



FILM INDEPENDENT

FIND



TALENT





2013

FIND TALENT GUIDE

Founded in 1980, Film Independent (FIND) began as a collective of artists who came together to share ideas and resources on making independent films. Today, Film Independent is one of the nation's leading non-profit organizations dedicated to supporting independent filmmakers and building audiences for their work.

Our mission is to champion the cause of independent film and support a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation and uniqueness of vision. We are committed to supporting and exhibiting new work by diverse artists with original voices and building an audience for independent film.

Each year, FIND offers more than 250 year-round workshops, forums, conferences, panels and screenings. Our Artist Development programs cultivate strong, original voices by helping filmmakers develop new work in a nurturing yet challenging creative environment. These programs include the Filmmaker Labs (Directing Lab, Documentary Lab, Producing Lab and Screenwriting Lab), Project Involve, Fast Track at the Los Angeles Film Festival and the Film Independent Spirit Awards Grants. The Artist Development programs are provided free of charge to accepted filmmakers and upon completion, the participants become Film Independent Fellows, receiving year-round support, including access to Film Independent's film education offerings and the Los Angeles Film Festival.

In this guide, you will find information about our recent Fellows – who they are, what they're currently working on and how to contact them. They are an exceptional group of talented artists and we encourage you to contact them directly or call us for more information about them or their projects.

To explore the FIND Talent Guide online, please visit filmIndependent.org/findtalentguide

THE FILM INDEPENDENT TALENT GUIDE IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH
SUPPORT FROM THE TIME WARNER FOUNDATION.

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FOUNDATION

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This year, more than 100 Fellows went through our Artist Development programs or received grants at the Film Independent Spirit Awards and the Los Angeles Film Festival. We awarded over \$565,000 in cash and in-kind production support to our Fellows.

Alumni of our programs continue to create powerful, original works that are visible at major festivals throughout the year and in theatrical releases.

FIND FELLOWS HIGHLIGHTS



KYLE PATRICK ALVAREZ & COOKIE CAROSELLA

C.O.G.

Just seven months before *C.O.G.* premiered in dramatic competition at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, writer/director Kyle Patrick Alvarez and producer Cookie Carosella were participants in our 2012 Fast Track program, where they secured financing for the film. The film is being distributed by Screen Media and Focus World.



SEAN BAKER

Starlet

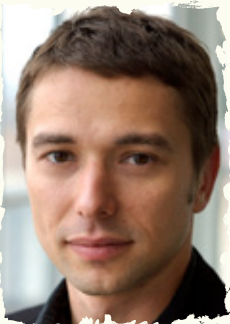
Starlet by writer/director Sean Baker, a Fast Track Fellow, won the Robert Altman Award at the 2013 Film Independent Spirit Awards, and was also nominated for the John Cassavetes Award. The film premiered at the 2012 SXSW Film Festival.



CHERIEN DABIS

May in the Summer

Writer/director/actor Cherien Dabis returned to the 2013 Sundance Film Festival with her sophomore feature *May in the Summer*, which played in U.S. Dramatic Competition. Dabis is a Fellow of Project Involve, the Directing Lab and Fast Track. Film Independent supported *May in the Summer* with a Dolby DCP Grant.



SEBASTIAN DUNGAN

Afternoon Delight and *Inequality for All*

Producer and past Film Independent Spirit Award Nominee (*Transamerica*) Sebastian Dungan had two award winning films at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. *Afternoon Delight*, which Film Independent supported with the Wildfire Post Production Sound Grant, garnered the U.S. Dramatic Directing Award for writer/director Jill Soloway; and the documentary *Inequality for All* received the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award before playing the 2013 Los Angeles Film Festival.



GRACE LEE

Janeane from Des Moines and *American Revolutionary*

Director Grace Lee's documentary and narrative hybrid *Janeane from Des Moines* premiered at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. Her documentary *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs* was developed through the 2012 Film Independent Documentary Lab and premiered at the 2013 Los Angeles Film Festival.



JAMES PONSOLDT

The Spectacular Now and Smashed

Director James Ponsoldt who participated in our Fast Track program returned to the 2013 Sundance Film Festival with *The Spectacular Now* where it won a Special Jury Prize for stars Shailene Woodley and Miles Teller. The film is being distributed by A24. His critically acclaimed film *Smashed*, which he co-wrote and directed and premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, was distributed by Sony Pictures Classics and received a best female lead nomination for actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead at the 2013 Film Independent Spirit Awards.



PJ RAVAL

Before You Know It

Award winning director/cinematographer PJ Raval developed his most recent documentary *Before You Know It* in our inaugural Documentary Lab in 2011. The film premiered at the 2013 SXSW Film Festival.



SHIRIHARI SATHE

It Felt Like Love

Shrihari Sathe, who went through our Producing Lab in 2011, produced *It Felt Like Love* by writer/director Eliza Hittman, which premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. The film was supported by Film Independent with a Dolby DCP grant. In spring 2013, Sathe began post-production on his feature directorial debut *Ek Hazarachi Note (1000 Rupee Note)*, which was produced in India.

FILM INDEPENDENT'S ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

FAST TRACK

Fast Track is a film financing market that connects filmmakers with financiers, production companies and other industry professionals. Designed to help filmmakers advance their current feature projects, this highly selective program is open to established and up-and-coming narrative and documentary filmmakers, with exceptional projects in the financing stage.

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MILLENNIUM
ENTERTAINMENT

FILMMAKER LABS

Film Independent's intensive, hands-on Filmmaker Labs are incubators for the next generation of independent filmmakers. Each year, our Directing Lab, Documentary Lab, Producing Lab and Screenwriting Lab help filmmakers hone their skills, develop film projects and meet film professionals who can help advance their careers.

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LMU|LA
School of Film
and Television



WRITERS
GUILD OF
AMERICA, WEST

PROJECT INVOLVE

Project Involve is Film Independent's signature diversity program, dedicated to increasing cultural diversity in the film industry by cultivating the careers of filmmakers and film executives from communities under-represented within the film industry. Fellows are paired with a mentor from the industry, attend master workshops and community screenings and participate in the Shorts Program.

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FOX|A
AUDIENCE STRATEGY

WILDERE
POST-PRODUCTION STUDIOS

GRANTS & AWARDS

Guided by our mission to support a community of filmmakers who embody diversity, innovation and uniqueness of vision, Film Independent awarded over \$565,000 in direct financial and in-kind support to filmmakers this year. These grants and awards help filmmakers to advance their current projects, as well as to recognize their accomplishments in independent film.

FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS GRANTS

At the Spirit Awards, Film Independent recognizes exceptional emerging film talent with three Filmmaker Grants that carry unrestricted cash prizes of \$25,000, and the Jameson FIND Your Audience Award, which carries a cash prize of \$50,000.

2013 JAMESON FIND YOUR AUDIENCE AWARD *Laura Colella, [Breakfast With Curtis](#)*

2013 PIAGET PRODUCERS AWARD *Mynette Louie, [California Solo](#)*

2013 STELLA ARTOIS TRUER THAN FICTION AWARD *Peter Nicks, [The Waiting Room](#)*

2013 WINDOWS PHONE SOMEONE TO WATCH AWARD *Adam Leon, [Gimme the Loot](#)*

SPONSORED BY:



JAMESON

PIAGET



LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL JURY AWARDS

The top two juried awards of the Los Angeles Film Festival are the Narrative Award and Documentary Award, each carrying an unrestricted \$15,000 cash prize, funded by Film Independent, for the winning film's director. The Los Angeles Film Festival also awards an unrestricted \$5,000 cash prize to each short film category.

2012 JURY AWARD FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE *Pocas Pascoal, [All is Well](#)*

2012 JURY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE *Everardo González, [Drought](#)*

2012 BEST NARRATIVE SHORT FILM *Grainger David, [The Chair](#)*

2012 BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM *Josh Gibson, [Kudzu Vine](#)*

2012 BEST ANIMATED OR EXPERIMENTAL SHORT FILM *Joseph Pierce, [The Pub](#)*

ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION GRANTS

Film Independent awards two grants each year that are funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation: the Sloan Producers Grant, which provides \$25,000 in development funds to a Producing Lab Fellow developing a narrative film with a scientific, mathematical and/or technological theme; and the Sloan Fast Track Grant, which provides \$15,000 to one film in the Fast Track program that also fulfills the Sloan Foundation's mission.

2012 ALFRED P. SLOAN PRODUCERS GRANT Casey Fenton, *Unmanned*

2012 ALFRED P. SLOAN FAST TRACK GRANT Casey Cooper Johnson and Casey Fenton, *Unmanned*

SPONSORED BY:  ALFRED P. SLOAN
FOUNDATION

CHAZ AND ROGER EBERT FELLOWSHIP

The Chaz and Roger Ebert Fellowship provides a \$10,000 production grant to an outstanding director. In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Project Involve, the fellowship was awarded to a Project Involve Fellow.

2013 CHAZ AND ROGER EBERT FELLOWSHIP Melissa Haizlip, *Mr. SOUL!*

FOX | HBCU MEDIA ALLIANCE FELLOWSHIP IN PROJECT INVOLVE

FOX | HBCU Media Alliance Fellowship provides a \$10,000 production grant to an HBCU Alumni who has participated in Project Involve.

2013 FOX | HBCU MEDIA ALLIANCE FELLOWSHIP Nekisa Cooper, *Bolo* (by writer/director Dee Rees)

SPONSORED BY:  **FOX | HBCU** Media Alliance

LMU SFTV SCREENWRITING FELLOWSHIP

The LMU SFTV Screenwriting Fellowship provides a \$10,000 development grant to an alumnus of Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television who has participated in the Film Independent Screenwriting Lab.

2012 LMU SFTV SCREENWRITING FELLOWSHIP Jenniffer Castillo, *Undocumented*

SPONSORED BY:  LMU|LA
School of Film
and Television

MILLENNIUM FAST TRACK FELLOWSHIP

The Millennium Fast Track Fellowship provides a \$10,000 production grant to an outstanding filmmaker who has participated in Fast Track.

2012 MILLENNIUM FAST TRACK FELLOWSHIP Mollye Asher & Angela Lee, *Lee*
(by writer/director Chloe Zhao)

SPONSORED BY:  MILLENNIUM
ENTERTAINMENT

SONY PICTURES DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP

The Sony Pictures Diversity Fellowship provides a \$10,000 production grant to an outstanding filmmaker who has participated in our diversity program, Project Involve.

2013 SONY PICTURES DIVERSITY FELLOW *Adelina Anthony*

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WILDFIRE POST PRODUCTION SOUND GRANT

The Wildfire Grant includes a complimentary sound mix provided by Wildfire Post-Production Studios on a feature film project.

2012 RECIPIENT *Sebastian Dungan, Afternoon Delight*

SPONSORED BY:



CANON FILMMAKER AWARD

The Canon Filmmaker Award Program is a program for Film Independent Fellows, alumni of the Los Angeles Film Festival and Spirit Awards Nominees and Winners. Film Independent selects qualified filmmakers on a quarterly basis who will be loaned Canon Cinema EOS C300 camera packages for their productions.

2012 QUARTER 4 RECIPIENT *Asiel Norton, Orion*

2013 QUARTER 1 RECIPIENTS *Elena Greenlee and Márcia Nunes, Manos Sucias*

2013 QUARTER 2 RECIPIENT *Milena Pastreich, Birdmen*

2013 QUARTER 3 RECIPIENTS *Chad Burris and Hossein Keshavarz, A Pebble of Love in the Shoe of My Life*

SPONSORED BY: **Canon**

COLOR SPACE FINISHING GRANT

The Color Space Finishing Grant provides complimentary color correction for a feature film project.

2012 RECIPIENT *William Saunders, Billy Mize and the Bakersfield Sound*

SPONSORED BY:



DOLBY DCP GRANTS

Film Independent awarded digital cinema mastering services by Dolby to films by our Fellows or Alumni.

2012 DOLBY DCP RECIPIENTS:

Cherien Dabis, May in the Summer

Shrihari Sathe, It Felt Like Love

SPONSORED BY: **DOLBY.**

FILM INDEPENDENT'S ARTIST DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

JENNIFER KUSHNER Director of Artist Development
310.432.1275
JKUSHNER@FILMINDEPENDENT.ORG

KELLY THOMAS Producer in Residence
310.432.1262
KTHOMAS@FILMINDEPENDENT.ORG

FRANCISCO VELASQUEZ Project Involve Manager
310.432.1280
FVELASQUEZ@FILMINDEPENDENT.ORG

JANE HWANG Artist Development Associate
310.432.1233
JHWANG@FILMINDEPENDENT.ORG

FILM INDEPENDENT
9911 W. PICO BLVD., 11TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90035
FILMINDEPENDENT.ORG

For more information on our Artist Development programs and FIND Fellows, please visit **www.filmindependent.org** or contact Jennifer Kushner, Director of Artist Development, at **jkushner@filmindependent.org**.

To explore the FIND Talent Guide online, visit filmindependent.org/findtalentguide

KYLE PATRICK ALVAREZ

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
kylealvarez@mac.com

CURRENT PROJECT C.O.G. (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In search of post-collegiate life experiences, Samuel travels to work in the apple orchards of Oregon but finds himself out of place amongst migrant workers and God-fearing churchgoers. Based on the short story by David Sedaris.

BIO Kyle Patrick Alvarez is a 28-year-old, Los Angeles-based writer/director. In 2010 he won the prestigious Someone to Watch Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards. His writing and directorial debut film, *Easier with Practice*, was also nominated that year for the Film Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature and has won numerous awards, including the Grand Jury Prize at CineVegas and Best New International Feature at the Edinburgh Film Festival. The film received both domestic and international theatrical and DVD releases and is currently showing on Showtime.

LEAH ANOVA CINEMATOGRAPHER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
leahsroom@gmail.com

BIO Originally from Quezon City, Philippines, Leah Anova grew up eating lumpia (eggrolls), playing under the sun, and running with her dogs. She studied at Trinity College and earned a Bachelor's of Arts in International Affairs, but quickly grew tired of the life of a wanna-be politician. Instead, she picked up a 35mm SLR camera and was hooked. She went on to attend The American Film Institute (AFI) Conservatory, where she studied and earned her Master's of Fine Arts in Cinematography. Equally adept at shooting video and film, Anova has delivered directors' visions in music videos, shorts, documentaries, and features. She is known for her ability to think quickly on her feet, her strong sense of framing, her love of light and her collaborative spirit.

ADELINA ANTHONY

WRITER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve
Sony Pictures Diversity Fellowship

CONTACT
info_adelina@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Bruising for Besos** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Yoli, a queer Xicana woman, races to get home to her dying mother after a 15-year absence only to find herself stranded on a dark highway, where she's forced to face the violent past that has crept into her present life.

BIO Adelina Anthony has 20 years of experience in acting, directing, writing and producing for theater, which have garnered her numerous nominations, honors and awards. *Forgiving Heart*, her first short film as a writer-director, debuted recently at the Outfest Fusion LGBT Queer People of Color Film Festival as part of their Gala Screening. Through Project Involve her short screenplay, *You're Dead To Me*, is currently in pre-production and will screen at the Los Angeles Film Festival. Anthony, with Marisa Becerra, is the co-founder/producer of a newly formed independent film company, AdeRisa Productions, based in Ventura, CA. The company is dedicated to producing bold, entertaining and high caliber queer people of color films with an emphasis on X/Chicana stories. To this extent, they are in the process of producing her first feature film, *Bruising for Besos* (based on her critically acclaimed solo play). This film follows the story of Yoli, a queer Xicana daughter forced to face her violent past. The company will launch a fundraising campaign in May and will shoot this fall.

JENNIFER ARNOLD

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
jarnold@harambeemedia.com

CURRENT PROJECT *A Killing Frost* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE The fragile survivor of an attempted double murder has never faced her horrific past, until a parole hearing reveals her attacker may not be guilty and the real killer is closer than she thinks.

BIO Jennifer Arnold is an Emmy-nominated writer, director and producer working in both narrative and documentary formats. After graduating from UCLA and University of Nairobi with a B.A. in African History, Arnold returned to UCLA for an M.F.A. in film. Her award-winning short *Maid Of Honor* screened at Sundance before airing on HBO/Cinemax. Arnold returned to Sundance with her internet series, *The Mullet Chronicles*, which was developed into the documentary *American Mullet* and released by Palm Pictures and Lionsgate. Arnold also co-directed the documentary *Where The Girls Are* for Ethan Coen and wrote a motorcross script, *Speedway*. She attended Sundance for the third time with *A Small Act*, which was nominated for the Sundance Grand Jury Prize, the Best Documentary Emmy, and awarded the Adrienne Shelly Director's Award, the NAMIC Vision Award and the Humanitas Prize. *A Small Act* is currently being broadcast on HBO and is a top ten documentary choice by Roger Ebert and a *New York Times* Critic's Pick.

