BOSTON U: HOLLYWOOD’S SECRET FEMALE TRAINING GROUND

Dozens of top execs and talents call BU their alma mater, as alumnae from Geena Davis and her college roommate Nina Tassler to Nancy Dubuc gather to honor the college that puts the ‘B’ in showbiz

BY BRYN ELISE SANDBERG

Tassler (left) and Davis met as sophomores. Says Davis: “It’s amazing to be that close to somebody who has just known you from practically minute one.” They were photographed on Dec. 2 at the William Turner Gallery in Santa Monica.

LOS ANGELES

The women were photographed on Dec. 2 at Smashbox Studios in Culver City.

1 Madeline Di Nonno

The CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media received her bachelor’s in English in 1982.

7 Nina Tassler

CBS Entertainment chair survived the school’s ultracompetitive theater program but chose an off-camera career.

2 Michaela Watkins

The co-creator of USA’s Benched, a member of Groundlings, got her fine arts degree in 1994.

8 Debbie Liebling

Formerly a Universal Pictures exec, the 1981 broadcast and film major now heads Red Hour Films’ TV division.

3 Corinne Brinkerhoff

The Jane the Virgin co-exec producer got her master’s in television from BU in 2004.

9 Lauren Shuler Donner

The X-Men franchise producer and 1971 grad studied film and TV in the college of communication.

4 Ashley Williams

The How I Met Your Mother actress and 2001 grad was a year ahead of actress Uzo Aduba in the theater program.

10 Brooke Karzen

The senior vp alternative programming at Warner Horizon TV graduated with a theater degree in 1984.

5 Judy Smith

The crisis manager, who got her communications and public relations degree in 1980, inspired Scandal’s Olivia Pope.

11 Bonnie Arnold

The How to Train Your Dragon and Over the Hedge producer got her master’s in broadcast journalism in 1978.

6 Krista Vernoff

The co-exec producer of Shameless and former Grey’s Anatomy EP graduated with a theater degree in 1993.

12 Geena Davis

The Academy Award-winning actress attended the college of fine arts’ theater program, graduating in 1979.
WOMEN IN ENTERTAINMENT

SOME PEOPLE SAY that their closest friends are from high school or work, but for me, it’s all about Boston University,” says actress Greta Davis, 50, who met the closest of her college friends — CBS Entertainment chair Nina Tassler, 57 — as an 18-year-old. The pair, who branded themselves “Neen-er and Geen-er,” have remained best friends. In fact, Tassler was Davis’ matron of honor at her wedding in 1977. The pair, who have been roommates their senior year, — their college friends — have remained best friends. In fact, Tassler was Davis’ matron of honor. Thesmophoriazusae, written by Aristophanes and performed in 1974.

nework NEW YORK


BANG/INVISION/AP. MOORE: JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP. O’DONNELL: BEIMAGES/CAROLYN CONTINO. WOODARD: DAVID CROTTY/PATRICKMCMULLAN.COM/SIPA USA.

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ERIKA PARSONS AND LEIANE TAYLOR AT CELESTINE AGENCY. TASSLER HAIR AND MAKEUP BY TRACY DAVIS.