

## CATALYST STORY INSTITUTE

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DULUTH, MN



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## Welcome

Philip Gilpin, Jr. CEO/Executive Director Catalyst Story Institute



### Welcome to The Zenith City for Catalyst's annual Content Festival!

Our long-term mission has always been to build a strong creative community that discovers new voices, curates their work, and advances their career by lowering the barriers between storytellers, audiences, and the industry. With strong support from WDSE-WRPT here in Duluth, the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, the Korea Foundation, the Upper Midwest Film Office, as well as our local partners and sponsors, we can achieve that goal.

#### WHY WE'RE DIFFERENT

Building a career in our industry requires hard work and a strong professional network. Production life is intense and trust is paramount, so creators and executives tend to work with people they already know. This is why our organization focuses so heavily on creating environments where people can develop genuine friendships and lasting partnerships.

Most content festivals in the country focus on independently produced films. At Catalyst, no films are allowed. Our content is narrative (aka, TV). This means creators aren't showing finished products - they're sharing future ideas.

Duluth's stunning environment allows creators and executives to escape the busy city lights, relax, and develop working relationships focused around storytelling in a creative, inspirational setting. Duluth helps us retain the relaxed, smalltown atmosphere that Catalyst is known for while adding the vital support of state, regional, and local organizations to aid our mission of supporting narrative artists. Our home on the shores of Lake Superior has key infrastructure elements such as an airport, a number of centralized venues, hotels, restaurants, and a vibrant arts scene including ballet, orchestra, and multiple theatres.

The warm, heartfelt welcome and direct community support of the arts community here provides a powerful foundation on which we can build all the components of our organization's future as we reach out to more content creators around the globe.

#### HOW WE'RE EXPANDING

The need for our expansion comes from a recent fundamental shift in the TV landscape: The quantity of high-quality, micro-budget narrative content being created independently of the Hollywood system is now strong enough to draw viewers away from traditional television programming. Audiences want to see more of these narrative shows that indie creators are producing.

This is similar to the shift that happened in the 1980s with independent film. Back then, the industry embraced this new model of filmmaking and a treasure trove of modern classics were created, launching countless careers. Because of that support, independent filmmaking has been around for decades with a robust circuit of thousands of indie film festivals, educational development courses, and professional institutions.

In comparison, high-quality independent narrative television programming is relatively new with very few career pathways for storytellers. Through our collaborations with the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the Korea Foundation, and the Innovation Station at the US State Department, Catalyst is expanding both in the US and internationally to solve that problem.

#### WELCOME TO STORIEROAD

Storieroad is Catalyst's educational and professional development program for narrative artists that guides content creators through the steps of developing their show, giving them the tools they need to advance their career.

Our program begins with a one-onone meeeting to learn where each
storyteller is from, why they are
telling the stories they're telling,
and where they are in their career
path. From there, our seminars and
development labs focus on helping
the artist take the raw story idea out
of their head and formulate it into a
presentation ready to pitch. Next is
the most important part, networking
with other creators and industry
professionals.

Whether it's at a virtual seminar, a live panel event, or the festival, building relationships is the key to long-term success in the television industry.
Selling a show isn't about selling fictional characters and plot points - it's about building a storyworld, and finding a team to create it.

#### LET'S MAKE STUFF

The goal of every storyteller is to make a living telling stories that change the world. Yet, it's difficult for many creators to afford to live and work in the major cities where most of the production jobs are.

To this end, we work with organizations such as UMFO (the Upper Midwest Film Office) to create year-round production opportunities for creators in places like Duluth where they can enjoy a high quality of life while working on their stories. Letting creators be creators benefits everyone in the long run — including the industry and viewers.

This long-term economic development approach requires a strong state, regional, and local municipal effort — work that is supported by St Louis County with their production tax rebate, and the State of Minnesota with their newly created tax credit. The Minnesota production industry is a sleeping giant waiting to awaken.

The industry has already embraced LA in the West, NYC in the East, and Atlanta in the South. Let's make Minnesota its North Star.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR DULUTH SPONSORS!















































# CATALYST BINGO!

DISCOVER. ENJOY. EXPLORE.

TOUCH THE LIFT BRIDGE	VIEW A LIVE TABLE READ	MEET SOMEONE FROM MN	WATCH A DRAMA SERIES	LISTEN TO A LIVE PANEL
MEET SOMEONE FROM SOUTH KOREA	WATCH A REALITY SERIES	WALK TO THE LIGHTHOUSE IN CANAL PARK	MEET THE UMFO TEAM	EAT AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT
TAKE A PHOTO WITH NEW FRIENDS	TOUCH LAKE SUPERIOR	WELCOME TO DULUTH!	WATCH A DOCU SERIES	ATTEND AN EVENING SOCIAL EVENT
VISIT THE KITCHI GAMMI CLUB	ATTEND SPAMALOT AT THE NORSHOR	WATCH A COMEDY SERIES	BUY SOME CATALYST SWAG	VISIT ENGER TOWER
BUY A STRANGER A DRINK	VISIT THE DULUTH TRAIN DEPOT	POST A DULUTH PHOTO ON YOUR SOCIALS	MEET SOMEONE FROM CA OR NY	FIND SOME LOCAL STREET ART

GOOD VIBES & BONUS POINTS: POST YOURSELF DOING ANY OF THESE ON INSTAGRAM OR TWITTER WITH #CATALYSTORIES & OUR SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM WILL PICK THEIR FAVORITE TO WIN A FUN PRIZE AT THE AWARDS GALA!



# INSPIRATION, IMAGINATION, & INNOVATION

Creativity at UMD is boundless.

