

# Meet the 2026 Participants



# DOV ELEVATE

**Diversity  
of Voices**

**NETFLIX** **BANFF**  
WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



# Meet the 2026 Participants



Originally launched in 2018, Diversity of Voices has helped to take down barriers at scale, providing 800 opportunities to Black, Indigenous and People of Colour Canadian producers and creatives. The program has played a vital role in supporting mainly emerging and early-career Canadian writers, directors and producers from racialized communities, helping to build a more inclusive and sustainable industry. As the program and its alumni have matured, BANFF and DOV partners identified a critical next gap: ensuring diverse producers and creators at established levels have the promotion, marketing and strategic access opportunities to advance their companies and projects on a national and global scale. For 2026, the program has now been reimagined as **Diversity of Voices: Elevate**, designed to deepen career momentum, prestige and industry visibility for participants.

As one of the world's leading media marketplaces, **BANFF** provides a unique platform for the industry to connect directly with domestic and international buyers, partners, and financiers, making it an ideal environment to scale careers and secure financing and partnerships for new projects.

## CONTACT US

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#### SUPPORTING PARTNERS



INDIGENOUS SCREEN OFFICE  
BUREAU DE L'ÉCRAN AUTOCHTONE



DSO  
Disability Screen Office  
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Office de la représentation des  
personnes handicapées à l'écran



## **Brishkay Ahmed**

**Digital Warriors  
Productions Inc.**

Brishkay Ahmed is an Afghan-Canadian writer, director, and producer who began her filmmaking career writing and directing episodic procedural dramas in Afghanistan. Today, her work spans both documentary and fiction. Her recent credits include the NFB feature *IN THE ROOM*, nominated for a 2026 WGC Screenwriter Award; *HAVE YOU HEARD JUDI SINGH* for the Knowledge Network; and *IN THE RUMBLING BELLY OF MOTHERLAND* (Women Make Movies), which earned Outstanding Feature and Producer honors at Reelworld and received a DGC Award nomination. Her CBC documentary *FATIMA IN KABUL* was nominated for both a Canadian Screen Award and a 2022 Banff Rockie Award, and was shortlisted for the 2022 IDA Awards. After successfully optioning her drama series *AFGHAN SMOKE*, Ahmed returns to Banff with a slate of projects in development, including new feature documentaries, a feature drama, and the scripted television series *STATE OF PLAY* (2025 Rogers BSO Script Development recipient) and *Tribunal*. Her work blends cultural insight with a cinematic approach to storytelling, driven by a commitment to amplifying diaspora voices and creating thought-provoking, meaningful narratives. Her current slate reflects nuanced experiences and connects audiences across borders while celebrating bold and provocative voices. Ahmed studied film production at NYU and is an alumna of the Canadian Film Centre, WIDC, and the NSI EAVE Producers Lab.

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**Jamie  
Bourque-Blyan**  
Infinity Studio 8 Ltd.

Jamie Bourque-Blyan is a Métis showrunner, writer, and executive producer from Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement (Treaty 6 Territory) and the founder of Infinity Studio 8 Ltd.

Working in the screen industry since 2009, Jamie has developed over fifteen drama, documentary, animation, and children's series projects with broadcasters and funders including APTN, the Indigenous Screen Office, Canada Media Fund, Alberta Media Fund, Bell Media, and Rogers. Their credits include the documentary series CHAOS & COURAGE, multiple scripted drama projects, and children's development initiatives such as BIBA BOTS.

Jamie served as Showrunner, Executive Producer, Host, and Director of APTN's first window broadcast licence feature film RE-KƏN- 'SI-LĒ- 'Ā-SHƏN, which is currently available on APTN, Air Canada in-flight entertainment, Amazon Prime Video, and First Nations Experience (FNX). They also served as Field Director on QUEEN OF THE OIL PATCH II (APTN/Amazon Prime) and RODEO NATION (APTN/APTN Lumi/Apple TV).

Jamie is currently in production on a new feature-length documentary, LINE, and developing the scripted drama series HALFE, set in 1960's Edmonton.

With over two decades of editing and story development experience, Jamie brings strong character-driven storytelling and series-building expertise across both factual and scripted formats. Through Infinity Studio 8 Ltd., they are focused on building Indigenous-led intellectual property for national and international audiences.

