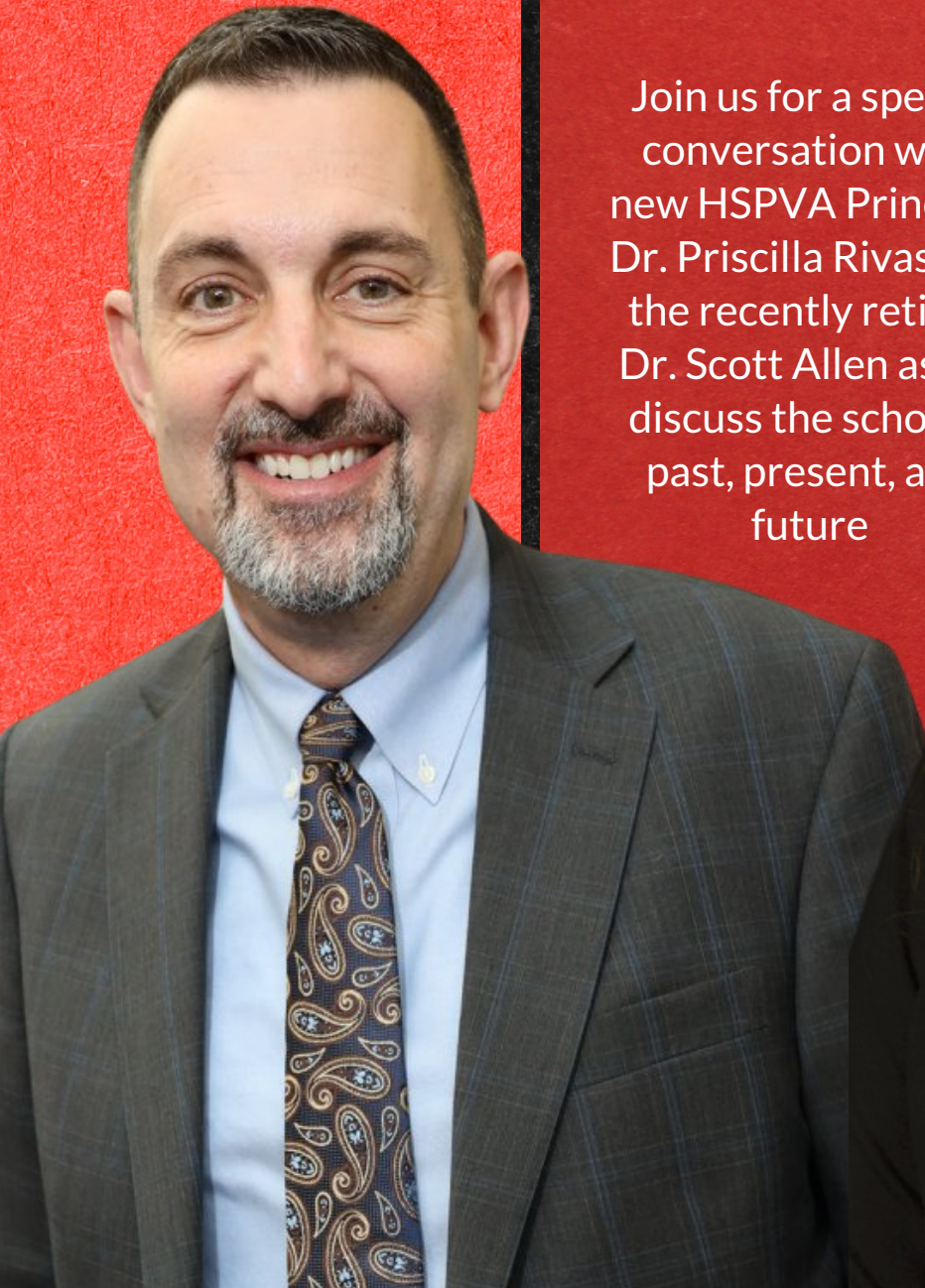


OCTOBER 2021 | ISSUE NO. 5

the check-in.

PRINCIPAL POV

Join us for a special conversation with new HSPVA Principal Dr. Priscilla Rivas and the recently retired Dr. Scott Allen as we discuss the school's past, present, and future



inside.