Theatre and film programs include digital design, graphic design, animation, photography, videography, screenwriting and more.

# **UMD**

University of Minnesota Duluth

Driven to Discover

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Volunteer
Coordinator, Catalyst
Duluth, MN



CHRISTIAN SOUZA Social Media Manager, Reth Digital Modesto, CA



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ROSEMOND PURDUE Breakthrough Now Media Los Angeles, CA



ELAINE KIM Breakthrough Now Media Los Angeles, CA



CATHERINE CAMPION Script Coordinator Minneapolis, MN

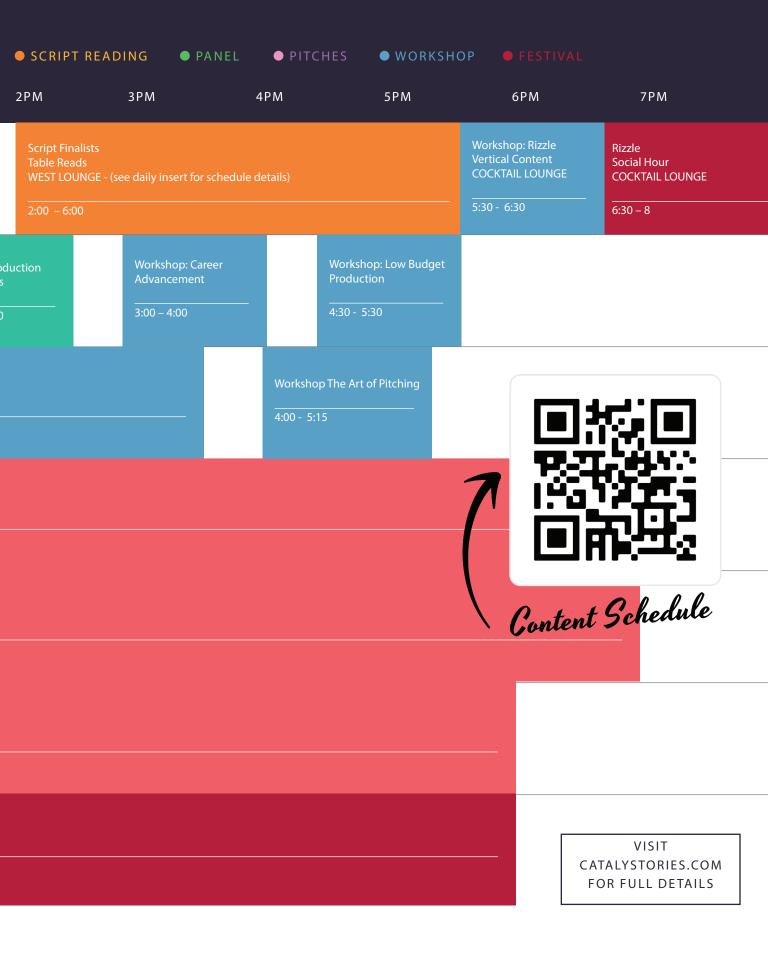


KELLY LAMPHEAR-DASH Script Coordinator Minneapolis, MN

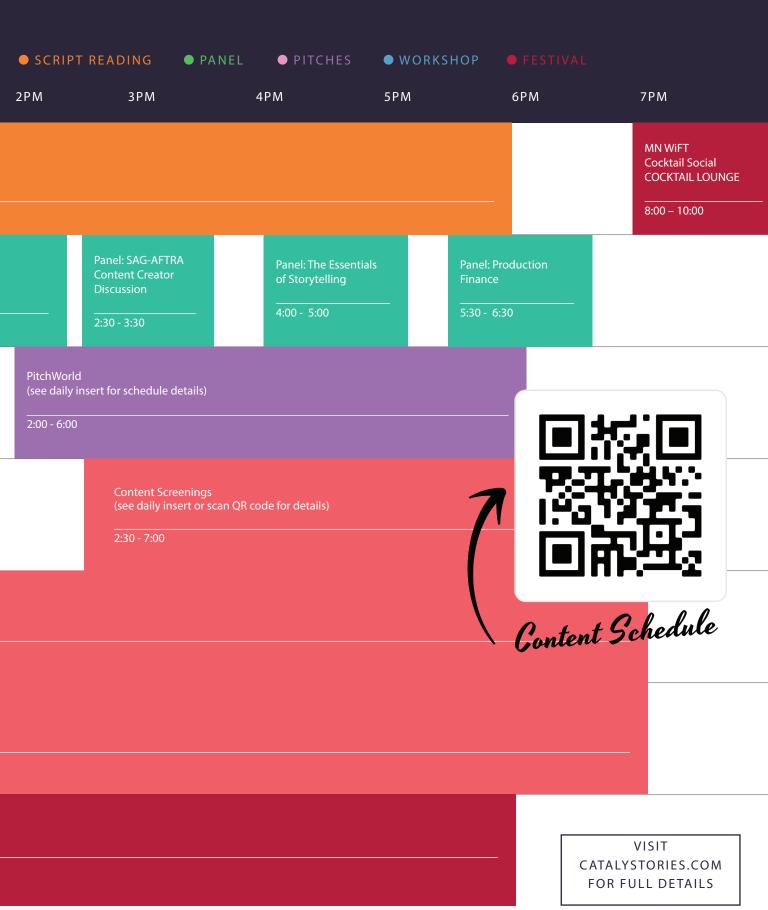
	9AM	10AM	11AM	NOON	1PM
KITCHI GAMMI LOUNGES					
KITCHI GAMMI GREAT HALL					
ZEITGEIST TEATRO				Script to Scree (separate pass ———————————————————————————————————	n Workshop )
SPIRIT OF THE NORTH			Content Screer (see daily inser ————————————————————————————————————	nings 't or scan QR code for de	tails)
ZEITGEIST ZINEMA 1			(se	ontent Screenings ee daily insert or scan QR :30 - 6:15	code for details)
ZEITGEIST ZINEMA 2			Content Screer (see daily inser 11:00 - 6:15	nings 't or scan QR code for de	tails)
INDUSTRY LOUNGE	Brought to you by: Upp 	per Midwest Film Office &	MNFilmTV		



