

Arts & Media Panelist Bios

Tanya Gardner, Ph.D.

Dr. Tanya Gardner is an esteemed alumna of SUNY Orange, graduating with a degree in Communication Studies in 1987. Her journey in academia and communication has been marked by a relentless pursuit of knowledge and a passion for empowering others through effective communication.

Building upon her foundation at SUNY Orange, Dr. Gardner furthered her education with a Bachelor of Arts in Radio, Television, and Film from Temple University. She then pursued her Master of Arts in Communication Studies and later attained her Doctorate of Philosophy in Communication Culture and Media Studies, both from Howard University.

Currently, Dr. Gardner serves as a Professor of Communication Studies at Delaware County Community College, where she inspires and guides the next generation of communicators. With her wealth of academic achievements and practical experience, she brings a unique perspective to the classroom, emphasizing the importance of clear and impactful communication in today's complex world.

Throughout her career, Dr. Gardner has remained dedicated to bridging theory with practice, encouraging her students to explore the intersections of communication, culture, and media. Her commitment to academic excellence and her contributions to the field make her a valuable asset to both her institution and the broader academic community.

Dr. Gardner's journey from SUNY Orange alumna to esteemed professor exemplifies the transformative power of education and the endless possibilities that await those who pursue their passions with determination and perseverance.

Sarah Nathanson

Sarah Nathanson, a distinguished alumna of SUNY Orange, graduated in 2011 with an Associate's Degree in Visual Communications. Throughout her time at SUNY Orange, Sarah honed her skills in graphic design and photography, laying the groundwork for a remarkable career in marketing and design.

Sarah embarked on her professional journey at Trot Town Printing in Goshen, where she began as a designer/typesetter, showcasing her creative talents and attention to detail. Her dedication and prowess quickly caught the attention of the Orange County Partnership, where she commenced her tenure as an intern before assuming the role of Marketing Coordinator in April 2011.

Since then, Sarah has ascended the ranks, demonstrating exceptional leadership and innovation in her role as Director of Marketing at the Partnership. Her remarkable portfolio includes the management of a diverse array of marketing initiatives, ranging from multi-page spreads in prestigious publications like the Wall Street Journal to captivating social media campaigns and cutting-edge website designs. Notably, Sarah's strategic efforts have directly contributed to the attraction of significant economic projects, underscoring her invaluable contribution to the growth and prosperity of Orange County.

A trailblazer in her field, Sarah is deeply committed to staying abreast of emerging technologies and trends in marketing. Her passion for leveraging the latest tools and platforms ensures that the Partnership's marketing endeavors remain at the forefront of innovation, captivating audiences and driving results in an ever-evolving landscape.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Sarah is an active and engaged member of her community. She is a graduate of Leadership Orange and has served as a board member on the Leadership Orange Board of Directors. Sarah's dedication to service and leadership has been recognized through her selection as one of Orange County's 2013 Rising Stars, highlighting her as a dynamic leader both professionally and in her volunteer endeavors.

Sarah's commitment to her alma mater extends beyond her professional pursuits, as evidenced by her recent involvement in the SUNY Orange Foundation & Alumni Engagement marketing committee. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys exploring the vibrant culinary scene, traveling, and indulging in her passion for music festivals with her husband Joe.

Sarah Nathanson's journey from SUNY Orange graduate to influential marketing leader is a testament to her unwavering dedication, innovative spirit, and commitment to excellence.

Michael John Benzaia

Michael John Benzaia, a distinguished graduate of SUNY Orange, earned his degree in Radiologic Technology in 2008 before embarking on a multifaceted career journey that seamlessly blends the worlds of healthcare and entertainment.

Armed with his Radiologic Technology degree, Michael pursued a path in healthcare, becoming certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) in X-ray and Computed Tomography (CT). His commitment to excellence in healthcare led him to further academic achievements, obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree from Nyack College and a Master's degree from Manhattan College.

While excelling in the healthcare field, Michael also nurtured his passion for the arts and entertainment. He honed his craft at the prestigious Stella Adler Academy of Acting, where he refined his skills and embarked on a successful career as an actor in California. Michael's talents have graced both stage and screen, allowing him to embody diverse roles and captivate audiences with his performances.

In addition to his work in front of the camera, Michael has made significant contributions behind the scenes as well. He is a proud alum of the UCLA Pilot Writing program, where he honed his storytelling abilities and developed a keen understanding of narrative structure. Michael's creative insights have been recognized in his role as a staff writer for the ARRT magazine, where he combines his expertise in healthcare with his passion for writing to inform and inspire fellow professionals in the field.

Michael's unique blend of skills has also led him to serve as a FOX medical consultant on set, lending his expertise to ensure authenticity and accuracy in medical portrayals. His invaluable contributions behind the scenes contribute to the success of productions and enhance the viewer experience.

Through his dedication to both healthcare and the arts, Michael John Benzaia exemplifies the power of pursuing one's passions and forging a career that seamlessly integrates multiple disciplines. His journey from SUNY Orange graduate to accomplished actor and healthcare professional serves as an inspiration to aspiring professionals seeking to carve their own unique paths in life.

Bruce R. Bleach

Bruce R. Bleach is a distinguished alum of SUNY Orange, having graduated in 1970 with an Associate of Arts degree, majoring in Art. His lifelong dedication to the arts has led him on a rich and diverse journey, marked by creative exploration and artistic excellence.