Chair

Denise Ward (Vocal '12)

Vice Chair

Capra Fellows (Theatre '11)

Secretary

Gabby Byrd (Vocal '11)

Treasurer

Kierra Martin (Dance '13)

Scholarship Co-Chairs

Taylor Lewis (Theatre '11)

Dabrina Sandifer (Theatre '06)

Technology Coordinator

Henry Ellis Davis (Theatre '09)

Engagement Co-Chairs

Edward Bell (Vocal '10)

Malcolm Jackson (Instrumental '10)

Members

Christian Warner (Dance '12)

Aldarian Mayes (Instrumental '10)

Malcolm Jackson (Instrumental '10)

Edward Bell (Vocal '10)

Taylor Scott (Theatre '19)

Dedreck "DJ" Carr (Vocal '18)

Stephen Hudson (Vocal '03)

This Edition's Contributing Writers

Gabby Byrd

Denise Ward

Taylor Scott

Kierra Martin



ON THE COVER

Dr. R. Scott Allen and Dr. Priscilla Rivas

3

A NOTE FROM
THE TREASURER

4

COMMONS

7

HAPPENINGS

8

CONVERSATION: PRINCIPAL POV

12

INTERLUDE

13

CALL BOARD

14

CLASS NOTES

16

WHO WE ARE



@hspvablackalumninetwork



@hspvablackalumninetwork



hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com



linktr.ee/hspvablackalumninetwork

WRITE: Share your thoughts on this issue and anything else PVA-related at hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com

Hey Hey PVA,

I would like to start off with a big thank you to our Creative Team for allowing me the opportunity to serve with them. The feeling of being able to give back has been tremendous and I wish our organization so much prosperity. From the time that I joined until now, I have been able to meet so many alumni and, might I say, the sense of community is mad incredible. The Network “understood the assignment” and I am still stunned by the number of Black alumni that we have across the nation.

As Treasurer, I am entrusted with our federal compliance and financial goals. So far, we have been able to finalize our recognition as a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation. That's right, you all, we are incorporated and on the road to 501(C)(3) status!

If you're looking for ways to assist the Black Alumni Network, the next opportunity will be Giving Tuesday, an international day of generosity that occurs every year on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, Giving Tuesday will be held on November 30th, 2021.

We'll be utilizing this 24-hour fundraising campaign to raise money, find new donors, and generate awareness about the Network. Get a head start on donating at givebutter.com/BANGivingTuesday and keep up with our fundraising efforts by following us on Instagram @hspvablackalumninetwork.

X O X O,

Kierra Martin

TREASURER, HSPVA BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK



a note
from the
treasurer

the commons.

WE ARE

THREE!

This month, BAN celebrates three years of connections, impact, and service.

HSPVA uniquely possesses a robust, creative, and diverse community whose 50-year legacy is especially felt within the entertainment industry; however, before Denise Ward (Vocal, '12) founded the HSPVA Black Alumni Network (BAN), Inc. in October 2018, no other formal alumni network for the school existed.

While consulting as an alumna on HSPVA's Black History productions and building relationships with the students, Denise discovered that some students felt unsupported, with many expressing their need for guidance and networking opportunities with alumni who shared their respective artistic and cultural experiences. Because of the award-winning, genre-shifting, and trailblazing legacy of Black alumni, she knew these needs could be met. With the generous support of the HSPVA Parents of Black History-Cultural, Diversity & Inclusion Committee (*a multicultural team of supporters/volunteers that existed to support HSPVA's world-class student artists-in-residence by promoting awareness of the continuing contributions to the arts made by African-Americans*) and founding members Capra Fellows (Theatre '11), Henry Ellis Davis (Theatre '09), Dr. Pam Cormier (Vocal '83), Jhacole LeGrand-Dunn (Vocal '94), and Thomas Porter (Theatre '12), the HSPVA Black Alumni Network was officially formed.

the commons.

What We Are About

The HSPVA Black Alumni Network's stated purpose is to connect Black alumni of HSPVA, support alumni and current students' endeavors, and provide resources, scholarships, and networking opportunities to champion the next generation of HSPVA artists and professionals. It is through this Black Alumni Network culmination that we seek to build awareness, remind others of our strength in unity, and carve paths for students who, like many of us, encountered a high school experience like none other.

Through the Creative Team's Communications Committee, the Network distributes *The Check-In*, a free bi-monthly digital publication in which we celebrate alumni accomplishments and inform readers about scholarships, employment, and networking opportunities. The Communications Committee also curates the conversation series *What I Wish I Knew: Life After HSPVA* highlighting alumni as they discuss their introduction to the "real world," share what they're currently up to and reflect on how their time at PVA influenced who they are today. The conversation series has proven to be an insightful resource for both alumni and current HSPVA students.