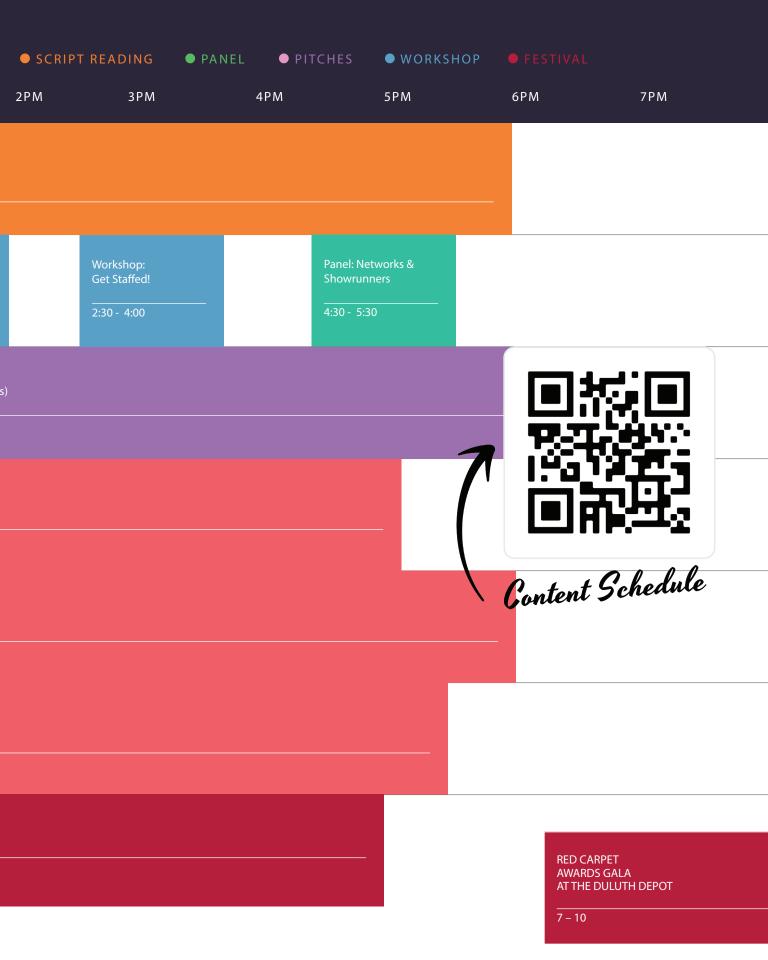
	9AM	10AM	11AM	NOON	1PM
KITCHI GAMMI LOUNGES					
KITCHI GAMMI GREAT HALL				Panel: Social Media Storytelling 	Panel: Pro Incentive - 1:30 - 2:30
ZEITGEIST TEATRO		Script to Screen Works (separate pass) 10:00am - 3:30pm	hop		
SPIRIT OF THE NORTH			(	Content Screenings see daily insert or scan QR 11:30 - 6:30	code for details)
ZEITGEIST ZINEMA 1			(	Content Screenings (see daily insert or scan QR 11:30 - 7:00	code for details)
ZEITGEIST ZINEMA 2			Content Scree (see daily inser 	nings rt or scan QR code for deta	ils)
INDUSTRY LOUNGE	Brought to you by: Upp 9:00 – 6:00	per Midwest Film Office &	MNFilmTV		



	9AM	10AM	11AM	NOON	1PM	
KITCHI GAMMI			Script Finalists Table Reads WEST LOUNGE - (see	daily insert	: for schedule details)	
LOUNGES			11:00 – 6:00			
KITCHI GAMMI GREAT HALL					Panel: National Academy of TV Arts & Sciences 12:30 - 1:30	Korea Content Showcase 1:30 - 2:30
ZEITGEIST TEATRO		SAG-AFTRA: Acting Tools for Your Ca  10:00 - Noon	areer	_		
SPIRIT OF THE NORTH						
ZEITGEIST ZINEMA 1			Content Screer (see daily inser 11:00 - 7:00	nings t or scan QF	R code for details)	
ZEITGEIST ZINEMA 2			Content Screer (see daily inser	nings t or scan QF	R code for details)	
INDUSTRY LOUNGE		oer Midwest Film Office & I	MNFilmTV			
	9:00 – 6:00					



	9AM	10AM	11AM	NOON	1PM
KITCHI GAMMI LOUNGES			Script Finali Table Reads WEST LOUN 	: IGE - (see daily insert for	schedule details)
KITCHI GAMMI GREAT HALL				Panel: Casting for Producers 11:30 - 12:30	Workshop: Agency & Representation  1:00 - 2:00
ZEITGEIST TEATRO		SAG-AFTRA: Upping your Game, Sel 	f-Tape Essentia	ls 	PitchWorld (see daily insert for schedule detail 
SPIRIT OF THE NORTH			Conte (see da 11:00	nt Screenings aily insert or scan QR co - - 5:00	de for details)
ZEITGEIST ZINEMA 1			Conte (see da 	nt Screenings aily insert or scan QR cod -6:00	de for details)
ZEITGEIST ZINEMA 2			Conte (see da	nt Screenings aily insert or scan QR cod - 5:30	de for details)
INDUSTRY LOUNGE	Brought to you by: Upp 	oer Midwest Film Office & I	MNFilmTV (loca	ated at the Kitchi Gammi	Club Cocktail Lounge)