Arnold has participated in several prestigious directing and producing programs, including the Berlin Talent Campus, Berlinale Script Clinic, IFP's No Borders and Film Independent's Directing Lab and Fast Track Programs. Her most recent projects include the documentary portion of *Glee: The 3d Concert Movie* distributed by Fox, and a feature documentary about sports in East Germany for ESPN Films.

MOLLYE ASHER

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track
Millennium Fast Track Fellowship

CONTACT
mollye.asher@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Lee* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE As his two best friends plan to leave for college, a Lakota teen wonders if his future on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is pre-ordained when a tragedy forces him to take dangerous action to protect his family.

BIO Mollye Asher is a New York based producer whose most recent projects have received the Warner Brothers Grant, Wasserman Award, Columbus/Vague Award and the Fotokem Grant. Her feature debut *Faith, Love and Whiskey* premiered at the 2012 Slamdance Film Festival and was the winner of the Best Cinematography award. Most recently it won Best Narrative Feature at the 2012 Dallas International Film Festival. Asher co-produced the Student Academy Award winner, *Kin*, Kim Spurlock's feature debut and is a producer on the award-winning script *Lee*. It has been a participant in the Sundance Screenwriter's and Director's Labs as well as Film Independent's Screenwriting Lab. Asher is also currently in development on *After the Storm*, winner of Best Screenplay at the 2011 Urbanworld Film Festival and the Spike Lee Production Grant and in production on the feature documentary, *Yankee Restraint*. Asher is currently an M.F.A. thesis student at New York University's graduate film program.

NICOLE JEFFERSON ASHER

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
nicafurba@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Bitches Brew* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In 1968, singer/songwriter Betty Mabry thought all of her dreams came true when she married legendary jazz icon Miles Davis...until she met Jimi Hendrix.

BIO Writer, director, producer Nicole Jefferson Asher began her career studying ballet at the Dance Theater of Harlem. From there she went on to earn a BFA in Theater Directing from U.C. Berkeley and then an MFA in Film Directing from UCLA. She has numerous credits in theater, film and television, creating projects for HBO, MTV, Nickelodeon Movies and Spike Lee's 40 Acres and a Mule Film Works. Jefferson Asher served as story producer on *Interscope Presents: The Next Episode*, a hip-hop reality show from Showtime and has written episodes for the animated children's program *ToddWorld* on Discovery Kids. Most recently she completed *The Tour*, a feature film set in the dance world, produced by Millar Gough Ink. Jefferson Asher is also currently writing and directing *Bitches Brew*, a feature length biopic about rock singer/songwriter Betty Davis that chronicles her brief, mercurial and musical marriage to legendary jazz icon Miles Davis.

CHAD BURRIS

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Canon Filmmaker Award

CONTACT
chad@indiongroup.com

BIO Chad Burris produced the award-winning films *Four Sheets to the Wind* and *Barking Water* by Sterlin Harjo, both which premiered at Sundance in 2007 and 2009 respectively. Burris also executive produced the Michael Winterbottom feature *The Killer Inside Me*, starring Jessica Alba, Kate Hudson and Casey Affleck, which premiered at Sundance 2010. In 2011 he executive produced Famke Janssen's *Bringing Up Bobby* and Nick Cassavetes' feature *Yellow*. He also produced *Mosquita Y Mari*, which premiered at Sundance in 2012, and for which he was nominated for The Producer of the Year Award at the 2012 Film Independent Spirit Awards. In 2013, he was nominated for the John Cassavetes Film Independent Spirit Award. Burris was the last recipient of the Mark Silverman Award for New Producers from the Sundance Institute in 2007.

COOKIE CAROSELLA

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
cookiecarosella@mac.com

CURRENT PROJECT C.O.G. (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In search of post-collegiate life experiences, Samuel travels to work in the apple orchards of Oregon but finds himself out of place amongst migrant workers and God-fearing churchgoers. Based on the short story by David Sedaris.

BIO Cookie Carosella recently produced the feature film *Easier With Practice*, written and directed by Kyle Patrick Alvarez. The film was nominated for two 2010 Film Independent Spirit Awards, won the Grand Jury Prize at Cinevegas and Best International Feature at the prestigious Edinburgh International Film Festival. Carosella was also Vice President of Physical Production for David Hoberman and Ashok Amritraj at Hyde Park Entertainment. She worked with MGM and Disney on multiple feature films. She was Associate Producer and Post Production Supervisor on Touchstone's *Bringing Down the House*, starring Steve Martin and Queen Latifah, and has worked with many top writers, producers and directors in entertainment. She is currently producing Alvarez's next feature film *C.O.G.* based on a David Sedaris story from his novel *Naked*.

DANIEL CASEY

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
dcvanh@hotmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Straight Edge* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Vick, a lonely and sickly sixteen-year-old, changes forever when he falls into the rebellious, tumultuous and sometimes violent world of straight edge punk culture.

BIO Daniel Casey, a native of Detroit, Michigan, made his indie debut in 2007 with a shoestring budgeted feature titled *The Death of Michael Smith*. The film premiered at the Slamdance Film Festival and received a special jury award. In 2009, one of Casey's follow-up screenplays, *Jimmy Six*, made the Hollywood Blacklist and was purchased by Whitewater Films. Casey has since been making his living via screenwriting work for various studios and production companies, including 20th Century Fox, Imagine Entertainment and Universal. He has also remained active in directing where possible, premiering narrative shorts *Wonderboy* and *Cargo* at the Cinequest and Slamdance film festivals in 2011. Casey received an MFA in Film Directing from the American Film Institute and his BFA in digital cinema from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. He is an alumnus of the Sundance Screenwriting and Directing Labs. He is also the recipient of the Tom Yoda Scholarship and the Annenberg Foundation Grant. Casey is eagerly anticipating a return to feature directing, having recently completed the screenplay for *Straight Edge*, a project he hopes to shoot in late 2013.

JENNIFFER CASTILLO

WRITER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve
Screenwriting Lab
LMU SFTV Screenwriting Fellowship

CONTACT
castiljf@gmail.com

BIO Jenniffer Castillo writes and produces narrative, documentary and new media content that targets the Latino community and focuses on issues of social justice. Currently, she writes and executive produces Imagen-Award-nominated web series, *Inspira*, which features Latino leaders across America. Castillo is also in production with feature documentary *American DREAMers* which follows a group of undocumented youth who are walking across the country from San Francisco to Washington D.C. to create a national dialogue about how the passing of the DREAM Act can alleviate their plight in this country. Previously, Castillo obtained an M.F.A. in Screenwriting from Loyola Marymount University and a B.A. in English and Film Studies from Boston College. *Undocumented* which began as a short and later became Castillo's masters thesis, was selected for the 2012 Film Independent Screenwriting Lab and as a Second Rounder in the 2011 Austin Film Festival Screenwriting Competition. While at LMU, Castillo served as a script reader for Parkes MacDonald Productions and interned at the Ellen DeGeneres Show. She also assisted writer/director, Ondi Timoner, through the development of *<3 startups*, a documentary later packaged as a docudrama about internet startups and the eclectic personalities bringing them together. Beyond the Latino community, Castillo also strives to give a voice to other groups she identifies with including women and the LGBT community. Castillo was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

MINNIE CHEN

INDUSTRY TRACK : DEVELOPMENT



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
minnie.chen@yahoo.com

BIO Minnie Chen grew up in South Pasadena, California as the only child of a charismatic TV producer/community advocate father and a pragmatic banker mother. Always a bit of a rebel with a cause, she took her degrees in Political Science, Social Ecology and Public Policy to help launch a highly-lauded public agency start-up getting better healthcare access to indigent populations. She later transitioned into television development working on shows such as *Malcolm In The Middle*, *The Bernie Mac Show* and *The Shield*. She learned physical production guerilla-style on reality TV shows such as *America's Next Top Model* and *The White Rapper Show*. She later joined Universal Cable Productions to coordinate an ongoing slate of six current shows and 22 projects in development including USA Network's *Monk*, *Psych*, *Royal Pains*, *Covert Affairs*, *Eureka* and Syfy Network's *Battlestar Galactica*. Chen currently resides in Venice, California and when she's not producing or consulting on various projects, she's writing the next great American screenplay and perhaps a television pilot or two.

MORNA CIRAKI

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
morna.ciraki@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Sunday Billy Sunday** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In an unholy collision of religious fervor and psycho-pathology, Father Billy Acosta, desperate to talk to God, sets out to kill 99 teen campers in East Texas, hoping to spark Divine Intervention.

BIO Morna Ciraki began her directing career in music videos that include *One of These Days* for Japanese pop star Seiko Matsuda, featuring Quincy Jones and shot by Academy Award winner Janusz Kaminski. She has worked as a producer and production executive for former Universal Studios President and producer Thom Mount (*Natural Born Killers*, *Bull Durham*). She has developed screenplays for directors Stephen Frears and Oliver Stone, and produced a feature film *Have Dreams, Will Travel* starring AnnaSophia Robb, Val Kilmer and Heather Graham. Ciraki served as the London based production executive for Reliant Pictures on Stephen Frears' *Cheri* starring Michele Pfeiffer and Kathy Bates.

Born in Zagreb, Croatia, Ciraki has the distinction of obtaining two law degrees on two continents (one from the University of Zagreb in Croatia and one from Pepperdine University), and serving as part of a criminal defense team at the International War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague. Most recently, Ciraki wrote and directed a short film *Grace Paine: The Bombay Beach Incident*. She has co-written with Mark Wheaton (*Friday the 13th*, *The Messengers*) the Euro-centric political thriller *Panthers*. Ciraki is working on her feature debut, a teen horror/thriller *Sunday Billy Sunday*, written by Wheaton, adapted from his Amazon bestseller. Ciraki lives in Los Angeles.

ANTONIO CISNEROS

CINEMATOGRAPHER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
apcisneros@gmail.com

BIO Antonio Cisneros is an award winning cinematographer and documentary photographer originally from San Antonio, Texas. His interest is to create social documentary work in both still and motion photography. A graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts 2008 and the American Film Institute, he specializes in Cinematography and Documentary Production. His film *As Waters Recede*, a documentary following the lives of Katrina Survivors displaced in New York City, won the Carl Lerner Award for Social Relevance and was a Wasserman Nominee at the First Run Film Festival 2008. The film went on to screen at the Directors Guild of America. Over the years, Cisneros worked as a camera assistant to such prestigious cinematographers as Lisa Rinzler ASC, Bradford B. Young (Best Cinematography Sundance 2011) and Claudio Rocha before becoming a cinematographer himself. He has lensed over 50 films including feature documentaries, music videos, commercials, web series and narrative features. In 2011, Cisneros won an award for Best Cinematography at the Philadelphia First Glance Film Festival for the short film *Love Me Tender*. He is currently shooting the feature documentary *The Graduates* by Bernardo Ruiz (*Reportero*) slated for broadcast on PBS Independent Lens March 2013.

JON BRYANT CRAWFORD

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
jonbcrawford@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Men in Bed* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A young man gets over his first heartbreak through a series of talkative one-night stands. Along the way, he learns of love, life, loss, lust and romance.

BIO Jon Crawford grew up in Arkansas where he received a B.A. in English Literature from Hendrix College. He directed *Pink Houses*, an award winning feature documentary before moving to San Francisco to study experimental film. He received his M.F.A. at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. *Tell Me A Memory*, his first year film was an official selection at more than 30 film festivals including Frameline. His second year film, *Foot Soldier* was made in Arkansas where he also directed *Leveling the Playing Field*, a short documentary for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Crawford is a two time Carl David Memorial Award winner, a recipient of the Edie & Lew Wasserman Production Fellowship, a Point Scholar finalist and a Four Sisters Scholarship winner. His thesis film, *Dog Meet Goose*, was nominated for an Artios Award and premiered at the Munich International Festival of Film Schools. He is currently developing his first feature, *Men in Bed*.

LAURA COLELLA

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Film Independent Spirit Awards:
Jameson FIND Your Audience Award

CONTACT
lella11@aol.com

BIO Laura Colella has made three feature films and several shorts as Writer/Director/Editor. Her latest feature *Breakfast With Curtis* premiered at the 2012 Los Angeles Film Festival and has been touring the festival circuit since, winning four awards to date. At the 2013 Film Independent Spirit Awards, the film was nominated for a Cassavetes Award and won the Jameson FIND Your Audience Award. Colella was a Sundance Institute Directing and Screenwriting Fellow with her second feature *Stay Until Tomorrow*. Her first feature *Tax Day* also received equipment support from Sundance. Her films have cumulatively screened at well over 100 festivals, winning more than 25 awards. She is represented by Julien Thuan at United Talent Agency. Colella began making narrative films at Harvard University as an undergraduate student of Raúl Ruiz. She teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University, is currently an MFA student in Writing for Performance at Brown and collaborates on multimedia theater productions with the *EVERETT* Company.

NEKISA COOPER

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
FOX | HBCU Media Alliance Fellowship

CONTACT
nekisa@northstar-pictures.com

BIO After successful stints coaching college basketball and working in Brand Management for such companies as Colgate Palmolive and L’Oreal, Nekisa Cooper found the perfect intersection of her skill sets in Creative Producing. Based in New York, she has produced the Sundance Channel documentary feature *Eventual Salvation* and the Focus Features-released narrative feature *Pariah*. Additionally she has produced numerous short films for writer/director Dee Rees, including *Pariah*, *Colonial Gods* and *Orange Bow*. Notably, she was a Fellow in the 2010 IFP Trans Atlantic Partners Program, the 2009 IFP Cinemart/Rotterdam Producing Lab, the 2009 Film Independent Project Involve Program and the 2008 Sundance Institute Creative Producing Lab. Cooper is currently in post-production on the feature documentary *The Ugly Doll* with 2009 and 2010 support from The Tribeca Film Institute and Film Independent. Cooper is most recently the recipient of the inaugural FOX | HBCU Media Alliance Fellowship in partnership with Film Independent. She holds a BA from William & Mary College and an MBA from Clark Atlanta University.

PATRICK CREADON

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
patrick@ocpmedia.com

CURRENT PROJECT *If You Build It* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE *If You Build It* is a documentary that spends one year in the life of one of America's most innovative classrooms. The film features designer-activists Emily Pilloton and Matt Miller and proves that one of the best ways to make high school kids care about their schoolwork is to build their education around the things that matter most to them.

BIO Patrick Creadon was born in Chicago and is a 1989 graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He earned his Master's Degree in Cinematography from the American Film Institute in 1996. Creadon began his career as a cameraman at PBS, shooting and producing cinema vérité-style stories for the critically acclaimed series *The 90's*. His feature-length directorial debut *Wordplay* was a breakout hit at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. After an intense bidding war, the film was sold to IFC Films and The Weinstein Company for \$1,000,000. His follow-up film *I.O.U.S.A.*, a non-partisan examination of America's national debt, premiered at Sundance in 2008 and was shortlisted for Best Documentary for the Academy Awards. Critic Roger Ebert named *I.O.U.S.A.* one of the top five documentaries of the year. Creadon has served on several film festival juries, including the Sundance Film Festival, the Los Angeles Film Festival, the Ashland Film Festival and the Cinema Eye Awards. In 2011, he made his television-directing debut on NBC's *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. He recently completed his third feature-length documentary, *If You Build It*, which takes place in rural North Carolina.

CHERIEN DABIS

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Dolby DCP Grant

CONTACT
cheriendabis@mac.com

BIO Cherien Dabis obtained her M.F.A. in film from Columbia University. Her short film, *Make a Wish*, premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival and Clermont-Ferrand where it won the Press Prize and Jury's Special Mention. Dabis worked for three seasons as a writer and co-producer on Showtime's *The L Word* before going on to make her feature writing and directorial debut with *Amreeka*, which she developed in Film Independent's Directing Lab. The film world-premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, opened New York's New Director's/New Films at the MoMA and won the prestigious FIPRESCI award at the Director's Fortnight at Cannes. It was nominated for a Best Picture Gotham Award, three Film Independent Spirit Awards, including Best Picture and was named one of the Top Ten Independent Films of the Year by the National Board of Review. The same year, Dabis was also named one of *Variety's* "Ten Directors to Watch." *Amreeka* was released theatrically to worldwide critical acclaim and was chosen as one of only five American films to take part in the Sundance Institute's inaugural Film Forward: Advancing Cultural Dialogue initiative, an international cinematic cultural exchange and diplomacy program. Dabis returned to Sundance with her second feature film *May in the Summer*, which opened the festival's U.S. Dramatic Competition section. With the screenplay, she won a Time Warner Storytelling Grant, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art Grant (2010, 2009) and the prestigious Sundance/NHK International Filmmaker Award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. A Guggenheim Fellow, USA Rockefeller Fellow, winner of the Humanitas Prize and the Adrienne Shelly Excellence in Filmmaking Award, Dabis is an alumna of the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab, Film Independent's Project Involve, Directing Lab, Fast Track and Tribeca All Access, where she was honored with the first ever L'Oréal Paris Woman of Worth Vision Award. She currently resides in New York City.