The Creative Team's Engagement Committee organizes masterclasses, partnerships, and mentorship events, such as our Speed Mentor Match collaboration with the HSPVA Black Student Union, which connects current students with alumni who are successful in the creative and business-oriented fields students may desire to pursue. Our most recent partnership with Diversify Our Narrative H.I.S.D. brought awareness for diversity in the classroom, while highlighting the gems of our community in a documentary feature. The Engagement Committee also coordinates annual fundraising events widely known to our community as the Holiday Jam Session, Alumni Happening, HSPVA Family Reunion, and PRELUDE, the HSPVA Black History Show pre-show fundraiser. All events held by the network feature a diverse group of alumni and student creatives and also serve as a way to generate scholarship funds. Scholarships are awarded to assist students to foster the development of their artistic and educational endeavors through college or beneficial summer workshops.

The HSPVA Black Alumni Network is not only a creative and professional hub for current students and alumni, but also a model for future leaders of other BIPOC affinity networks and a resource for those interested in collaborating with or hiring BIPOC artists and performers who excel at their craft.

As we continue to celebrate our accomplishments and look forward, we thank our extended community for your support. HSPVA Family is forever!



By Taylor Scott

I made this recipe with my grandma, so you already know this recipe is not going to have specific measurements! The only complaint I have is that I didn't make two.

Ingredients:

- 6 cups of your choice of apple
- 1/2 - 1 cup of brown sugar
- 1/2 - 1 cup of granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp. of flour
- 3/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- sprinkle of salt
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 2 pie crusts

Recipe:

- Wash the apples and cut into thin slices. *This is important: TASTE your apple slices. We picked apples that were sweet with a *hint* of tartness. The flavor of your apples will determine the amount of sugar needed. As our apples were mostly sweet, we used less sugar.*
- Measure out about 6 cups of the apple slices into a mixing bowl.
- Add the brown sugar, granulated sugar, flour, nutmeg, and cinnamon on top of the apples. Then mix until everything is evenly dispersed. *Note: the sum of the brown sugar and the granulated sugar should equal approximately 1 cup.*
- Lay one pie crust in pan. Pour and spread the apple mixture into the pan. Sprinkle salt onto apples. *Note: you CAN make this pie crust from scratch...but we didn't.*
- Cut the butter into about 3-4 slices and place evenly on top of apple mixture.
- Cover with the other pie crust and make small slits in the top crust.
- Bake at 425F for about 40 minutes and check the pie halfway through to make sure the crust isn't browning faster than the apples are cooking. If it is, cover with foil.

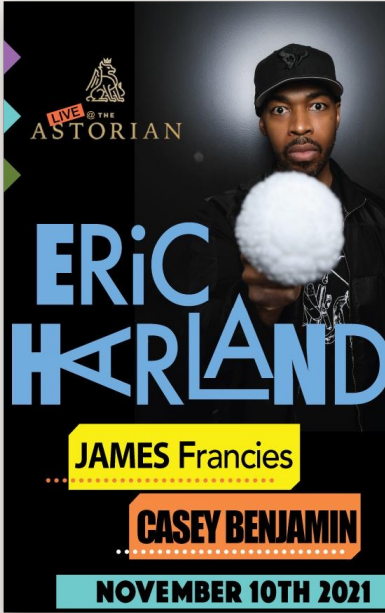
Love ya, Grandma!





Kendrick Scott (Jazz '98) and the other members of all-star ensemble, SFJAZZ Collective, will be presenting new music addressing important topics like racial injustice, the global pandemic, and more at the San Francisco Jazz Center from October 28th-31st. These concerts will be recorded for a live album being released next year (*left*).

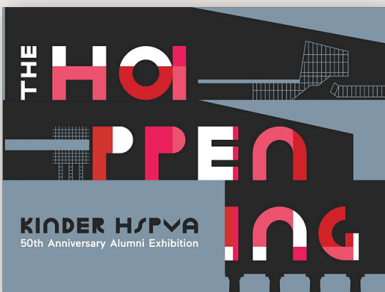
The **Jalen Baker (Jazz '13)** Trio will be performing a free show at Discovery Green on Sunday, October 31st for DA CAMERA's Young Artist Program.



Eric Harland (Jazz '94) and James Francies (Jazz '13) will be presenting a concert at The Astorian in Houston with Casey Benjamin on November 10th (*left*).

As part of Magpies & Peacock's 10th Anniversary celebration, **Robert Hodge's (Visual Art '98)** textile art exhibit will be on display at their After Dark in the Park event at Discovery Green on November 20th. Purchase tickets online at magpiesandpeacocks.org/afterdark

Vince Greer (Jazz '08) will be performing at The Foundation Room at House of Blues in Houston on October 30th starting at 6:30pm. Visit houseofblues.com for more information.