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css.edu



# Panels, Workshops & Presentations

#### **WORKSHOPS**

SCRIPT-TO-SCREEN (requires separate pass) Zeitgeist Teatro Wed, Noon-5pm & Thurs, 10am-3pm

PITCH CLASS WITH
CARLO GONZALES-MOSS
Zeitgeist Teatro
Thurs, 4:00-5:15pm

CAREER ADVANCEMENT WITH CIRINA CATANIA Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Thurs, 3:00-4:00pm

LOW BUDGET PRODUCTION WITH KRIS LEFCOE Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Thurs, 4:30-5:30pm

THE FUTURE IS VERTICAL
WITH RIZZLE STUDIOS
Kitchi Gammi Club, Cocktail Lounge
Thurs, 5:30-7:00pm

UPPING YOUR GAME: ACTOR TOOLS NEEDED FOR A MORE COMPETITIVE MARKET, WITH SAG-AFTRA Zeitgeist, Teatro Fri, 10am-Noon UPPING YOUR GAME: SELF-TAPE
ESSENTIALS, VIRTUAL AUDITIONS,
AND ON-CAMERA AUDITION SKILLS,
WITH SAG-AFTRA
Zeitgeist, Teatro
Sat, 10am-Noon

CASTING... FOR PRODUCERS Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Sat, 11:30am-12:30pm

AGENCY & REPRESENTATION Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Sat, 1:00-2:00pm

GET STAFFED! Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Sat, 2:30-4:00pm

#### **PANELS**

WELCOME TO CATALYST! Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Wed, 5:30pm

PRODUCTION INCENTIVES Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Thurs, Noon-1:00pm

SOCIAL MEDIA STORYTELLING Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Thurs, 3:00-4:00pm NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Fri, 12:30-2:00pm

SAG-AFTRA & Content Creators Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Fri, 2:30-3:30pm

THE ESSENTIALS OF STORYTELLING Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Fri, 4:00-5:00pm

PRODUCTION FINANCE Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Fri, 5:30-6:30pm

NETWORKS & SHOWRUNNERS Kitchi Gammi Club, Great Hall Sat, 4:30-6:00pm



# Stories & Shows

All content may not be appropriate for children under 18. Please note: Some stories deal with sensitive and difficult subject matters that can cause emotional reactions or distress.



#### **DOCUMENTARY**

## ANTHONY CRAWFORD: THE MAN THE SOUTH FORGOT

A Young African American Woman journeys to her ancestors' South Carolina hometown to find out what tragically happened to her great-great grandfather Anthony Crawford.

#### DEAR BROWN PEOPLE

Dear Brown People debates the need for and practices of the "racial courts", so-called "verification boards", in Brazil, whose purpose is to verify the color, race, and ethnicity of candidates who are applying for affirmative action and, in particular, the systematic discrimination against mixed-race people in this process.

#### FRESHWATER

Freshwater is a documentary that dives into the cold waters of Lake

Superior along Minnesota's North Shore. Despite the fact that it contains ten percent of Earth's freshwater, this massive force of nature remains largely unexplored.

#### MARCELLUS HALL: AN ARTISTS IN NEW YORK

Marcellus Hall is a NYC-based illustrator. His work has appeared in The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, and Time, as well as in American Illustration, the Society of Illustrators, and Communication Arts annuals. His first cover for The New Yorker was published in 2005. He has self-published books of drawings and writings, including Hard Luck Stories and Legends of the Infinite City.

#### NOT THE SCIENCE TYPE: CIARA

Dr. Ciara Sivels is a nuclear engineer with Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, and the first black woman to earn a Ph. D from the University of Michigan in nuclear engineering. The series, Not the Science Type, follows four female scientists as they rise to prominence in fields including microbiology and nuclear engineering, challenging stereotypes and confronting gender, racial and age discrimination along the way.

#### ONE YEAR DARK

One Year Dark explores the effect of the potential mass extinction independent music venues are facing, and their fight to keep the historic stages we know and love - as told through interviews by venue owners, long-time staff, superfans, local politicians, and the legendary musicians who helped shape the history of these venues - focusing on the ecosystem that venues support, how they exist as an important place to build community, and how they are a massive contributor to a local economy.cians, and the legendary musicianped

#### PAINTING STARS

In each chapter, meet a boy or a girl who live in different contexts but have something in common: Their center of life is art, which has become for them a beach where they can pour out their emotions, express themselves and create. Like stars, they lend their brightness to illuminate others.

#### **SWATCHED**

Swatched is a docu-series that challenges every stereotype that comes to mind when you hear the words, "knit and crochet." Examining knitting and crocheting through both a personal and a creative lens, Swatched will explore the intersection of identity and artistic process. The series will transcend the traditional how-to-content that is aimed at a knitting audience, showcasing the origin stories of the patterns and materials knitters and crocheters crave while giving viewers a deeper understanding of the craft.

#### WE DEMAND

We Demand is a powerful and intimate look at the city of Rockford's struggle to address issues of police brutality and systemic racism during the summer and fall of 2020.

#### WILD LANDS, WILD HORSES

"Wild Lands Wild Horses" is an exploratory docu-series traveling across 12 states within 150M+ acres of public lands. Wild Horse advocates and photographers, Jamie Baldanza & Deb Lee Carson, transports us through America's western landscape bringing national awareness to the majestic yet politically complicated lives of America's Wild Horse.

