

MILTON
HERSHEY
SCHOOL®

takes great pleasure in announcing

JOCELYN BIOH

CLASS OF 2001

ALUMNA
of the
20 YEAR 22



HIS DEEDS ARE
HIS MONUMENT —
HIS LIFE IS
OUR INSPIRATION.

It is with great pride that I introduce Jocelyn Bioh '01 as Milton Hershey School's 2022 Alumna of the Year. Jocelyn is a performer and an award-winning writer in theater, TV, and film.

At MHS, Jocelyn was active in the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) program from the time she enrolled in seventh grade. She credits the School for allowing her the space to grow as a person and as an artist. She participated in dance, choir, and eventually theater. She was inducted into the Spartan Hall of Fame in 2008 for her achievements in VPA while a student.

Through the nurturing of her teachers, Jocelyn developed a passion for being a detailed and thorough storyteller. She also learned to speak up for herself and pursue her goals without fear. After graduating from MHS, Jocelyn earned a bachelor's degree in English and Theatre at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and a master's degree in playwriting from Columbia University in New York City.

Like Mr. Hershey, she maintained her focus through the highs and lows she encountered while pursuing her dreams. Her perseverance led to her first major commercial opportunity as a spokesmodel for the "Cover Girl Queen Collection." Eventually, she was selected to perform in various productions off-Broadway, regionally, and on Broadway, including as a cast member for "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," which won a Tony Award for Best Play in 2014.

That same year, she started writing several plays. One of them, "Nollywood Dreams," debuted off-Broadway in 2021. Jocelyn also wrote her most successful play to date, "School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play." It was produced off-Broadway in Fall 2017 and became a major hit, garnering rave reviews and winning several awards.

Another of Jocelyn's award-winning productions, "Merry Wives," an adaptation of Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor," was performed as part of the Shakespeare in the Park series in Summer 2021 and filmed for PBS. Her newest work, "Goddess," is a Broadway-bound production that is to debut at Berkeley Repertory Theater in California in August 2022.

In addition to writing for theater, Jocelyn has written and produced for Netflix, Disney, Disney+, and Hulu. She has acted in "One Life to Live" on ABC, "The Characters" on Netflix, "Blue Bloods" on CBS, "The Detour" on TBS, "Crashing" on HBO, and "ZIWE" on Showtime.

