



# Office for the Arts at Harvard

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Office for the Arts and Office of Career Services Announce 2011 Recipients of Artist Development Fellowships

### FOURTEEN UNDERGRADUATE ARTISTS AWARDED FELLOWSHIPS TO FURTHER ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) and the Office of the Dean for the Arts and Humanities are pleased to announce the 2011 recipients of the Artist Development Fellowship. This program supports the artistic development of students demonstrating unusual accomplishment and/or evidence of significant artistic promise. The program is administered by the OFA and the Office of Career Services, and made possible with the support of the Office of the President at Harvard University.

Council on the Arts members at the time of selection were: **Ingrid Monson** (Chair), Interim Divisional Dean for the Arts and Humanities and Quincy Jones Professor of African-American Music; **Jessica Berson**, Acting Director, Office for the Arts Dance Program; **S. Allen Counter**, Director, Harvard Foundation; Deborah Foster, Senior Lecturer in Folklore and Mythology; **Jorie Graham**, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; **Ruth Stella Lingford**, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; **Jack Megan**, Director, OFA; **Cathleen McCormick**, Director of Programs, OFA; **Diane Paulus**, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theater; **Alex Rehding**, Professor of Music Theory and Graduate Advisor in Theory; **Elaine Scarry**, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value; Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows; and **Marcus Stern**, Associate Director, American Repertory Theater/Moscow Art Theater School Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University.

The program, jointly administered by the OFA and OCS, is open to all undergraduates currently enrolled in Harvard College. For further application information visit the OFA or OCS websites; [www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/support](http://www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/support); and [www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu).

## 2011 Artist Development Fellowship Recipients

**Ryaan Ahmed '12** is awarded a Fellowship to spend the summer studying historical lute and theorbo performance with Patrick O'Brien, one of the world's leading lutenists. A Computer Science concentrator in Eliot House pursuing a secondary field in Music, Ahmed is the director of the Harvard Early Music Society as well as the Harvard Chamber Singers. He has also participated in numerous instrumental and vocal performances with the Schola Cantorum Boston, the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, the Harvard Chamber Singers, the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, and the Harvard Glee Club, among others. Ahmed plans on eventually directing and playing in professional early music ensembles and to teach at the conservatory level.

**Benjamin Berman '12**, a Visual and Environmental Studies concentrator in Leverett House, is awarded a Fellowship to create "In Warranty," a 3D animated film featuring motion capture and experiments in storytelling through gesture. Among a series of other animation and direction experiences, Berman is currently an animator, researcher, and assistant to Errol Morris, an Oscar-winning documentarian, at Fourth Floor Productions. He is also the Director of Animation for *The Volcano People* and *Just hit the buttons*, two films currently being produced in Russian documenting the lives of Siberian aborigines, Western geologists, and electronic musicians in Moscow.

**Lucy Caplan '12**, a History and Literature concentrator in Dunster House, is awarded a Fellowship to attend the Aspen Music Festival and School in Aspen, Colorado. A violist pursuing a secondary field in Music, Caplan is the Co-Principal Viola of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra and Principal Viola of the Dunster House Opera, and was the Principal Viola in the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras for nine years. She has participated in numerous chamber music collaborations, including one with Yo-Yo Ma at the 2010 Silk Road Project's opening event. Caplan also performed under Sir Simon Rattle at a 2010 benefit concert for the Susan G. Komen Foundation as one of only four students in a professional orchestra. She plans to pursue a career in viola performance, focusing on chamber music, teaching, and outreach.

**Mark J. Chiusano '12**, an English concentrator in Winthrop House, is awarded a Fellowship to spend this summer working on a collection of stories paying homage to the setting of Flatbush, Brooklyn, and attending the Tin House Writers' Conference. Chiusano is currently the Features Editor of the *Harvard Advocate*, the Magazine Chair of the *Harvard Crimson*, and an intern and reader for the *Harvard Review*.

**Julian Gewirtz '13** of Quincy House is awarded a Fellowship to explore the influence of the AIDS epidemic on American consciousness through poetry built from interviews with epidemic survivors, documentary research, and work with professional poets whose writing addresses these issues. Concentrating in History, Gewirtz has been a contributing writer for *The Huffington Post*, publisher of the *Harvard Advocate*, and a staff writer for the *Harvard Book Review*. He hopes to become both a professor of cultural history as well as a poet.

**Tabaré Gowon '12**, an Engineering Sciences concentrator in Kirkland House, is awarded a Fellowship to study this summer with the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, where he will study Parkour, an athletic dance idiom using urban environments as a stage, as a means for developing site-specific choreography. Gowon is a member of the Harvard-Radcliffe Modern Dance Company and an assistant instructor for the Karen Amirault Dance Company in Burlington, VT.

