

# Work on a developing musical at Harvard!

## Work with Broadway professionals, alums and classmates!

### THE OPPORTUNITY

The [Office for the Arts](#) and the [Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club](#) are producing a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students to work alongside a professional team to create all aspects of the development of a new musical: composition, lyrics, book writing, directing, performing and more. OFA and HRDC are partnering with Broadway producer [Jack Viertel](#) '71 (**Encores!** Artistic Director, *The Outsiders*, *Jelly's Last Jam*), Broadway director and writer [Sammi Cannold](#) EDM '16 (*How to Dance in Ohio*, *Evita* at A.R.T.), and composer [Sam Willmott](#) (*Bhangin' It*, *Yo, Vikings!*) to host a developmental musical theater residency to rework the 1983 Broadway show *The Human Comedy*, with original book and lyrics by William Dumaresq and music by Galt McDermot.

### THE WHERE AND WHEN

The residency takes place September 15-21, 2024 at the Agassiz Theatre, where the show will be developed for a public reading performance on September 21. To apply to join the team, please fill out [THIS FORM](#) by **Monday, April 22, 2024**. The producers and creative team are assembling the project participants prior to the end of the Spring 2024 semester, and are casting as part of HRDC Fall 2024 [Common Casting](#).

### *The Human Comedy* SYNOPSIS

As World War II rages in Europe, life in the quaint town of Ithaca, California, is fraught with tension and anxiety. Hoping to support his family in the wake of his father's death and his brother's deployment, precocious teenager Homer Macauley takes a job at the local telegraph office. Through the click of telegraph keys and the difficulty of delivering tragic news at front doors, Homer glimpses the lives of neighbors and strangers alike as they reckon with the circumstances at hand. From innocent, confused children and a weary mother faced with the news that her son was killed in action to a cockeyed optimist who finds comfort in a sunny disposition, *The Human Comedy* paints the picture of an eclectic community facing hardship and trying to find solace in life's contradictions: the wonderful and the sorrowful.

### THE PROFESSIONAL TEAM



**Jack Viertel** '71 is the senior vice president of Jujamcyn Theaters, which owns and operates five Broadway theaters. He has been involved in dozens of productions presented by Jujamcyn since 1987, including multiple Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winners, including *City of Angels* and *Angels in America*. He has also helped shepherd six of August Wilson's plays to Broadway. He is the artistic director of New York City Center's acclaimed Encores! series, which presents three musical productions every season. In that capacity, Viertel has overseen fifty shows, for some of which he adapted the scripts. He conceived the long-running *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and the critically acclaimed *After Midnight*, and has been a creative consultant on many shows, including *Hairspray*, *A Christmas Story* and *Dear Evan Hansen*. He was the Mark Taper Forum dramaturg, the drama critic and arts editor of the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, and has spent a decade teaching musical theater at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.



**Sammi Cannold** EDM '16 is a theater, film and television director who is one of Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30 in Hollywood & Entertainment, one of Variety's 10 Broadway Stars to Watch and one of Town & Country's Creative Aristocracy. In 2023, she made her Broadway debut as director of *How to Dance in Ohio* at the Belasco Theater. Cannold has directed at some of the world's most prestigious venues, including The Kennedy Center, Radio City Music Hall and Lincoln Center, as well as for the National Symphony Orchestra, CBS, ABC, Nickelodeon, Paramount+, Cirque du Soleil and TikTok. Recent theater credits include *Evita* (American Repertory Theater, New York City Center -- Critic's Pick), *Rent in Concert* (The Kennedy Center), *Sunset Boulevard* (The Kennedy Center), *Carmen* (Rose Hall, Lincoln Center -- NYT Critic's Pick), Celine Song's *Endlings* (New York Theatre Workshop, A.R.T.), *Ragtime* on Ellis Island and *Violet on a Moving Bus* (A.R.T.). In the television space, Cannold has served as director of *Curtain Up!*, live on ABC, and served as creative consultant on the 2021 Tony Awards, live on Paramount+ and CBS. Cannold's first documentary feature film *The Show Must Go On* premiered at Broadway's Majestic Theatre and was released worldwide on AppleTV. Cannold has also served as an artistic fellow at the A.R.T., a member of Cirque du Soleil's Creative Cognoscenti and a Sundance Institute fellow. Cannold holds a B. A. from Stanford University and an M.A. from Harvard University.



**Sam Willmott** has been an artist-in-residence with the Jerome Robbins Foundation's Project Springboard: Developing Dance Musicals (Lincoln Center), The O'Neill Theater Center, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, Goodspeed Musicals, Merrimack Repertory Theater, and ConEd/Exploring the Metropolis. His work has been seen in concert around the world, in venues big (Radio City Music Hall, Abu Dhabi's Emirates Heritage Theatre, The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and Terrace Theater, Adelphi University's Performing Arts Center) and small (Paris' Comédie Nation with Broadway Au Carré, Cornelia Street Café, Key West's Red Barn Theater). An avid educator, Willmott has led workshops, masterclasses and classes at Harvard, Princeton, Manhattan School of Music, NYU, Pace University, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Harlem School of the Arts and [Lincoln Center's Songwriting in Schools Program](#). In the

aftermath of the 2018 Parkland, Florida high-school shooting, Willmott co-founded and coordinated the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Songwriting Initiative, pairing student and teacher survivors with NYC composers to collaborate on 31 new songs. He is also a proud contributing writer to the Korean children's language program [English Egg](#), for which he has written over 170 educational tunes for kids.