

Alumni

Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, Tom Kitt, and Other Alumni Newsmakers

By

Rebecca Shapiro

|

Spring/Summer 2021



Time cover illustration by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya

Artwork by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya '10CC was featured on the [cover](#) of the March 29/April 5 issue of *Time* magazine. The image was a part of Phingbodhipakkiya's public-art campaign "I Still Believe in Our City," which she

created in response to a rise in anti-Asian discrimination and hate crimes in New York.

Tom Kitt '96CC won the Grammy Award for best musical-theater album for the cast album of the rock musical *Jagged Little Pill*, which features his arrangements and orchestrations. This is Kitt's first Grammy; he has won two Tony Awards and also shared the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. In 2020 Kitt composed the new school song "[Oh, Columbia](#)," which was performed again at Columbia's 2021 virtual graduation.

The all-digital 2021 [Sundance Film Festival](#) showcased work by three Columbia alumni. Joshua Cohen '14SOA co-produced *Land*, a feature about a woman rescued in the wilderness by a local hunter, and *These Days*, a series about online dating during the pandemic. *Snowy*, a documentary short about a pet turtle codirected by Alex Wolf Lewis '12CC made its premiere at the festival. And *Luzzu*, a feature film about a Maltese fisherman produced by School of the Arts professor Ramin Bahrani '96CC, competed in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition. Additionally, *Doublespeak*, a short film written and directed by current School of the Arts student Hazel McKibbin and co-produced by students Stephanie Fine '18CC and Meera Vaidya, was shown.

Nobuhisa Ishizuka '82CC, '86LAW was named president of [USRowing](#), the organization that oversees all American rowing teams and coordinates the United States' participation in the Olympics. [Ishizuka](#), who was a lightweight rower as an undergraduate, is the executive director of the [Center for Japanese Legal Studies at Columbia Law School](#).

Samantha John '09SEAS appeared on the reality competition show *Shark Tank* and secured a [\\$550,000 investment](#) from Mark Cuban for [Hopscotch](#), an app that she developed with Jocelyn Leavitt '07BUS that teaches kids how to code by letting them design their own games.

Read more from
[Rebecca Shapiro](#)



[Guide to school abbreviations](#)

[All categories](#) >
Read more from

Rebecca Shapiro