FRANCESCA DI AMICO

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
francesca@minxfilms.tv

CURRENT PROJECT **Mary Woronov, Cult Queen from Warhol to Corman** (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE The documentary explores the enigma of actress and artist, Mary Woronov and chronicles her colorful career spanning from her work with Andy Warhol to Roger Corman that sealed her reputation as a "Cult Queen."

BIO Francesca Di Amico is a writer/director of commercial, new media and independent films. She is the recipient of 29 film awards including C. VanWinkle Award for creating closed circuit TV programs about young filmmakers and the influence of art in politics. She recently wrote and directed, *Under One Sun*, an eight-episode campaign with music by recording artist Moby. The project was created for National Geographic's "Cause an Uproar" effort to raise awareness about the decline of the big cats living in the wild. In 2011, The United Nations commissioned Di Amico to direct a piece on population with actor Robin Wright. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art honored her as an "up & coming director" for the film *La Milonga*. She also adapted the screenplay *The Stamp Collector*, based on V. Iyenger's acclaimed short story, *No Letter from Mother*, set during the Partition of India. While developing the feature, she was hired as a writer for John Daly & Miracle Entertainment, The Yari Group and others. She graduated from Art Center College of Design. Her thesis film is a family drama, *Silence Living In Houses* that screened at 63 film festivals internationally and won 19 awards. The film was recognized by the Anti Defamation League and Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. One reporter wrote of the film, "...the emotions penetrate the screen through exquisite directing and realistic dialogue...the result is powerful..."

SEBASTIAN DUNGAN

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Wildfire Post Production Sound Grant

CONTACT
sebastian@72productions.com

BIO Sebastian Dungan was selected for Variety's prestigious "10 Producers to Watch" 2012 list along with producing partner Jen Chaiken. He produced the 2013 Sundance competition film *Afternoon Delight*, director Jill Soloway's feature debut, which won the U.S. Dramatic Directing Award, and feature documentary *Inequality for All*, which won the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Prize for Achievement in Filmmaking.

Independently, Dungan produced *Transamerica*, which received two Academy Award nominations, won a Golden Globe, and received the Best Female Lead and Best First Screenplay awards at the Film Independent Spirit Awards. Prior, Dungan worked at Paramount Pictures and at Warner Bros. based Witt-Thomas Films where he was involved in developing such films as David O. Russell's *Three Kings* and Christopher Nolan's *Insomnia*.

Dungan is a graduate of Yale University and a partner in 72 Productions, which has offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

ANDRES DURAN

EDITOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
andres.duran03@gmail.com

BIO Andres Duran was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. He graduated from the Pontificia Javeriana University with a BA in Communications in 2010. His major focused on the Audio-visual field through which he developed different skills for producing, directing and editing films. Prior to his graduation, he began working at the Centro Atico (ATC), one of the most important training centers of Latin America. At ATC, he was an Autodesk trainer, offline editor and Avid Media Composer trainer. During this experience, he edited various student short films and a TV show called *Zona Rebelde*. This show was produced through an association between the Pontificia Javeriana University & RCN Televisión (in partnership with Fox-FIC). In 2009, he started working as a film editor and as executive producer assistant in RCN film department. He edited two feature films there: *Sin Tetas No Hay Paraíso* and *The Colors of the Mountain*. The latter film was awarded First Opera Prima in San Sebastian Zabaltegui Festival 2010, Audience Goyesca and official Jury mention at Ronda Film Festival. Additionally, it was chosen for official selection at 20 other major international films festivals including Los Angeles, Rome, Fribourg, Chicago and Stockholm. Since November of 2011, Duran has lived in Los Angeles and worked as an editor in StyleHaul Inc.

KATHERINE FAIRFAX WRIGHT

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
katy.f.wright@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Imperial Dreams* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Two exceptional young black men from the Imperial Courts project in Watts find out the hard way that being an American dreamer doesn't make you heir to the American Dream.

BIO Katherine Fairfax Wright grew up in Los Angeles and graduated with a double major in Film Studies and Anthropology from Columbia University. She produced *Gabi on the Roof in July*, and has worked in a producing role on several other award-winning films, including *Lumo* and *Les Vulnerables*. She is the co-director, editor and cinematographer of *Call Me Kuchu* (2012, Berlin/Teddy Award/Cinema Fairbindet prize, Hot Docs/Best International Feature), which tells the story of the last year in the life of the first openly gay man in Uganda. The film has been supported by numerous international organizations and grantors, including Cinereach, Chicken & Egg Pictures, Catapult Film Fund, Film Independent and the Garrett Scott Documentary Development Grant. In 2012, Fairfax Wright was named one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film," and was also named a Chaz & Roger Ebert Directing Fellow. She is an alumna of the 2011 Film Independent Documentary Lab and the Garrett Scott Documentary Development Grant at Full Frame.

CASEY FENTON

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track
Producing Lab
Sloan Fast Track Grant
Sloan Producing Grant

CONTACT
czfenton@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Unmanned* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A young Air Force drone operator struggles to balance the stresses of going to war for the first time with the challenges of being a good father and husband, as he commutes each day between suburban family life and the war he fights by remote control.

BIO Casey Fenton is an independent producer in Los Angeles and an alumnus of the American Film Institute. Prior to his work in narrative fiction he founded the West End Media Center, a digital media training and production center in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as NextGen TV, a youth run television channel on regional Comcast cable. While at AFI he was awarded a scholarship from the Hollywood Foreign Press for his accomplishments as a Producing Fellow. He is currently producing content for both the web and television. While at AFI, Fenton produced the short film *Unmanned*, which played at several festivals, including Tribeca and AFI Fest. He was recently recognized at Tribeca as a member of the Panavision-sponsored New Filmmakers Panel, part of the Tribeca Talks series.

JOE FORTE

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
joeforte1@mac.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Storyteller: The Wonderful, Magical Life of the Man Who Saved Ben Hur* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Childless and never married, a real life Forest Gump sorts through the treasures of his life.

BIO Joe Forte is a multi-disciplinary artist whose primary focus is visual storytelling across the media of filmmaking and painting. A major theme of his work is male powerlessness and identity. As a filmmaker, Forte is best known as the creator and writer of *Firewall*, the 2006 thriller starring Harrison Ford. As a painter, he is known for his solo shows *Wonder* (2008) at Bergamot Station's James Grey Gallery and *Opening Day* (2007) at the Regent Gallery in LA's downtown Art District. Based on baseball cards from childhood, *Wonder* and *Opening Day* explore iconic male archetypes through pop art imagery.

A graduate of Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, Forte began his career at Scali, McCabe, Sloves in New York. While a copywriter at Scali he created advertising for Nikon and Volvo, was nominated for a Cleo and began to explore concepts of storytelling and culture. After a three-year stint, Forte left advertising and moved to Los Angeles where he began his career as a writer with the sale of *Soviet Cowboy* to Jodie Foster and her nascent film company Egg Pictures. He went on to sell specs or write scripts in both film and TV for Paramount, Warner Brothers, Fox, New Line and others. A father, husband and mentor, he is also an avid photographer and baseball coach. *Storyteller, The Wonderful, Magical Life of the Man Who Saved Ben Hur* is Forte's first documentary, first film as a director and comprises all the themes that he loves.

LAWRENCE GAN

CINEMATOGRAPHER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
gan.lawrence@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Love Arcadia* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Set in the predominantly Asian American suburb of Arcadia, California, *Love Arcadia* is a romantic comedy about a wayward slacker who defends his family's bubble tea shop against a real estate tycoon while falling in love and finding his purpose in the process.

BIO Lawrence Gan is an east coast native who moved to the big city of Los Angeles to pursue his passion for film. He has since worked on various television and film productions while producing and directing numerous shorts. He currently works as an editor for feature animation.

SARA GIUSTINI

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
saragiustini@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Before You Know It* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Set against the backdrop of three unique retirement communities, *Before You Know It* captures the experiences of several gay seniors as they navigate the adventures, challenges and surprises of their "golden years."

BIO As a filmmaker Sara Giustini has an affinity for both fact and fiction so she divides her time between documentary and narrative production. Most recently, she served as the project coordinator for the Emmy Award-winning American Experience film *Freedom Riders*. She was the series associate producer for *God in America*, a six-hour FRONTLINE and American Experience co-production, which aired nationally on PBS in October of 2010. She co-produced the documentary *Trinidad*, directed by PJ Raval & Jay Hodges, which premiered at Los Angeles Film Festival and was broadcast on Showtime and LOGO. Giustini also co-produced Nancy Schiesari's *Hansel Mieth: Vagabond Photographer*, which aired as part of ITVS' inaugural season of Independent Lens. Giustini's other production credits include *The Surrogates* (Disney, 2009), *There Will Be Blood* (Paramount Vantage, 2007), *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada* (Europa Corp, 2005) and NBC's *Friday Night Lights*.

JON GOLDMAN

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
jgoldman@me.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Foreign Relations* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A South Korean girl living with an American host family accidentally learns all the secrets they're keeping from each other, turning their lives upside down.

BIO Jon Goldman is a filmmaker and translator. His short film *Diplomacy*, a wry take on the power of interpreters in closed-door negotiations between the United States and Iran, played over two-dozen film festivals worldwide, including Abu Dhabi, South by Southwest and Tokyo. The film won jury and audience awards in Paris, Aspen, New York City, Switzerland and Mexico. Goldman is a former Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Nicholl Fellowship Finalist, Netflix/Film Independent Find Your Voice Film Competition Finalist and Film Independent Directing Lab Fellow. Fluent in French, Goldman has worked on films in Europe and Hollywood, and continues to indulge a passion for global, cross-cultural stories.

EVERARDO GONZALEZ REYES

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
LA Film Festival Jury Award:
Best Documentary Feature

CONTACT
artegio71@yahoo.com.mx

BIO Everardo Gonzalez Reyes is one of the most solid voices of Mexican Documentary and his work has been recognized in more than 40 countries and festivals. His documentary, *The Open Sky* (2011), was nominated for the Silver Ariel for Best Documentary by The Mexican Academy of Cinematography. In 2007, he concluded his second feature documentary *Los Ladrones Viejos* (*The Old Thieves*), which has received several awards and honorable mentions as the Silver Ariel Awards for Best Mexican Documentary feature and Best Feature Film Editing, the Golden Ariel nomination for Best Picture and Best Director Award for Best Documentary Feature, Mayahuel Prize at the XXII International Film Festival in Guadalajara, Honorable Mention for Best Documentary Feature at the XII Iberoamerican International Film Festival in Guadalajara, Special Mention Award for Best Documentary in the XVI Festival of Biarritz d'Amérique Latine and the Prize José Roviroza for Best Mexican Documentary, given by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

In 2003, Gonzalez finished his first feature documentary *La Canción del Pulque* (*Pulque Song*), which received the Silver Ariel for Best Feature Documentary and Ariel nomination for Best Opera Prima, Mayahuel Awards for Best Cinematography and Editing and Mexican Feature Special Mention of the International Catholic Organization for Best Feature Film at the XVIII Mexican Film Festival in Guadalajara Mexico and the Special Jury Award at the 1st Morelia International Film Festival.

He is currently member of the National System of Art Creators of Mexico.

GABRIELA GONZALEZ

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
m_gabrielagonzalez@yahoo.com

BIO Gabriela Gonzalez, a South Florida native and daughter of Cuban exiles, received her MFA in Producing from the American Film Institute. Her thesis film, *Silencio Fuerte* premiered at Cinequest and screened at HBO/BET's Urbanworld & Guanajuato International Film Festival. It was Jury-selected as one of six films out of 28 thesis films to represent the 2010 AFI class at the Directors Guild of America. It won the Richard P. Rogers Spirit of Excellence Award. Gonzalez recently produced *Black Irish*, an AFI Directing Women's Workshop award-winning film that will have its festival premiere at the Bend Film Festival. She is currently working on producing various feature length films.

KRISY GOSNEY

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
kgosney@sbcglobal.net

CURRENT PROJECT *Folsom Street* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In early 1990s San Francisco, a lesbian couple undergoes shock waves of changing perception and identity when one of them changes sex while their neighborhood is pillaged by the Dot Com boom.

BIO Krisy Gosney is a native Californian. Her script *Folsom Street* won the screenwriting grant from the San Francisco Film Society/KRF and participated in the 2010 IFP IFW Emerging Narrative program. The script was also a semi-finalist in the 2010 Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting. Gosney made several award-winning shorts (*Gator Armstrong Plays With Dolls*, *Wanted*) and has written several shorts for award-winning directors (*Peeling*, *Between You and Me*). Her stage-plays include *Are These Your Panties?* (Bay Area Critics Pick) and *Take It Like A Man*.

Gosney has an MFA in Screenwriting from UCLA. She's also the recipient of the James A. Michener Fellowship, Carl David Memorial Fellowship and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Screenwriting Fellowship. Currently, she is an executive producer on *Dead History Project* (www.deadhistoryproject.com), a web series featuring paranormal investigation and historical research. Gosney currently splits her time between Hollywood and Oakland, California.

REBECCA GREEN

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
rebeccagreen@me.com

CURRENT PROJECT *And Then I Go* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In the wilderness of junior high, Edwin Hanratty and his only friend, Flake, are at the bottom of the food chain. Branded together as misfits, they are demoralized daily and misunderstood by their parents and peers. As their fury quietly simmers and Edwin's anxiety begins to overwhelm him, Flake's unthinkable idea of bringing guns into their school as a form of vengeance offers them a spectacular and terrifying release.

BIO Rebecca Green is the Manager of Producing Initiatives for the Sundance Institute and is also a member of the extended Sundance family. As an independent producer, Green most recently completed the micro-budget feature film *Something Real and Good*, which will be released by GoDigital in 2013. Green also produced *Tug*, which premiered at the 2010 Newport Beach Film Festival and will be released in 2013. Prior to her work as a producer, Green was the Head of Creative Development for TicTock Studios, a production company in Michigan, where she played an instrumental role in the grassroots campaign to implement the state's film incentives program. Green worked at Paramount Pictures as Vice President of Lynda Obst Productions and prior to Obst, spent four years at Lionsgate, where she was a Creative Executive, as well as working in acquisitions. In addition to her producing and executive experience, Green has also worked as a screener for the Los Angeles Film Festival and has spoken on panels for organizations such as USC, IFP and Film Independent. She earned her BFA in Filmmaking from the University of the North Carolina School of the Arts and serves on the Steering Committee for the school's West coast Alumni Association.

NICHOLAS GREENE

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
nicholasgreene@yahoo.co.uk

CURRENT PROJECT *A Death in the Andes* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In a desperate attempt to save his mother from a rare disease, Carlos, a fiery campesino from the Bolivian highlands, ventures to the city and attempts to abduct an American doctor. As they are caught up in a world of urban criminals and a violent local protest, he is forced to confront both his distrust of foreigners and his fear of death.

BIO Nicholas Greene is a British filmmaker based in New York. His short film *Salar*, made in Bolivia with the country's only film school, won the 2011 Austin Film Festival Jury Award and was shortlisted for the Oscars. He was selected for the Cine Qua Non Screenwriters Lab in Mexico and the Berlin Talent Campus in 2011. As a producer, he works with Jolyon Symonds, and has two projects in development with the BFI: *Travels with My Aunt*, based on the novel by Graham Greene, and *The White Tiger*, based on the Booker prize winning novel by Aravind Adiga. He previously worked for Paramount Pictures and holds an MFA in film from Columbia University. Greene works as an editor for non-profit documentary projects.

ELENA GREENLEE

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab
Canon Filmmaker Award

CONTACT
elenagreenlee@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Manos Sucias* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A desperate fisherman and a naive kid on a mission to travel up the Pacific coast of Colombia in a small boat, towing a torpedo filled with millions of dollars of cocaine, must navigate their difficult relationship while fighting to survive their journey through the war-torn region.