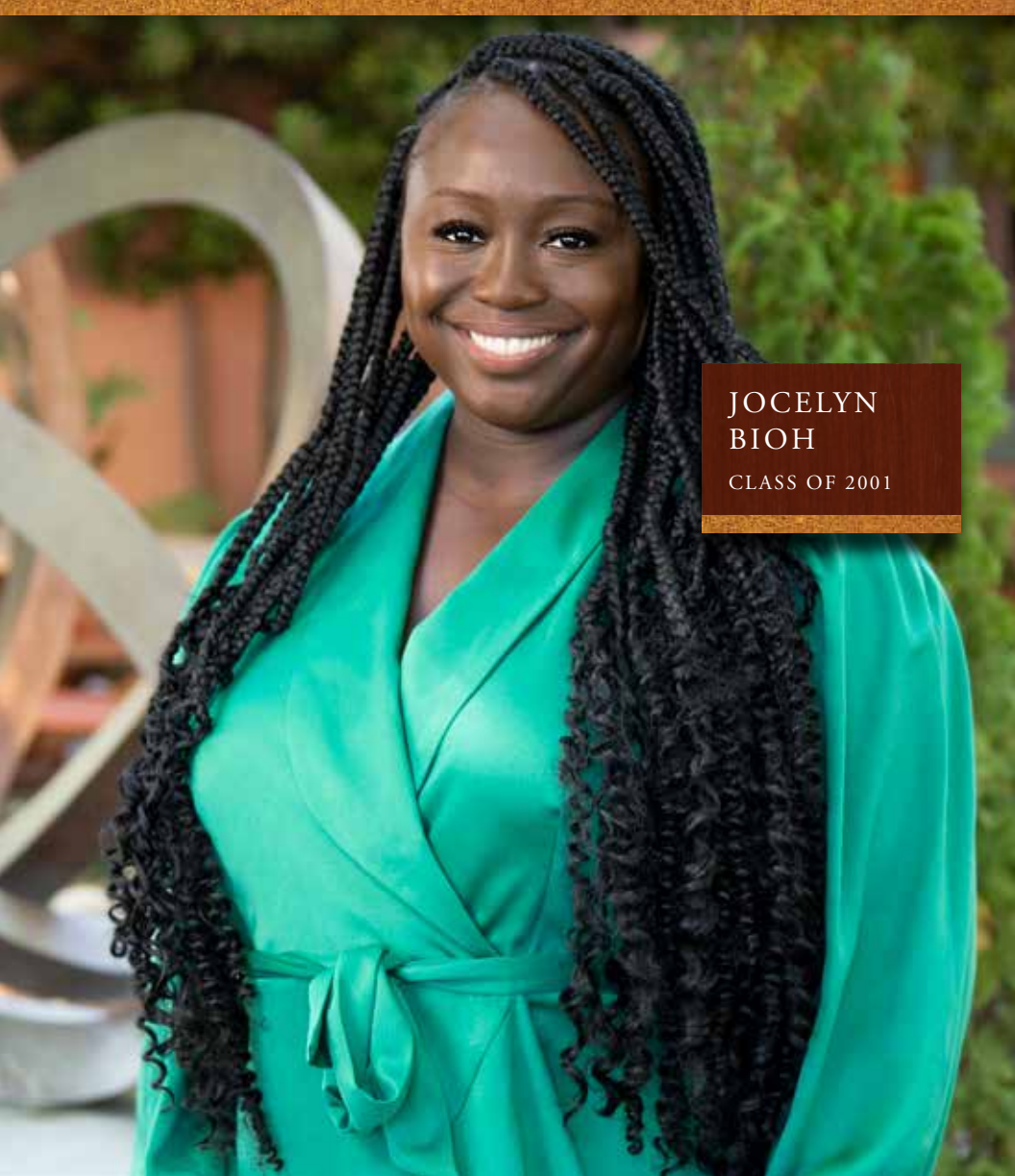
Beyond performing and writing, Jocelyn co-founded Black Women on Broadway, an organization that celebrates Black women artists in theatre in New York City through mentorship and education opportunities.

Jocelyn is the youngest woman and the first Black woman to receive the MHS Alumna of the Year Award.

On behalf of Milton Hershey School, I am proud to present Jocelyn Bioh, MHS Class of 2001, to the Board of Managers for the highest honor of Alumna of the Year for 2022. This award acknowledges Ms. Bioh's achievements and the great honor she has brought to her alma mater.

Peter G. Gurt '85
President, Milton Hershey School

ALUMNA *of the* YEAR



JOCELYN
BIOH
CLASS OF 2001

Jocelyn Bioh '01 has always loved performing and knew from her time at Milton Hershey School that she belonged in the arts. Today, Jocelyn is a performer and an award-winning writer in theater, TV, and film. “MHS was the opportunity of a lifetime,” she shared. “It gave me a step up towards success that likely never would have been possible for me.”

Jocelyn described the impact of MHS on her life as immeasurable. “I did not come from a family that had wealth or access, and we really had to fight for whatever we earned,” Jocelyn said. “Getting the opportunity to go to MHS—where I didn’t have to be concerned about anything financially—allowed me the mental space to grow as a person and an artist. That impact changed my life as it crystalized for me that this is what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.”



Space to Grow as a Person

Jocelyn enrolled at MHS in August 1995 when she was 12 years old and ready to enter seventh grade. Prior to her enrollment, Jocelyn lived with her mother in a small one-bedroom apartment in New York City.



In addition to participating in Visual and Performing arts programs, Jocelyn was a cheerleader for football and basketball.



Jocelyn landed a spot on the competition dance team during her last three years at MHS.

Jocelyn’s parents had divorced, her older siblings were away at college, and the bills and college fees landed on her mother’s shoulders. She worked multiple jobs, including one as an overnight home health aide, often leaving Jocelyn home alone. This went on for two years until Jocelyn’s godfather learned about MHS through his daughter’s college roommate, who happened to be an MHS graduate.