Kinder HSPVA's 50th Anniversary Alumni Exhibition, The Happening, features artwork from alumni such as Gregory Michael Carter ('97), Jamal Cyrus ('91), Ryan Francisco ('07), Mykiah Goree ('20), Donna Hill-Wiley ('83), Robert Hodge ('98), Lauren Kelly ('93), Jason Moran ('93), Lovie Olivia ('95), Kaneem Smith ('91), Anthony Suber ('98) and more. On view at the DiverseWorks Gallery at MATCH until November 27th. Tickets online at eventbrite.com.



Peyton (Vocal '15) will be performing in a free concert at AXELRAD on November 5th at 8:00 pm (*left*).

Dominique Hammons (Instrumental '12) will be opening for Leela James and Kindred the Family Soul at the Black Arts and Letters Academy in Dallas on November 4th. Tickets on sale at ticketmaster.com

happenings.



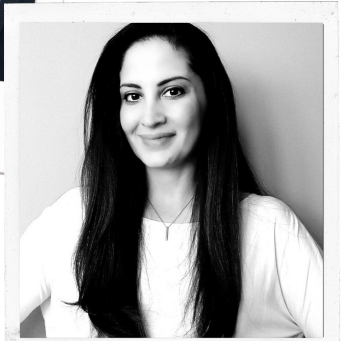
Ruth Denney



Norma Lowder



Dr. R. Scott Allen, Annette Watson, and Dr. Herbert Karpicke



Dr. Priscilla Rivas

Principal POV

By Gabby Byrd

With the recent changing of the guard and this year being HSPVA's 50th Anniversary, we thought it would be apropos to sit down with **Dr. Scott Allen and Dr. Priscilla Rivas** to talk about where the school has been and where it's headed.

Earlier this year, Principal R. Scott Allen retired after 12 years of devoted service to HSPVA and, as one would expect, his announcement created quite the buzz. Because we all know just how special HSPVA is, we also know it takes equally special individuals to lead, preserve, and nurture the spirit and culture of this community we hold so dear. When Ruth Denney founded HSPVA in 1971, she set the stage for her successors: Norma Lowder (principal from 1976-1989), Annette Watson (1989-1995), Dr. Herbert Karpicke (1995-2009), and our beloved Dr. Allen.

Now, in the school's fiftieth year of existence, we are excited to welcome Dr. Priscilla Rivas, someone whose Columbian heritage, dance and visual arts background provide her with a unique point of view.

Please note that the following interview has been edited for length and flow

G: Tell us something that you think our readers may not know about your life pre-PVA.

S: I had two summers that I moved to New York between teaching and actually got to work off-Broadway stage managing. When I think back to stage managing, I think that's what put me on the path to being a principal because it is all about managing people and things and building relationships.

P: That's really cool, I didn't know that! One of the things I think maybe people don't realize is how much of an animal lover I am. I've actually spent a lot of my time either fostering lost dogs and cats and finding birds out in the streets and raising them, and now people just know me as the woman who knows how to take care of sick wounded animals. The most recent one was a blue jay that a friend called me about. Actually, when I was applying to HSPVA, I had the bird in my office and I had to hide it in the bathroom so it wouldn't interrupt the panel interview. The other thing that just came up this past week was that I also worked as a mermaid for a while. [It was] for a diving expo that would come into town every year called SEASPACE, which was an effort to bring more families to be interested in diving and the next generation of sea explorations. I was Sariah the Mermaid and I would sit on this platform and hand out little jewels to children and play mermaid games. I even got to travel with them to Vegas.



Dr. Rivas displaying her love of nature.



Principal Rivas and Assistant Principal Oscar Perez at this year's HSPVA Carnaval

G: I saw a little clip of you dancing recently. Where was that?

P: The most recent video clip of me dancing was from last week. We had the first of the Diversity Series that we do here. The first one is in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, so some of the senior girls asked me to choreograph and dance with them. That was really fun. Our new assistant principal [Mr. Perez], who's been here for a very long time at HSPVA, is also Colombian so we surprised everyone by performing a traditional Colombian dance from the Andean region of Colombia. I think the kids were just blown away to see their AP and a teacher that they've known for so, so long performing and doing such a great job. That was really an exciting event.

S: Gabby, just so you know, the Diversity Series grew out of the Koffee Kouse! Whenever we were trying to find different opportunities to educate and bring the other cultures out, we were like, "well, Koffee House is a great model." Koffee House is amazing, but it also grew into something even bigger so all students have a chance to be a part of something like that.

