



Office for the Arts at Harvard

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For More Information

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Office for the Arts Announces 2024 Arts Prize Winners

ELEVEN HARVARD STUDENTS RECEIVE PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS.

(Cambridge, MA) — The Office for the Arts at Harvard 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 2024.

The awards, presented to more than 210 undergraduates over the past 41 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), Shirley Carter Burden Professor of Photography, History of Photography and American Art, and Dean of Arts and Humanities; Jack Megan, Director, Office for the Arts; Remo Airaldi, American Repertory Theater, Lecturer on Theater, Theater, Dance & Media; Alicia Anstead NF '08, Associate Director for Programming/Producer of ARTS FIRST Festival, Office for the Arts; Daniel Chong, Professor of the Practice in Music, Parker Quartet; Elizabeth Epsen, Lead Administrator for the OFA Dance Program; Jorie Graham, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; Phillip Howze, Associate Senior Lecturer on Playwriting, Theater, Dance & Media; Ruth Stella Lingford, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; Laura Quinton, Assistant Director of Studies and Lecturer, History & Literature; Matt Saunders '97, Professor of Arts, Film and Visual Studies; Elaine Scarry, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value and Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows; Yosvany Terry, Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Jazz Bands.

Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts

Dasha Bough '24 is the 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.

An affiliate of Currier House and a joint concentrator in Art, Film, and Visual Studies (AFVS), and Slavic Literatures and Cultures, **Dasha Bough** is a film director and animator. She studied classical etching and oil painting at the Repin Academy of Art in St. Petersburg, Russia. Bough is best known for her 2017 TEDx sand art performance, her illustration work for the Emmy-nominated series *Mrs. America* (Hulu FX) and blockbuster *Godzilla vs. Kong*, and her 2022 animated feature documentary *The Conspiracy* – a documentary about the history of conspiracy theory and antisemitism. Her most recent short film *Now I Am Old and Do Not Need the Moon* has played at more than 28 festivals globally and will continue to screen at festivals through 2024. The film was shot in Moldova in spring of 2023 with support from the Davis Center, Harvard Slavic Department and Harvard AFVS Department. Bough is shooting and editing her latest film – a feature length documentary which comes as a sequel to *Now I Am Old and Do Not Need the Moon*, and which centers on a five-generation household of Roma women in the village of Ursari, Moldova. This film was shot on 16mm and edited at Harvard under the mentorship of professor Robb Moss.

Council Prize in Visual Art

Rivers Sheehan '24 is the recipient of the **Council Prize in Visual Art**. The prize recognizes outstanding work in the field of visual arts.

A Lowell House affiliate, and concentrator in Art, Film, and Visual Studies, and History of Science, **Rivers Sheehan** is a visual artist and writer. She has spent her time at Harvard combining research-based artmaking with historical scholarship, exposing the scientific nature of artisanship and the viscosity embedded in scientific epistemologies. Through employment at the Forbes Pigment Collection and the Straus Center for Technical Studies, she became interested in producing contemporary works using historical processes and began taking a hands-on approach to the periods she studied in the History of Science department. She has exhibited at the Harvard Advocate, The Harvard Undergraduate Student Art Collective, and the Carpenter Center's Sert Gallery. She has photographed live sets for up-and-coming Harvard musicians as well as touring acts in the Boston area for WHRB.com. She was a Radcliffe Institute Research Partner for filmmaker Christopher Harris whose project applied her knowledge of analog film materials to source film prints. Her photographs have been featured in Harvard's *Fig Magazine* and *The Independent*.

Radcliffe Doris Cohen Levi Prize

Caron Sujean Kim '24 and **Isabella Peña '24** are recipients 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.