BIO Elena Greenlee was born and raised in Brooklyn, but her passion for filmmaking has been honed all over the world. Fluent in four languages and with a background in documentary filmmaking, she is a narrative producer in the service of telling socially relevant stories from diverse and unexplored angles. Her first film was shot in Havana, Cuba, and screened at festivals internationally as well as on broadcast TV in the Dominican Republic. While living in Rio de Janeiro, Greenlee worked with actors from the Academy Award nominated film *City of God*, developing a free film school to serve underprivileged youth from Rio's favelas. Since returning to New York in 2007 to attend NYU's Graduate Film School, Greenlee has produced numerous short films that screened at top festivals across the USA, including SXSW, Rhode Island International and Aspen Shortsfest. At Tisch, Greenlee was awarded the Spike Lee Fellowship and the Clive Davis Award for Excellence in Music in Film. *Manos Sucias* is her first feature film.

JANET GRILLO

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
janetgrillo@aol.com

CURRENT PROJECT Jack of The Red Hearts (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A rebellious teen on the run from her probation officer cons her way into a suburban family as a live-in helper for their Autistic daughter - an experience that changes her cynical perception of the world, but threatens to be snatched away at any moment as the law catches up with her.

BIO Janet Grillo produced award-winning films as a creative executive at New Line Cinema, including *Pump up the Volume*, *House Party* and *Who's the Man*, and then later as an independent producer with the Sundance favorites *Joe the King* and *Searching for Paradise*. In 2008, she won an Emmy for the HBO documentary *Autism: The Musical*. Her short fiction film, *Flying Lessons*, debuted at Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, won the Best Dramatic Short at First Glance Hollywood and the Silver Lei at the Honolulu Film Festival. It inspired the critically acclaimed full-length narrative feature *Fly Away* which premiered in competition at the South By Southwest Film Festival in 2011, winning Best Narrative Film at the Arizona Film Festival, before opening theatrically in select cities to excellent reviews from *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *New York Observer* and *Los Angeles Times*, which called it "most overlooked for an Oscar." *Fly Away* continues in international release via iTunes, Amazon and Netflix. Grillo is currently an Associate Professor of the Arts at NYU Tisch School of the Arts in Film Producing and Screenwriting.

MELISSA HAZLIP

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve
Chaz & Roger Ebert Fellowship

CONTACT
mhaizlip@mrsoulmovie.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Mr. SOUL!** (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Before Oprah, before Arsenio, there was Mr. SOUL! Ellis Haizlip makes television broadcast history with SOUL!, America's first "black Tonight Show."

BIO Born in Boston and raised in the US Virgin Islands, Connecticut and New York, Melissa Haizlip attended Yale University. After a 25-year career as a professional Broadway stage performer and film and television actor, Haizlip moved to Los Angeles to work in development at the American Film Institute and began casting for independent features. Her film *40*, a multi-storyline, international thriller set in Turkey and Africa, premiered at Toronto International Film Festival 2010. Currently a fellow in Stanley Nelson's Firelight Media Producers' Lab, Haizlip participated in the Producers Guild of America Diversity Workshop 2011.

She founded Shoes In The Bed Productions, an independent film production company producing cinematic works of non-fiction with an emphasis on diverse new voices and filmmakers of color. Haizlip has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Black Programming Consortium, and ITVS' Diversity Development Fund. Currently, Haizlip is in production with *Mr. SOUL!* and has several other projects in development.

BRANDON HARRIS

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
nappinatifilms@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT Tokyo Cannonball Rising Sun (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Mourning his great love, a Japanese janitor works at a cattle ranch in the American Southwest. For him and for a family of struggling ranchers, the past is as inescapable as the future is uncertain.

BIO Brandon Harris has worked nebulously in the world of American Independent Film as a critic and programmer, a producer and director, a writer and educator. After working for a time as a office manager and development associate at Forensic Films (*Raising Victor Vargas*, *Gummo*, *Joe The King*), the Cincinnati, Ohio native and SUNY Purchase film school graduate began blogging for *Cinema Echo Chamber* and *Filmmaker Magazine*, where is now a Contributing Editor. He teaches part time at the New York Film Academy and writes film criticism for *Hammer to Nail*. His writing has appeared in *Variety*, *SpoutBlog*, *Moving Pictures*, *In These Times* and *UCLA Magazine*. He is an alumnus of the International Film Festival Rotterdam's Trainee Project for Young Film Critics.

In addition to his critical and journalistic writing, Harris has produced and/or directed several award winning short films including *Happiness Is No Fun*, a recipient of the 2005 National Board of Review student filmmaking grant and *Evangeleo*, which has screened at over a dozen film festivals worldwide, including the 2007 Slamdance Film Festival and NewFest. His producing efforts include *The Nowhere Kids* (Tribeca 09') and *Crazy Beats Strong Every Time*, which screened at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Harris is currently in post-production on *Redlegs*, his feature film debut as a director, and was recently named Director of Programming at the Cincinnati Film Festival.

JACOB HATLEY

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
jacob.hatley@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT Carolina Highway Killer (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A truck stop hustling party girl faces off against one very bad trucker.

BIO Jacob Hatley's first feature, *Ain't in It for My Health: A Film About Levon Helm*, premiered at SXSW and won the top music award at the Nashville Film Festival. He has directed several internationally screened short films including *China*, which won the First Look's Gold Medal at the Directors Guild of America. In addition, he has helmed music videos for artists such as Shawn Mullins, Levon Helm, Marty Stuart and Yonder Mountain String Band. He splits his time between North Carolina and Los Angeles.

VAN HAYDEN

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
writruth1@mac.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Snow in April* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE After the untimely loss of her soul mate, a Minneapolis artist seeks the courage to love again.

BIO Van Hayden launched his production career in 1989 when he sublet his Minneapolis apartment and drove to New York City to work as an unpaid intern on the set of Spike Lee's *Mo' Better Blues*. After production on the film wrapped, Lee hired Hayden to work as a staffer at Lee's prestigious Brooklyn-based 40 Acres & A Mule Filmworks headquarters. Lee nurtured Hayden's career by hiring him as his 1st Assistant Director on a series of iconic Nike commercials, Levi's Jeans spots, music videos and the Emmy Award-winning documentary: *Brooklyn's Own*, *Iron Mike Tyson* for Home Box Office. Lee also arranged for Hayden to work as an apprentice sound editor on Lee's *Jungle Fever*.

MATTHEW HSU

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
mhsu@fleuronfilms.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Dead Cold* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Two young teenagers on their first romantic getaway must fight for their lives when a group of killers take over their mountain retreat to escape a snowstorm.

BIO Matthew Hsu is a graduate of Brown University and the MFA Film Production program at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. His award-winning comedy, *Charlie 2.0*, screened in over 20 worldwide film festivals and received accolades from Mercury Motors, AOL-Time Warner and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Hsu's producing credits include shorts, music videos, and commercials. His first feature, *Trail of Blood*, written and directed by Joseph Guerrieri & Justin Guerrieri and co-produced by Vero Shamo-Garcia, will be released in spring 2013 by Lionsgate Home Entertainment.

TOSHI IMAI

CINEMATOGRAPHER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
toshiyukiimai@gmail.com

BIO Toshiyuki Imai is a three-time Promax Asia gold winner cinematographer. He received best drama promotion for Fox International channels Japan and best documentary promotion for National Geographic channels Japan. Born and raised in Japan, Imai received his BFA in motion pictures at San Francisco Academy of Arts College. He shoots in variety of format such as commercial, promo, music video, documentary and webisode. Imai recently shot six series of comedy pet webisode for *Pet Collective* at Pet Channel distributed by Fremantle Media. He is currently working on a documentary for Japan. Imai speaks Japanese and English and is a member of Society of Camera Operators (S.O.C).

CASEY COOPER JOHNSON

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab
Fast Track
Screenwriting Lab
Sloan Fast Track Grant

CONTACT
cooperjohnson@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Unmanned* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A young Air Force drone operator struggles to balance the stresses of going to war for the first time with the challenges of being a good father and husband, as he commutes each day between suburban family life and the war he fights by remote control.

BIO Prior to completing his M.F.A. at the American Film Institute, Casey Cooper Johnson lived for 10 years in post-war Kosovo, directing documentaries and producing an internationally syndicated current affairs program *Life in Kosovo*. He is best known in the Balkan region for his weekly political satire sketches, *Kosovo's Son-in-Law*.

At AFI, Johnson wrote and directed the short version of *Unmanned*, which screened at AFI Fest and Tribeca Film Festival. He currently produces non-fiction content for WIGS, a new digital channel created by Jon Avnet and Rodrigo Garcia, while preparing to direct the feature-length version of *Unmanned*.

GORAV KALYAN

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
gorav.kalyan@gmail.com

BIO Gorav Kalyan is an Indian-American filmmaker based in Los Angeles. He moved from his native New Jersey to Los Angeles to attend the Film Directing Program at the California Institute of the Arts. In 2011, he co-founded Nonetheless Productions (www.nonethelessproductions.com), a company dedicated to helping its talented collective of directors in the production of motion picture content across a wide variety of media platforms. Kalyan's films have screened at AFI Fest, the Black & White Film Festival and REDCAT. He is currently in post-production with his debut feature, *Old Enough*, which was shot and produced in India.

ANNA KERRIGAN

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
annakerrigan@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Hello Stranger* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A college professor, his wife and her young lover struggle to create a polyamorous relationship that works.

BIO Anna Kerrigan is a playwright, screenwriter and director based in New York City. Her first independent feature film *Five Days Gone* (which she produced, wrote, directed, edited and starred in) premiered at the Brooklyn Film Festival (where she was awarded Best Screenplay) and the Nantucket Film Festival. Her play *The Talls* premiered at Second Stage's McGinn Cazale Theater. A graduate of Stanford University, Kerrigan has developed plays with Naked Angels, the Williamstown Theatre Festival and the Ensemble Studio Theatre.

HOSSEIN KESHAVARZ

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Canon Filmmaker Award

CONTACT
hokesh@gmail.com

BIO Hossein Keshavarz's debut feature, *Dog Sweat*, was released to critical acclaim in 2011. The New York Times wrote that it was "polished, the young actors warmly believable" and NPR said it is "astonishingly gutsy." Keshavarz won The Special Award Promoting Social Values awarded by the President of the Italian Republic at the Rome Film Festival and Jury Awards at the Austin, Nashville and Little Rock Film Festivals. The film was distributed theatrically in select cities by Indiepix. In 2011, he was nominated for the Someone to Watch Film Independent Spirit Award. Other achievements include being selected for the Tribeca All Access program in 2011 and Nantucket Screenwriter's Colony in 2011. Keshavarz has served as a jury member for the Mar Del Plata Film Festival in 2010 and for the Film Independent Spirit Awards in 2012. He also served as the Associate Producer on the 2011 Sundance Audience Award Winner, *Circumstance*. He has an MFA in Filmmaking from Columbia University and a BA in History from Northwestern.

KAZ KIPP PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
kaz_kipp@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Alaska Is a Drag* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A young gay misfit teen works in a fish cannery in Alaska and he dreams big to escape his drab reality by training to be a professional boxer and become the most fabulous drag queen in town.

BIO Kaz Kipp belongs to the Nez Perce and Umatilla Tribes and was born and reared in Los Angeles. She has produced award winning short films that have screened around the world and has also produced multimedia content featured on Comedy Central's atom.com, IFC and the Sundance Channel. She produced the winning trailer of the Asian Pacific Islanders TV Pilot Shootout contest sponsored by FOX Diversity and the ID Film Festival. She is re-entering the festival circuit with the short film, *Fierce*, co-sponsored by NBC Universal and Film Independent. Currently, she is in development on feature films including Shaz Bennett's, *Alaska Is a Drag*, which has been selected as a 2012 Sundance Institute Native Producing Fellowship recipient and the Producers Guild of America The Power of Diversity Workshop. A short version of the feature has been selected for AFI's Directing Workshop for Women and is set to premiere at the 2012 AFI Fest. Kipp has also earned fellowships from Film Independent's Project Involve and ABC | Disney Television Group's Native American IMPACT program. Kipp is also a board member to Longhouse Media, which is an indigenous media arts organization that nurtures the expression and development of Native artists.

KATIE KNAB

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
kakolsen@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Resonance* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Two damaged young men trying to reclaim their lives, push each other to the breaking point.

BIO Katie Knab is a member of the Association of Independent Creative Producers and regularly produces both long and short form broadcast commercial work for a diverse range of international brands including BMW, John Frieda, Capital One, Jergens and Vanguard. After graduating with a degree in architecture, Knab brought her appreciation for design to her career in the film and TV world and has worked in production in various capacities for the past seven years in New York City. She is always drawn to projects that explore relationships and our innate needs and desires. She is also drawn to humanity's impact on the environment and how to expose and educate for future generations, which is what led her to *Flutter*, her recently completed short observational documentary that screened at Cannes, featuring a 78 year-old butterfly collector and his journey to Vietnam. Knab is currently producing her first feature, *Black Sun*, chronicling a rebellious playboy's success and demise amongst the Lost Generation in 1920s Paris.

GIL KOFMAN

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
gilkofman@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Raw* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE When Howie's wife gives him permission to have an affair, he finds himself falling head over heels for a Williamsburg hipster half his age. The result is at once funny and tragic, as Howie discovers adolescent love so late in his life.

BIO Gil Kofman received his MFA from the Yale School of Drama in playwriting. Before that he studied Physics at Cornell and was enrolled in the MFA film program at NYU. He wrote and directed the feature film *The Memory Thief* starring Mark Webber and Rachel Miner. It won the Edmonton International Film Festival and Red Rock Film Festival. He was an associate producer/additional editor on the Sundance documentary film *Derrida*. He also co-edited and acted in *You Wont Miss Me* (Sundance 2009). Additionally, he shot verite footage for Kirby Dick's *Outrage* and *This Film Is Not Yet Rated*. He also directed a thriller in China called *Case Sensitive in Chinese*, which was originally workshopped at the Sundance Producer's Lab as *iCapture*. The film had a wide release in China. Kofman has had three plays published by Broadway Play Publishing, including *American Magic* with Sonic Youth doing music and Richard Foreman reading one of the parts, and *Pharmacopeia*, which received a strong LA premiere. His other plays have been produced in London, NY, Chicago, Dallas Theater Center, Canada and Los Angeles. A short fiction piece was previously published in Gordon Lish's *The Quarterly*, and he's currently working on a feature on the life of Rainer Werner Fassbinder called *RWF: The Terror of Dreams Come True* with Tanner King Barklow. Kofman recently finished a novel called *acKursed! (The Story of Kafka's Curse as Bestowed Upon Francis Krow)*.

ARPITA KUMAR

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
kumar.arpita@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT Gori (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE The news of a brutal stabbing in an all girls school committed by a beautiful blonde blue-eyed teacher pejoratively called the “Gori” shakes the foundation of Lucknow in India. Only an eleven-year-old student, Katya, fearlessly questions the credibility of the murder allegation and fights for her beloved teacher despite the formidable odds stacked against her.

BIO Arpita Kumar grew up in Lucknow, India in a home run by her gynecologist mother and several visiting and very pregnant relatives. Dinner conversations here were heated discussions about sexual politics and reproductive rights. These passionate female voices became inspiration for Kumar’s short films that have screened at numerous film festivals and venues including 2013 *Festival de Cannes* Short Film Corner, The Museum of Contemporary Arts (MOCA) in Los Angeles, the 3rd I South Asian International Film Festival in San Francisco, The Chashama Film Festival in New York City, The Bay Area Women in Film and Media Film Festival in San Francisco and The Columbia Gorge Film Festival in Portland and others. Kumar has also worked under Kirby Dick on the Oscar nominated and Sundance Audience Award winning documentary, *The Invisible War*, which exposed the epidemic of rape in the U.S. military. She has an MFA in Film/Video from California Institute of the Arts. Her MFA thesis film, *Sita*, is a short narrative that exposes the underbelly of the commercial surrogacy industry through the personal narrative of an Indian maidservant. She also has a Masters in Comparative Literature from The University of Iowa, and a Bachelor in Film and Literature from Hampshire College.

MICHELLE LAWLER

CINEMATOGRAPHER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
lawler.michelle@gmail.com

BIO Michelle Lawler is a Los Angeles-based cinematographer/director who has worked in film and television since 1999. In 2009, she directed a feature documentary called *Forever's Gonna Start Tonight*, which received a Frameline completion grant and has won numerous audience awards including Outfest 2010 (Los Angeles). Lawler has shot several short films and recently completed two feature films including *Wildness* directed by Wu Tsang and *Best Friends Forever* starring and directed by Brea Grant. Lawler received a BFA in cinema from San Francisco State University and in 2012 graduated from the American Film Institute (AFI) with an MFA in Cinematography.