Building upon his foundation at SUNY Orange, Bruce pursued his passion for art by obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Hartford Art School in 1972, specializing in Printmaking and Sculpture. He furthered his education at SUNY New Paltz, where he earned his Master of Fine Arts degree in Printmaking in 1974, supported by a teaching assistantship.

Bruce's commitment to sharing his expertise and nurturing the next generation of artists is evident in his role as a printmaking instructor at the prestigious Parsons School of Design. Since 1992, he has also served as an Adjunct Professor at SUNY Orange, imparting his knowledge and passion for fine art to countless students over the years.

In addition to his contributions to academia, Bruce is a prolific and accomplished professional artist, with his studio based in Goshen, NY. His work reflects a deep engagement with the medium of printmaking, showcasing a mastery of technique and a distinctive artistic voice. Bruce's artwork has been exhibited widely, earning recognition and acclaim for its creativity and craftsmanship.

Outside of the studio and classroom, Bruce finds inspiration and fulfillment in music, serving as the guitarist and vocalist for the CloudNYne band. His creative pursuits transcend traditional

boundaries, encompassing both visual and auditory expression, and embodying his unwavering commitment to the arts in all its forms.

Bruce R. Bleach's journey from SUNY Orange graduate to esteemed artist and educator is a testament to the transformative power of passion, dedication, and lifelong learning. His contributions to the arts community and his impact on generations of aspiring artists serve as an enduring legacy of creativity and inspiration.

Tony Glazer

Tony Glazer is an award-winning writer, director, and producer, renowned for his contributions to both stage and screen. Tony has established himself as a creative force in the entertainment industry, with a diverse portfolio of acclaimed productions.

As a Managing Partner of Choice Films Inc. and Choice Theatricals, Tony oversees a full-service production company dedicated to crafting compelling narratives across various mediums. Based in Newburgh, NY, Choice Films has been at the forefront of producing film, television, regional and Off-Broadway theater, multi-media/web projects, and live events since 2001. Under Tony's leadership, #TeamChoice works tirelessly from development through delivery, bringing stories to life for a wide range of clients and budgets.

Tony's creative vision extends beyond the confines of traditional storytelling, encompassing both stage and screen. His plays have been staged in major cities across the United States, as well as internationally in England and Canada. Some of his notable works include "In the Daylight," "American Stare," "Reading Under the Influence," "Stain," and "The Substance of Bliss," published by Samuel French.

In the realm of film and television, Tony's credits as a writer, director, and producer are equally impressive. From indie darlings to major releases, his contributions have garnered critical acclaim and industry recognition. Tony's filmography includes a diverse range of projects, such as "To Have And To Kill," "Dead Sound," "Lost Cat Corona," and the multi-award-winning "Junction," which received widespread acclaim and multiple festival awards before its national and international theatrical release.

Tony's creative prowess extends to the small screen as well, having served as an Executive Producer, Showrunner, and Co-Writer on the Amazon Prime television series, "Big Dogs" in 2020.

With feature films like "Miracle at Christmas Village" and "After Party" currently in development, Tony continues to push the boundaries of storytelling, captivating audiences with his compelling narratives and innovative approach to filmmaking.

Tony Glazer's journey to acclaimed writer, director, and producer is a testament to his boundless creativity, entrepreneurial spirit, and unwavering dedication to the craft of storytelling.

Find Tony online at: www.tonyglazer.com

For more information about Choice Films, visit: www.choicefilms.com

Summer Crockett Moore

Summer Crockett Moore is a highly acclaimed actress and producer, recognized for her exceptional contributions to film, theater, and television. As a Managing Partner and founding member of Choice Films Inc. and Choice Theatricals, as well as a Managing Partner of Umbra Stages in Newburgh, NY, Summer has played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of the entertainment industry.

With a keen eye for storytelling and a commitment to excellence, Summer has produced an impressive array of award-winning independent feature films, short films, Off-Broadway, and regional theater productions. Her creative vision has led to the successful realization of numerous projects, spanning a diverse range of genres and themes.

Summer's extensive filmography includes a multitude of feature films, such as "One Night Stay," "Holly Jolly," "To Have And To Kill," "Daughter of the Bride," "Pinball," and "Redemption in Cherry Springs," among many others. Her dedication to quality storytelling is evident in each project she undertakes, earning her critical acclaim and industry recognition.

In addition to her work in film, Summer has left an indelible mark on the theater world, producing Off-Broadway world premieres and revivals that have garnered praise from audiences and critics alike. Her commitment to nurturing emerging talent and championing innovative storytelling has solidified her reputation as a driving force in the theater community.

As an actress, Summer's versatility and talent have been showcased in hundreds of national and international television and radio commercial spots, as well as recurring roles in television shows and feature films. Her dynamic performances have earned her numerous accolades, including the 2012 Best Supporting Actress Award at The Long Island International Film Expo and the 2013 IndieFest Los Angeles.

Beyond her achievements on screen and stage, Summer is also a celebrated voice-over artist, lending her talents to multiple characters in various cartoon series. Her remarkable range and skill as a performer have garnered widespread acclaim and admiration from audiences worldwide.

Summer Crockett Moore's unwavering dedication to her craft, coupled with her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to storytelling, make her a true trailblazer in the entertainment industry.

For a full list of her credits and awards, find her on IMDB or online at:

www.summertimecrockettmoore.com