G: What is the Diversity Series? What does that entail?

P: It's a series that happens throughout the school year. The very first one that comes up, because of Hispanic Heritage Month, is Carnaval. It's 100% student run, there are chair people that handle it, the students even audition each other to decide who's going to be in it, and then each one kind of takes a shape of its own. That's the only one I've been able to witness so far so maybe, Scott, you can describe how each one kind of takes on a different approach.

S: I'm not going to get the time of the year right, but we do Alphabet Soup, which is LGBTQ-focused. There's Venus, which focuses on women. There's the Asian heritage— I think they're calling it Market Street now?

P: 790 Market Street.

S: Yeah, and then Koffee House is the fifth one. What I loved about Koffee House was— our kids are always amazing and talented— but with Koffee House, it was always a step better because they got to do what they wanted to do. It was always just a little bit better than everything else, and I feel like that's kinda gone over to all the other four too.

G: Someone told me Spaghetti Supper is called something else now?

P: Music Fest.

S: It was [changed in fall 2019] when we moved downtown. There used to be an event called Music Fest, and they [HSPVA Friends] thought, you know, "Spaghetti Supper" doesn't tell you that we're showcasing all of the music ensembles. That was kind of why that decision was made. Our hope was, all those people that live downtown, that we could get them to come on campus and learn more about the school and see the talent.

G: Are the Happenings still happening?

S: Still happening. All last year was virtual but seniors got to do theirs at Discovery Green. That was the only live in-person one because of COVID.

P: Yep, the next one is the Halloween Happening, which I'm super excited about. We're using a combination of the bus ramp and the Commons just so that we can spread people out a little bit more and stay safe.

G: So last year you couldn't do the Halloween Happening?

S: That was the first six weeks that some of the kids were back, probably about 30%. They dressed up and we had the Happening but it was all pre-recorded. We put a big screen out on the bus ramp and the kids went out at lunch and sat socially distanced and watched it. It wasn't the same, but at least the kids were together for that.

G: It seems like you and Dr. Rivas had a lot of interaction throughout this transition. Did you have that same kind of interaction with Dr. Karpicke?

S: We did but it was very different. I spent a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday with him in his office listening to him talk about things, walking the building, and then that Friday afternoon he handed me the keys and said, "You won't see me back in this building. I'm retiring and I'm gone," and I didn't ever see him back in the building until we had the groundbreaking and stuff like that.

P: Our transition experience for me was so positive and so reassuring. When I think back to those first few days when I came and you had your legal pad lists of things that you were going to walk me through, I'm so grateful. I don't know how you were so strategic and thinking of everything I needed to know. It was also a really fun experience getting to know him. I'd always seen him at principals' meetings, but we literally had never exchanged words. I realized walking in the very first day,

"... everyone adores him. To say that I had big shoes to fill doesn't even come close because it's not about just being an effective leader, it was about how much trust and love they had for him. He had me sweating a little bit."

G: Besides Dr. Allen's efforts, what did the community do to make you feel welcomed?

P: This community is phenomenal because in the midst of a pandemic, I have still felt the love and support from the parents in just the way that they communicate with us and how excited they are that the students are back in person. The students have been so expressive. I have to admit that I was a little nervous coming to PVA from an elementary background. I thought high school students, especially at PVA, they're just so cool— maybe too cool for school. I was worried that it wouldn't feel the same but, on the first day of school, a girl came up to me and handed me a little plastic dinosaur and she's like, "I brought this for you," and I'm like, "my elementary kids did stuff like this!" It was such a relief to see that, at the end of the day, we're all just a bunch of little kids that really want love and affection and understanding and acceptance. The kids have just been amazing. The support staff here, the admin team, everyone— this is truly world class leadership. Everybody knows what they're doing and they do it so, so well.

G: What are you looking forward to the most this school year and what do you hope to accomplish after this school year?