#### REALITY

#### BEER FRONTIER

Beer Frontier is a craft beer destination show. Join us as we explore the fun and tasty world of handmade craft beer!

#### FILM TRIP

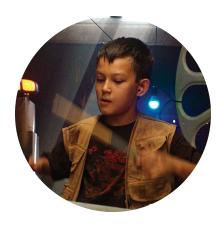
Devoted film-fans pack-in their sedentary ways and travel to the dramatic destinations where their favorite movies took place. This entertaining travel series follows our knowledgeable movie buffs as they explore the film industry's infinite backlot - the world we live in. From Forrest Gump's Savannah, to Rocky's Philadelphia: lowa's Field of Dreams to the Ohio State Reformatory (site of Shawshank Redemption).

## HOW TO: MAKE A ROOT BEER FLOAT FROM SCRATCH

To see how difficult it would be to make a root beer float from scratch, Andy George sets out to collect all the raw ingredients and learn the techniques needed to accomplish his mission.

#### **SWISH**

Swish is a reality show that serves as a vehicle to take the audience into the streets and to give an intimate look into a city's urban culture. In nearly every major metropolitan area in the world, people can be found playing basketball in public courts. At closer examination, these pickup basketball games serve as a great equalizer: a place where people from every socio-economic background come together to play something that is more than a game.



#### DRAMA

#### A HANDFUL OF RUST

A Handful of Rust is a volatile coming of age story about redefining life after death, salvaging beauty from decay, and collaborative music-making as a vessel for perseverance through the continuous onslaught of harsh realities. Simone and her savant brother, Garrett - coping together after their father's sudden death - hole up in their junkyard studio and make some new music with their instruments made from old salvage. Their mother interrupts with unexpected news that she's sending Garrett away to a special school. But that's not gonna fly with Simone, and a battle of wills explodes: run away from the fallout of death or salvage what you can from it to create something badass

#### **ADJUNTO**

and beautiful.

A struggling artist in Chicago battles becoming a junkie again as a hurricane strikes his native Puerto Rico, while a new job forces him to overcome his public speaking fears.

#### BLUE CUP CAFE

The Blue Cup Cafe is a dramedy series that tells sweet and ordinary stories through the eyes of Aurora, the Waitress. Tales that even end with notso-happy endings, they end up in happiness. All people that, at some point, went to the Blue Cup, and intrigued Aurora's mind, just enough for her to create an entire world without even passing through the exit door (Otherwise if they left, it wouldn't be a Blue Cup tale).

#### CANCELLED

It's not every day a global pandemic hits forcing you to cancel your wedding and head into immediate lockdown with your fiancé ... and his mum.

#### CHLOE AND THE...

Chloe is a dramedy following a group of young(ish) Mounties through the highs, lows, and laughs of their daily lives. It's time we face some ugly and hilarious truths about ourselves from our incessant need to stay in the flow of our social norms. The series follows the tangled web of friendships and lost love with a diverse cast fighting against ageism, the truth behind the picket white fence, surprise pregnancies, and the challenges of running against the grain in a society full of expectations for both genders, races, and age.

#### C.O.P

In the near future, the alternative energy called "apolinium" has taken over the world. It is used everywhere as a more expensive material than gold, from medicines, high-tech materials, to the energy industry and drugs.

#### CIRCUS PERSON

Ava (Britt Lower) is a square. When her fiancé admits to loving the free spirited Luna, Ava joins a local circus in an act of wild abandon. But Ava's heartache isn't easily ignored, and feeds her fear that she's not cut out for being "wild too". Wrestling with envy, Ava tests out a letter addressed to 'the other woman.' In a surprise moment of reckoning under the full moon, Ava discovers her own wildness. Live action and animated body-paint interweave in this ode to healing through radical love.

#### COMPLETE BULL

A marketing executive who reluctantly joined her father's bull-semen business seeks a way back to the city, but both she and her rural hometown face an unexpected upheaval after the arrival of hundreds of relocated immigrants from the nation's water-deprived coastal cities.

#### **CRESCENDO**

An outwardly ambitious and charismatic opera singer fights to maintain her stature while silently struggling with an eating disorder and a trauma inflicted by her grad school peer, until her destructive behaviors threaten to dismantle her budding singing career.

#### DISTEMPER

'Distemper' tells the true story of pioneering scientist and LGBT icon Louise Pearce who races to find a cure for the African Sleeping Sickness pandemic as it rages across the Belgian Congo in the early 1920s.



#### F.A.M.



A father fights to maintain a tangled web of relationships between three women; his sexy wife, his hellcat ex, and bi-curious teen daughter.

#### **HUDSON FALLS**

The secrets of a small upstate town that revolve around an eccentric scientist (William Sadler) begin to unravel when a private eye from the city (Richard Kind) takes on a seemingly mundane job in an effort to rekindle a relationship with his ex wife (Jessica Hecht).

#### I AM YOU

While going through her DMs, popular social media influencer Acacia Reynolds (Suzanne Lenz) is contacted by an uncanny AI replica of herself with a warning that she is in danger and how she must save herself. Initially thinking she is being trolled, she soon finds herself in a frightening battle for her life with her own technology as every move and click she makes becomes more data to feed her highly advanced "digital twin" in this thriller from Writers Guild Award Winner, Daryn Strauss.

## IT'S WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE WANTED

Maggie welcomes four of her oldest friends back home after the unexpected death of one of their own. She convinces them to fulfill a childhood pact - destroy all evidence of their friend's most embarrassing secrets. Their plan proves less than fool proof when long-buried resentments begin to rise, and the group realizes Maggie is dealing with more than the loss of a friend.



