

1. **Beth Henley (BFA '74)** is a Pulitzer Prize for Drama winning playwright. Her works include *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *The Lucky Spot*, and *Am I Blue?* Several of her plays have been adapted to film. The Play That Changed Her Life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHTNCRFZ3yQ>  
List of Works: <http://www.doollee.com/PlaywrightsH/henley-beth.html>
  
2. **\*James Houghton (MFA '86)** joined John Houseman's the Acting Company, shortly after graduation, only to later follow in Mr. Houseman's path and step up as the director of The Juilliard School's Drama Division. James Houghton was also the founder and artistic director of the Signature Theater. He inspired many actors and artists across the board and his work and values will continue to thrive in everyone he encountered. Houghton as a mentor: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/06/theater/06mcge.html>  
The Samurai Spirit: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/03/theater/james-houghton-the-samurai-spirit-of-signature-theater.html>  
The Juilliard School: [http://www.juilliard.edu/journal/1609\\_obit\\_houghton](http://www.juilliard.edu/journal/1609_obit_houghton)
  
3. **Brian Baumgartner (BFA '95)** is most recognized as Kevin Malone from the 46 time award winning television show, "The Office." Brian himself was nominated 7 times and won 5 awards. The popularity of the show would propel a group of "unknowns" to being  
IMDB Profile: [http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1580911/?ref=fn\\_al\\_nm\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1580911/?ref=fn_al_nm_1)  
"The Office" Kevin Malone's famous chili cip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTEm0q-VMmg>
  
4. **Michael Aronov (BFA '98)** has a long career in stage, film, and television. He played Dennis in the original production of *Mauritius* by Theresa Rebeck at Huntington Theatre Company. In 2009, Michael would travel Europe in a production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* as Stanley Kowalski. He has worked alongside actors such as Tom Hardy and James Gandolfini in the 2014 film, *The Drop*. He can also be seen most recently in the TV series, "Madam Secretary" and "The Americans" as Anton Durchenko and Anton Baklanov, respectively.  
IMDB Profile: [http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0033079/?ref=nm bio\\_nm](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0033079/?ref=nm bio_nm)  
Acting Reel: <http://www.imdb.com/video/user/vi4095322137/>
  
5. **Amy Acker (BFA '99)** from 2001-2004 worked with the creators of the television show "Angel," David Greenwalt and Joss Whedon. She would later join Whedon in his 2012 film adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* where she'd play the iconic role of Beatrice. She has voiced many characters in shows ranging "Scooby Doo Incorporated" to "Justice League." Amy can most recently be seen in the CBS series "Person of Interest" as Root/The Machine/ Samantha Groves.  
IMDB Profile: [http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0009918/?ref=nv\\_sr\\_2](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0009918/?ref=nv_sr_2)  
*Much Ado About Nothing* trailer [http://www.imdb.com/video/imdb/vi3073615385?ref=nmvi\\_vi\\_imdb\\_5](http://www.imdb.com/video/imdb/vi3073615385?ref=nmvi_vi_imdb_5)
  
6. **Nathan Allen (BFA '00), Chris Mathews (BFA '02), and Jake Minton (BFA '02)** worked together to establish The House Theatre of Chicago. Nathan serves as the Founder and Artistic Director of the theatre and Chris and Jake are company members. The three graduates also co wrote *The Sparrow*, a play that would later be directed in SMU's 2014-2015 season by '09 graduate Molly Beach Murphy.  
Nathan Allen: <http://www.thehousetheatre.com/aboutus/nathanallen>  
Chris Mathews and Jake Minton at SMU:  
<https://www.smu.edu/Meadows/NewsAndEvents/News/2014/140911-SMUTheatreConferenceHour>
  
7. **Mary Elizabeth Ellis (BFA '02)** is known for her performance as Waitress on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." The actor and writer has also been seen on "New Girl" and "The Grinder." Mary Elizabeth has also starred in a web series for WIGS as Georgia.  
IMDB Profile: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1634944/>  
WIGS Episodes: <http://www.watchwigs.com/s/georgia>

