

May 2016

BSA ranked one of America's Best High Schools by U.S. News; #1 in Baltimore City



U.S. News and World Report has just released its 2016 rankings of nearly 20,000 public schools across the country and BSA is #1 in Baltimore City and in the top 8% nationwide, earning distinction as one of America's Best High Schools and a Silver Badge again this year! Congrats to all of our students who work so hard in their academic and arts classes, and to the fantastic faculty that helps to guide and inspire our young scholars! To see the profile, [click here](#).

College Decision Day & Academic Highlights

BSA's students have a plethora of great choices with admissions (and grants and scholarships) to some of the most competitive arts and academic programs at universities across the nation including Harvard, Juilliard, University of Chicago, Princeton, Peabody Institute, Haverford, Eastman School of Music, Brubeck Institute, Indiana University and so many others. Congratulations to BSA Class of 2016!

Last week saw the induction of 31 juniors to the [National Honor Society](#), scholars who also show excellence in the areas of leadership, service, and character. [See the list here](#). BSA brought home 6 of 18 awards at the Baltimore City History Day Competition and students are moving on to the [Maryland State History Day](#) competition on the 7th. Only 174 of 1085 of the teams that submitted viable solution papers were selected to advance in Moody's Mega Math Challenge, a competition organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, including a team from BSA!



Baltimore's young artists are making their mark across the globe!

Slaying it with Bey!

Maybe you've heard of Beyoncé and her recent projects *Formation* and *Lemonade*, but what you might not know about it is that FOUR BSA grads were involved in various parts of the icon's recent work. Stage Design grad **Nathan Bailey** art-directed [Hold Up](#) (and created the look of that Hot Sauce bat); Musician **Dontae Winslow** plays the trumpet in the piece; **Christian Siriano** designed one of the featured dresses; and Stage Design grad **Anna Bakker** is home after a month on the Beyoncé tour as a 3d animation producer. The Sun caught wind of the news. [See their piece here](#)



Dontae Winslow & Nathan Bailey
on the set of Beyoncé's *Lemonade*

These four talented artists have an array of other projects underway as well. Nathan Bailey is an Assistant Art Director in the Art Directors Guild as well as Assistant Art Director on the 6th season of *American Horror Story*. Dontae has a thriving career in music working with headliners including Justin Timberlake ([check them out here](#)) and Dr. Dre. Christian Siriano's projects are almost too numerous to name but most recently he's released a bridal collection and Scarlett Johansson wears one of his dresses on the cover of April's *Cosmo*! Anna's main focus has been an on-going collaboration with the London based interactive production company Marshmallow Laser Feast and their Virtual Reality film *In the Eyes of the Animal* ([Watch the trailer here](#)).

Stage & Screen: Hamilton, The Good Wife & Zootopia

Of the five roles alumna **Kamille Upshaw** has learned for *Hamilton the Musical*, her favorite is performing as the bullet that propels toward Hamilton in slow motion, killing the founding father. Learn more about Kamille's role in the award-winning musical in this interview with [The Baltimore Sun](#). Alum Darius Barnes also recently posted from Hamilton Boot Camp -- Stay tuned!



Rachel Hilson

Rachel Hilson recently attended a red carpet gala for *The Good Wife* where she had a recurring role.

Disney's *Zootopia* includes one of our graduates, **Fuschia Walker**, in her first voice cameo. What fun to play a polar bear!

A Wide Angle: Film & Photography

BSA stage production student **Jeffrey Obike** was part of [a project](#) with Wide Angle Youth Media to help tell a positive story about Baltimore's young people. The work culminated in a new book called *This is Baltimore*, a collection of images, portraits, and quotes from Baltimore youth as they see themselves.

French director **Francescu Artily** spent a few days with photographer **Léa Eouzan** and muralists in Baltimore including BSA alum **Ernest Shaw**. Artily's documentary [Sandtown Project](#) will be screened at the Embassy of France.

Visual Arts grad **Cucillo Consad**'s most recent endeavor, ["Notown"](#), is a documentary film that examines the city of Detroit's latest gentrification through the city's emerging water crisis.