#### LA RUTA

How far would you go for a better life? Lucia crosses the Suchiate river with her daughter Carmen into Mexico, heading for the U.S. border. While traveling, she meets Matias, an off-handed father, making the trek with his son, Nicolas. They will work together through challenges, and endure the rising tides of hopelessness, to make it safely to the border, but when the harsh realities of La Ruta De La Muerte (The Route of Death) push them to a breaking point, their survival instincts kick in, forcing them to make unimaginable choices. Together, they

will sacrifice everything they hold close to their hearts, in order to reach the United States.

#### LIZARD BRAIN

Jon's struggle with his mental health is illuminated in his relationships with women. A short dramedy about the everyday impacts of toxic masculinity and men's unchecked mental health.

#### MAKE ME THE TENNESSEE

In 1983, when the vengeful Kathy Morris attempts to poison the Tennessee cop who aided in the death of her closest friend, she gets cold feet. After all, the cop is her husband.

#### **OH MY STARS**

OH MY STARS is a drama set in the days of the Great Depression. A disfiguring factory accident and a miserable home life compel a young woman to leave Kentucky for San Francisco. Her plan: to be the second suicide off the Golden Gate Bridge. Now in her senior years, she reflects on her rescue by two musicians — one white and one black — whose invitation into their rollicking, anything's possible world she accepted, giving her a life vivid with song, love, and the occasional miracle. Screenplay by renowned author Lorna Landvik, based on her novel of the same name.

#### **PROGENY**

When a blue-collar man is forcibly implanted with his alien boss's parasitic offspring, he asks his wife to help him remove the parasite -- a dangerous and forbidden act that puts their marriage -- and their lives -- at risk.

#### SIDESTEP

A woman finds herself torn between the bustle of her New York City life and the quaint dance floors of her home in Texas.



#### STORMCHASER



All Bonnie Blue ever wanted was to chase tornadoes with her Dad. But dreams die with time. Now, she's become a different kind of storm chaser — hawking roofing, siding and storm doors "door-to-door" for her charismatic boss, Flip Smyth: a cult-like father figure to Bonnie and his tribe of young sales bucks. As she realizes Flip's doctrine of "Flip the Switch!" is just a way to exploit customers, a different kind of switch flips inside Bonnie — unleashing an inner and outer storm of violence.

#### STORY OF YOU

When Jayne, a pregnant kindergarten teacher in the middle of an affair discovers the man who raised her isn't actually her father, the story of her life begins to quickly unravel.

#### SUNSET COWBOYS

Two Hollywood stunt men, Cid Mooney and Cal Walker, get roped into selling drugs for the owner of the ranch. Someone has spiked their product and killed multiple clients.

On a mission to support their families and to protect their livelihood, Cid and Cal are inexorable in uncovering who would disrupt their distribution and taint their brand.

#### THE COME UP

An inspiring limited series following three Chicago high schoolers who use slam poetry to navigate the outcomes of a tragic event.



#### THE COMPLEX

An undercover cop is assigned the mission of taking down a mysterious drug lord. As he discovers the intricate connections between law enforcement and organized crime, his worldview is radically shaken.

#### THE MORHPABLE MAN

How many times have you been transformed by love?

#### THE SQUARE ROOT

The Square Root is a short form episodic series that explores memory and the small moments that make us who we are. Each chapter focuses on a different character, and each episode takes place during that split second before a character makes the decision that will change their lives forever. The end result is a fast paced ride through hyper-stylized, surreal visuals as we move in and out of reality, glimpsing the thoughts and memories that race through each character's mind.

#### **UN.BIND**

When Jacinth's best friend/roommate Romero suddenly dies, Jacinth delves into a state of deep grief and refuses to accept the outcome. In doing so, he carries on with their normal morning routine of hot scrambled eggs with the intent to cojole Romero to visit and have eggs. Every morning for an entire month, Jacinth sets a plate for himself and Romero at the kitchen table. Then, one morning Romero visits to eat eggs and to deliver a most important message.

#### VAI

VAL mixes live-action and animation to tell the story of a New York artist and her tween daughter as they face hard financial realities. Using narrative story telling and diary like monologues VAL explores themes such as identity, financial security, and sexuality with

unsparing honesty while maintaining a vibrant sense of fun. Val is on a metaphorical motorcycle ride on her way, hopefully, to making her mark in (art)history.



#### COMEDY

#### A SINGLE MOMENT

Using real audio excerpted from feminist dating podcast #single, A SINGLE MOMENT animates real life dating stories to showcase how truly ridiculous dating can be.

#### **ALIENS**

Aliens is an animated series about anxious extraterrestrials.

#### AVOCADO TOAST

Avocado Toast is an intergenerational sex comedy exploring the comforts and awkwardness of sex from age 25 to 69. When it comes to millennials and baby boomers, these nuts haven't fallen so far from the family tree.

#### **BREAKDOWNS**

Breakdowns is a mockumentary style digital series about Patty Lee Casting, a Minneapolis-based film and commercial casting office that pines for the good old days when the local film industry was booming.

## CHRONICLES OF A BLEEP YEAR OLD WOMAN

The Bleep Year Old Woman is not at all ashamed of her age but every time she says it, it gets censored. She is child-less, marriage-less, pursuing her dreams in an industry built for 20-year-olds and brazen enough to be happy about it. Season 1 covers everything female from Botox to mammograms. Through the Bleep Year Old's delightfully delusional perspective, we

challenge societal norms and worldview concepts regarding age and female identity.