Caron Sujean Kim is a resident of Leverett House, concentrating in Sociology with a secondary in Theater, Dance & Media (TDM), and language citation in Chinese. She is a choreographer, dancer, performer and producer primarily operating in theater and dance spaces at Harvard and beyond. She began her choreography journey at Harvard with the Asian American Dance Troupe, where she also served on Board as first-year representative, publicity chair and treasurer over the course of five semesters. Kim has choreographed numerous productions for the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club, of which she is also a past vice president. Harvard productions include *Something Rotten!*, the original student production *OUT: An Asian American Musical*, *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*, and *Spring Awakening*. Kim was the choreographic advisor for *Arts Prelude to an Inauguration*, a celebration of arts at Harvard in honor of former President Claudine Gay, directed by Diane Paulus. Kim is also an actor and performer, with the Asian Student Arts Project's production of *Legally Blonde* (Margot), the TDM senior thesis production of *Shimcheong: A Folktale* (Princess Yena) written by Julia Riew '22, and the original student play written by Chinyere Obasi *Under Control/Utter Chaos* (Narrator). Kim also is a former First-Year Arts Program proctor (dance, production) and is a production assistant at the Office for the Arts. She has additionally interned at the American Repertory Theater in the production/company management departments.

Isabella Peña is a resident of Cabot House and concentrator in Government and East Asian Studies, as well as a dual-enrolled student at Berklee College of Music. She's been a cast member with the Hasty Pudding Theatricals since her sophomore year and has been performing in shows with the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club since she was a first-year student. She is also a member of the Harvard Opportunes, where she received an outstanding soloist award and outstanding arrangement award for the group's 2022 set at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. She was a finalist on Season 18 of *American Idol*.

Louise Donovan Award

Julia Grullon '24 and **Kristian Arnell Hardy '24** are the recipients 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 Adams House concentrating in Psychology with a secondary in Educational Studies, **Julia Grullon** is a theater stage manager, producer, director and administrator. At Harvard, she has served as the president of the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club, secretary of the Harvard Asian Student Arts Project (ASAP), board member of Harvard ¡TEATRO! and production proctor of the First-Year Arts Program. Grullon has worked on more than two dozen theatrical productions on campus, primarily as a stage manager and more recently as a producer, advisor and director. She has staffed productions such as ¡TEATRO!'s *In the Heights* on the Loeb Proscenium, ASAP's *Legally Blonde* and original musical *OUT* in the Agassiz Theatre, and Julia Riew's Theater, Dance & Media senior thesis *Shimcheong: A Folktale* in Farkas Hall and the Loeb Experimental Theater. She is passionate about uplifting historically underrepresented artists and narratives, as well as cultivating healthier production processes for actors and staff members alike. Beyond extracurricular theater, Grullon works at the Office for the Arts at Harvard as a production assistant and venue manager. She has additionally interned at the American Repertory Theater, conducting dramaturgical research for Diane Paulus and P. Carl's world-premiere play *Becoming a Man* and working closely with director Brisa Areli Muñoz on the Little Amal project.

A resident of Dunster House and a joint concentrator in Theater, Dance & Media (TDM), and African American Studies, **Kristian Arnell Hardy** is a multi-hyphenate artist whose work spans directing, performance, writing, arts administration and multimedia creation. Hardy is passionate about illuminating the multiplicities of Black womanhood/girlhood, themes of which were central to her original one-woman TDM senior thesis *A Sweet Tea Communion* and her directing credits: *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (Loeb Ex) and *All The Natalie Portmans* (Loeb Ex). Both productions were in partnership with Harvard Black Community & Student Theater (BlackCAST) where Hardy has served as the Black Playwrights Festival co-director (2021), co-president (2022) and senior adviser. Outside of BlackCAST, Hardy has held the positions of undergraduate researcher at Harvard's ArtLab (2022), OFA steering committee member (2022) and Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club social committee head (2021). Through every role, Hardy has enthusiastically advocated for joy-filled, equitable and safe arts environments where all students, but especially those who live in the margins, can be unapologetically themselves.

Suzanne Farrell Dance Prize

Jennifer Chu '24 is the recipient 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 Adams House and concentrator in Psychology, with a secondary in Theater, Dance & Media, **Jennifer Chu** is an avid dancer and choreographer on Harvard's campus. Coming from a professional dance background in diverse styles such as ballet, jazz, hip hop, contemporary and tap, she is a member of various dance and arts groups at Harvard. Chu has performed with the Harvard Ballet Company, Expressions Dance Company, Eleganza and Harvard Dance Project, in addition to student film projects and senior thesis productions. As a first-year, Chu ventured into the world of choreographing musicals, going on to choreograph several productions including *The East Side*, (Harvard's first original Asian-American musical), *West Side Story*, *M. Butterfly*, *In the Heights* and *OUT: An Asian American Musical*, another student-penned original. Chu's choreographic approach fuses various dance styles and genres to create a distinct movement world that will bring to life any given story or narrative.

