For Immediate Release:
March 22, 2018

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY’S
COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL
YOUNG ALUMNI COMMISSIONING PROJECT AWARD

(FAIRFAX, VA) George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) is pleased to announce its inaugural Young Alumni Commissioning Project Award Recipients. The recipients were chosen based on artistic excellence, career impact, and feasibility and will receive financial, marketing, and production support to have their projects presented at a Mason venue during the 2019-2020 season.

Zachary Wilcox (’15) has received the inaugural Young Alumni Commissioning Award and $5,000 in commissioning support for his new play The Waning Island of Tangier, and why it maybe should be saved. Valerie McKenna (’18) and Andrew Jorgensen (’17) are the inaugural recipients of the Young Alumni Creative Development Award and will each receive $2,500 in commissioning support. The awards will support the development of Jorgensen’s film The Sun and the Medicine Man based on a family legend brought to life, and Albright, a landscape photography exhibit by McKenna.

In addition to the commission, the awardees will also receive production, marketing and venue support for a public showing of their work in the 2019-2020 academic year. Presentation dates and times will be announced at a later date.

“Our College has always been proud of our talented alumni, and now for the first time we’re able to turn that into something tangible through the Young Alumni Commission Project,” shares Rick Davis, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. “Emerging artists always have more ideas than resources; they need the precious gifts of time, materials, and space to explore their work. We were thrilled with the number and quality of proposals for this inaugural round of the project, and when the multi-disciplinary faculty panel recommended three finalists for what was to have been one award, it was clear that all deserved support. The supported projects span a range of disciplines
from theater to photography to film, and involve both single artists and collaborative teams. I can't wait to see what these artists bring us, and look forward to the next round of proposals.”

To learn more about the inaugural recipients and their projects visit: https://cvpa.gmu.edu/young-alumni-award-recipients.

Applicants for the award were required to be a graduate of the College of Visual and Performing Arts from the class of 2008 and after, and proposals could be for an original new work in any art form, suitable for performance, exhibition, or screening in a Mason venue during the 2019/2020 season.

The Young Alumni Commissioning Project is made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of Linda E. Gramlich for the support of young artists, and by donors to Mason’s Giving Day, including Shugoll Research.

About the College of Visual and Performing Arts
The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) provides an academic environment in which the arts are explored as individual disciplines and interdisciplinary forms that strengthen one another. The college prepares students for careers as creators, performers, teachers, scholars, arts leaders and arts entrepreneurs. Understanding that an education in the arts is deepened by regular contact with the work of distinguished visiting artists, the Center for the Arts, the professional presentation and production arm of the college, welcomes a variety of professional and world-renowned artists, musicians and actors to its stage. Students have the opportunity to perform, create and exhibit their work in a wide variety of public venues including a 2,000-seat Concert Hall. CVPA is home to the Schools of Music, Dance, Art and Theater, as well as the Computer Game Design, Arts Management, and Film and Video Studies programs.

About George Mason University
George Mason University is Virginia’s largest public research university. Located near Washington, D.C., Mason enrolls 37,000 students from 130 countries and all 50 states. Mason has grown rapidly over the past half-century and is recognized for its innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable diversity and commitment to accessibility.

For more information, please visit:
Mason’s College of Visual and Performing Arts

Press Contact:
Kirstin Franko
Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications
703-993-8794 | kfranko@gmu.edu