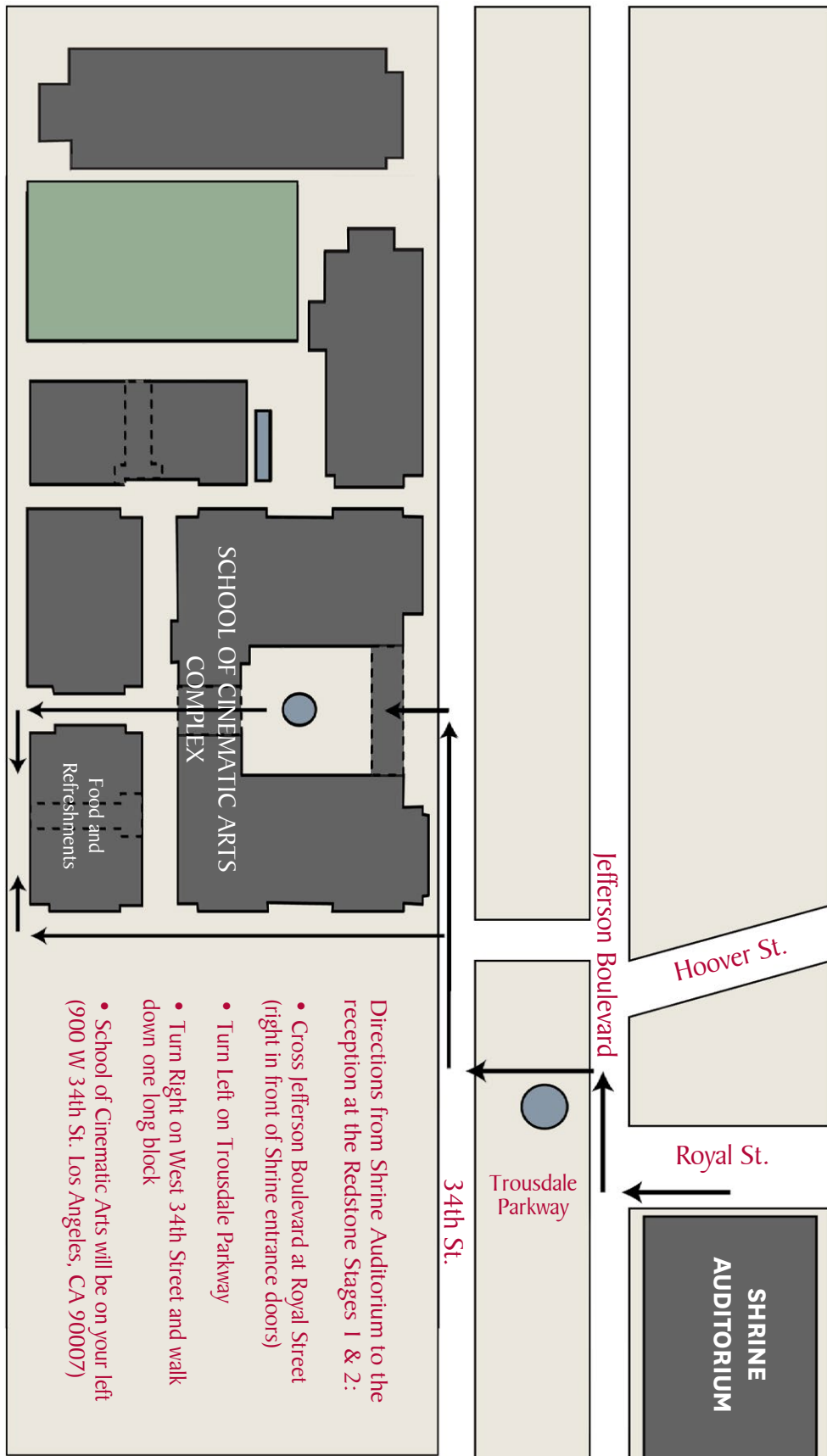


#USCGrad



USC School of Cinematic Arts

COMMENCEMENT • FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023



RON HOWARD

Whether in front of or behind the camera, or for film, television or documentaries, Ron Howard has been a part of many of the most significant projects in every decade since the 1960s. Howard was introduced to millions of Americans through roles on *The Andy Griffith Show* and *Happy Days*. He is a two-time Academy Award®-winner for Best Director and Best Picture for *A Beautiful Mind*, and was nominated in both those categories for *Frost/Nixon*. Other directing credits include *Thirteen Lives*, *Apollo 13*, *Cinderella Man*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *Rush*, *Parenthood* and *Splash*. He executive produced many award-winning documentaries and television shows, including the Emmy®-winning miniseries