ANGELA C. LEE

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track
Millennium Fast Track Fellowship

CONTACT
angela@niftypic.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Lee* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE As his two best friends plan to leave for college, a Lakota teen wonders if his future on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is pre-ordained when a tragedy forces him to take dangerous action to protect his family.

BIO Angela C. Lee is a Los Angeles-based independent film producer. She was selected for the 2011 Film Independent Producing Lab and Fast Track Financing Market and the inaugural Center for Asian American Media Fellowship. Previously, Lee served as Director of Creative Affairs at Vox3 Films. She is currently in pre-production on her first feature film, *Lee*. Prior to her career in film, Lee was an Associate at Goldman Sachs. A native Chicagoan, Lee graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Economics.

EVELYN LEE

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
hi@iamevelynlee.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Out of Town Cousins** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Julie and Luke stay with their relatives for the summer while their father takes care of their mother who was shot in the LA Riots.

CURRENT PROJECT **Moved** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Jess and her Grandmother are forced out of their home due to the financial crisis. They stay at a run down motel only to find that on the inside, it extends into a completely different world.

BIO Before Evelyn Lee could walk, she was crawling around with crayons in her hands attacking any clean wall she could get to. That passion eventually led her to Cornell University and while working towards her undergrad degree she worked in NYC as a graphic designer. After Cornell she decided to head out to California to attend the MFA program in Experimental Animation at Cal Arts. It was there that she discovered animation, and her love for filmmaking. Her thesis film, *Kanizsa Hill*, screened at various festivals and won awards at Ann Arbor Film Festival for Most Promising Filmmaker, and at San Francisco International Film Festival for a Golden Gate Award for Best Animated Short. After receiving her MFA, she worked at several post-production and animation studios where she worked on numerous features films, television episodes and commercial spots as a visual effects artist, a designer and an animator. She recently began to direct viral spots and branded short films for various clients including Scion and GOOD, while developing her next independent film, *Graveyard Spirals* with which she attended the 2012 Berlinale Talent Campus.

LOUIS LEE

EDITOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
louis.p.lee@gmail.com

BIO Louis Lee grew up in Sacramento, CA. Thanks to responsible parenting, he was exposed to classic cinema at an early age. This sparked his passion as a storyteller; whether he did it through the page, the stage or moving images. As the 20th Century was nearing its end, Lee discovered and fell in love with picture editing at age 11—a time when digital video editing was just becoming more accessible to the consumer market. Originally a fun hobby, film editing had become a serious obsession by the time he graduated from high school. Lee studied Film Theory and Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley. His 2008 film *Beside Myself*, was selected for the Introduction To Anatomy showcase at the Pacific Film Archive. During his undergraduate studies, Lee began working on independent features and documentaries in various post-production positions. After graduating from UC Berkeley, he cut dozens of shorts, web videos, and commercials throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. He moved to Los Angeles in Summer 2011, and is currently an assistant editor for fiction and documentary features, and a short film editor. The most recent film he assisted on, *Janeane From Des Moines*, was an official selection at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival.

HEATHER LENZ

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
heather.lenz@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT KUSAMA: Princess of Polka Dots (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Trailblazer Yayoi Kusama's turbulent quest to become a world famous artist is documented in *KUSAMA: Princess of Polka Dots*. As a rival of Warhol in the '60s, Kusama battled sexism and racism in America while her hallucinations of polka dots eventually led her to the Tokyo mental institution she has called home for over 30 years.

BIO Writer, director and producer Heather Lenz is passionate about documentaries and biography pictures. She is particularly interested in making films about compelling individuals, subcultures, the arts and certain political topics. Lenz made her first experimental biographical films in super 8 and 16mm as an undergraduate double majoring in Art History and Fine Arts. She briefly exhibited her own art in New York and worked on a photo documentary project supported with a grant before earning her MFA in Cinematic Arts at USC. There she directed two short documentaries *Intertwined Lives* (about the dark side of having an identical twin) and *Back to Back* (about an inventor who creates an unusual bicycle for two and learns there is more to cycling than winning races). *Back to Back* was nominated for a Student Academy Award.

KUSAMA: Princess of Polka Dots is told through the point of view of scholars, contemporaries and Kusama herself. An article Lenz wrote about Kusama was published by *Specialten* and she has also lectured about Kusama. Lenz is working on the Kusama film in collaboration with producer Karen Johnson. In 2012 Lenz edited a seven-minute video about Kusama for the Tate Modern Museum for use in conjunction with a Kusama retrospective. The video has been posted to YouTube and has received over 100,000 views (www.kusamadocumentary.com).

ADAM LEON

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Film Independent Spirit Awards:
Windows Phone Someone To
Watch Award

CONTACT
sonnyleon@gmail.com

BIO Adam Leon was born and raised in NYC. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania he worked extensively in New York film industry. His short film, *Killer*, premiered at The Museum of Modern Art and Lincoln Center as part of their New Directors/New Films Festival. His first feature debut, *Gimme the Loot*, won the Grand Jury Prize at SXSW and was an official selection at the Cannes Film Festival. The film went on to play all over the world and was released theatrically in the U.S. by IFC Films. He is a winner of the Film Independent Spirit Awards Someone To Watch Award.

ALEIGH LEWIS

EDITOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
aleighlewis@gmail.com

BIO Aleigh Lewis is a filmmaker/editor based in Los Angeles working in television, music video and short film. Recent TV credits include *Project Runway*, *Bad Girls Club*, *Honey Boo Boo* and *Project Runway Allstars*. Her music video for Julia Holter was voted top music video of 2012 by *Dummymag*. Past projects include a collaborative project mixing live theater and video installation between Cuban and American artists which premiered at the Havana Film Festival in 2009. Awards and grants include the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences internship grant, LA Department of Cultural Affairs grant and scholarships from the Disney family and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Lewis holds a BA from Oberlin College and a MFA in film from CalArts.

ELISA LLERAS

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
elilleras@hotmail.com

BIO Elisa Lleras, born and raised in Valladolid, Spain, is a producer with over 5 years of experience in video games, advertising, online videos and film. Her short films have premiered in the official selection of Sundance (*The Strange Ones*) and the Cannes Film Festival (*A Viagem – The Trip*) and went on to win awards at festivals around the world. She has also produced several feature films, including *Half the Perfect World*, starring Heather Lind (*Boardwalk Empire*) and Cara Buono (*Mad men*) currently in post-production. In advertising, Lleras produced content targeted specifically to the Latin-American market for clients such as McDonalds, Ford and Mundo Fox, and online advertising for clients such as Echoing Green, TED and the Goldhirsh Foundation. Lleras' current projects include the horror film *Sinkholed* with Spanish director Andrés Rosende and the feature film *A Texas Story*, directed by David Martin Porras. Lleras has an MFA in Creative Producing from Columbia University and is a fellow of the distinguished Spanish program Obra Social La Caixa.

MYNETTE LOUIE

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Film Independent Spirit Awards:
Piaget Producer's Award

CONTACT
mynettelouie@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Cold Comes the Night* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A struggling motel owner and her daughter are taken hostage by a nearly blind career criminal to be his eyes as he attempts to retrieve his cash package from a crooked cop.

BIO Mynette Louie is a New York-based producer. She is the winner of the 2013 Film Independent Spirit Award Piaget Producers Award. She produced Marshall Lewy's *California Solo* starring Robert Carlyle (Sundance 2012); Patricia Benoit's *Stones in the Sun* starring Edwidge Danticat (Tribeca 2012); Doug Karr's *Art Machine* starring Joseph Cross, Jessica Szohr and Joey Lauren Adams (Woodstock 2012); and Tze Chun's critically acclaimed *Children of Invention* (Sundance 2009). She was the consulting producer on Olivia Silver's *Arcadia* starring John Hawkes (Crystal Bear Award, Berlinale 2012), executive produced *The Kitchen* starring Laura Prepon, Bryan Greenberg and Dreauna Walker (Gen Art 2012, Closing Night) and co-produced Andrew Bujalski's *Mutual Appreciation* (SXSW). Louie is in post-production on Tze Chun's *Cold Comes the Night* starring Alice Eve, Logan Marshall-Green and Bryan Cranston. She serves on advisory boards for IFP and A3 Asian American Artists Foundation, has been an advisor to the Sundance Institute and consultant for international sales agent Visit Films, and was named as one of Ted Hope's "21 Brave Thinkers Of Truly Free Film." Louie previously worked at the Hawaii Film Office, where she authored the state's production tax credit, and in business development and marketing at SportsIllustrated.com, Jupiter Research and Time Magazine. A native New Yorker, Louie graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University, where she studied Chinese literature and film.

MILES MAKER

INDUSTRY TRACK : DISTRIBUTION



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
miles@milesmaker.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Safeword** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE To overcome her performance anxiety, a renowned classical pianist pursues an anonymous affair with a man who is sharply skilled at erotic knife-play. As Kitty conquers her mental condition, her musical confidence returns, but she soon discovers that falling in love with a mysterious man can be the most dangerous game of all.

BIO Miles Maker is making a difference in the movie business with an active role in the development, packaging and global sale of exceptional stories. He's listening.

Maker has earned a grassroots reputation in independent film for his social marketing and hybrid distribution expertise in connecting movies with audiences, managing online communities, empowering fans and monetizing attention. His outreach strategies have served the likes of *Yellow* by writer/director Nick Cassavetes, Sundance and Spirit Award-winning *Pariah*, the Domestic Workers Alliance's 'Be The Help' campaign for the Oscars and Golden Globes and others.

In addition to sharing information, resources and constructive feedback online, Maker is an inspiration and motivation for countless aspiring storytellers around the world. In December 2012, Maker launched an ambitious crowdsourcing campaign to solicit the works of established and emerging screenwriters through social media and industry contacts. After reading 96 scripts in 100 days, he optioned the motion picture rights to an award-winning original screenplay titled *Safeword*, an erotic psychological drama written by Greek playwright, actress and screenwriter Zoe Mavroudi.

Maker's ambitions are fueled by his relentless pursuit of market awareness and knowing who the emerging talents are. In 2012, he engaged a record surge of more than 120 new buyers from 23 countries while representing three independent feature films at the American Film Market.

KATE MARKS

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
kate.sugarcane@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Miracle Maker** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In a land of lost causes and desperate cases where everyone is desperate for a miracle, a washed up miracle maker tries to close up shop and make a break for it.

BIO Kate Marks is a multidisciplinary storyteller whose work lives in the crossroads of the funny and the tragic. Her films are influenced by her background in theatre, clown, spectacle, mythology and teaching. Marks is the recipient of the Sarah Jacobson Film Grant, The Beutner Family Award for Excellence in the Arts, a Celtx Seed Award and Juror's Choice Award at the Black Maria Film + Video Festival. Her film *Pearl Was Here* screened at Slamdance, Sarasota Film Festival, Friars Club Comedy Film Festival, Athens Film + Video Festival, The Berkshire Film Festival and was broadcast on TV in KQED's Film School Shorts. Her film *Homebody* screened at The New Orleans Film Festival, The Bahamas International Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, The California International Shorts Festival, NewFilmmakers New York, the Los Angeles International Underground Film Festival and was an opening night film for the Rio De Janeiro International Short Film Festival. Each year Marks was at CalArts, she had a film screen in the film-directing showcase at REDCAT. The New York Times called her "A superb director" and "ingenious." When Marks was in the fourth grade she was advised to play the flute, but politely chose the trombone. She has been quietly rebelling against cuteness ever since. She is a graduate of Brown University where she received honors in playwriting. Go to www.katemarks.net for updates and information.

FELISCHA MARYE

WRITER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
felischa@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Estranged* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A Chicago doctor strives to become the most accomplished in her field, but when her estranged, homeless mother shows up in her ER, she takes her in and struggles to find resolution and forgiveness.

BIO Felischa Marye is an MFA candidate in the prestigious UCLA screenwriting program. She transitioned into the film industry after a successful career in public relations/integrated marketing, most recently serving as Vice President at Flowers Communications Group, a boutique Chicago PR firm where she led account teams for such blue-chip brands as Sears, Kmart, Unilever and Miller Brewing Company. Previously as an account manager for Carol H. Williams Advertising and as an ethnic marketing manager at Merisant, makers of Equal Sweetener, Marye supervised the advertising and communications for the companies' multicultural markets. In these roles, she managed the development of radio, TV, print campaigns and press initiatives/materials for top brands.

Marye's skills as a marketer served her well in balancing art with commercial appeal in her work, which has spanned both the comedy and drama genres. Even though she entered UCLA's screenwriting program only recently in the fall of 2011, her writing has already been noted with a variety of industry honors. Her drama TV pilot, *A Grand Life*, was named a finalist for the Humanitas Student Fellowship. She is also the recipient of Film Independent's Project Involve Fellowship, the Streisand/Sony Fellowship, Academy of Arts and Sciences Internship Fellowship and UCLA's Four Sisters Scholarship.

Marye's aspirations include a successful career in both television and feature films, in screenwriting, directing and producing roles.

EMILY MCALLISTER

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
emily@wildshotfilms.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Maidentrip* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE An intimate coming-of-age adventure set against the epic backdrop of the open sea, *Maidentrip* explores life through the eyes of 14-year-old Laura Dekker on her quest to become the youngest person ever to sail around the world alone.

BIO Emily McAllister is an independent filmmaker based in Brooklyn. She began working on *Maidentrip* shortly after graduating from Cornell University with a degree in Film and Economics. She started her career interning at the award-winning production company Part2 Pictures, where she worked on television documentaries for National Geographic, OWN and PBS. Currently, she is a freelancer on the post-production team at Pilot NYC, a full service creative agency in Manhattan. In her spare time, McAllister loves to make flipbooks and animated shorts.

JASMINE MCGLADE CHAZELLE

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
jasminechazelle@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *The Fencer* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A hard-charging female athlete faces personal demons as she vies for a spot on the U.S. Olympic Fencing Team.

BIO Jasmine McGlade Chazelle wrote and directed the feature film *Maria My Love*, starring Film Independent Spirit Award nominee Judy Marte (*Raising Victor Vargas*) and Golden Globe winner and Academy Award nominee Karen Black (*Five Easy Pieces*). The film premiered in competition for the New Narrative Director award at the 2011 Tribeca Film Festival and won Best U.S. Feature at HBO's New York International Latino Film Festival and Stand Out Film at Hells Half Mile. (For more information, including press and a complete list of awards and nominations, please visit www.mariamylove.com).

McGlade Chazelle grew up in Pennsylvania, Colorado and England. She graduated from Harvard University in 2007. While at college, McGlade Chazelle produced the critically acclaimed feature-length musical *Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2009, won the Special Jury Prize at the Torino Film Festival, was nominated for a Gotham Award and was released in theaters the next year to rave reviews. It was named one of the ten best films of the year by *The Village Voice*, *Film Comment*, *Time Out New York* and *The Boston Phoenix*, and one of the thirty best films of the year by *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*. (For more information please visit www.guyandmadeline.com.)

Up next for McGlade Chazelle is a feature she wrote and will direct called *Storm Cloud Blue*, about a troubled painter and the events that occur over the course of twenty-four hours when her son and his uninhibited girlfriend come to visit her in her rural Martha's Vineyard home. McGlade Chazelle lives in Venice with her husband Damien Chazelle. She is represented by Frank Wuliger and Sandra Lucchesi of The Gersh Agency, and Gary Ungar of Exile Entertainment.

HILLA MEDALIA

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
hilla@knowproductions.net

CURRENT PROJECT *Dancing in Jaffa* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Pierre Dulaine, an internationally renowned ballroom dancer, is fulfilling his life-long dream of returning to his birthplace, Jaffa, to teach Palestinian and Israeli children to dance together. The film explores the stories of four children forced to confront issues of identity, segregation and racism, as they dance with their enemies.

BIO A George Foster Peabody award-winning director/producer, Hilla Medalia has received three Emmy Award nominations and won the Paris Human Rights Film Festival Jury Award. She directed and produced the documentary *To Die in Jerusalem*, which follows a Palestinian suicide bomber and her unlikely Israeli doppelgänger, who died at seventeen in a Jerusalem market (HBO in the US, YES Israel). She then directed and produced *After the Storm*, which won the audience award in Woodstock and Heartland Film Festival, and aired on MTV/Logo in the US, Ch8 Israel, and participated in film festivals. Medalia was a senior producer for *39 Pounds of Love* (2005 HBO, Cinemax Film), which won the Ofir Award and was shortlisted for an Oscar. Her other works include *Happy You're Alive* (Ch1 Israel), *Caught In The Net* (Impact Partners, Gucci Tribeca, Chicken & Egg, YES Israel), *Numbered* (Foundation for Jewish Culture, YES, Makor Foundation) and *Dancing In Jaffa* (Keshet, Righteous Persons Foundation, Fohs Family Foundation, and Gesher Fund). *Dancing In Jaffa* premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival.