Ailey, Ailey II & Black Iris

Alumna **Jacqueline Green** has performed on four continents with the prestigious Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater but [dancing in her hometown](#) is always special! She was featured in a 15-minute solo *Cry* when the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater hit The Modell Performing Arts Center at The Lyric.

Fellow dance alumna **Courtney Celeste Spears** is "a natural" at Ailey II, dancing with "speed, clarity and elegance of spirit" according to [The New York Times](#) dance critic Gia Kourlas.

"The work that we present needs to be very reflective of our current society," says **Jeremy McQueen** about *The Black Iris* Project, the ballet collective that will foster new works about black lives and history. BSA alumna and Washington Ballet dancer **Nardia Boodoo** starred in McQueen's original ballet of the same name and will continue to work with the choreographer.



Jacqueline Green/Photo Alvin Ailey

Stellar Music



Anthony J. Brown collected a record number of Stellar Awards for his song [Worth](#)

A Tony Award nomination was just a warm up for BSA alum **Anthony J. Brown** and Group Therapy. They swept the Stellar Gospel Music Awards with awards including Artist, Song, CD, Producer, Contemporary Group of the Year, and others!

Trumpeter **Kenny Bean** has won a grant from the Sphinx Org. to go to a conducting competition in Greece.

Nadia Sirota's *Meet the Composer* podcast was named as Finalist for a 2016 Peabody Award alongside *This American Life*. The award celebrates media arts of the highest ambitions and standards. Nadia is also playing with Brooklyn sextet yMusic and Ben Folds at the Sydney Opera House this August.

And congrats to our current music students for these recent accomplishments:

- Senior vocalists **Joseph Parrish** and **Lauren Redditt** placed 1st and 2nd place respectively in the Central Maryland Choral Vocal Competition for High School Seniors.
- **Ryan Bair** won 3rd place in the high school division of the Appalachian State University guitar festival's competition.
- **Seth Schultheis** recently soloed at a concert with the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra in Annapolis.
- Junior **Cierra Hall**, a member of the 2016 Maryland All-State Band, was a featured flute soloist at the Maryland Music Educators Association Conference.

BSA Goes to Washington

50 of BSA's current visual arts students were featured in an exhibit at the U.S. Department of Education called "[The Development of the Young Artist.](#)" Students enjoyed an opening ceremony in Washington DC where their art was open to the public for a month. For the program, [click here](#).

Violinist **Anna Elashvili's** nonprofit organization [Decoda](#) took music created by inmates at one of South Carolina's most dangerous prisons to the White House. Members of a the group performed *Welcome to my World* for an audience including U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Former New York City Ballet soloist Kathryn Morgan explored musical theatre at the Kennedy Center alongside BSA theatre alum **Jesse Carrey-Beaver** in [To Dance The Musical](#). Jesse currently stars in the national tour of *Dirty Dancing*.

Local Politics

BSA alum **Ryan Dorsey** won the Baltimore's 3rd District's primary election for City Council!

Exploring Abroad

BSA's senior acting ensemble will soon venture to London where they'll present the world premiere of Roundabout Theatre Company's [Prospect High: Brooklyn](#) with their counterparts at [Showdown Theatre Arts](#). It's the culminating trip of this yearly exchange program founded by Donald Hicken. Meanwhile Stage Production students will visit the [Stratford Festival](#) in Ontario. They'll see 6 plays and visit many of the operation sites that handle the scenery, costumes, properties, and lighting. The Festival is the largest repertory operation in North America, performing different plays in its four theater spaces every night. Many of its productions have transferred to Broadway. Next year BSA will undertake a schoolwide study of Africa which will include a trip to the continent for selected students. Stay tuned for exciting academic and artistic work all of next year.

BSA's Spring Calendar

Join us in the **Mark K. Joseph Building** at BSA for performances & concerts.

Spring Chorus & Orchestra Concert

Wednesday, May 4 at 5 pm

Selections from Sibelius, Elgar, Mozart, Wieniawski, and Vivaldi
Schaefer Ballroom. Tickets \$5 & \$10.