#### COUP!

COUP! is a web series about a CIA analyst who plunges her life and career into chaos when she saves her brother, a recently deposed dictator, from an assassination attempt and lets him crash on her couch. COUP! is a comedy that celebrates American exceptionalism in action. After all, America only wants what's best for the world, and we won't stop until every country gets to share in our first world problems.



#### **COUPLES THERAPY**

Couples Therapy is an upbeat, provocative dramedy about Natalia, a couples therapist who treats neurotic New York couples while her own marriage is falling apart and she seems unable to follow her own advice and save her marriage. When her husband's behavior pushes her over the edge, Natalia goes down a self-destructive spiral, crossing boundaries that could jeopardize her career and blow up her entire life.



## DARRYL. AN OUTWARD BOUND STORY

Darryl Walker is a lost soul with a handlebar moustache. An aspiring long distance runner, he recently collapsed during his latest marathon. A YouTube video of his efforts went viral and now Darryl's an internet sensation for all the wrong reasons. Ever since that fateful day, he has surrounded himself with self-help rhetoric to help return his mindset back to it's winning self. Unfortunately, the results have been less than effective. In a desperate bid to 'sharpen the saw', Darryl has enrolled in an 8 day Outward Bound course to help him acquire the necessary mindset to silence the demonic voice in his head and finish a marathon.

#### **DENISE & RAYMONDE**

Denise is bored in her marriage, while Raymonde is single and desperate to find a husband. The two friends meet once a week to share their romantic setbacks with more or less judicious advice over a glass of wine and shots of tequila. A series that will comfort women and surprise men.

#### **FANTASY PONY**

Danielle, Olivia, and Emma have waited all year for the Calypso Township Model Horse Show. Each girl hopes they have the best horse, but the competition gets turned up when they realize Rachel Ticker is competing again. Will their friendship survive the competition? Who will take home the 1st place prize of the Best Rare and Collectible Horse?



#### FOLLOWING HANNAH STONE

Brooke Jensen is in the eye of a quarter-life crisis hurricane, which stems from the bullying she endured in high school. When her prime teen tormentor, Hannah Stone, suddenly deleted her socials, Brooke spirals out, and begins an instragram-fueled stalking spree, hunting down various bullies from her past until she finds the ultimate one. What will she do when she sees Hannah after almost a decade? She has no clue -- she just knows she needs to do it.

#### **FULLY FORMED ADULTS**

A series of awkward interactions between Gen X and Gen Z

#### GIRL NIGHT STAND: CHAPTER TWO

A follow up to the viral short Girl Night Stand (17+ million views). A woman craving connection during Covid, reaches out to her ex-girlfriend. When she's invited over, they awkwardly navigate whether or not they're willing to drop their masks to reignite the romance.

#### **GIRL STUFF**

The power and hilarity of female friendship is put to the test when a woman-a-woman battle over who will face their fears first commences. Keep an eye out for the... twist.

## GOOD HELP IS SO HARD TO FIND

"Good Help" is a serialized short form series that follows a millennial couple in a constant state of simmering crisis as they fail to find an adequate couples therapist.

#### HOW DO YOU JEW?

Life is tough for Geoffrey Giraffe Jr.
Barbie dumped him for G.I. Joe, his
father disowned him, and he's living in
an abandoned toy warehouse. But you
know what they say? "When Hashem
closes a door, he opens a window!" With
the help of his foul-mouthed co-host
Mr. Potato Head, Geoffrey is
determined to stay positive and
produce a public-access TV show for
Jewish boys. How Do You Jew? is
co-created by Mason Rosenthal and
Paul Kruse, and conceived, researched,
and performed by Mason Rosenthal.

#### IF I'M ALIVE NEXT WEEK...

When a foul-mouthed, 80-year-old grandma gets dumped and booted from her boyfriend's brownstone, she's forced to return to the rent-stabilized apartment housing her broke-ass, ungrateful kids. An irreverent meditation on aging that asks: can you really reimagine your life on the cusp of its twilight?

#### IN LIMBO

Inspired by Dante's Divine Comedy, two childhood frenemies -- a serial trust fund partier and a ruthless social climber -- are sentenced to the Purgatory Level of Los Angeles and challenged to face their inner demons together to avoid hell and reach heaven -- while sharing a trashy 2 bed, 3/4 bath. Can they take the heat?



#### **INFERNO**

After a mistake leaves an altruistic law-school grad desperate for a job, he interviews at a firm of morally deprayed divorce lawyers. Ultimately he must decide if he's willing to sacrifice every principle he lives by in order to saye his future.



#### LAST CHANCE MOMS 🔺

Emily and Kristen are best friends.
Emily, a successful entrepreneur,
waited too long to have a baby and,
despite her best efforts to have one
and raise it alone, is told it's
physically impossible. Kristen, a
struggling actress, is simultaneously
nine months pregnant and is forced to
raise her baby alone after being left by
her "I'm sorry, I can't do this" boyfriend,
Mark. After meeting up to commiserate
over their recent losses, they concoct a
plan to raise Kristen's baby together.

#### MY FILM SCHOOL

We follow the journey of Akin, a wannabe director and a quirky bunch of 7 other young creatives who seek to fulfill their dreams to become filmmakers, at a struggling film school, somewhere in Lagos.

#### **NEW NEW**

Nick and Sarah have been comfortably platonic roommates for years. Then came several months of lockdown...

New New is a super-short-form rom-com, a love letter to the variety of confusing, surprising, angsty, and altogether new romantic experiences

that have come our way throughout the pandemic. Beginning with Nick and Sarah, New New will touch on a new couple (or throuple) each season, in a 2-minute episode format designed for quick, tantalizing, social-media-shareable bites.

