

*Playwrights' Center, which is focused on developing new work, and the non-profit theater company Palm Beach Dramaworks, where he is cocreator and executive producer of the Master Playwright Series.*


I was consumed by theater when I was a student at Rochester. I did some acting and then, as a sophomore, I directed a Drama House production of Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. I didn't have any experience with directing at the time, but it showed me I had an aptitude and an appetite for it. I went on to direct two musicals along with many other productions in college, and have continued my involvement in theater to this day.

My experience in theater has benefited my professional work in that, above all else, it has taught me about people. It has given



me the "soft" skills that are so important in business. From the stage, I've learned that everyone is different and that getting everyone to perform at their best requires the ability to ascertain what makes each one "tick." Ultimately, a director is in charge of making a performance happen and producing a cohesive event that makes an impact on people.

It's what a CEO does, too. I love directing and I always have—whether it's for a stage production or within the parameters of doing business. You have to get people to cooperate with one another to achieve results. You have to build an environment where people can communicate openly and where there's a high degree of trust. You also have to be comfortable experimenting, building consensus, testing ideas, and responding to audience or customer feedback.

I find I use my directing skills every day. 

## U.S. Attorney Robert Khuzami '79 Leads Investigation of Trump Lawyer

The United States Attorney's investigation of Michael Cohen, a lawyer for President Donald Trump, is being led by **Robert Khuzami '79**. Named deputy United States attorney for the Southern District of New York last January, Khuzami took on the role after interim U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman, a Trump appointee, recused himself from the case.

Khuzami began his legal career in the same office. As a prosecutor there from 1991 to 2002, he won the conviction of Omar Ahmed Ali Abdel Rahman in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. He also won several high-profile convictions as head of the office's Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force. From 2009 to 2013, he led the enforcement division of the Securities and Exchange Commission.



**ASKING QUESTIONS:** Khuzami leads the investigation as deputy U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

## Alumni Head to UK for Select International Scholarship Program

Two alumni are among 92 people worldwide to be awarded the 2018 Gates Cambridge Scholarship—considered the most prestigious international postgraduate scholarship offered by the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

**Levan Bokeria '14** and **Garrett Rubin '12E, '13 (T5)** were selected from a pool of 5,798 applicants on the basis of their intellectual ability, commitment to improving the lives of others, leadership potential, and academic fit with Cambridge.

Bokeria will pursue a PhD in biological science at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at Cambridge. He was born and raised in Tbilisi, the capital of the Republic of Georgia, and transferred from George Mason University to Rochester, where he majored in philosophy and brain and cognitive sciences. A Phi Beta Kappa member, he earned highest distinction honors in both of his majors.

After Rochester, Bokeria continued his scientific training at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he was a research assistant and laboratory manager. He is now at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behavior, in the Netherlands, and will graduate in August with a master's degree in cognitive neuroscience.

Rubin will pursue a PhD in education at Cambridge, with a focus on the sociology of education in armed conflict. Last year,



**Levan Bokeria**



**Garrett Rubin**

the Roseville, California, native completed a master of philosophy in education, globalization, and international development at Cambridge, through support from Rotary International's Global Grant Scholarship program.

While studying voice at Eastman, Rubin completed a Take Five Scholar program entitled *US-Middle Eastern Cultural Diplomacy* and was honored with the Presidential Award for Community Service. In 2013, he also won a Fulbright mtv-U Award to Jordan. Given to just four applicants each year, the mvt-U grant supports projects that promote music as a global force for mutual understanding.

Three other alumni—**David Liebers '09**, **Anjalene Whittier '14**, and **Pedro Vallejo-Ramirez '16**—have won the scholarship in previous years. Vallejo-Ramirez was selected while still a student at Rochester. —Jim Mandelaro