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UMS AND U-M'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE PARTNER TO CREATE 21ST CENTURY ARTIST INTERNSHIPS

U-M STUDENTS DEVELOP INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS, HANDS-ON WORK EXPERIENCE, AND DEEP CONNECTIONS WITH SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PERFORMING ARTISTS

ANN ARBOR, MI (July 8, 2014) —The University Musical Society (UMS) and the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD) proudly announce 21st Century Artist Internships, funded by the University of Michigan's Third Century Initiative.

The 21st Century Internship program is a new student arts internship program that launched in summer 2014. In the first phase of the program, 21st Century Interns spend their summer working with a performing artist or ensemble that UMS will present in the 2014-2015 season. In phase two, the interns return to U-M and continue their work via a one-credit independent study. To fulfill course requirements, each student will act as the campus ambassador of the ensemble and create contextual and educational content to engage UMS audiences in the ensemble's performances. Content created will include video interviews with artists, promotional assets, educational presentations, and more. Each intern earns a competitive stipend of \$4,000 for their work, to cover the cost of lodging, travel, and living expenses during the internship. The \$4,000 stipend is on par with similar internship programs in the sciences, and a rarity in the arts, where internships are most often unpaid, volunteer opportunities.

The program was developed to help prepare students for new demands that working artists face in the contemporary marketplace. In addition to generating outstanding creative work, today's artists are also tasked with reaching potential audiences in innovative and unexpected ways. They must be able to speak dynamically about their work and creative processes, provide interactive experiences for novice audience members, and transmit themselves and their artistry across media platforms. The 21st Century Artist Internship program provides real-world work experience and professional connections to young artists-in-training at U-M and a chance to practice these skills within the context of UMS's programming.

"We are preparing the next generation of artists to embrace entrepreneurialism and experiment with audience engagement that goes above and beyond the performance alone," said Jim Leija, UMS Director of Education and Community Engagement at UMS. "UMS brings some of the best performing artists in the world to the U-M campus, and the 21st Century Internship is a natural extension of the way we work to make meaningful connections between our artists and U-M students. It's getting harder for emerging artists to succeed in the arts through superb artistry alone; audiences are yearning for deeper connections to the work. The artists we present understand this and they'll be excellent mentors for young artists here at U-M." Leija himself is an alumnus of SMTD (BFA '02, Musical Theatre) and added, "I always wished a program like this existed when I was an undergraduate, and I'm so happy to be able to give back to the School in this way and provide students with paid opportunities to explore careers in the performing arts."

"The School of Music, Theatre & Dance is thrilled to be partnering with UMS in this exciting initiative, and we are so grateful for the University's support," said Melody Racine, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. "Developing entrepreneurship is a top priority at SMTD, and the 21st Century Artist Internship program is a fantastic hands-on effort that will allow students to acquire critical, real-world skills with some of the world's greatest performing arts organizations. It is the ideal complement to our Performing Arts Management minor, and it will make a major contribution to our goal of graduating the future leaders in the performing arts."

Out of 20 candidates that applied, four candidates were selected to be 2014-2015 21st Century Interns. Student placements are as follows.

Student #1: Flores Komatsu, Junior, Theatre Performance-Directing

Placement: Théâtre de la Ville, which performs Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* in the Power Center October 24-25 as part of the 2014-2015 UMS Theater Series

Summer Location: Paris, France

Student #2: Elizabeth "Libby" Seidner, Senior, Instrumental Music Education

Placement: San Francisco Symphony, which performs two concerts in Hill Auditorium November 13-14 as part of the 2014-2015 UMS Choral Union Series

Summer Location: San Francisco

Student #3: Hillary Kooistra, Senior, Dance, with a Performing Arts Management minor

Placement: Trisha Brown Dance Company, which performs in the Power Center February 21-22 as part of the 2014-2015 UMS Dance Series.

Summer Location: New York City

Student #4: Sophia Deery, Junior, Musical Theatre & Anthropology

Placement: Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, which performs March 13-14 in the Power Center as part of the 2014-2015 UMS Dance Series.

Summer Location: New York City

ABOUT UMS

The University Musical Society is an independent non-profit affiliated with the University of Michigan, presenting over 70 music, theater, and dance performances by professional touring artists each season. One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, UMS is committed to connecting audiences with performing artists from around the world in uncommon and engaging experiences. With a program steeped in music, dance, and theater, UMS contributes to a vibrant cultural community by presenting approximately 60-75 performances and over 100 free educational activities each season. UMS also commissions new work, sponsors artist residencies, and organizes collaborative projects with local, national, and international partners. For more information, please visit ums.org/learn

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

Widely recognized as one of the preeminent performing arts schools in the nation, the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD) has produced performing arts leaders from all disciplines since its founding in 1880. SMTD is distinguished by its unparalleled synergy of scholarship, artistry, and comprehensive education in all disciplines of performance as well as in research and pedagogy, and is known for interdisciplinary experiences that can only be offered in a world-class research university. For more information visit music.umich.edu.

ABOUT THE THIRD CENTURY INITIATIVE

As the University of Michigan prepares to celebrate its bicentennial in 2017, the president and provost established the Third Century Initiative, a \$50 million/five-year initiative to develop innovative, multi-disciplinary teaching and scholarship approaches as the University enters its third century. The Third Century Initiative is a powerful testament to the University of Michigan's belief in the excellence, creativity, and potential of its students. This multi-year investment aims to deliver new leaders and new ideas for an unpredictable, changing world and will be a critical, relevant contribution to society. For more information, please visit [**thirdcentury.umich.edu/about/**](http://thirdcentury.umich.edu/about/)

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