ALEX MORATTO

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
alexmoratto@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Untitled Amazon Project* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE When armed loggers threaten to evict their family from their rural home in the Amazon, two brothers smuggle rare lumber in hopes of selling it on the black market for money to save their land.

BIO Alex Moratto is a Brazilian-American filmmaker. He is a graduate of the UNC School of the Arts, School of Filmmaking where he was a Kenan Scholar and studied film directing under Peter Bogdanovich. His thesis film *The Other Side* won the 2010 Jury Award from the Directors Guild of America for Latino filmmaker. Moratto attended Werner Herzog's 2010 Rogue Film School Seminar and was the recipient of the 2012 North Carolina Arts Council Artist Fellowship for Screenwriting.

LUCY MUKERJEE

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
lucy@afterdarkfilms.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Jack of the Red Hearts** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A rebellious teen on the run from her probation officer cons her way into a suburban family as a live-in helper for their autistic daughter - an experience that changes her cynical perception of the world, but threatens to be snatched away at any moment as the law catches up with her.

BIO Lucy Mukerjee is the Vice President of Production and Development at After Dark Films. She is responsible for identifying potential feature projects that fit the company's mandate and developing that material until it is ready to go into production. Mukerjee works alongside the writers and directors, overseeing the entire filmmaking process, from the initial pitch, through the casting, set visits, and notes on rough cuts, to the film's delivery. During her time at After Dark, she has produced 13 horror features for Lionsgate and four action movies for Warner Bros. In 2008, Mukerjee was the Co-Executive Producer of *Flirting with Forty*, starring Heather Locklear - a film she set up independently after optioning the novel by Jane Porter and selling it to Sony Pictures Television. Over 4.6 million viewers watched *Flirting with Forty* when it premiered on Lifetime, making it one of the most watched television movies of 2008. This year she also became a voting member of the Producers Guild of America, and a Programmer for Q Films, the LGBTQ Film Festival of Long Beach. She is a regular fixture on juries and committees for GLAAD and the Outfest Film Festival, and was nominated by Power Up as one of the year's Amazing Gay Women In Showbiz. Mukerjee considers herself an advocate for female filmmakers, and strives to enable more women to get their stories onto the big screen.

MALCOLM MURRAY

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
info@hereisthis.com

CURRENT PROJECT Tokyo Cannonball Rising Sun (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Mourning his great love, a Japanese janitor works a cattle ranch in the American Southwest. For him and for a family of struggling ranchers, the past is as inescapable as the future is uncertain.

BIO Malcolm Murray loves to make films and has been doing so professionally since the age of 15, when pro skateboarders first began hiring him to film their tricks and edit their videos. Upon graduating from college he was awarded the prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship which took him to film and live in Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand, Laos, the Czech Republic, France, Italy and Mexico. Now 27, he lives in Brooklyn and works as a director and cinematographer. He is represented by Mekanism and has shot campaigns for Toyota, Microsoft, Patagonia, the International Olympic Committee, Ralph Lauren, Rolling Stone, eBay, EA Sports, Microsoft, Clorox Greenworks, Charles Schwab and Axe. He has also directed/shot the acclaimed documentary short *Up There* for Stella Artois and Mother NY. These projects have garnered Gold, Silver and Bronze Lions at Cannes and numerous One Show Pencils. *Camera, Camera*, his first feature-length documentary, began its festival circuit at the 2010 Los Angeles Film Festival and was nominated for the prestigious Cinematic Vision Award at AFI/Discovery Channel Silverdocs Documentary Festival. His narrative feature directorial debut, *Bad Posture*, was produced by Neda Arman (producer of *Rachel Getting Married*) and premiered at the 2011 International Film Festival Rotterdam to acclaim from *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Filmmaker Magazine* and *Indiewire*, among others. It was named one of the Ten to Watch: Best of IFFR 2011, and one of Hammer to Nail's Top Ten Films of 2011.

AARON NAAR

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
aanaar@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Mateo** (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Matthew dreamed of pop stardom; instead he went to jail, emerged a mariachi singer and fell in love with a Cuban prostitute

BIO Aaron I. Naar is an award-winning filmmaker based in Los Angeles, CA. His documentary, *Los Hombres del Lago* (*The Men of the Lake*), premiered at HotDocs in 2008 and went on to screen in several hundred venues across South America as part of the international environmental educational series, *Planet.Move*. An accomplished short narrative and non-fiction producer, Naar's film *Kelp* premiered at SXSW in 2010, won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Short Film at the Philadelphia Film Festival in 2010 and is currently available through IndiePix Films. In 2011, Naar won the Pacific Pioneer Fund for emerging documentary filmmakers and was shortlisted for the San Francisco Film Society Documentary Film Fund for his feature length documentary, *Mateo*, now in post-production. Recently, Naar has also been directing and editing documentary-style commercials for clients such as Google, Expedia and the US Olympic Commission. A graduate of Vassar College, Naar currently serves as a director and editor at Editree Inc.

DIANE NABATOFF

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
dnabatoff@mac.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Dancing in Jaffa* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Pierre Dulaine, an internationally renowned ballroom dancer, is fulfilling his life-long dream of returning to his birthplace, Jaffa, to teach Palestinian and Israeli children to dance together; the film explores the stories of four children forced to confront issues of identity, segregation and racism, as they dance with their enemies.

BIO Diane Nabatoff founded Tiara Blu Films in 2000. She has produced *Take The Lead* and *Narc*, and executive produced *The Brass Teapot* and *Gray Matters*. In TV she executive produced *Knights of the South Bronx* for A&E and *Racing for Time* for Lifetime, as well as the series *After Hours with Daniel* on Ovation. She also co-executive produced the pilot *Baseball Wives* for HBO and *Scent of the Missing* for TNT.

Prior to founding Tiara Blu Films, Nabatoff was a producer at Interscope Communications, where she produced films that include *Very Bad Things*, *The Proposition*, *Operation Dumbo Drop*, *Separate Lives*, *Holy Matrimony* and *Body Language*. Earlier in her career, Nabatoff was the Senior Vice President of Production for Henry Winkler's Fair Dinkum Productions and Vice President of Vestron Pictures where she executive produced *Hide in the House* and *Fear*. She began her film career as Vice President at The Feldman-Meeker Co. working on *The Golden Child* and serving as associate producer of *The Kindred* and Kathryn Bigelow's *Near Dark*. Nabatoff has a B.A. from Harvard University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Producers Guild of America.

MEENA NANJI

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
mnanji@roadrunner.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Here and Away** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A boy explores the world he was born into, the wonder and mystery of nature, the confusion of changing times and people and the possibilities of the future.

BIO Meena Nanji is an award-winning filmmaker who has produced, written and directed independent documentaries and experimental videos. Her first feature documentary, *View From A Grain of Sand* (2006), about the last 30 years of women's rights in Afghanistan, won several awards at international film festivals as well as broadcast on television in the US and internationally. Nanji is a recipient of several prestigious grants, including the Rockefeller Foundation Media Arts Fellowship, National Endowment of the Arts, Center for Asian American Media, the Paul Robeson Fund, Pacific Pioneer Fund, Women in Film Foundation and Durfee Foundation. She has produced short films for channel 4 UK and RAI television Italy. She has curated and coordinated various film/video festivals and screenings in Los Angeles and San Francisco including the Los Angeles Festival and Outfest. She has been a juror on grant-giving organizations including the Rockefeller Foundation Media Grant, Center for Asian American Media, Durfee Foundation, AFI Film Grant and for film festivals. She has also taught at University of California, Santa Barbara and Otis Parsons School of Art and Design, Los Angeles. Nanji has been invited to guest lecture at universities and conferences around the world. She was on the board of L.A. Freewaves. She was a founding member of ArtWallah, L.A.'s South Asian Arts Festival and most recently in 2008, a co-founder of GlobalGirl Media (GGM), a non-profit media training organization for teenage girls in underrepresented communities of the world. Nanji is currently working on a feature narrative film, *The Cosmic Forest*, about a tribal artist from the central Indian forests, to be produced by Louverture Films. Her keen interest in exploring race and cultural diasporas, and gender rights, inspire her to continue to make films around issues of social justice and human rights.

SARA NEWENS

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
sara.newens@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Top Spin** (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Facing steep odds, a group of tenacious American teenagers chase Olympic glory in table tennis – the greatest equalizer in sports, where regardless of size, age and gender, anyone can win.

BIO Sara Newens is a documentary filmmaker and editor who has worked in film and television for over a decade. A graduate of the M.F.A. Documentary Film Program at Stanford University, Newens was awarded a Princess Grace Foundation scholarship for *Tanglewood*, her thesis film on Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy. Currently, she is co-director and editor of *Top Spin*, a feature-length documentary about young table tennis champions with Olympic aspirations. Newens is a Student Academy Award Regional Finalist, and a recipient of a 2010 CINE Golden Eagle Award. Her films have screened at numerous festivals, including Sarasota, Starz Denver, Traverse City, Rooftop Summer Series, Lunafest, and Mill Valley, among others. Prior to her work at Stanford, Newens worked as a video editor for CBS News, a teaching assistant at The Edit Center and Barefoot Workshops, and as assistant producer for the award-winning PBS feature documentary, *New Year Baby*. She received a B.S. in Mass Communication from Miami University of Ohio in 2001.

PETER NICKS

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Film Independent Spirit Awards:
Stella Artois Truer Than Fiction Award

CONTACT
pete.nicks@gmail.com

BIO Peter Nicks' first feature documentary *The Waiting Room*, which chronicles a day-in-the-life of an Oakland, CA hospital waiting room, was released in 2012 to critical acclaim. San Francisco Film Critics Circle called the film the "best documentary of 2012" and The Washington Post noted it as one of the "ten best films of 2012." The film was shortlisted for an Academy Award, garnered numerous accolades, including the Stella Artois Truer Than Fiction Award, Gotham IFF and Film Independent Spirit Award nominations and a Cinema Eye nomination for best debut feature. Prior to his recent work in film, Nicks worked in television for several years and earned an Emmy for *Blame Somebody Else*, which explored human trafficking during the Iraq War. Nicks is now developing the second of a trilogy of character-driven films exploring health care, crime and education in Oakland, CA. He received his B.A. in English from Howard University and his M.A. in journalism from UC Berkeley. He lives in Piedmont, CA with his wife and two children.

KATHERINE NOLFI

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
katherine.nolfi@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *The World of Men* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Auggie's attempts to find a wife and take over the family business are foiled when his cancer-stricken kid sister Steph moves in to his apartment uninvited.

BIO Katherine Nolfi is a New York-based writer and director. Her debut feature film, *Upstate* (co-directed with Andrew Luis), premiered in competition at the 2010 Los Angeles Film Festival. *The LA Weekly* selected the film as one of the "Best of the Fest." *Upstate* is distributed by IFC Films and SundanceNOW. Nolfi has written and directed several short films, including *Unlimited* (co-directed with Andrew Luis), which was an official selection of SXSW 2009. Other work includes *Mouth Babies* (co-directed with Lisa Duva) an official selection of the 2011 Slamdance Film Festival, Maryland Film Festival and the Seattle True Independent Film Festival where it won "Best Short." *The World of Men*, a screenplay based on her experiences growing up in the Rust Belt and being diagnosed with late-stage cancer as a young adult, was one of three finalists for the 2012 Nantucket Film Festival's Tony Cox Screenwriting Competition. Nolfi is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts film program.

ASIEL NORTON

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Canon Filmmaker Award

CONTACT
asielnorton@gmail.com

BIO Asiel Norton was born in a small cabin on Kneeland Mountain in an isolated section of the American Northwest. With no television, limited electricity and water attained from a nearby stream, his family tended sheep, chickens and rabbits. Having no television, his father would take him to the local university a distance away to watch revivals of classic films, giving birth to a life-long passion for movies. Norton attended the Brooks Institute of Photography, and has worked as a fine arts photographer. In 2004 he graduated from USC School of Cinematic Arts. His first feature film, *Redland*, premiered in 2009 and traveled the film festival circuit extensively. In 2009, Norton was included in *Filmmaker Magazine* as one of the "25 New Faces of Independent Film," and was a 2010 Film Independent Spirit Award Nominee. *Redland* received a limited theatrical release in the spring of 2011. In the fall of 2012 he completed production on his second feature film *Orion*, starring David Arquette, Lily Cole and Goran Kostic. The project is currently in post production.

MARCIA NUNES

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab
Canon Filmmaker Award

CONTACT
marcianunes@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Manos Sucias* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A desperate fisherman and a naive kid on a mission to travel up the Pacific coast of Colombia in a small boat, towing a torpedo filled with millions of dollars of cocaine, must navigate their difficult relationship while fighting to survive their journey through the war-torn region.

BIO Márcia Nunes was most recently the Manager, International Sales and Acquisitions for Goldcrest Films, where she was responsible for licensing all-rights deals in a variety of territories including Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and select European countries, and the airlines. With a history of exceeding set targets, Nunes' successes include pre-selling the 2011 Sundance hit *The Art of Getting By*, and selling Todd Solondz' newest film, *Dark Horse* (2011 Venice and Toronto Film Festivals). Nunes was also the Production Coordinator for Goldcrest Films on the Academy Award-nominated documentary, *Restrepo*. Before joining Goldcrest in 2008, Nunes was the Sales Manager for an off-Broadway production company. She later worked for the prestigious entertainment PR firm, Terry Hines and Associates, focusing on Hispanic Marketing campaigns for such films as *Spiderman 3*, *The Departed*, *Babel* and *Happy Feet*. Nunes holds a Master's degree in Film Business from New York University and a Bachelor's degree with honors from Barnard College, Columbia University. She has lived across South and North America and is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish and French. Nunes is currently based in New York City where she works as a producer and an independent consultant in development, financing and distribution strategy.

MIGUEL NUÑEZ

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
miguelfilm@gmail.com

BIO Miguel Nuñez was born in Mexicali in 1982. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Film Production at Cal State Northridge in 2009. He has worked as an assistant director and multimedia producer for the 24th Street theatre in Los Angeles. In 2011, he was awarded with L.A. Weekly's "Production of the Year" for the play *La Razon Blindada (The Armored Reason)*. Nuñez has worked as producer, director, cinematographer, art designer and editor on dozens of film projects in Mexico and the United States. In 2010, he attended the Werner Herzog's Rogue Film School. In 2011, he went back to his hometown to write, direct and produce his first feature film *Levantamuertos (Deadlifting)*. He is currently producing *Valle Sin Fin (Endless Valley)*, a virtual trip through the Mexicali Valley.

JULES NURRISH

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
jules.nurrish@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Kiss Me* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Kid Vargas is forced to face up to a devastating truth after he kills his opponent, Jonny Vasquez, in the ring. *Kiss Me* is a gritty, contemporary, neo-noir drama set in the often-clandestine world of Latino boxing in East Los Angeles.

BIO Honored in 2011 as a "Brit to Watch" by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), Jules Nurrish is a screenwriter and film director based in Los Angeles, California. A graduate of the Masters program in Directing at the UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television, she has written and directed ten short films, which have screened at film festivals and cultural institutions worldwide, including the British Film Institute and the Director's Guild of America. Her short film *Bend It* was an official selection of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for the Iris Prize in Short Film. Her narrative homage to playwright Joe Orton, *No Ordinary Joe*, screened at international film festivals, securing DVD distribution in North America and Germany, online distribution through the BBC Film Network, and a nomination for Best Short Film at the Channel 4 Film Awards. Most recently, Nurrish's hard-hitting film *Kiss Me*, starring Raúl Castillo (*Don't Let Me Drown*) as a fighter struggling in the East LA boxing world, premiered at the 2012 Palm Springs International ShortFest, garnering the Alexis Award for Best Emerging Student Filmmaker. A twice recipient of the BAFTA Los Angeles Peter Henton Memorial Award, Nurrish earned the Jack Nicholson Distinguished Director Award, the George Burns & Gracie Allen Fellowship in Comedy, the BAFTA Los Angeles Fellowship and the Lynn Weston Fellowship in Film during her tenure at UCLA. In 2011, she was selected as a Fellow for the Outfest Screenwriters Lab with her comedy feature script, *Headliners*, and as a Fellow for the inaugural FilmLAB at the Telluride Film Festival. She is currently in development on her first feature film, *Kiss Me*, based on her award-winning short film.