P: I am so excited to see the students back in action, getting back into the rhythm of things, teachers getting back into the rhythms of things, and then being able to witness and observe the process that students go through for their respective art areas. Our community is all about-- at least outward-facing-- it's all about the product: our art shows, our performances, our all school musicals... which is wonderful! But I think, as artists, we understand that it's the process where the richness is happening, where the connections are made, where the breakthroughs happen. Especially after a pandemic year, I'm excited to see and hoping to see that this process is a healing and restorative one for students and teachers, and then see how it all pans out in the course of a year. I've already gotten to witness a lot of that, and I'm just so blown away by the teachers, the students, and the programs and how they've developed. The other thing for this year is-- I've kind of called it "the revival"-- I want to see us thrive, but I also just want us to survive this year of trying to



Mayor Sylvester Turner, Pat Bonner and Dr. Allen



Dr. Rivas performing with the Columbian Folkloric Ballet at the Children's Museum in Houston

get back into the groove of things and not really knowing what's around the corner. I'm pushing for this thriving, but also understanding that a lot of us are still dealing with a lot of trauma and maybe a lot of anxiety and uncertainty and fear. On an emotional level, that's kind of what I'm expecting to manage this year. Our times, I feel, are changing so quickly and things are shifting so fast, whether it's politically or socially and, if there's one thing I know about PVA students, it's they don't live in this vacuum of "I am a theatre student only" or "I'm going to be an actor." It's "how am I an actor in the context of my society?" With this constant shift, I'm hoping that I can bring relevance and that students can feel relevant in the now, in the present, in the things that we're facing. Whether that means it's technology related [...] or whether that means rewriting some of these classic things that we've honored and held so dearly but now we see have problematic themes that we can now discuss openly.

"I feel like, at the rate we're going, we have to be on our toes-- on our dance toes-- to keep up with how fast it's shifting."

G: What does the rest of your day look like?

P: I'm getting ready for a meeting at Marshall Middle School, which is also a magnet school for fine arts. I've paired up with a local arts program called Hope Stone. In conjunction with Hope Stone and Lauren Anderson, our beautiful ballerina from the Houston Ballet, we're doing a masterclass tomorrow but I'm going today to meet with their art staff. Last year they were tasked to come up with ways that we can support them or ideas that they have to start creating a pathway for students who are interested in going to HSPVA. Having these wonderful magnet fairs and all these things are great, but that information doesn't easily get to the people that don't know about it already. This is our effort to push and get kids who might look like us going in and just being like, "Maybe I can. What is this HSPVA place?" Just starting the conversations around it.

G: Yeah, that's really important work.

P: It's *exciting* work.

G: Dr. Allen, is there anything that you think defines your reputation or how people remember you?

S: I think probably the obvious is the new building-- the design process and being able to shepherd the construction. When I was struggling with "do I walk away and retire," my weakness, my biggest hesitation other than who's gonna take care of the school was "but that's my building," and I had to come to the realization that it will *always* be my building. I think that if you look at the programs we were able to offer on Stanford, and even at the original synagogue, they were okay, but this takes it to a whole new level. On a more personal level, relationships. Parents, students and teachers were important to me. I always wanted to do what was best for kids [...] I was willing to listen and willing to make changes for the better.

"I didn't want to be that principal who sat in an office and just dictated. I wanted to make sure that everyone had a voice."



BAN Chair Denise Ward, Scholarship Co-Chair Taylor Lewis, Dr. Scott Allen, BAN Vice Chair Capra Fellows, and Amber Johnson (Theatre '11)

G: Correct me if I'm wrong, it seemed like you retired and then were like, "I'm doing this new thing now." What is that?

S: Okay so, Mr. Gibson [HSPVA English teacher] retired like eight years ago. When I started talking about retirement, I went and had coffee with him and he said the best advice he got was: once you retire, don't do anything for 6 months. Don't say yes to anyone, just decompress, enjoy the fact that you're retired, and then decide what the next chapter is. So I was like, "I'm adopting that, that's great advice," but, I guess because of the way that we're raised, in July I started being like "I have to find a job," but I didn't go looking for one... There's an organization called Art Schools Network which has been around since 1981; HSPVA was a founding member. Priscilla and I went to Dallas for a little Arts Leadership Summit so I can introduce her to people, and the very last day we were there, the president asked if he could have 15 minutes with me. Well, the managing director of the organization had told him the day before that she was resigning-- she had a new job-- and they wanted to know if I would be interim managing director. It was so perfect because it's working with people I already know and supporting art schools and, because it's a national organization, I work from home, I'm having a blast, and it's not stressful. I will admit that it keeps me busy and I will decide when they post the real position if I want to apply for it or if interim is enough. But yeah, it just fell into my lap and it was such a perfect thing. Priscilla and I even talked about on the way back from Dallas--like, how does this even happen?

P: I know, it was so funny... but it is perfect. I think it's the perfect gig and no one better to do it.

After learning more about Dr. Rivas and her goals for the future of HSPVA and its students, we're starting to believe that about her too--there's no one better to do it.

interlude.

This month's playlist, **Seasonal Progression**, was inspired by the energy, optimism, and clarity that change and transitional periods often bring.