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## **Karen Chapman**

**Smallaxx Motion  
Pictures**

Karen Chapman's debut feature, *VILLAGE KEEPER* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2024 and won Best Feature at the Regent Park, Gemfest, Minnesota, Arizona and the Roxbury and Ridgefield Film Festivals. Chapman was nominated for The Canadian Media Producers Associations, Kevin Tierney Emerging Producer Award, and Best Directorial achievement from the Directors Guild of Canada. *VILLAGE KEEPER* was nominated for seven Canadian Screen Awards, including Best Picture and Original Screenplay and won the John Donning Award for Best First Feature Film.

She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Emily Carr University and is an alumna of the Norman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre's - Director's Lab, the Banff Centre for the Arts, Women in the Director's Chair, the TIFF Filmmakers Lab, Accelerator, Every Story Lab and the Micki Moore Residency program.

Chapman is also a recipient of The Reelworld Trailblazer Award and winner of the International Hollywood Foreign Press and Residency at the Golden Globe Awards. And she won the 2025 DOC Institute Breakthrough Development Award at the Hot Docs Film Festival.

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**Damon  
D'Oliveira**  
Conquering Lion  
Pictures

Damon D'Oliveira is a veteran Canadian producer with a career distinguished by his commitment to advancing EDIA in film and television. Over his 25 year career, Damon has championed the stories of racialized communities, LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, and other underrepresented groups.

As co-founder of Conquering Lion Pictures alongside Clement Virgo, and under his Flimshow banner as an Executive Producer, Damon has delivered critically acclaimed productions such as STEAL AWAY (TIFF 25), QUEEN OF MY DREAMS (TIFF 23), BROTHER (TIFF 22), WILDHOOD (2021), THE BOOK OF NEGROES, RUDE, and THE GRIZZLIES and earned accolades including NAACP Awards, US Critics Choice Awards, Peabody & GLAAD Awards nominations and over 25 Canadian Screen Awards. Damon and Clement received the Canadian Film Centre's Award for Creative Excellence from Norman Jewison in 2017. Damon also received the inaugural TIFF Amplify Voices Trailblazer Award in 2023 for his transformative contributions to Canadian cinema.

Damon is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, marking his influence not only in Canadian cinema but also on the international stage. As a Chair Emeritus of the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA) and a current board member of TIFF, Damon guides initiatives to fortify the independent production sector nationwide.

Damon is also a founding member of Canada's Black Screen Office, where he played a pivotal role in fostering opportunities for Black creatives in Canadian media.

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**Sean  
Devlin**

**Beb Bingo  
Entertainment**

A Filipino-Canadian filmmaker and Juno-nominated comedian. In 2025, Sean was named one of “The Most Influential Filipinos in the World” by The Inquirer. His second feature ASOG was an official selection of the Cannes Docs-in-progress, Tribeca, SXSW Sydney & BFI London. Praised by The New York Times because it “Defies all labels, irreverently mixing genres and tones to create something proudly original.” Time Magazine heralded the film as “A remarkable victory of society’s poorest over entrenched corporate interests... a black comedy, the film features residents of Sicogon Island, some 6,000 of whom were subjected to a poststorm land grab perpetrated by Ayala Land Inc. to build a luxury resort. Following Asog’s success on the festival circuit, Ayala eventually started listening to residents’ demands and paid \$7 million in reparations to 784 displaced families.” Ayala has blocked the film from being released in the Philippines, leading Rolling Stone to dub it “The Biggest Movie The Philippines Has Never Seen”. In 2025 ASOG was exhibited at Harvard’s Kennedy School and at the Brooklyn Museum. The film won the VIFF audience award, 10 international jury prizes for writing, directing and acting - as well as the 2026 SIMA Grand Jury Catalyst prize in recognition of its impact campaign. He was a Consulting Producer on the Oscar-nominated BORAT: SUBSEQUENT MOVIEFILM, winner of the Golden Globe for Best Picture (Comedy or Musical). Sean’s debut stand-up album AIRPORTS. ANIMALS was released by Arts & Crafts. His performances at JFL NW & Winnipeg Comedy Festival have been broadcast on CBC.

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**JP  
Larocque**  
JP Larocque  
Productions Inc.

JP Larocque is a Canadian screenwriter, producer, and journalist. They are best known for their work on the CBC and HBO Max series *SORT OF*, for which they were nominated for both a Peabody Award and Best Writing in a Comedy Series at the 11th Canadian Screen Awards in 2023.

Larocque is creator and executive producer of the web series *GAY NERDS*, which ran from 2012 to 2015 and was distributed by OutTV. They have since written or produced on *NORTH OF NORTH*, *SMALL ACHIEVABLE GOALS*, *SAINT-PIERRE*, *ALLEGIANCE*, *SKYMED*, *HOW TO FAIL AS A POPSTAR*, *DIGGSTOWN*, *CORONER*, *JANN*, *ANOTHER LIFE*, and *SLASHER*.