A resident of Lowell House studying Psychology, **Frederick Kuperman** '11 is awarded a Fellowship to participate in the Emerging Choreographers program at Springboard Danse Montreal. Kuperman has choreographed over seven performance pieces at Harvard, performed in numerous programs, and both choreographed and performed in the PegLeg Theater in New York City, the American College Dance Festival, the Young Choreographer's Festival, and films for Bravo! and MTV, among other programs. His post-graduation plans include working as both a choreographer and director.

A resident of Leverett House concentrating in Visual and Environmental Studies with a secondary field in Linguistics and a French citation, **Rebecca Levitan** '12 is awarded a Fellowship to take a printmaking course and to combine printmaking with oil painting. Levitan is a freelance graphic designer as well as an illustrator for *Hare Today*, the weekly Leverett House newsletter. She is also an arts editor for the *Harvard Crimson* and an Art Board member of the *Harvard Advocate*. Levitan hopes to eventually have a studio practice in the fine arts.

**Anna Murphy** '12, a Social Studies concentrator in Quincy House with a secondary field in Visual and Environmental Studies, is awarded a Fellowship for a two-month apprenticeship with Tel Aviv-based, Israeli documentary filmmaker and journalist Yotam Feldman on his forthcoming film *The Lab* and other current projects. She also plans to make her own film on local anti-occupation art and tactical media. Murphy is on the Art Board of the *Harvard Advocate* and was the magazine's Design Board editor. In addition to her artistic experience, she also received the Mill-Taylor Prize for the best paper written in the Social Studies sophomore class, as well as a David Rockefeller International Experience Grant to participate in World Teach Namibia in 2010.

A concentrator in English and American Literature and Language in Leverett House, **Megan O'Keefe** '11 is awarded a Fellowship to work with with Dario D'Ambrosi, playwright/actor/director and founder of the Pathological Theater in Italy, a school for individuals with mental illnesses to study and practice dramatic arts as a means of expression and therapy. O'Keefe was the director of *The Glass Menagerie* at the Loeb, as well as a dramaturg for the Harvard productions of *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, and *Angels in America*. She is also trained in voice, directing, acting, and dance. O'Keefe plans to work in special education advocacy for arts and music programs after graduation.

**Arnold Peinado** '12, a resident of Quincy House concentrating in Economics with a secondary field in Music, is awarded a Fellowship to study at Dubspot, an electronic music production and DJ school in New York offering courses in expert-level production techniques. Peinado is currently the co-president of Quad Sound Studios, as well as a board editor, business manager, and writer for the *Harvard Art Review*. In addition to his artistic experience, Peinado interned at Acción Emprendedora, a non-profit firm dedicated to overcoming poverty through entrepreneurship in Santiago, Chile, where he raised \$10,000 in grants.

A Quincy House resident concentrating in Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology and pursuing a M.M. in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory, **Kenric Tam** '12 is awarded a Fellowship to study with Professor Klaus Hellwig this summer at the Musikschule Fellbach in Stuttgart, Germany. Among numerous other honors, Tam received First Place at the 2009 Stravinsky Awards International Competition, and he was selected as the only pianist to work with Michael Tilson Thomas in a HBO documentary filmed in 2010. He has also participated in the International Holland Summer Music Academy, the Music Academy of the West, and the Aspen Music Festival.

A resident of Cabot House, **Alan Toda-Ambaras** '13 is awarded a Fellowship to participate in the cello master classes taught by David Geringas this summer at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy. A History of Art and Architecture concentrator enrolled in the Harvard-NEC Dual Degree Program, Toda-Ambaras has won numerous competitions and participated in performances here and abroad, including a performance with Yo-Yo Ma and members of the Silk Road Ensemble at Harvard in 2009. He plans on becoming a professional cellist with a career as both a soloist and a chamber musician.

**Justin Wymer** '12, a resident of Currier House concentrating in English and American Literature and Language, is awarded a Fellowship to intern at the Ugly Duckling Presse under the tutelage of professional poets. In addition, he intends to retrace Federico García Lorca's New York City sojourn, viewing urbanization through a surrealist lens, and to begin a collection of poems that explores lingual perspective, cityscape, and surrealism. Wymer has recently been published in *The Harvard Advocate*, *Tuesday Magazine*, *The Gamut*, and *Infinitives: A Collaborative Chapbook*, among other publications. In the spring of 2010, Wymer was awarded the Edward Eager Memorial Fund Prize for an exceptional submission of five poems by a Harvard undergraduate. He was also chosen as one of eight students to recite W.S. Merwin's *Dusk in Winter* during a ceremony honoring the U.S. Poet Laureate's life-long excellence in poetry and environmental activism.

**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 [www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu).

**The Office of Career Services (OCS)** supports all students and alumni of Harvard College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in exploring and making effective career and educational choices. OCS also supports a limited number of Division of Continuing Education (DCE) students. Form more information on OCS services, call 617.495.2595 or visit [www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu).

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