CHRISTINE O'MALLEY

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
christine@ocpmedia.com

CURRENT PROJECT *If You Build It* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE *If You Build It* is a documentary that spends one year in the life of one of America's most innovative classrooms. The film features designer-activists Emily Pilloton and Matt Miller and proves that one of the best ways to make high school kids care about their schoolwork is to build their education around the things that matter most to them.

BIO Christine O'Malley has been making documentaries for film and television as a writer and producer for over 15 years. O'Malley served as associate producer on the Academy-Award nominated documentary film *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* (2004). *Wordplay*, the first feature length film she produced and co-wrote through her production company O'Malley Creadon Productions, was nominated for both a Critics' Choice Award and a National Board of Review Award for "Best Documentary of 2006." O'Malley's second film *I.O.U.S.A.*, an examination of the size and scope of America's national debt, had its world premiere at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. Other credits include Harry Shearer's documentary *The Big Uneasy* (2010) and Sundance Selects' *These Amazing Shadows* (2011). She executive produced *Superheroes* (2011), the award-winning documentary that premiered at the 2011 Slamdance Film Festival and aired on HBO as part of its summer documentary series.

MAHESH PAILOOR

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
maheshpailoor@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT Asphalt Symphony (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A washed up basketball phenom-turned-recruiter catapults an undiscovered young prodigy from the streets of Detroit into the high stakes world of amateur basketball, but then must fight to protect him from following in his tragic footsteps.

BIO Mahesh Pailoor is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker whose short films and commercials have won awards at festivals around the world. A graduate of NYU and AFI, he is a recipient of the Franklin J. Schaffner Fellow Award, was a 2008 Project Involve Fellow, and was most recently an ABC/DGA Directing Fellow. Pailoor is currently in post-production on his feature film, *Brahmin Bulls*, starring Sendhil Ramamurthy, Roshan Seth, Mary Steenburgen and Justin Bartha.

ANDREW DROZ PALERMO

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
andrewdpalermo@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT Rich Hill (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE *Rich Hill* intimately chronicles the turbulent lives of four impoverished boys living in a dying Midwestern town, witnessing their struggles up-close as they yearn to find self-worth and to imagine a brighter future.

BIO Andrew Droz Palermo began his career with the music video for White Rabbits' *Percussion Gun* and went on to write and direct the short film *A Face Fixed*. He is the director of photography for a number of high-profile projects including *You're Next*, a 2011 Toronto International Film Festival selection purchased by Lionsgate; *V/H/S*, a 2012 Sundance selection purchased by Magnolia; and two short films which premiered at 2012 SXSW: *The Gathering Squall*, which *Filmmaker Magazine* called "intense and visually striking," and *Man & Gun*.

Palermo has just wrapped two additional projects as cinematographer, which debuted at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival: *A Teacher*, a narrative feature by Hannah Fidell, and Kat Candler's short *Black Metal*. His narrative feature-length directorial debut *One & Two* is supported by the Sundance Institute Producer's Lab and is represented by William Morris Endeavor. *Rich Hill* is his first documentary, a proud collaboration with his cousin, Tracy Droz Tragos.

KIRAN PALLEGADDA

EDITOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
kpallegadda@gmail.com

BIO Kiran Pallegadda attended film school at USC and has since worked as an editor. His most recent film, *The Pretty One*, starring Zoe Kazan and Jake Johnson, premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival. Previously, he was an associate editor and first assistant editor on numerous movies including *Crazy Heart*, *Public Enemies* and *Marvel's The Avengers*.

MILENA PASTREICH

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab
Canon Filmmaker Award

CONTACT
milena.pastreich@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Birdmen** (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Inner-city men are kept off the streets by their dedication to pigeons that do flips in the air.

BIO Milena Pastreich was born in San Francisco and now lives in Los Angeles where she directs and shoots films. With a BA in Art History from NYU and a background in documentary photography, she began her filmmaking career with Trigger Happy Productions while living in Berlin from 2004 to 2007. From 2008 to 2012 she attended UCLA Film School, graduating with an MFA in Directing and Cinematography. Her thesis film *I Feel Stupid* is a 2012 UCLA Spotlight Award Winner and will be included in the premiere season of the new national program *Film School Shorts*, a public television series featuring the best student films from around the country. Her short film *Jean-Paul Luc Sébastien René* screened at SXSW (2010). She is the 2012 Panavision Award Winner for her work in cinematography on *The Ballad of Finn+Yeti*, which screened at the 2012 Festival de Cannes, Cinéfondation. In addition, Pastreich is the recipient of the 2010 Edie and Lew Wasserman Film Production Fellowship, the 2009 and 2008 Motion Picture Association of America Award and the 2008 Women in Film Foundation/Loreen Arbus Fellowship in Cinematography.

DERRICK D. PETE

WRITER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
derrickpete@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Cutterville* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE After Willy E. Chase, an action-hero cartoon, ends up in Cutterville, a place where all the other "canceled" cartoon characters live, he goes on a perilous journey to find a way back home to his Animator.

BIO Derrick Pete received his MFA from UCLA's acclaimed Film & TV Screenwriting graduate program. While in the program, he was honored with the prestigious Showcase Award for best screenplay, gaining the attention of Hollywood agents and producers. Recently, Pete has turned his attention toward expanding his creative territory, adding producing and directing to the equation. To date, he has produced and directed three music videos and four short films. He produced the award-winning short film, *Six Letter Word*, starring Rumer Willis for AFI's Directing Workshop for Women.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Pete spent his early years in Elizabeth, East Orange and Irvington. Through the 8th grade, he attended a school for the performing arts until his mother decided to move to Marianna...Florida, that is. That move, to the rural part of the South, all but stunted the growth of his budding career in entertainment, for the moment, anyway.

Pete obtained his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from the University of Florida at Gainesville. He worked for Exxon Chemicals for four years in their research and development division. He holds two patents related to the purification of highly reactive olefins in mixed hydrocarbons. After his mother passed away and with nothing else to prove, Pete thought "who needs a steady, secure job with benefits...let's move to Hollywood!"

POCAS PASCOAL

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
LA Film Festival Jury Award:
Best Narrative Feature

CONTACT
pocas.pascoal@gmail.com

BIO Born in Angola, Pocas Pascoal became the first camera-woman in her country. She studied cinema in Paris, then directed several documentaries and short films. In 2002, she participated in contemporary modern art exhibitions with the art group Cité Internationale. *There is Always Somebody Who Loves You*, her 2004 documentary, was shown in many festivals. *All is Well* is her first narrative feature film.

PJ RAVAL

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
pj@unraval.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Before You Know It* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Set against the backdrop of three unique retirement communities, *Before You Know It* captures the experiences of several gay seniors as they navigate the adventures, challenges and surprises of their "golden years."

BIO Named one of *Out Magazine's* "Out 100 2010" and *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film 2006," PJ Raval is an award-winning filmmaker whose credits include *Trinidad* (Winner, Best Documentary Cleveland International Film Festival 2009, Showtime, LOGO), the *Christeene* video collection (SXSW), and his current in-progress documentary about LGBT seniors and retirees. Raval is also currently developing a feature fiction narrative with acclaimed screenwriter and playwright Prince *Gomolvilas* and recently directed a segment called "Rantings" as part of the 2011 remake of Richard Linklater's indie classic *Slacker*.

Also an award-winning cinematographer, Raval's work has earned him awards such as the ASC Charles B. Lang Jr. Heritage Award as well as the Haskell Wexler Award for Best Cinematography. Raval's work includes the 2009 Academy Award-nominated *Trouble the Water* as well as the Film Independent Spirit Award-nominated *Room*. He recently wrapped the highly anticipated feature *The Bounceback* directed by Bryan Poyser. In his spare time, Raval likes to try and take small naps and pretend he knows ballet.

FRANKLIN JIN RHO

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
franklinjinrho@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *The Blood Stain* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A Korean-American FBI Agent (Alex Kang) investigates a murder that points to his estranged father, the CEO of a major Korean car company. The investigation takes Kang to Korea where he is forced to confront his issues with identity and culture.

BIO Born and raised in Virginia, Franklin Rho grew up obsessed by the notion of what it is to be an American. His obsession manifested itself through the medium of cinema, particularly American films from the 1970s and 1980s. His love for cinema and auteur-driven filmmaking led him eventually to the American Film Institute where he received his MFA in Directing. His short film, *The Monster and the Peanut*, played at numerous festivals and won several awards, including the student Emmy for Best Dramatic Short Film and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant.

As a writer, Rho developed his craft through the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, where he developed both feature and TV scripts. His pilot script, *Revelation*, won 1st place in the CAPE New Writers Awards and 3rd place in the UCLA Extension Screenwriting Competition. His *Breaking Bad* spec script, *The Giving Tree*, was one of three finalists in the Television Outreach Program and also gained Rho entry into Visual Communications' Project Catalyst program.

Aside from writing additional TV samples, Rho is currently developing *The Blood Stain*, an indie feature noir about a Korean-American who seizes the opportunity to investigate a murder that may implicate his estranged father.

Rho currently resides in Glendale with his wife Tracy and daughter Sienna.

ANSLEM RICHARDSON

WRITER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
anslemasylum@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Bardos** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Two men alternate the ten-year aftermath of a tragic car accident, until one of them breaks the cycle and changes everything.

BIO Anslem Richardson is an actor, writer, artist and filmmaker. He is the recipient of The Independent Feature Project's (now Independent Film Week) Gordon Parks Award for Screenwriting for his screenplay *The Subway Story*. His following screenplay, *Bardos*, earned him the Tribeca All Access Creative Promise Award in Screenwriting. Currently Richardson is a recurring guest star on *NCIS: Los Angeles* on CBS, playing the role of Tahir Khaled. Other credits include: *Five Deep Breaths*, directed by Seith Mann, which screened at Cannes, Sundance and Tribeca Film Festivals, and won Best-Narrative Short at Chicago International and Best-Narrative Short at Los Angeles Film Festival; *Detroit 1-8-7*, *Life On Mars*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* and *As The World Turns*. Richardson's Off-Broadway credits include *The Exonerated*, directed by Bob Balaban. With partner Marin Gazzaniga, he formed the production company ThisThing Films. Their first short film production *Like So Many Things...Unsaid* became a finalist for the IFC/Redbull Media Labs Competition and it led to the web-series *Like So Many Things...* which aired on The Independent Film Channel.

JOSH ROBBINS

WRITER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
josh.robbins31@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *I'm Not Down* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A proud, aging punk rocker has to fight for his way of life when a yuppie couple wants to turn the New York City tenement building where he's lived under rent control for thirty years into their own private McMansion in this true New York story about class, dreams, temptation and loyalty.

BIO Josh Robbins completed his undergraduate work in film production at Hunter College of the City University of New York and received his M.F.A. in screenwriting from The University of Southern California, where he was awarded departmental honors and received the Jack Nicholson Award for best feature screenplay. He has worked in development as a script reader for HDnet Films, in production as a script supervisor, and in postproduction as an assistant editor. He has written seven feature film scripts and two television spec scripts. His most recent screenplay, *I'm Not Down*, won first place in the Landlocked Film Festival and Woods Hole Film Festival feature script competitions. Robbins currently teaches screenwriting and cinema studies at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

LISA ROBERTSON

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
lisarobertson16@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Commerce* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A spiraling compulsion threatens to alienate a successful Los Angeles businessman from his family and leads to a chance meeting with a young gambler who could save or destroy him in the City of Commerce.

BIO Lisa Robertson was one of eight women awarded an American Film Institute Directing Workshop for Women fellowship and completed her short film *Commerce* starring Joel Gretsch, Annabeth Gish and Noel Fisher as part of that unique program. *Commerce* was awarded a 2011 Adrienne Shelly Foundation Grant in support of taking the film to full-length feature and has played at festivals throughout the U.S. Awards include: Best Student Film (Vail Film Festival), First Prize, Best Actress (Rhode Island International), Audience Award (Breckenridge Festival of Film), Best Short Film (Catalina Film Festival).

Robertson was also Writers Assistant 2001/2002 to Creator/Executive Producer Michael Frost Beckner for his TV series *The Agency* (CBS) as well as assisting on his film projects. In theater, she was awarded a 2004 New Directors Observership by the NY Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, which she completed at the Ahmanson Theater, Los Angeles. She produced and directed *American Ten* at the Coast Playhouse, West Hollywood, which garnered industry acclaim and saw standing room only houses. As Producer/Associate Director, Robertson mounted a critically acclaimed production of *King Lear*. In 2010, Robertson wrote and directed *The Letter*, starring Annabeth Gish and Kyle Secor as a submission short for AFI Directing Workshop for Women application, which explored an early episode of the same family's story she continues in *Commerce*.

KATHERINE RUPPE

WRITER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
katherine.ruppe@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *A Killing Frost* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE The fragile survivor of an attempted double murder has never faced her horrific past, until a parole hearing reveals her attacker may not be guilty and the real killer is closer than she thinks.

BIO Katherine Ruppe developed *A Killing Frost* in Film Independent's Screenwriting Lab. The script placed in the top 30 scripts of the Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting Competition, was a Bluecat Competition semifinalist and won the 2011 New American Theater Screenplay Competition.

Ruppe holds an M.F.A. in Screenwriting from UCLA, where she won the Screenwriters Showcase Competition with her edgy romantic comedy, *Live Bait*. Her first play, *American Darlings*, was produced in the UCLA Francis Ford Coppola One Act Festival. Ruppe's comedic essay *A Guest Star* in his *Romantic Drama* was published both in the *New York Times* and the anthology *What Was I Thinking?* She adapted it for an animated short, *Geek Love*, premiering on Slate Online. Ruppe is a Nicholl Fellowship two-time semi-finalist, an Austin Film Festival Second Rounder, and advanced to the top 5% of applicants to the 2011 Warner Bros. TV Writers' Workshop. She's had two features optioned, completed an action-thriller feature assignment, and is currently writing *Silver Star*, a procedural spec pilot.

Ruppe's first career was in cinematography, working as a union camera operator on films and TV in New York. She's been on the camera crew on movies with such acclaimed directors as Jonathan Demme, Robert Benton, and Spike Lee.

SHRIHARI SATHE

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Dolby DCP Grant

CONTACT
ssathe@gmail.com

BIO Shrihari Sathe has produced many short films, including *A Piece of America*, one of four American films presented at Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival (2008) and *Breaking the Chain*, Golden Palm Award winner at Mexico International Film Festival (2010). Sathe co-produced *First Day of Peace*, Grand Jury Prize winner at Slamdance Film Festival (2010) and *Off Season*, a BAFTA (2010) nominee. *Pervertigo*, an American-indie Sathe produced was selected to be a part of IFP Independent Narrative Filmmaker Labs (2011) and world premiered at the 2012 Warsaw and Mumbai film festivals.

Born and raised in Mumbai, Sathe received his bachelor's degree from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor where he majored in Film and Video Studies (High Honors) and Global Media and Culture. He has an MFA Film Degree from Columbia University's School of the Arts in New York. He is a visiting faculty member at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. He has received fellowships from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, Producers Guild of America, IFP, Film Independent to name a few. In 2009, Sathe received the Entertainment Partners' Best Producer Award at the Columbia University Film Festival. Sathe participated in the 2011 Film Independent Producing Lab with the narrative feature *Man With Van*. His latest feature production, *It Felt Like Love* screened at 2013 Sundance Film Festival and 2013 International Film Festival Rotterdam. Sathe is currently in production on his feature directorial debut, *Ek Hazarachi Note (1000 Rupee Note)*.

WILLIAM J. SAUNDERS

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Color Space Finishing Grant

CONTACT
williamjsaunders@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT Billy Mize and the Bakersfield Sound (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Billy Mize's charm and golden voice are legendary among country music's elite as is his passion for music. A performer on the brink of fame, his is a spectacular tale about identity and sacrifice amidst a country music revolution.

BIO William J. Saunders (who goes by "Joe") obtained a B.A. in cinema from Southern Methodist University and an MFA in Directing from Columbia University's School of the Arts. His thesis film *Dash Cunning*, won several awards worldwide, including the 20th Century Fox/Farrelly Brothers Award for outstanding achievement in comedy. Saunders continued his education at NFL Films, directing and editing documentaries for HBO, FOX, ABC, CBS, ESPN, MTV, NFL Network and the BBC. While at NFL Films, Saunders won an EMMY award for his documentary *Big Charlie's*. His first feature film, *Sweet Little Lies*, was acquired for distribution by Film Works Entertainment and released in early 2012. He is currently working on the documentary *Billy Mize and the Bakersfield Sound*.