It wasn’t long before Jocelyn found herself on the path to success as an MHS student. During her first days at MHS, Jocelyn was surprised to be living in such a large student home with access to unimaginable resources. When her houseparent said during dinner one night that he would take the students to Hersheypark, she couldn’t believe they could simply go to an amusement park on weekends. “I was born and raised in Washington Heights; ‘the park’ was always a place that had a slide and some swing sets,” she said.

It was those nights spent at Hersheypark with friends—many of whom remain very close to Jocelyn—that became some of her best and fondest memories. “I think of those moments all the time,” she shared. “The fun, free, and pure joy-filled moments of those days.”

Professional Recognition

- **2017** “School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play,” written by Jocelyn, garnered rave reviews from The New York Times and The Hollywood Reporter and won several awards:
 - African Diaspora Award
 - Hull Warriner Award
 - Lucille Lortel Award for Best Play
- **2022** “Merry Wives,” Jocelyn’s adaptation of Shakespeare’s “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” won the Drama Desk Award for Best Adaptation

Larry and Soundra Muhammad were Jocelyn’s houseparents during most of her time at MHS. Their student home was consistently filled with humor, music, singing, and dancing. “When I think of the Muhammads, I think of how funny they were. Both of them loved to joke around and had the best laughs, which I really enjoyed,” she shared.

Jocelyn was involved in the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) program at MHS, including several choral groups from seventh grade through senior year. Dance,



In 2008, Jocelyn was inducted into the Spartan Hall of Fame for her accomplishments as a student in Visual and Performing Arts.



Left: “School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play,” written by Jocelyn, was first produced off-Broadway in 2017 and garnered rave reviews from *The New York Times* and *The Hollywood Reporter* and won several awards. Photo by Craig Schwartz
Right: Jocelyn greets Cristal Sheaffer, her former choir teacher, after a performance of “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.” In January 2015, Cristal and other MHS staff members traveled with students to New York to see the play.

however, was her first love—landing her a spot on the competition dance team during her last three years at MHS. She grew up dancing at the local community center arts program in her neighborhood and was thrilled that MHS offered a dance program too.

“Ironically, theater was not top of mind for me until the last two years of my time at MHS,” Jocelyn said. She did, however, star in her very first play, “Pretty Fire,” during her senior year. The play was written by Charlayne Woodard—who Jocelyn was able to meet years later. They are now friends who keep in touch, sharing a deep connection to what originally inspired Jocelyn to go into theater.

Aside from her involvement with VPA, Jocelyn also participated in high and long jump as part of the MHS track team and was a cheerleader for football and basketball.

Being Her Greatest Self

“My passion for being a detailed and thorough storyteller was certainly nurtured at MHS because of the amazing teachers

who fostered our talent,” she shared. “They knew that many of us were good and knew that we could be better, and they pushed us to be our best. I will always appreciate them for that.”

In the area of visual and performing arts, Jocelyn said three teachers stand out: Cristal “Ms. J” Janderchick, now Mrs. Sheaffer, her choir teacher and New Horizons leader; Ms. Janice Stewart, her drama teacher; and Ms. Glynis Gaylor, her dance teacher. “I don’t know where I would be as an artist today if these three incredible women hadn’t poured into me and nurtured my talent,” she said.

Jocelyn’s teachers also instilled foundational skills she holds on to today: Ms. Sharon Henry, who taught math and made her feel capable; Ms. Suzanne Arnold, who made science fun; and Mr. Cudworth and Mrs. Staples-Farmer, who were the first people to tell her she was a good writer. “In hindsight, their compliments stayed with me and gave me the confidence I would eventually need in my profession,” Jocelyn said.