Floatin' – chris Dave ft. Mickie Miller

Morning – Lisa E. Harris

Becoming – Kendrick Scott oracle

HOPE (Motivation) – MAJOR.



sour Flower – Lianne La Havas

Blown Away – James Francies ft. Peyton

Optimistic – August Green



shine – Robert Glasper ft. D Smoke and Tiffany Gouché

Filho Bonito – AmaruTMN ft. Bee Honey and Jalen Baker



Looking for more ways to support our musical alumni? Consider purchasing their music on **November 5th, the next Bandcamp Friday**. When you do, the majority of your money actually goes directly to the artist!



scan playlist

call board.

YOUR AD HERE

YOUR AD HERE

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Promote your small business here in
The Check-In for a small fee
of just \$25 per quarter page!

Want to share information with us about job
postings, casting notices, and scholarship
opportunities?

Email us at
hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com

YOUR AD HERE

YOUR AD HERE

class notes.

straight A's

a.cknowledgements



Cameron Ross (Theatre '06)

Won a Special Tony Award for his work as the co-founder of Broadway Advocacy Coalition.
www.bwayadvocacycoalition.org

Judith Franklin (Vocal '97), Jhardon Dishon Milton (Theatre '09), and Julius Chase (Theatre '06) are Broadway cast members of the Tony nominated musical *TINA*.

X'ene Sky (Instrumental '10)

Awarded a paid internship at Kym Jones, a boutique music supervision company based in LA.

Khayla Williams (Instrumental '15)

Received her white coat at the White Coat Ceremony for Texas Chiropractic College. (left)

Carmen Jones (Dance '08)

Performed with Tobe Nwigwe's Black Angel Collective at the 2021 BET Hip Hop Awards and choreographed the Houston Ballet's 2021 James Beard Foundation Awards performance.

Anthony Glover (Vocal '87)

Directed his first show at the Ensemble Theatre, *Respect: A Musical Journey of Women*.

Autumn Knight (Theatre '98)

Winner of the 2021-22 Nancy B. Negley Rome Prize, a highly competitive fellowship supporting advanced independent work and research in the arts and humanities.

Lenora (Vocal '09)

Performed with the Drywater Band at this year's Austin City Limits Festival.

a.lbums

Jamire Williams (Jazz '02)

His latest album *But Only After You Have Suffered*, released via International Anthem on October 29th, is available now on Bandcamp (above) and features fellow alumni Corey King and Lisa E. Harris.

Robert Glasper (Jazz '97)

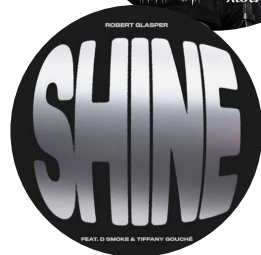
His composition "Altered Plains" landed a national tv spot for ESPN's 75th Anniversary of the NBA. His single "Shine" ft. D Smoke and Tiffany Gouché is now streaming on all platforms.

MAJOR. (Vocal '02)

His spoken word album, *MAJOR. Hope Motivations*, was released on September 28 on all streaming platforms.

Celeste Arrazolo (Theatre '13)

Her latest 7-track project *LUVR GRL* was released on October 22nd and is now streaming everywhere.



WRITE TO US

We want to hear what you've been up to! Send us your stories and photos, and we'll share the highlights here.
 Email us at hspvablackalumninetwork@gmail.com



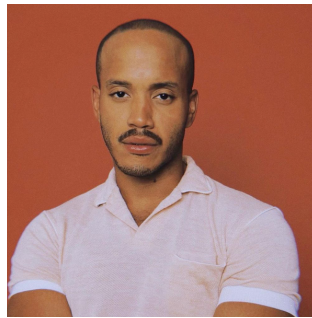
**Olly Sholotan
(Theatre '15)**

Cast as Carlton Banks in Peacock's dramatic reboot of *Fresh Prince* entitled *Bel-Air*. Robert Glasper (Jazz '97) is composing the show's music!



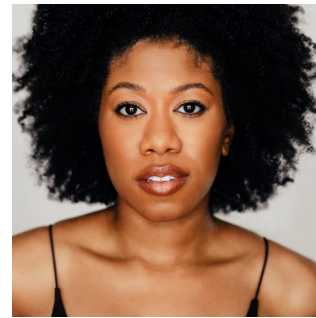
**Devyn Tyler
(Theatre '09)**

Cast as series regular, Veronique, in Season 5 of FX crime drama, *Snowfall*. Premiering in 2022.