\*deceased

8. **Artemis Pebdani (BFA '02)** joined her college roommate Mary Elizabeth Ellis on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" in 2005. Artemis played Flo Packer in "Masters of Sex" and in 2014 became Madam Vice President Susan Ross on the hit television series "Scandal." A new TV show by FOX that is currently filming, "Son of Zorn," shows Artemis as Linda, the new boss of an animated warrior.  
IMDB Profile: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2016157/>  
"Son of Zorn" trailer: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4798814/?ref =nm flmg act 1>
9. **Jerrika Hinton (BFA '03)** may be most known as Dr. Stephanie Edwards on "Grey's Anatomy." Not only is Jerrika more than familiar with acting both on stage and camera, but she is also a writer, producer, and director. After studying playwriting at SMU, she used her skills and wrote, produced, directed, and acted in the short film, *The Strangely Normal*.  
Personal Website: <http://jerrickahinton.com/>  
IMDB Profile: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2056961/?ref =nv sr 1>  
*The Strangely Normal*: <https://vimeo.com/50716718>
10. **Cornelius Smith Jr. (BFA '04)** recently joined Artemis Pebdani on "Scandal," as Olivia Pope's new "gladiator." Cornelius is no stranger to the quick paced and complex stories epitomized in Shonda Rhimes' writing. In 2007, he joined the cast of the iconic soap opera, "All My Children" as Frankie Hubbard.  
IMDB Profile: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2889826/?ref =nv sr 1>  
Variety Interview: <http://variety.com/2015/tv/news/scandal-cornelius-smith-jr-marcus-season-5-cast-1201535299/>
11. **Wrenn Schmidt (BFA '05)** has played Julia in "Boardwalk Empire," Megan Holter in "Outcast" by the executive producer of "The Walking Dead," and has worked with Tom Hiddleston and Elizabeth Olsen in the Hank Williams biopic *I Saw the Light*. She has worked on a national Broadway tour of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Wrenn other Broadway credits include the world premieres of *Be a Good Little Widow* (Ars Nova) and *Jailbait* (Cherry Lane - Cherry Pit).  
Official Website: <http://wrennschmidt.com/>  
IMDB Profile: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2486357/?ref =nv sr 1>  
*Preservation* Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XcEo7aL67I>  
"Outcast" character glimpse: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT8tMnAgto0>
12. **Candice Patton (BFA '07)** can be seen most recently in the hit CW television show "The Flash" where she plays Iris West. Candice has also had recurring roles on "Young and the Restless," "Entourage," "One Tree Hill," and "The Game."  
<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2765384/>
13. **Travis Ballenger (BFA '08)** was recently named the Associate Producer of The Drama League, a title and position that is new to the organization. Previously he worked as the Dallas Theater Center's Associate Producer. Travis has also worked and produced with writers and directors such as David Henry Hwang, Lynn Nottage, Lydia Diamond and Will Power.  
<http://www.broadwayworld.com/article/The-Drama-League-Sets-New-Artistic-Leadership-Team-20160512>
14. **Molly Beach Murphy (BFA '09)** is a playwright and director based in New York. She has worked in numerous artist residencies at theatres such as Manhattan Theatre Club and Ars Nova. She continues to create her own work throughout the city.  
Personal Website: <http://mollybeachmurphy.com/>  
"The Where Project": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71byM-E8NWo>

## In Dallas

**Katherine Bourne (BFA '12), Chris McCreary (BFA '11), Janielle Kastner (BFA '12), Jeffrey Colangelo (BFA '13), Katy Tye (BFA '15), Brigham Mosley (BFA '10) Josh Kulmer (BFA '14):** This group of artists have redefined theater in Dallas over the past couple of years. Their youth and passion to create theater wherever and whenever has started to take off. Shows like "Bar Politics" and "Shakespeare in the Bar" bring together not just the regular theatre crowd of Dallas, but also newcomers. And these three groups are not the only ones out there! Goat Song Theatre Collective is another group that has started to pave their way through the theatre scene in Dallas.

