



**Cranbrook Educational Community**  
39221 Woodward Avenue, PO Box 801  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0801  
[www.cranbrook.edu](http://www.cranbrook.edu)

---

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **THE CRANBROOK PERFORMING ARTS LEGACY**

Cranbrook Schools has a long and distinguished tradition of producing graduates who go on to careers at the highest levels of the performing arts, screen, and music industries. The long list of performing arts alumni speaks for itself — and makes a compelling case for what a great program, great teachers, and a great stage can produce.

Here is a sample short list of Cranbrook Kingswood Schools graduates who have excelled in the performing arts industry, with select career highlights.

#### **Stage & Screen:**

- Renée Elise Goldsberry '89 — Tony Award, Grammy Award, and Drama Desk Award winner, best known for her role as Angelica Schuyler in Hamilton.
- Martha Buhs Henry '55 — one of Canada's most celebrated Shakespearean performers, with 47 seasons at the Stratford Festival. Multiple Genie and Gemini Award winner; Companion of the Order of Canada.
- Douglas Sills '78 — Broadway star; Tony Award nominee for *The Scarlet Pimpernel*; SAG Award nominee (Best Ensemble, *The Gilded Age*).
- Selma Blair '90 — actress known for *Cruel Intentions*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Sweetest Thing*, and the *Hellboy* franchise; winner of multiple Teen Choice and People's Choice awards.
- Jaime Ray Newman '96 — actress, producer, and singer; known for *General Hospital*, *Veronica Mars*, *Stargate Atlantis*, *Eureka*, and *Little Fires Everywhere*; Academy Award winner for Best Live Action Short Film as producer of *Skin* (2018).
- Chase Sui Wonders '14 — rising film and television actress, known for her acclaimed role in *The Studio*.
- Cole Thompson '17 — Broadway actor, most recently in *Into the Woods*.
- Dey Young '73 — actress and sculptor, best known for *Pretty Woman*, *Rock 'n' Roll High School*, *Spaceballs*, *Melrose Place*, and multiple *Star Trek* franchise appearances. Lifetime member of The Actors Studio.

### **Film & Television Writing/Producing:**

- Bill Prady '77 — television creator, writer, and producer; co-creator of *The Big Bang Theory*, one of the most-watched sitcoms in television history.
- Rob Edwards '81 — Writer and Producer, Disney's *Treasure Planet* and Disney's *Princess and the Frog*.
- Shana Waterman '91 — Former VP of Programming at Fox Broadcasting; now Head of Film & Television, Royal Ties Productions at Netflix.
- Susan Iskiwitch '03 — second assistant director; Second Unit Assistant Director on *Barbie*.
- Todd Kessler '90 — screenwriter and producer; *The Sopranos*, *Damages*, *Bloodline*.
- Glenn Kessler '88 — actor, screenwriter, and producer; *Damages*, *Bloodline*.
- Doug Miro '90 and Carlo Bernard '90 — writing and producing partners; best known for the acclaimed Netflix series *Narcos*.
- John Cohen '94 — animated film producer; credits include *Despicable Me*, *The Angry Birds Movie*, and *The Garfield Movie*.

### **Cinematography:**

- Nancy Schreiber '67, ASC — groundbreaking cinematographer; the fourth woman ever voted into the American Society of Cinematographers and the first to receive the ASC President's Award. Sundance Best Cinematography winner for November.

### **Music:**

- Barbara Lea '47 — jazz vocalist and celebrated interpreter of the *Great American Songbook*; *DownBeat Critics' Poll Best New Singer of 1956*; praised by the *New York Times* as "one of the great jazz singers of our time."
- Carol Rosenberger '51 — celebrated classical pianist, Grammy nominee, and recording artist with over 30 albums on the Delos label; Director of Delos Records.
- Dave McMurray '73 — jazz saxophonist, founding member of *Was (Not Was)*; studio musician for *The Rolling Stones*, *Bob Dylan*, *Kid Rock*, and many others.
- Amy Denio '79 — composer, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist; inductee of the *Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame*; internationally recognized for her innovative work spanning avant-garde, jazz, and world music traditions.
- Jordan Broder '05 — violinist, saxophonist, and Founder and Director of *NuClassica*, an electro-pop violin and DJ band; appeared on Season 11 of NBC's *America's Got Talent* and has opened for artists including *The Temptations*, *John Legend*, and *The Chainsmokers*

The Bailey Center for the Performing Arts will be the launchpad for the next generation of artists, storytellers, and creative leaders — students who will look back on this stage as the place where they found their voice.

## **About Cranbrook Schools**

Cranbrook Schools is Michigan's leading independent, coeducational Pre-K–12 school. Located on a 319-acre campus in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, it is ranked as the top private K-12 school in the Midwest and among the top 30 high schools, public or private, in the nation. Cranbrook offers a rigorous college-preparatory education, emphasizing academic excellence, creativity, and character. As part of the Cranbrook Educational Community, students benefit from unparalleled access to world-class arts, science, and cultural resources that prepare them to lead with purpose in a global society.

To learn more about Cranbrook Schools , please visit [www.cranbrook.edu](http://www.cranbrook.edu).

### **Media Contact**

Vijay Iyer, Chief Communications Officer  
Cranbrook Educational Community  
313.549.1289 | [viyer@cranbrook.edu](mailto:viyer@cranbrook.edu)