The Beggar's Opera

May 4 & 5 at 7 pm; May 6 at 5 pm;

May 7 & 11-13 at 7 pm; May 14 at 2 pm

The Theatre Department's senior acting ensemble under the direction of Donald Hicken presents "The Beggar's Opera" adapted from John Gay by Vaclav Havel.

In the Shakur Black Box Theatre. Tickets \$5 & \$10.

Video Showcase

Friday, May 13 at 4:30 and 7 pm

The work of our film students is featured in the Schaefer Ballroom. Free.

Chamber Music Recitals

Friday, May 13 at 5 pm
Chamber musicians are featured in the
Straus Recital Hall, 2nd floor. Free.

Musical Theatre Night

May 18 & 19 at 4:30 & 7 pm
Join the Junior Ensemble in the Shakur Black Box Theatre for musical theatre!
Tickets \$5 & \$10.

Armstrong Honors Recital

Wednesday, May 25 at 7 pm
BSA's most talented seniors showcase their musical work on at this annual recital
followed by a reception in the Straus Recital Hall. Free.

Senior Exhibition

Opening Reception is Friday, May 27 from 4-6 pm
Enjoy (and purchase) the work of BSA's senior visual artists
in their culminating exhibition.

BSA at the BSO!

BSA's partnership with the world-renowned symphony
continues with two collaborations in June.

Hairspray

Thursday, June 2 at 8 pm at Strathmore Hall; Friday, June 3 at 8 pm,
Saturday, June 4 at 3 & 8 pm, Sunday, June 5 at 3 pm at Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.
A concert production of the John Waters quirky classic, featuring full orchestra,
vocalists and John Waters himself as narrator. BSA students sing and dance as part
of the cast of this semi-staged production.

Appalachian Spring

Thursday, June 9 &
Friday, June 10 at 8 pm at Meyerhoff Symphony Hall; Saturday, June 11 at 8 pm at
Strathmore Hall. BSA dancers perform the original Martha Graham choreography
set to Aaron Copland's classic score evoking America's wide-open landscape and
inherent optimism. For tickets and more information, visit www.bsomusic.org

BSA Receives Grant from Saul Zaentz Charitable Foundation to Pilot Film Program

We're delighted to announce the receipt of a grant from the Saul Zaentz Charitable Foundation to pilot an exciting film program for a select group of BSA students and faculty this summer.

A great independent producer, [Saul Zaentz](#) specialized in literary film adaptations and won three Best Picture Oscars for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*/1975, *Amadeus*/1984, and *The English Patient*/1996, an achievement shared by only a handful of producers. Zaentz believed that film has the power to change our way of seeing the world and the Foundation in his name seeks to continue his legacy.

"This grant will afford our students the time and technology to explore filmmaking on a very deep level. We are looking forward to seeing the work they generate and to adding our kids' voices to the mix in the Saul Zaentz initiatives in Baltimore," said Chris Ford. Johns Hopkins University also recently received funding from the Foundation to establish the [Saul Zaentz Innovation Fund in Film & Media](#).

BSA's program will give voice to the diverse body of its students through the medium of digital media. Students will be introduced to film as a social practice and as a visual medium for storytelling and will create a documentary or a narrative film with the overarching theme of "I Love Baltimore." The 6-week intensive will take place at BSA, primarily in the school's [Center for Collaborative Arts & Technology](#), a state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary lab that houses many of the tools required for filmmaking.

An additional Film/Video Research & Discovery component will consist of a learning experience for the staff and students of BSA. Active filmmakers will visit BSA and BSA film/video faculty will also visit leading high school and college film/video programs around the country. One of the first steps in the Discovery Project will be a meeting with fellow grantees at JHU. The pilot will also enable BSA to explore what a full-time video program might look like for the high school.

Join Us to Honor Four Retirees!

This spring we'll be recognizing four very special retirees at BSA and we hope you can join us at one or both of the events in honor of **Ruth Gladney & Debbie Rogers** (May 10 at 4pm) and **Donald Hicken & Stephen Kent** (June 18 at 4 pm). For the invitation, [click here](#). To purchase tickets for the June event, [click here](#). For questions or to RSVP, please contact Carter Polakoff cpolakoff@bsfa.org or Caroline Senatore csenatore@bsfa.org | 410-625-0403