The diversity of the student population at MHS is also evident in Jocelyn’s

Career Highlights

- **2007** Spokesmodel for the “Cover Girl Queen Collection”
- **2010** First professional play off-Broadway, “Neighbors,” debuted at The Public Theater
- **2014** Performed in her first Broadway show, “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,” which won the TONY Award for Best Play that season
- **2017** “School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play,” written by Jocelyn, was produced off-Broadway and went on to become a major hit play that season
- **2021** “Nollywood Dreams,” written by Jocelyn, debuted off-Broadway and is being developed into a film
- **2021** “Merry Wives,” Jocelyn’s adaptation of Shakespeare’s “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” was part of the Shakespeare in the Park series
- **2022** “Merry Wives” was filmed for PBS and featured in an HBO documentary titled “ReOpening Night” that chronicled the reopening of Broadway as COVID-19 restrictions eased
- **2022** “Goddess,” a new Broadway-bound show written by Jocelyn, will debut at Berkeley Repertory Theater in August

work. “It was the first time that I had been around and knew so many kids whose parents and families were similar to mine. Meeting and knowing other African kids and sharing our experiences was a huge impact on me, as I would eventually go on to write all of my plays and scripts about those experiences,” shared Jocelyn.



Photo by Joshua Bright

During her time at MHS, Jocelyn learned to speak up for herself and pursue what she wanted without fear. When challenged by a difficult dance sequence or a choir solo, she focused on being the best she could be. “To be in the entertainment business, you need to have tough skin, and I feel like MHS really prepared my spirit for this.”

Among the foundational skills Jocelyn learned at MHS was being disciplined about her work. “Perhaps I had always been this way, but I feel like I developed my Type A personality when I was a student at MHS,” she said. “I always made lists of everything I needed to do and was incredibly disciplined about my time—I never liked wasting time. Even when I would allow myself downtime to watch TV, I was always stretching or rehearsing a dance routine. I had a deep desire to always keep learning and improving.”



Photo by Marc J. Franklin

Driven by Self-Discipline

After graduating from MHS, Jocelyn earned a bachelor's degree in English and Theatre at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio—where she first started writing plays. A professor later encouraged her to keep writing plays because she had “a good ear for dialogue.” She then earned a master's degree in playwriting from Columbia University in New York City.

Jocelyn experienced the highs and lows of being a writer and performer in New York City, including the rejection and financial struggles that she said felt endless. Eventually, in 2007, her discipline paid off and she booked her first major commercial gig when she was selected as a spokesmodel for Queen Latifah's makeup line, the “Cover Girl Queen Collection.”

She went on to star in “Neighbors,” her first professional play off-Broadway, which debuted at The Public Theater in 2010. From there, she worked regionally for many years, starring in several plays in

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”

Philadelphia, Vermont, Connecticut, and Pittsburgh. In 2014, she booked her first Broadway show as a cast member: “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,” which won the Tony Award for Best Play that season.

That same year, she started writing several plays. One of which was “Nollywood Dreams” which eventually

debuted off-Broadway in 2021. After leaving “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,” she worked on a new production inspired by many things in her life, but namely her experience as a student at MHS. That play was “School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play,” which was produced off-Broadway in Fall 2017 and went on to become a major hit that season. It garnered rave reviews from The New York Times and The Hollywood Reporter and won several awards, including an African Diaspora Award, Hull Warriner Award, and the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Play. Since then, “School Girls” has been produced more than 50 times all over the United States, Canada, and is to have a major production in London in 2023. Her current project, “Goddess,” is bound for Broadway after its debut in August 2022 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre in California.

Celebrating and Supporting Community

Jocelyn has returned to MHS for class reunion celebrations and continues to have a strong bond with friends she met at MHS. In 2008, she was inducted into the Spartan Hall of Fame for her accomplishments as a student in VPA.

In January 2015, a group of MHS students traveled to New York City to see Jocelyn perform in the “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.” After the performance, Jocelyn made time to join the students, MHS staff, and several other alumni for dinner. She talked about making sacrifices and working a variety of jobs to help pay the bills, while also trying to establish a career in the arts.

For current MHS students, she offers this advice: “Success is in the details. It’s all about your own discipline and making

Education

- Bachelor’s degree in English and Theatre, The Ohio State University
- Master’s degree in playwriting, Columbia University

sure you know everything there is to know about the thing you love and want to do the most,” shared Jocelyn. Talking about her own passion, she felt like there was a huge void in storytelling that centered around Black women’s voices and wanted to use her voice to fill that gap.