<http://www.dallasobserver.com/arts/a-new-generation-of-dallas-theater-embraces-a-do-it-yourself-attitude-7466105>

### **House Party Theatre**

<http://www.housepartytheatre.com/>

Chris McCreary (BFA '11)  
Sarah Hamilton (BFA '14)  
Bailee Rayle (BFA '14)  
Brady Stebleton (BFA '13)  
Ted Gwara (BFA '13)  
Kristen Kelso (BFA '14)  
Lauren Mishoe (BFA '14)  
Haley Nelson (BFA '17)  
Angelina Fiorini (BFA '10)  
Taylor Harris (MFA '16)  
Greg Bussell (BFA '08)  
Stephen Gardner (BFA '14)  
Brigham Mosley (BFA '10)  
Braden Socia (BFA '17)  
Jake Nice (BFA '15)  
Claire Carson (BFA '14)  
Bao Ngoc Le (BFA '14)  
  
Afomia Hailemeskel (BFA '13)

### **The Tribe**

Janielle Kastner (BFA '12)  
Brigham Mosley (BFA '10)  
Katherine Bourne (BFA '12)  
Ruben Carrazana (BFA '13)  
Alia Tavakolian (BFA '12)  
  
David Price (BFA '12)

### **Prism Co**

<http://prismco.org/>

Founded by:  
Jeffrey Colangelo (BFA '13)  
  
&  
Katy Tye (BFA '15)

Many of these artists have collaborated with each other. These companies also include other artists who graduated from other programs.

**KITCHEN DOG THEATER** - <http://www.kitchendogtheater.org/>

KDT was founded in 1990 and did their first show in 1991. They just celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in Dallas. Their founders include 5 SMU MFA Theatre Alums: **Dan Day** (founding artistic director), **Sally Nystuen-Vahle**, **Joe Nemmers**, **\*John Morgan**, and **Andy Fitch**. Currently, their artistic company includes 17 SMU alumni and/or SMU faculty members:

1. **Linda Blasé (SMU adjunct for design)** <http://www.dmagazine.com/arts-entertainment/2011/08/how-lighting-designer-linda-blase-has-made-a-career-in-dallas-theater-out-of-the-spotlight/>
2. **Cameron Cobb (BFA '98)**- <http://www.marycollins.com/cameron-cobb>
3. **Christina Cook (MFA)**- <http://artsandculturetx.com/character-couture-texas-designers-dress-the-drama/>
4. **Michael Federico (BFA '98)**-<http://dallas.culturemap.com/news/arts/11-06-14-actor-spotlight-michael-federico-arsonists-kitchen-dog-theater/>
5. **Liza Marie Gonzalez (BFA '02)**- <http://www.dallasobserver.com/arts/ruth-rises-at-kitchen-dogs-new-play-fest-7083655>
6. **Martha Harms (BFA '08)**- <http://www.smu.edu/News/2015/smu-commercial-04sept2015>
7. **Tim Johnson (BFA and Managing Director KDT)**- <http://www.kitchendogtheater.org/our-people/>
8. **Korey Kent**- <http://www.aboutheartists.com/artists/298192-korey-kent>
9. **Suzanne Lavender (MFA '94)**- <http://www.aboutheartists.com/artists/389942-suzanne-lavender>
10. **Bill Lengfelder (co founder and SMU Movement Professor)**- <http://www.smudailycampus.com/ae/bill-lengfelders-movement-classes-teach-meadows-theatre-students-the-art-of-unarmed-stage-combat>
11. **Karen Parrish (BFA)**- <http://artsblog.dallasnews.com/2016/05/blackberry-winter-takes-on-dementia-with-a-side-of-drama-behind-the-scenes.html/>
12. **Heidi Shen (BFA '01)** - <http://www.kitchendogtheater.org/our-company/>
13. **Leah Spillman (BFA)**- <http://www.kitchendogtheater.org/our-company/>
14. **Jamal Gibran Sterling (MFA)**- <http://www.dallasnews.com/lifestyles/arts/headlines/20140927-5-d-fw-performers-dish-on-what-it-takes-to-survive-as-an-actor.ece>
15. **Shelley Tharp-Payton (former SMU adjunct)**- <http://www.aboutheartists.com/artists/365617-shelley-tharp-payton>
16. **Michael Wang** - <http://www.kitchendogtheater.org/our-company/>
17. **Tina Parker (BFA)** - <http://www.dallasobserver.com/arts/you-might-know-tina-parker-from-breaking-bad-you-should-know-her-from-somewhere-else-7083275>

## Company Emerti/SMU Alums

- Dan Day
- Andy Fitch
- Aaron Ginsburg
- David Irving
- Allison Moore
- \*John Morgan
- Danny Murray
- Joe Nemmers
- Sally Nystuen- Vahle

This company also includes other artists who graduated from other programs.

\*deceased