

## 2021 Commencement Update

President <president@cia.edu>

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### Memorandum

Cleveland Institute of Art | 11610 Euclid Avenue | Cleveland, Ohio 44106

**To:** Class of 2021, Faculty and Staff  
**From:** Grafton Nunes, President  
**Date:** March 19, 2021  
**Subject:** 2021 Commencement Update

CIA Seniors, Faculty and Staff:

We know how much Commencement and the BFA celebration mean to our entire community, and we are pleased to announce more details on how we plan to recognize the accomplishments of the Class of 2021.

Members of the senior class were polled during the BFA meeting, and in a separate meeting, senior class representatives shared feedback on what they would like to experience. Based on this feedback, a plan that allows multiple ways to participate in Commencement was developed.

#### Commencement details

In the interest of health and safety, Commencement will again be virtual this year. A pre-recorded broadcast will premiere at 8:30pm ET on Friday, May 14. More information on how to watch is below.

Our Commencement speakers will be world-renowned producers, directors and writers Anthony Russo, Joe Russo and Angela Russo-Otstot. CIA recently awarded Honorary Doctor of Art degrees to the Russos for the contributions to film, television and their native Cleveland. The Student Commencement speaker will be announced in April, and the President's Traveling Scholarship award recipients will be announced during the ceremony.

#### Seniors and their guests: Commencement Watch Party at the Mayfield Road Drive-In Theatre

CIA is hosting an end-of-year celebration at the Mayfield Road Drive-In Theatre, where the pre-recorded ceremony will be screened. In addition, a sampling of BFA work by the Class of 2021 will be shown. There will also be a fireworks show, weather permitting.

Due to COVID and limited space, we request that only seniors and their guests participate at this time. The watch party is intended to allow those students an opportunity to safely celebrate together by maintaining social distance. Attendees are asked to follow CIA's COVID guidelines as well as those of theater staff. What to know:

- Seniors will receive two tickets, and each ticket permits one vehicle to enter
- Seniors are able to have as many guests as seatbelts in the vehicles
- Seniors will receive a concession/food voucher

More information about tickets and concession vouchers, and details surrounding additional aspects of the watch party will be shared as the date approaches. The Mayfield Road Drive-In Theatre is located at 12100 State Route 322 (Mayfield Road) in Chardon.

**Other students, faculty, staff and friends: Virtual Commencement on website, Facebook**

The drive-in celebration is for CIA seniors and their guests, however the entire CIA community is invited to watch our virtual Commencement ceremony by tuning in either to [cia.edu/commencement](http://cia.edu/commencement) or [CIA's Facebook page](#). As indicated above, the broadcast will begin at 8:30pm ET on Friday, May 14. Following the initial broadcast, the ceremony recording will be accessible for viewing on our website and Facebook.

### **Student obligations**

In the pre-recorded ceremony, students will receive individual name recognition read by their respective major chairs and will participate in the conferral of degrees. The diploma name as written on the graduation application is the name that will be used in the ceremony. When a student's name is read, an image of their choosing will be shown. Please submit your image and complete this [survey](#) by 11:59pm ET Wednesday, March 31. This [survey](#) contains required information for CIA to provide the Commencement package, which will contain personalized Commencement announcements, cap, gown, tassel and a few surprises.

Degree candidates need to complete the following requirements and obligations for graduation before diplomas and final transcripts will be issued:

- Return all items that have been borrowed from the Jessica R. Gund Memorial Library, Equipment Checkout and major departments. More information on this process will arrive in an email from the Office of Academic Affairs.
- Resolve any financial obligations. Contact Student Accounts for details.
- Complete the federally required Financial Aid Exit Counseling. More information on this process will be sent from the Office of Financial Aid.

Once these obligations have been met, graduates will receive a second package containing their diplomas and Commencement programs, which will be mailed in early summer. Transcripts that show completion of BFA degrees will be available upon request after meeting the above criteria. If you need to confirm or update your mailing address provided after completing the survey, please reach out to the [Registrar's office](#).

We will continue to share details as May 14 approaches. If you have any questions, please fill out the question portion of the [survey](#).