**Cameron Ross
(Theatre '06)**

Wrote and acted in Season 2 of the Netflix show, *Gentefied*. Premiering November 10th.



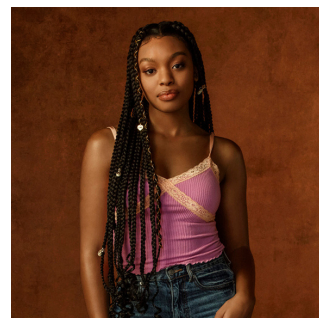
**Ashley Hildreth
(Theatre '13)**

Joined the Off Broadway cast of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, now in performance at New World Stages in NYC



**Delius Doherty
(Theatre '06)**

Starring in The Public Theater NYC's world premier production of the musical, *The Visitor*. Showing now through November 28th.



**Alana Bright
(Theatre '20)**

Starring as Niikki Vaughn on FOX's *Our Kind of People*. Catch new episodes on Tues nights at 8pm.



**Samantha Williams
(Theatre '15)**

Starring as Emmie in Roundabout Theatre Company's revival of Broadway's *Caroline, or Change*. Showing at Studio 54 in NYC now through Jan. 9, 2022.



**Nneka Okafor
(Theatre '04)**

Her latest comedy pilot for *Everything's Trash* recently landed a series order at Freeform. Okafor stars as Jessie.



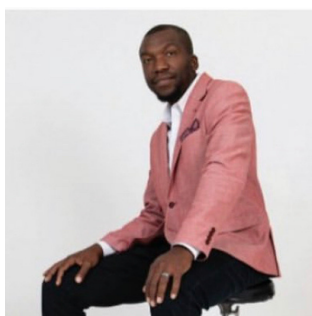
**Fernell Hogan
(Theatre '15)**

Starring in the Atlantic Theater Company's production of *Kimberly Akimbo*, a new musical from Tony Award winner Jeanine Tesori & Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire based on the critically-acclaimed play of the same name.



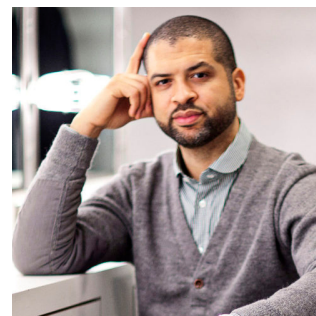
**Letitia Guillory
(Theatre '82)**

Content innovation hub, WarnerMedia OneFifty, has relaunched its platform focused on highlighting new content and projects from underrepresented creators. Music, art, and skateboarding will factor heavily in this half-hour dramedy series, along with supernatural qualities that will be used to transport a young Brooklyn boy between this world and the next.



**Reggie Quinerly
(Jazz '99)**

Read his article contribution to the November issue of *Downbeat Magazine* entitled "Transitioning to a New Scene". Now available on national newsstands.



**Jason Moran
(Jazz '93)**

His new solo exhibition, *Bathing the Room with Blues*, celebrates space and creative expression in jazz history and highlights the importance of music and live performance as vital forces in Black culture and American life. On view at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver until January 30, 2022

who we are.

The purpose of the HSPVA Black Alumni Network is to connect Black alumni of The High School for Performing and Visual Arts, support alumni and current students' endeavors, and provide resources, scholarships, and networking opportunities to champion the next generation of HSPVA artists and professionals.

creative team



DENISE WARD
Chair
Vocal '12



CAPRA FELLOWS
Vice-Chair
Theatre '11



GABBY BYRD
Secretary
Vocal '11



KIERRA MARTIN
Treasurer
Dance '13



HENRY ELLIS DAVIS
Technology Chair
Theatre '09



DABRINA SANDIFER
Scholarship Co-Chair
Theatre '06



TAYLAR LEWIS
Scholarship Co-Chair
Theatre '11



EDWARD BELL
Engagement Co-Chair
Vocal '10



MALCOLM JACKSON
Engagement Co-Chair
Instrumental '10



ALDARIAN MAYES
Jazz '10



TAYLOR SCOTT
Theatre '19



DJ CARR
Vocal '18



CHRISTIAN WARNER
Dance '12



STEPHEN HUDSON
Vocal '03

how you can help

Serve on the Creative Team

The Creative Team is a collective of HSPVA alumni who coordinate events, programming, and fundraising on behalf of the network.

Support one of our Alumni events

We host the Holiday Jam Social every December, an Alumni Happening in the summer, and we currently have additional performance opportunities and collaborations in the works.

Contribute to our scholarship fund

Support our 2021-2022 vision as we seek to increase our monetary giving and award at least (10) students with scholarships or grants.