JILLIAN SCHLESINGER

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
jillian@wildshotfilmss.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Maidentrip* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE An intimate coming-of-age adventure set against the epic backdrop of the open sea, *Maidentrip* explores life through the eyes of 14-year-old Laura Dekker on her quest to become the youngest person ever to sail around the world alone.

BIO Jillian Schlesinger is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker making her directorial debut with *Maidentrip* (World Premiere SXSW 2013). She has worked in various capacities on documentaries, including writing, story development and archival research. She has also written, directed and edited numerous on-air promotions for television networks, including AMC, Sundance Channel and BBC America. Her work on Sundance Channel's *Dysfunctional Family Thanksgiving* earned a 2010 Promax BDA Award in the "Something for Nothing" category. Schlesinger grew up in Santa Cruz, CA and graduated from Brown University, where she studied dramatic writing and linguistic anthropology.

AMBER SEALEY

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
contact@ambersealey.com

CURRENT PROJECT **New Mexican Rain** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE It's 1983 in New Mexico and Rain is obsessed with the idea of having a boyfriend. Her endlessly fighting parents, Harry and Estelle, are divorcing. And her little sister, Echo, is nothing but a nuisance.

BIO Amber Sealey is a Los Angeles based filmmaker and performer who was born in England and raised in Santa Fe. She wrote, directed and starred in *How to Cheat*, which premiered and won for Best Performance Award at LAFF 2011 and garnered the award for Best Narrative Film & Best Acting at BendFilm 2011. Additionally, the film has gone on the screen at the Montreal World, Indie Memphis, Cinequest, Oxford Film Festival and Cucalorus. It is being distributed by FilmBuff.

Sealey has worked predominantly as an actor in theater, voice over, television and film (both in the US and the UK). Schooling includes: The University of California, Santa Cruz, The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and The Central School of Speech and Drama (both in London). As an actor, her films have screened at various festivals including Sundance (*The Good Night* with Gwyneth Paltrow and Penelope Cruz), Santa Fe International, Seattle Underground, Austin and Ashland Independent. She likes to show off by telling people her husband is a rocket scientist who just helped land the Rover, Curiosity on the planet Mars (he really did) and by showing people photos of her adorable daughter (she really is).

JESSICA SHARZER

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
sharzer@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Revenge Fuck* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE When an ambitious prosecutor has a one-night stand to even the score with her cheating husband, she unwittingly picks a sociopath who threatens her professional and personal life.

BIO Jessica Sharzer made her feature debut with *Speak*, based on the acclaimed novel by Laurie Halse Anderson. *Speak*, starring Kristen Stewart, premiered at Sundance in 2004 and was nominated for a Writers Guild Award and a Directors Guild Award. Sharzer holds an M.A. in Russian Literature from UC Berkeley and an M.F.A. in Film from NYU. Her thesis film *The Wormhole* garnered the NYU First Prize, the New York Magazine Award and the Student Academy Award Gold Medal in narrative. After film school, Sharzer signed a three-picture deal with Universal. There, she developed two scripts including the Dusty Springfield story. She has also adapted Lizzie Simon's memoir *Detour* for HBO. In television, Sharzer has directed *The L Word* for Showtime and shadowed on *Friday Night Lights* in the NBC/DGA Fellowship Program. She has written three dance movies for MTV Networks including *Turn the Beat Around*, which premiered on MTV in early 2010. Sharzer has developed various one-hour pilots including *Music City* and *Bronx D.A.* for CBS and *New Canaan* for Fox. She is currently a writer-producer on *American Horror Story* for FX Network.

PETER W. SINGER

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Fast Track

CONTACT
author@pwsinger.com

CURRENT PROJECT **Unmanned** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A young Air Force drone operator struggles to balance the stresses of going to war for the first time with the challenges of being a good father and husband, as he commutes each day between suburban family life and the war he fights by remote control.

BIO Peter W. Singer is considered one of the world's leading experts on modern war. He is the author of three award-winning nonfiction books, including the *New York Times* bestseller, *Wired for War*, the first book to cover the issues of robotics in war. In addition to working with the US military and FBI on these issues, Singer has consulted for a variety of fictional projects, including with Universal, Warner Brothers, NBC, HBO, and the Activision video game series *Call of Duty*. He has been named by CNN to their New Guard List of the Next Generation of Newsmakers; by the Smithsonian Institution-National Portrait Gallery as one of the 100 "leading innovators in the nation"; to "26 People to Save the World" by Turner Broadcasting; and to *Foreign Policy Magazine's* Top 100 Global Thinkers, a list of the people whose ideas most influenced the world.

LAURA D. SMITH

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
lauradsmith@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *And Then I Go* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE In the wilderness of junior high, Edwin Hanratty and his only friend, Flake, are at the bottom of the food chain. Branded together as misfits, they are demoralized daily and misunderstood by their parents and peers. As their fury quietly simmers and Edwin's anxiety begins to overwhelm him, Flake's unthinkable idea of bringing guns into their school as a form of vengeance offers them a spectacular and terrifying release.

BIO Laura D. Smith began her film career working in development and production under Academy Award nominated filmmaker Andrew Niccol at his banner Niccol Films. She then segued to Ghoulardi Film Company, where she worked with Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson and his producer JoAnne Sellar. Smith then went on to partner with producer Holly Wiersma, where she served as Associate Producer on the independent features *Happy Endings*, *Come Early Morning*, *Lonely Hearts*, *The Tenants* and *Factory Girl* and was Co-Producer on *The Year of Getting to Know Us* and *The Six Wives of Henry Lefay*.

After branching out on her own, Smith produced the critically-acclaimed feature *That Evening Sun*, written and directed by Scott Teems, which won the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature and Special Jury Prize for Best Ensemble Cast at its SXSW premiere. The film went on to garner over a dozen awards on the film festival circuit, two Film Independent Spirit Award nominations, and was released theatrically in 2009.

MINA T. SON

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
sonminat@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Top Spin* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE Facing steep odds, a group of tenacious American teenagers chase Olympic glory in table tennis – the greatest equalizer in sports, where regardless of size, age and gender, anyone can win.

BIO Mina T. Son is an award-winning Korean American filmmaker whose films have screened at film festivals and museums, including the National Gallery of Art, Margaret Mead, Traverse City, Mill Valley and Cinequest. Originally from Garden Grove, California, Son ventured into the world of filmmaking in 2006 with her first short documentary, *In My Home*, about her experience as a full-time caretaker for her mother. In 2007, she was awarded an Armed with a Camera Fellowship from Visual Communications, a premier Asian Pacific media arts center in the United States, and completed her second short documentary, *Past the Food*, about a Vietnamese American man's experience with compulsive binge eating. A two-time Student Academy Award Regional Finalist, Son is a recipient of the College Art Association's Professional-Development Fellowship in Visual Arts and a Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts Graduate Fellowship. Her other achievements include Best Short Documentary at the San Diego Asian Film Festival, the Loni Ding Award in Social Issue Documentary from the Center for Asian American Media and a CINE Golden Eagle. She is currently co-directing and producing *Top Spin*, her first feature-length documentary about table tennis prodigies in search of Olympic glory. She holds an M.F.A. in Documentary Film from Stanford University and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

JACKIE J. STONE

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
meridianpictures@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *mprint* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A teenage girl holds the cure for cancer in her DNA, and because of her genetic gift, her life is in danger as she is hunted by rogue government and black market agents.

BIO Jackie Stone is a writer/director and a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Stone's films have premiered and screened at Cannes Short Film Corner, Chicago International Film Festival, Tallahassee Film Festival, Sistahs is Doin It For Themselves Film Festival, S.E Manly Short Film Showcase, American Black Film Festival, Durango International Film Festival, HBO Networks, among others. Stone has won numerous honors and awards for her films including the Vague, Warner Brother's and Kodak Production Awards, grants from New York State Council of the Arts and the Jerome Foundation. Her scripts have also garnered attention and awards including semi-finalist for the Showtime Visions from Ground Zero Fund for *Kite*, a Jerome Foundation award winner, and she has been a finalist for both the Sundance Screenwriting Institute for *The Last Suicide* and the Nickelodeon Screenwriting for a television spec script. She was an AICP finalist for her spec commercial work. Stone is also the creator of two web-series, *Compersion* and *Camille*.

TRACY DROZ TRAGOS

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
td.tragos@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Rich Hill* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE *Rich Hill* intimately chronicles the turbulent lives of four impoverished boys living in a dying Midwestern town, witnessing their struggles up-close as they yearn to find self-worth and to imagine a brighter future.

BIO Tracy Droz Tragos produced and directed *Be Good, Smile Pretty* which aired on PBS's Independent Lens and won the 2004 EMMY for Best Documentary. This was a personal film about Tragos' search to know her father who was killed in Vietnam. With *Rich Hill*, Tragos returns to her father's hometown to explore the place she often visited as a child. While this new film takes a different approach, the feelings are similar: children knowing their place in the world, struggling to be a part of a family, however broken and scattered it may be, and to belong to a community, even if it is falling apart. Tragos started her career at DreamWorks, SKG as writer/producer in their interactive division. She has produced documentary series for E! Entertainment Television, has been a judge for The Humanitas Prize, and was a guest lecturer at USC on documentary filmmaking. She holds a BA in English from Northwestern University and an MFA in Cinema/Television from USC. *Rich Hill* marks Tragos' return to filmmaking after a hiatus for motherhood - and only the first, she hopes, of many collaborations with her cousin, Andrew Droz Palermo.

WU TSANG

DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Project Involve

CONTACT
wutsangstudio@gmail.com

BIO Wu Tsang is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker and artist who was named one of this year's "25 New Faces of Independent Film" by Filmmaker Magazine. His first feature *WILDNESS* won the Grand Jury Award for Outstanding Documentary at Outfest 2012 (MoMA Doc Fortnight, SXSW, Hot Docs, SANFIC8 Santiago). His artworks have been presented at the 2012 Whitney Biennial and New Museum Triennial in New York, the ICA Philadelphia, MOCA Los Angeles, and upcoming at the Gwangju (South Korea) and Liverpool (UK) Biennials. He received grants from Good Works, Frameline, Wexner Center for the Arts, IFP Labs, Art Matters, Tiffany Foundation and Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

ISOLD UGGADOTTIR

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
isoldugga@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT Icelandic Woman on the Verge (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Verging on homelessness following the economic collapse of 2008, Icelander Lara Hafdisardottir will go to extreme lengths to prove to her children that she is worthy of their trust, even if it means engaging in immoral and deceitful conduct.

BIO Isold Uggadottir is an Icelandic filmmaker based in New York City. Her directorial debut, *Family Reunion*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007 and subsequently traveled to over 100 film festivals, collecting multiple festival awards, as well as an Icelandic Academy Award nomination for Best Short Film. Following this, Uggadottir continued to enjoy success with her short films *Committed* and *Clean*, which were honored with the Icelandic Academy Award for Best Short Film (2010 and 2011). The films traveled to multiple festivals around the world, including the BFI London Film Fest, Aspen, Palm Springs, Hamptons and beyond. Uggadottir's fourth short film, *Revolution Reykjavik* received the honor of premiering at the distinguished festival New Directors/New Films 2012 (ND/NF) presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the MoMa. Most recently it was nominated for Best Short Film and Best lead Actress at the Icelandic Academy Awards 2012. It was also honored with the Adrienne Shelly Foundation Award for Best Female Director at Columbia University, from where Uggadottir earned her M.F.A. in directing and screenwriting in 2011. Her studies were supported with scholarships from New York Women in Film and Television, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and The American-Scandinavian Foundation. Her work has also been funded by NYSCA, the Icelandic Film Centre and Frameline. Uggadottir is an alumna of the Berlinale Talent Campus '08 and IFP/Emerging Narrative. Screen International named her "one of the rising stars of Icelandic film."

CLAUDIA UNGER

PRODUCER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Documentary Lab

CONTACT
claudiaunger@me.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Mary Woronov, Cult Queen from Warhol to Corman* (Documentary Feature)

LOGLINE The documentary explores the enigma of actress and artist, Mary Woronov and chronicles her colorful career spanning from her work with Andy Warhol to Roger Corman that sealed her reputation as a "Cult Queen."

BIO Claudia Unger is a commercial and fine art photographer. Her clients include: Mandalay Bay, Walker Zanger and Guess? In June of 2011, she produced and photographed eight episodes for the awareness campaign *Under One Sun*. The goal is to shine a light on the rapid decline of big cats living in the wild. The project is produced by Wandering Films partnered with National Geographic in collaboration with the music of Moby. Her untitled portrait of the woman farmer in Southern India was the winner of the "Turning Silver, Women In Photography" Award in 2006. For her fine art work, Unger lived with a Bedouin Tribe in the Sinai Desert of Egypt for three months. Thereafter, she completed a photo series on nomadic families and was awarded by Women in Photography International Organization for "Outstanding Achievements in Fine Art Photography." Her exhibition in Dusseldorf, "The Name of the Land," of twenty-seven prints, sold in its entirety. Born in Germany, Unger moved to California to study photography at Art Center College of Design. For two consecutive years, she was recognized by the internationally prestigious Lucie Awards. She is both the cinematographer and producer on the documentary feature film, *Mary Woronov, Cult Queen from Warhol to Corman*.

ALDO VELASCO

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Directing Lab

CONTACT
aldopolis@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT **God Loves Stu** (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE The incredible true story of Stu Rasmussen, who convinced his conservative hometown in Oregon to elect him as the first transgender mayor in history.

BIO Aldo Velasco is a filmmaker and playwright born in Guadalajara, Mexico. His short films have screened at the Sundance, SXSW, and Los Angeles Film Festivals, among others. In 2009, he received a grant from ITVS (Independent Television Service) to write and direct the short film *Tent City* for the first season of the online *Futurestates* series. Velasco is also an editor of feature films. Recently, he edited *Chittagong* the epic Indian historical drama directed by Bedabrata Pain. He also edited Grace Lee's political mock documentary *Janeane From Des Moines* which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. Velasco's play *The True History of Coca-Cola in Mexico* has been produced in several theatres around the country, including the San Diego Repertory Theatre, the Empty Space in Seattle, and most recently the GALA Hispanic Theater in Washington, D.C. His short film *INFITD* was selected by UCLA Professor Chon Noriega as one of the 100 Best Chicano Films of all time. Velasco has worked as a private investigator in Los Angeles. His investigation of the Mario Rocha case was featured in the film *Mario's Story*, which won the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the Los Angeles Film Festival in 2006.

MALIK VITTHAL

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Producing Lab

CONTACT
malik.vitthal@gmail.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Imperial Dreams* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE Two exceptional young black men from the Imperial Courts project in Watts find out the hard way that being an American dreamer doesn't make you heir to the American Dream.

BIO Malik Vitthal was born in Los Angeles and was immersed in Eastern philosophy at an early age while traveling the world with his mother. Vitthal was selected to represent the United States three times as a Delegate at the World Youth Conference for Peace in India. An alumnus of the USC School of Cinematic Arts and a Film Independent Project Involve Fellow, he has made six short films that have been screened at festivals worldwide. Vitthal co-wrote the screenplay *Imperial Dreams*, which was developed at the 2011 Sundance Institute Screenwriters Lab where it received the Time Warner Storytelling Grant and the Lynn Auerbach Screenwriting Fellowship. Vitthal also participated in the inaugural 2011-12 Jerusalem International Film Lab. *Imperial Dreams* will mark his feature directorial debut.

CHRIS ZAFIRSON

WRITER



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Screenwriting Lab

CONTACT
czafirson@yahoo.com

CURRENT PROJECT *Asphalt Symphony* (Narrative Feature)

LOGLINE A washed up basketball phenom-turned-recruiter catapults an undiscovered young prodigy from the streets of Detroit into the high stakes world of amateur basketball but then must fight to protect him from following in his tragic footsteps.

BIO Chris Zafirson is a screenwriter living in Los Angeles. Having spent his career as a business leader at a Fortune 500 company, Zafirson decided it was time to pursue his life long passion of screenwriting. In 2008, he completed his first full-length screenplay *L.A. Mourning* and has been writing ever since. In 2009, Zafirson partnered with Mahesh Pailoor to write *Asphalt Symphony*, which became a second round selection for the Austin Film Festival Screenwriting competition. In 2012, Zafirson graduated from UCLA's Professional Program in Screenwriting and is currently working to develop the projects he created at UCLA.

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