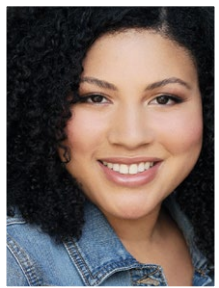
From the Earth to the Moon and the ground-breaking comedy *Arrested Development*—a series he also narrates. Howard has been inducted into the Television Hall of Fame, and has received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—one of the few individuals to receive this double recognition. He is on the board of The Jacob Burns Film Center, and his charitable work through the Ron and Cheryl Howard Family Foundation has helped sustain arts programs across the country. With Brian Grazer, his friend and business partner in Imagine Entertainment, he has maintained one of the longest and most accomplished creative partnerships in Hollywood history. Howard attended the School of Cinematic Arts and has been a consistent supporter of its students and programs. He received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from USC in 2022.



BRIAN GRAZER

Academy Award®, Golden Globe®, Emmy®, and Grammy Award®-winning producer, and USC alumnus, Brian Grazer is behind many of the most critically and commercially successful film and television productions of the past 40 years. His projects have garnered over 230 Emmy® nominations and over 45 Oscar® nominations, and he won the Best Picture Oscar® for *A Beautiful Mind*. His other acclaimed productions include the films *Thirteen Lives*, *tick, tick...Boom!*, *Apollo 13*, *American Gangster*, *8 Mile*, *Liar Liar*, and *Splash*, the television series *Genius*, *Empire*, *24*, *Arrested Development*, and *Friday Night Lights*, and the Emmy®-winning documentary *Lucy and Desi*, to name a few. Grazer is also a

#1 NYT bestselling author of *A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life* and *Face to Face: The Art of Human Connection*, which details his practice of “curiosity conversations” he has had every other week for decades. He is one of the few producers to be honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and was named to the *Time 100* list. His global humanitarian work has earned recognition from the Simon Wiesenthal Foundation, the Alfred Mann Foundation, and World of Children. Grazer is on the USC School of Cinematic Arts Board of Councilors and received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from USC in 2022.



TRACY OLIVER

Tracy Oliver is a screenwriter, director, producer, and showrunner. In 2017 she became the first Black woman to write a film that grossed over \$100 million at the box office, for the risqué comedy hit *Girls Trip*. Other credits include the comedy *Little*; romantic comedy drama *The Sun Is Also a Star*; BET’s television reboot of the 1996 comedic film, *First Wives Club*; and the Amazon comedy series, *Harlem*. In 2021, Oliver signed an overall deal with Apple, for which her company, Tracy Yvonne Productions, will develop both TV and feature film projects. Oliver advocates for authentic, diverse storytelling that amplifies unique voices, and improves inclusiveness within the industry. She has established an internship

program through her production company aimed at giving access to talented young storytellers who may not have industry connections right at their fingertips. Oliver attended Stanford University where she double majored in American Studies and Drama and created the Black theatre company, Black Stage. She is also a graduate of the Peter Stark Producing Program at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, and joined the School’s Board of Councilors in February 2023.



Processional

Welcome to the Class and Guests **Elizabeth M. Daley**
Steven J. Ross/Time Warner Inc.
Professor and Dean, School of Cinematic Arts

Staff Recognition Award **Marcus Kohl Anderson**
Assistant Dean of Student Services

Presented by
Akira Mizuta Lippit
Vice Dean of Faculty

Mary Pickford Alumni Award **Tracy Oliver**
Screenwriter, Director, Producer, Showrunner

Presented by
Gail Katz
Professor, Mary Pickford Endowed Chair
Kortschak Family Endowed Division Chair

Address to the Graduates **Ron Howard**
Brian Grazer
Co-Founders, Imagine Entertainment

Introduced by
Frank Price
Chairman and CEO, Price Entertainment, Inc.
Life Trustee, University of Southern California
Chairman Emeritus, Board of Councilors
School of Cinematic Arts

Presentation of Degrees **Michael Renov**
Vice Dean, Academic Affairs

John Wells Division of Writing for Screen & Television **David Isaacs, Chair**
John C. Hench Division of Animation + Digital Arts **Teresa Cheng, Chair**
Peter Stark Producing Program **Edward Saxon, Chair**
Division of Film & Television Production **Gail Katz, Chair**
Interactive Media & Games Division **Danny Bilson, Chair**
Division of Media Arts + Practice **Holly Willis, Chair**
Division of Cinema & Media Studies **Priya Jaikumar, Chair**

Closing Remarks **Elizabeth M. Daley**

Recessional

Reception **Immediately following at the**
School of Cinematic Arts
(see map on back page)