Outside her professional work, Jocelyn enjoys the work of her colleagues in theater. She said she sees a show either on or off Broadway a couple times a week. She also remains heavily involved with Black Women on Broadway, an organization she co-founded. The organization celebrates Black women artists in theater in New York City through mentorship and education opportunities. It has an active social media presence, and in 2022, it launched its flagship event, The Inaugural Black Women on Broadway Awards Celebration—the very first theater awards to honor Black women.

Jocelyn is engaged to be married to Austin Smith in Fall of 2022.

As she reflected on being named 2022 Alumna of the Year, Jocelyn said, “I truly do not feel worthy of this incredible recognition, but I am humbled and honored to accept this. Being the youngest and the first Black woman to receive this prestigious honor is one that is hard to put into words. One of MHS’s beacons is their incredible diversity and I’m proud to be the vessel in which that touchstone is being spotlighted.” 🎭

Recipients of the Milton Hershey School Alumnus/na of the Year Award

- 1954 Arthur R. Whiteman '27**, Finance
- 1955 Edward C. Uhrich, M.D. '33**,
Medicine-Pathology
- 1956 Joseph H. Hartshorn, Ph.D. '39**,
Geology
- 1957 Joseph S. Gumphier '35**, Finance
- 1958 Richard M. Light '41**, Electrical
Engineering
- 1959 Col. Burdsall D. Miller '38**, Military
Service-Air Force
- 1960 William P. Wagner '27**, Industrial
Service Engineering
- 1961 Laurence W. Fredrick, Ph.D. '45**,
Astronomy
- 1962 Kenneth V. Hatt '41**, Business
- 1963 John T. Hart '36**, Personnel
Management
- 1964 William E.C. Dearden '40**,
Marketing
- 1965 Frank J. Brady, M.D. '37**, Medicine-
Anesthesiology
- 1966 Charles F. Bofinger '43**,
Advertising
- 1967 William J. Geen, Esq. '47**, Law
- 1968 Col. Edward J. Rutty '47**, Military
Service-Marine Corps
- 1969 Harry D. Snow '43**, Entertainment
- 1970 Albert D. Rickmers '40**, Education
- 1971 E. Hale Jones '50**, Public Relations
- 1972 The Rev. Dr. Clark E. Hobby '47**,
Religion
- 1973 Lewis W. Eckert '39**, Research and
Development
- 1974 John M. Aichele '39**, Business
Affairs-Education
- 1975 Archie L. Good, V.M.D. '38**,
Veterinary Medicine
- 1976 James D. Dower Jr. '35**,
Architecture
- 1977 William H. Pugh '43**, Government-
Diplomatic Service
- 1978 K. Thomas R. Davies, Ph.D. '53**,
Theoretical Physics
- 1978 Richard W. Davies, Ph.D. '54**,
Theoretical Physics
- 1979 David B. Bowman '46**, Law
- 1980 E. Wallis Callahan '44**, Culinary
Arts
- 1981 Michael Kay '54**, Thoroughbred
Racing
- 1982 Charles G. Gebelein, Ph.D. '47**,
Chemistry
- 1983 John F. Rineman '45**, Medical
Services Administration
- 1984 William M. Duff '52**, Architecture-
Building Construction
- 1985 William R. Fisher '50**, Education
- 1986 James C. Mancuso, Ph.D. '45**,
Education-Psychology
- 1987 J. Bruce McKinney '55**, Business
Management
- 1988 James D. Hoeschele, Ph.D. '55**,
Biomedical Research

