

BALTIMORE SCHOOL  
*for the* **ARTS**

**For immediate release:**  
December 21, 2017

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**Baltimore School for the Arts Presents Student-Produced Rotoscope Film**  
*Ambitious Project Made Possible Through Community Partnerships and Guest Artists*

**BALTIMORE** – Baltimore School for the Arts will present a student-produced rotoscope film at its annual Expressions Gala March 3-6, 2018. This interdisciplinary project, initiated by the school’s new Charles C. Baum Film and Visual Storytelling Department, will utilize cutting-edge technology and incorporate the work of film, dance, and music students. Multiple BSA and guest teaching artists will work with the students to help produce the film.

“Film is a collaborative art form, and we’re deeply grateful to the incredibly talented group of people who are helping our students create this work,” said Dr. Chris Ford, director of the school. “Most teenagers don’t have access to the artists, soundstage, and technology that will come together for this project. We are so happy that everyone involved is dedicated to the development of young people.”

“This would not be possible without the help of multiple community partners, including Johns Hopkins University and MICA, who are donating the use of the soundstage at the JHU/MICA Film Centre,” said Beatriz Bufrahi, the film department head. “We are excited to work together to advance learning opportunities in film in the city of Baltimore.”

Rotoscoping is an animation technique developed by Max Fleischer that involves drawing over live action footage, and is currently used to create CGI effects in movies.

The film *Morphē* was written by the students with BSA faculty member Thomas Ventimiglia as part of the Foundations of Storytelling class. L.A.-based film director [Angel Kristi Williams](#) and Baltimore cinematographer Kirby Griffin will work with the students to direct and film the narrative. BSA alumnus Dontae Winslow, a performer and composer who has worked with Eminem, Beyoncé, and Justin Timberlake, among others, is co-producing the score with BSA’s music students. BSA alumna and dance faculty member Iris Andersen Grizzell choreographed the dance movements.

While it is a semester-long project, the film students will also spend two weeks developing the film at the JHU/MICA Film Centre Jan 2-12 as a special intersession assignment. During these two weeks, BSA

students will be filming live action work in the facility's studio space and taking a variety of other masterclasses from industry experts.

Additional masterclasses in audio and virtual reality for juniors and seniors from other departments will also be taught during the intersession classes.

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The Baltimore School for the Arts is a nationally recognized public arts high school that provides its students with intensive pre-professional training in the arts in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. BSA graduates go on to the most selective arts and university programs nationwide and achieve prominence in theater, film, music, dance, and the visual arts. Additionally, the BSA's highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to more than 700 city elementary and middle school children from schools across Baltimore, as well as other outreach initiatives to thousands more. Founded in 1979, the school is an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore's educational and cultural communities.

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