Alumni

Bari Weiss Joins CBS, and Other Columbia Alumni News

Winter 2025-26



Bari Weiss (Stephen Jaffe / Alamy)

Bari Weiss ’07CC, cofounder and CEO of the digital-media outlet *The Free Press*, was named editor in chief of CBS News. **Tony Dokoupil** ’06GSAS was promoted to anchor of the network’s evening-news program.

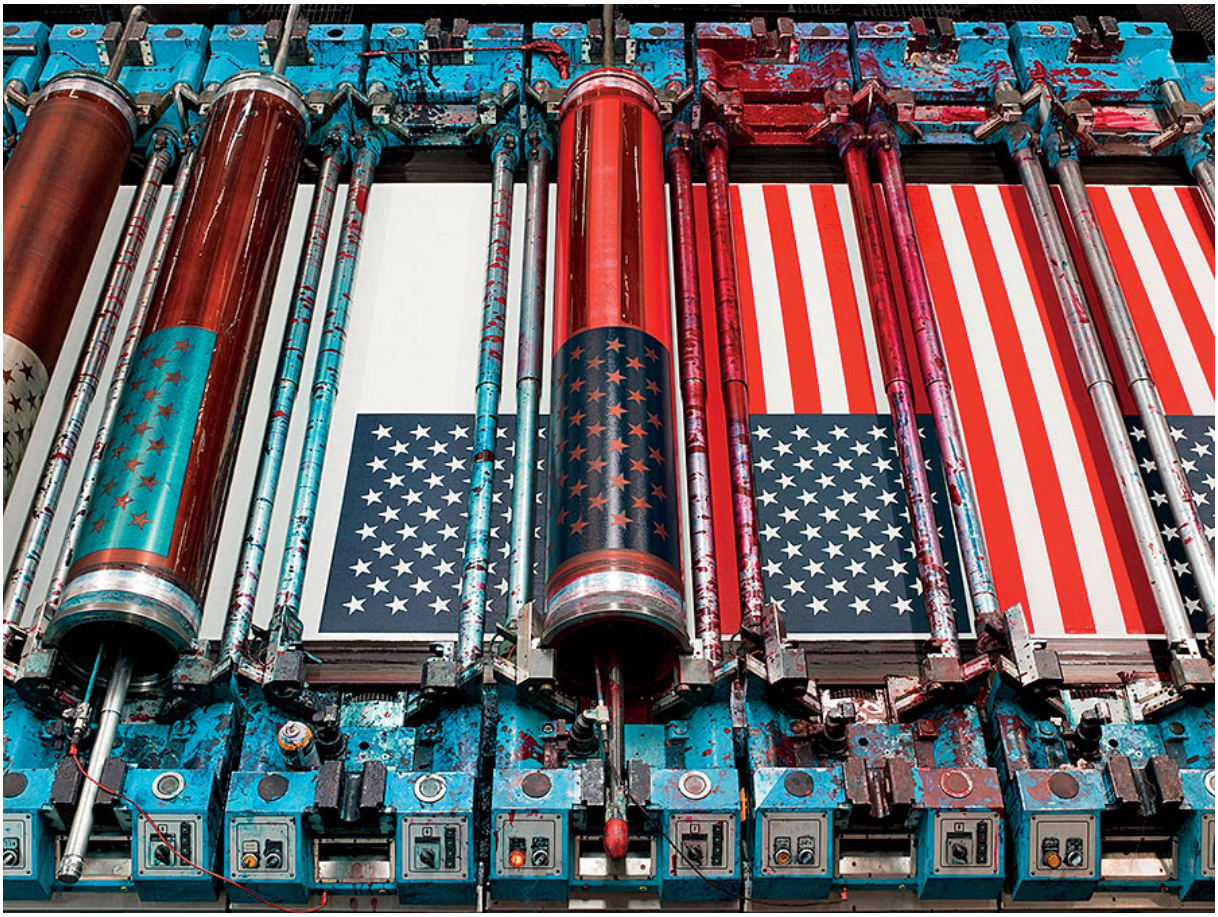
Three Columbians were finalists at the 2025 National Book Awards: **Karen Russell** ’06SOA in the fiction category for her novel *The Antidote*, **Gabrielle Calvocoressi** ’00SOA in poetry for *The New Economy*, and **Kyle Lukoff** ’06BC in young people’s literature for *A World Worth Saving*.

Alumni showrunners launched several new TV series this past fall, including *Boots*, a Netflix military dramedy created by **Andy Parker** ’11SOA; *It: Welcome to Derry*, an HBO adaptation of Stephen King’s novel *It* co-created by **Jason Fuchs** ’09CC; and *The Sisters Grimm*, an Apple TV animated fantasy series led by **Amy Higgins** ’06SOA.

Joshua Pennise ’24BUS was elected president of the Association of Language Companies, a trade group for organizations that provide interpretation and translation services across the United States and beyond.

At the 2025 Hedgeweek US Awards, which recognize achievements in the hedge-fund sector, **Kenton Kilmer** ’20GS won the “new solution product of the year” prize for his investment-management platform, Addigence.

Jordi Alonso ’23GSAS discovered a complete, previously unknown seventeenth-century Latin manuscript by Jesuit poet Ubertino Carrara in the archives of Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University. Alonso is now translating the work, titled *De arte poetica*, along with Carrara’s epic poem *Columbus*.



Christopher Payne / Esto

Made in America, a solo exhibition featuring over seventy works by industrial photographer **Christopher Payne** ’90CC, opened at the Cooper Hewitt museum on the Upper East Side in December. It runs until fall 2026.

Forastera, a Spanish film written and directed by **Lucía Aleñar Iglesias** ’21SOA and produced by **Marta Cruañas Compés** ’20SOA, won the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival. The drama, about a grieving family visiting Mallorca, is the evolution of a short film Aleñar made as a Columbia student.



Colby King (Evelyn Freja)

Colby Xzavier King ’22CC received a 2025 David Prize, a $200,000 grant for New York City “visionaries” with solutions to social issues, for the Kiki Arts Collaborative, a mentorship and support network he is founding for young LGBTQ+ artists of color.

Aimee Ng ’12GSAS, a member of the curatorial department at the Frick Collection since 2015, was promoted to chief curator of the museum.

Poet **David Lehman** ’70CC, ’78GSAS received the New Criterion Poetry Prize for *Ithaca*, a collection of poems that will be published this winter. Lehman was the

founding and longtime editor of the annual *Best American Poetry* anthology, a post he retired from in 2025.



Guide to school abbreviations

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