- 1989 Adrian E. Taylor '47**, Advertising, Design, Journalism
- 1990 John A. O'Brien '61**, Psychology
- 1991 Graham W. McIntyre '49**, U.S. Army-Education
- 1992 Otto R. Weber, M.D. '41**, Medicine-Humanitarian
- 1993 David Q. Voigt, Ph.D. '44**, Author-Educator
- 1994 David I. Bowser '57**, Building Construction
- 1995 A. John Gabig '53**, Corporate Law
- 1996 A. LeRoy Baker, Ph.D. '57**, Scientist-Biochemistry
- 1997 Merrill Lynn, Ph.D. '48**, Research Scientist
- 1998 Ivan N. Dietrich, J.D. '42**, Law
- 1999 Wayne W. Hepler '43**, Engineering-Aerospace
- 2000 James J. Finnegan '48**, Editorial Writer
- 2001 George W. Cave '47**, CIA: Directorate of Operations
- 2002 Robert J. Brill '60**, Agribusiness Entrepreneur
- 2003 J. Barry Love, Ph.D. '51**, Teacher and Philosopher
- 2004 Brigadier General Richard C. Zilmer '70**, Military Service-Marine Corps
- 2005 Alan D. Krashesky '78**, Broadcasting
- 2006 E. Michael Kenna '70**, Graphic Arts/Entrepreneur
- 2007 Thomas G. McClay '67**, Electrical Engineering/Entrepreneur
- 2008 Gerald P.H. Ballough, Ph.D. '76**, Professor/Neuroscientist
- 2009 Mary T. Pentel, M.D. '86**, Medicine-Dermatology
- 2010 Richard Purcell '61**, Manufacturing/Entrepreneur
- 2010 Milton Purcell '64**, Manufacturing/Entrepreneur
- 2011 Paul Taylor '53**, Logistics Engineering/Aerospace
- 2012 Captain Kimberly (Bishop) Elenberg '88**, U.S. Public Health Service
- 2013 Drew M. Wolf '85**, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist
- 2014 Jason S. Wolfe '87**, Inventor and Entrepreneur
- 2015 J. Anthony Graves, Ph.D., M.D. '87**, Pediatric Cancer Researcher
- 2016 Johnny Mills '75**, Entertainment
- 2017 Eric M. Welsh '84**, Military and Business Leadership
- 2018 Wendy A. MacClinchy '92**, Global Humanitarianism and Peacekeeping
- 2019 William C.B. Harding '78**, Biomedical Engineering and Innovation
- 2020 Charles Seidel '87**, Military and Business Leadership
- 2021 Christine (Brennan) Cook '81**, Early Childhood Education

Criteria and Nomination Information for Selection of the Milton Hershey School Alumnus/na of the Year Award

The MHS Alumnus/na of the Year award is the highest honor the school can bestow on a graduate. Each year, we strive to identify those graduates who have distinguished themselves to be worthy of this recognition. To enhance our ability to identify a robust group of exceptional candidates from which to choose, we need your assistance.

Milton Hershey School accepts nominations year round for the Alumnus/na of the Year award. Submissions for the following year must be received no later than Oct. 1 of the preceding year. Detailed nominations are not required; however, the more information provided about a graduate the stronger the nomination becomes, pending our research and fact checking.

More detailed Alumnus/na of the Year award criteria can be found on the mhsalum.org website. Primary considerations for this prestigious honor are presented below.

Distinguished Professional Accomplishments

- Recognized as a leader/outstanding contributor by their peers in his/her chosen profession
- Exhibited continual promotion in his/her chosen field
- Received awards acknowledging performance and noteworthy levels of achievement

Humanitarianism and Exemplary Service to Others

- Provided leadership in a volunteer or service organization
- Performed acts of community service through charitable organizations
- Recognized for his/her community service involvement

Personal and Professional High Standards of Conduct

- Highly regarded within his/her professional and home communities
- Demonstrated ethical behavior in both personal and professional relationships

Service to MHS and Children

- Returns to campus to participate in student-related activities/events
- Provides graduate assistance or recruiting support in his/her home community
- Expressed interest in or actually volunteered with student/alumni programming
- Demonstrated support of MHS

The nomination information is available online at mhsalum.org/stay-connected/alumni-recognition. You also may request information by contacting the MHS Alumni Relations Office by phone, 888.MHS.ALUM, or by email to mhsalum@mhs-pa.org.

— MHS Mission Statement

In keeping with Milton and Catherine Hershey's Deed of Trust, Milton Hershey School nurtures and educates children in social and financial need to lead fulfilling and productive lives.