In 2022, they wrote and produced a Heritage Minute on pioneering transgender American soul and rhythm and blues singer Jackie Shane, and created and developed the *MURDOCH MYSTERIES* spin-off series *MACY MURDOCH* for CBC Gem with Jessica Meya.

In 2024, Larocque was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award as a co-executive producer of the Family Channel series *HOME SWEET ROME*. In 2025, they were nominated for both a Canadian Screen Award and a WGC Screenwriting Award for their work on the series *POPULARITY PAPERS* (alongside showrunner Vivian Lin).

The Globe and Mail has listed Larocque among “the 25 most influential people in Canadian television.”

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**Jessica  
MeYa**

**Gut Punch  
Productions Inc.**

Jessica Tatum Meya (she/her) is a Toronto-based award-winning comedy-drama writer and producer. She's written on CTV and New Metric Media series CHILDREN RUIN EVERYTHING, for which she was nominated for the 2024 WGC Screenwriting Awards and Best Writing, Comedy Series for the 2023 Canadian Screen Awards with Kurt Smeaton. Additional credits include SKYMED, BRIA MACK GETS A LIFE, and SMALL ACHIEVABLE GOALS. Jessica's work explores various themes such as adulting while Black and female, eldest daughter problems, complicated immigrant family dynamics, counter cultures, complex adult friendships/buddy comedies, and the arduous pull between personal desires and community responsibility with tons of jokes and emotional heft. She's an alumna of the CFC Bell Media Prime Time TV Program (2019), the Warner Media & Canadian Academy Writers program (2021), and she's a participant for 2026 Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices: Elevate program.

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**Kaveh  
Mohebbi**

**d'scribe  
Pictures Inc.**

Kaveh Mohebbi is an Iranian-Canadian screenwriter and Co-Executive Producer on Crave's original comedy LATE BLOOMER. His recent television writing credits include Amazon's THE LAKE (Seasons 1 and 2), Nickelodeon's animated series HAMSTERS OF HAMSTERDALE, OVERLORD AND THE UNDERWOODS, CBC Gem's COMMUNIST DAUGHTER, and THIS HOUR HAS 22 MINUTES.

A graduate of the London Film School's MA Screenwriting program, Kaveh continued his comedy training through the Second City Writing Program, where he wrote and produced the mainstage revue APOCALYPSE NOW, DESERT LATER. In 2013, he joined the CFC Writers Lab, leading to collaborations on several short films including STILL (Official TIFF Selection) and LIFE ON JUNIPER (Official Austin Film Festival Selection).

Kaveh has developed original comedies and detective procedurals with Amazon Studios, Lionsgate, E1, New Metric Media, Cameron Pictures, Blue Ant, and Pier 21. He also wrote and directed the award-winning short film THE LAST KING, the world's only Persian-language adaptation of a Stephen King property.

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## **Arnold Pinnock**

**Actor/  
Writer/  
Producer**

Arnold Pinnock is a British-born Canadian actor, writer, and producer, best known as the co-creator and co-executive producer of the award-winning drama *THE PORTER*. A screen veteran of thirty years (*Altered Carbon*, *Cold Pursuit*), his recent work includes CBC's *PLAN B* and Clement Virgo's *STEAL AWAY*, along with a role in the upcoming Paramount+ series *HATE THE PLAYER: THE BEN JOHNSON STORY*. Deeply influenced by his Jamaican heritage, Pinnock remains dedicated to bringing rich, multifaceted narratives to the global stage.

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**Ann  
Shin**

**Fathom Film  
Group**

Ann is an award-winning executive producer and founder of Fathom Film Group, a production company known for bold truth-driven storytelling that has produced critically acclaimed hit shows. A versatile creator with a distinct voice, Ann's signature blend of high stakes storytelling and emotional depth earned her Emmy nominations and an Oscar shortlist. Her feature MY ENEMY, MY BROTHER was shortlisted for an Academy Award, nominated for an Emmy nomination, and won the Grand Jury Prize at SDAIFF. As a Series Producer, Ann has delivered premium unscripted series including STAY TOONED (CBC), KPOP EVOLUTION (YouTube Originals), SAVE US FROM OUR HOUSE (HGTV), among others.

She has collaborated with Amazon, AMC, Bell Media, CBC, Discovery, History, TVO, ARTE, Knowledge, and Canal D. Currently, Ann is producing a three-part true crime series for Amazon along with feature documentaries for CBC, ARTE and TVO. She also has two unscripted and three scripted series in development.

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