Robert E. Levi Prize

Madison Pankey '24 is the recipient 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 Dunster House, **Madison Pankey** is a double concentrator in Theater, Dance & Media (TDM), and History of Science with a focus in Science and Society. She is a producer of the 175th show of Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the oldest theater company in the U.S. She has been a member of the Hasty Pudding business staff for two years and has served as a business associate for one year. She was a ticket sales manager and the social media coordinator her junior year. As producer of the 175th show, Pankey helped spearhead the 40-run international show, as well as an alum revue to celebrate 180 years of the Pudding. Pankey also served as a First-Year Outdoor Program leader for the past two years and is a Program Marshal on the Class of 2024 Class Committee. As a TDM concentrator, Pankey has been exploring her involvement in both acting and producing. Pankey believes in art as a form of love and sharing humanity with one another.

Robert Levin Prize in Musical Performance

Lucas Amory '24 and **Catherine Deskur '24** are the 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.

Lucas Amory is pursuing a double concentration in Music and German with a secondary in Government, while pursuing a Masters in Piano Performance at the New England Conservatory of Music in the studio of Hae-Sun Paik, working as a pianist and conductor on Harvard campus. Most recently making his orchestral debut with the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra in 2023 playing Beethoven's 5th Piano Concerto, Amory is also a 2020 Presidential Scholar of the Arts Semifinalist and National YoungArts Foundation Finalist in Classical Music. As a pianist, he has received top prizes at the James Yannatos Concerto Competition, Lyra Young Artists Music Competition, the Claudette Sorel International Piano Competition and the Canadian International Piano Competition, among others. He has collaborated with many esteemed artists including Bruce Adolphe, the Escher String Quartet, Nico Muhly and Claire Chase. In past summers, he has attended the Ravinia Steans Institute of Music, Aspen Music Festival and School, Music Academy (Santa Barbara), Yellow Barn and Morningside Music Bridge. As a conductor, Amory is the music director of Harvard's Bach Society Orchestra and has been involved with Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club and Harvard College Opera productions, most recently music directing *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*. He is also employed as a baritone Ferris Choral Fellow in the University Choir at Memorial Church. Past teachers of his include Julian Martin, Alessio Bax, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Robert Levin, Jeremy Denk, Gilbert Kalish and Conor Hanick.

A resident of Quincy House and a concentrator in Computer Science and Double Bass Performance through the New England Conservatory of Music dual degree program, **Catherine Deskur** works as an orchestral and chamber musician throughout the U.S. and Europe. In addition to her role as principal bassist of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra, Deskur is a section member of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, a tenured member of her hometown orchestra, the Binghamton Philharmonic, and a regular player with other regional orchestras throughout the Northeastern U.S. During summers, Deskur has served as principal bassist of the National Youth Orchestra of the USA during the 2019 European tour, as well as principal bassist of the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra, and was selected as a member of the Davos Festival Academy Chamber Orchestra. Beyond her orchestral work, Deskur was a semi-finalist in the 2019 International Society of Bassists High School Solo Competition, winner of the 2018 Fredonia Bass Fest Solo Competition and was selected for a residency at the Stauffer Center in Cremona, Italy. She is a student of Donald Palma.

Jonathan Levy Award

Jeremy Ornstein '24 is the recipient of the **Jonathan Levy Award**. This prize recognizes the most promising undergraduate actor at Harvard College.

A resident of Adams House and concentrator in Social Studies, **Jeremy Ornstein** is a performer of many stripes. He has held several leading roles in Harvard campus theatrical productions, including Ubu in *Ubu Roi* and Theodore Roosevelt in *White House Princess*. He is a viral stand-up comedian at Harvard and on Tiktok, and has served as a beloved member of the On Thin Ice improv troupe for three years, cracking jokes both old and instantaneous. Ornstein has made a public podcast, organized three flash mobs across campus and shared poems at events ranging from the First-Year Talent Show to the yearly Adams Winter Feast. Outside of campus he has served in the Sunrise Movement, training young leaders to tell compelling stories to call for bold climate action.

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The Office for the Arts at Harvard supports student engagement in the arts and integrates the arts into University life. Through its programs and services, the OFA teaches, mentors and fosters student artmaking, 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.