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## STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS FOUNDATION (SDCF) ANNOUNCES 2023-2024 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CYCLE 1 RECIPIENTS

(October 18, 2023 – New York, NY) **Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF)**, the not-for-profit foundation of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), today announced the recipients of the 2023-2024 Professional Development Program Cycle 1. Previously called the SDCF Observership Program, SDCF's revitalized Professional Development Program provides opportunities for early career directors and choreographers to observe and/or support experienced directors and choreographers during the production process.

Recipients of the 2023-2024 SDCF Professional Development Program Cycle 1 include:

### SDCF Shadows

- Ariana Andretta (*Moulin Rouge! The Musical* with Associate Choreographer Camden Gonzales on Broadway)
- Katherine Bahena-Benitez (*Stereophonic* by David Adjmi with Director Daniel Aukin at Playwrights Horizons in New York City)
- Yuri Kim (*Stereophonic* by David Adjmi with Director Daniel Aukin at Playwrights Horizons in New York City)

### SDCF Observers

- Phoebe Brooks (*I Can Get It For You Wholesale* with Director Trip Cullman at *Classic Stage Company* in New York City)
- Arnaldo Galban (*Buena Vista Social Club™* with Director Saheem Ali at Atlantic Theater Company in New York City)
- Javon Q. Minter (*I Can Get It For You Wholesale* with Director Trip Cullman at *Classic Stage Company* in New York City)
- Arti Ishak (*The Nacirema Society* by Pearl Cleage with Director Lili-Anne Brown at Goodman Theatre in Chicago, IL)

### SDCF Fellow

- Ariel Reich (*How To Dance In Ohio* with Director Sammi Cannold on Broadway)

The goals of this program are to provide access for directors and/or choreographers who have not seen the work of an experienced director/choreographer (Mentor) or have not previously worked on a certain type of

production or at a certain level, and to provide mentorship from experienced directors and choreographers to newer directors and choreographers. The Professional Development program will provide three types of opportunities throughout the year: Shadows, Observers, and Fellows. Shadows are short-term opportunities to watch one specific aspect of a production process. Observerships are production-long opportunities to watch the production process from first rehearsal to opening night. Fellowships allow someone to support a director and/or choreographer during a production process as part of the artistic team.

To learn more about these artists, please visit: <https://sdcfoundation.org/professional-development-program-2023-2024-season-cycle-1-and-fall-opportunities-recipients/>

Support for SDCF's Professional Development Program is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; Stage Directors and Choreographers Society; A3 Artists Agency; APA Agency; Michael Moore Agency, and many other generous individuals.

To learn more about the Professional Development Program, please [click here](#). To join SDCF's mailing list to stay up to date about all SDCF programs, please [click here](#).

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Founded in 1965, **Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF)** celebrates, develops, and supports professional stage directors and choreographers throughout every phase of their careers. We work to build a theatrical community that reflects the cultural, racial, and gender diversity of our nation by creating opportunities for artists of all backgrounds to bring their full, authentic selves to their work as creative leaders in the theatre.

SDCF is committed to fostering an environment that is inclusive and does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression in its programs or activities. [www.sdcfoundation.org](http://www.sdcfoundation.org).

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