#### **NOT MOMS**

Not Moms is the coming-of-(middle) age story of neurotic-but-lovable Julie, and willful, unfiltered Katie who find themselves outside the norm; their love lives precarious, careers devalued, and friendships dissolving. When their last child-free friend has a baby, the women realize they need new friends -- ones without kids. Katie and Julie form a childfree club in hopes of finding a sense of belonging, purpose, and the best boozy brunch in LA.

#### ONLINE CONFESSIONAL

A comedy about Father Steve, a priest who wants to increase the scope of his forgiveness, so he creates the Online Confessional: a bold website that goes against the church's conservative doctrines - but allows him to serve devotees anywhere. The problem is that the online believers are very different from the ladies of the church and are going to test his faith. It's like Web Therapy, but in a church confessional booth.

#### **OUR SHAG PAD**

A Cuban ladies' man has his life turned upside down when a young Latina visits his beloved shag pad. A comedy series taking place in the 1960s.

#### PISS OFF, I LOVE YOU

Best friends and colleagues - Sandy, an American on-camera host, and Gina, a Scottish field producer - butt heads working on a fledgling travel show exploring the cultural differences between the US and UK. Adding to the pressure, Sandy is forced to share a cramped London flat with Gina and her tween twin girls, and estranged English husband, who can't afford to move out. As comical culture clashing ensues, the two women's sisterly bond is continually put to the test.

#### PRETEND PARTNERS

Two single people pretend to be together to get back into their social circle of friends who are now all coupled-up.

#### **OUEENS**

QUEENS is a comedy-mystery whodunnit following an eclectic cast of Toronto drag queens leading up to the night of the "Miss Church Street" pageant. Each episode focuses on the misadventures of a particular drag performer whose preparation for the pageant is sabotaged in a strange and unfortunate way. Who among them is the saboteur? Or, rather, saboteuse?



#### **SWIPE**

Two recently single New Yorkers meet through an online dating site that proves to be much more complicated than anticipated.

#### THEATER PEOPLE: THEIR TOWN

Art and politics collide when big city theater people Elise, Beth and Danilo take over management of a small town playhouse in the conservative Midwest. Pilot for a proposed spin-off of the award-winning "Theater People" web series.

#### THESE THEMS

The series explores themes of queerness, gender identity, coming out, sexual empowerment, acceptance, and self expression by exploring New York's vibrant LGBTQ+ community through Gretchen's eyes in a safe and joyful environment. The story is told through a comedic lens, with accurate representation: All queer characters are played by LGBTQ+ actors. Behind the camera, our entire filmmaking team was queer-identified and/or POC.

#### **TIMBERWOOD**

When our long-term counselors return for the summer of their lives, they think they'll be picking up right where they left off last year. But when their fearless leader is kicked out before the kids even arrive they're suddenly left to fend for themselves. With new challenges, adventures, friends and enemies around every corner, this isn't the summer they planned, but maybe it will end up being their best one yet?

#### UNDER THE INFLUENCE

"Under the Influence" is a thirty-minute episodic dramedy that follows six connected New York millennials as they navigate the sudden collapse of social media. The pilot is pioneered by Chloe Kendrick, who has just quit her job to become an influencer mere hours before the digital world falls to pieces.

#### WEEZY GOES OUTSIDE

After the heart attack death of her beloved 15 year-old goldfish, a quirky, shy, genius coder, and aspiring tech entrepreneur embarks on a journey to release her to the ocean. Full of magical appearances and obstacles, the trip pushes her to reckon with her past as some unwanted memories bubble up to the surface.



#### WENDY/GIGI

Written by a former Dominatrix, explore the ins and outs of a struggling NYC dungeon through the eyes of terminally nice Wendy, who moonlights as Mistress Gigi after her husband skips town. On a quest to save her marriage, she finds a rabbit hole of hijinks and self-discovery in a zany ensemble comedy about whipping up a new life.

## WHOLESOME FOODS... I LOVE YOU, IS THAT OK?

Touted "slacker for millennial women" on Amazon Prime - and compared to The Mindy Project by The Toronto Star - Wholesome Foods, I Love You... Is That OK? is the award-winning comedy about a neurotic yoga teacher who sets out in search of love... at her favorite organic supermarket.

## Scripts

All content may not be appropriate for children under 18.

Please note: Some stories deal with sensitive and difficult subject matters that can cause emotional reactions or distress.

#### **COMEDY SCRIPTS**

## AFTER DISNEY BY JENNY GORFLICK

Former child star on a hit 2000's Disney show, Maddie Marano will stop at nothing to be famous again, even if it means competing with, or worse, working with, her TV sister and pop sensation, Sky.

## ALEX IS BLACK

His mom is black, his dad is white, and Alex is... confused. How does one navigate life as a black man with white privilege? "Alex is Black" is a comedy that explores our relationship to identity, family, the world at large and the many ways we sabotage all three.

## BABY FAKERS BY TOM CLACCIO

Jonathan and Cassie, best friends and media co-workers in their early 30's believe their careers have stalled due to perceptions about their personal lives. Jonathan is a married gay video producer whose husband Alex doesn't want to have children. Cassie is a single bisexual female writer-editor without

a significant other. Both are thought of as "less than an adult" by their parent colleagues. After they are simultaneously passed over for career-advancing opportunities, Cassie announces that she is pregnant with Jonathan's baby (a total lie!).

## BECOMING MISS JONES

After the untimely death of her father, Maggie, a struggling musical theatre actress, must return to her hometown of Buffalo, NY where she is unceremoniously tasked with caring for her kooky grieving mother, and taking over her high school alma mater's dying theatre program - chalk full of know-it-all Gen Z-ers and memories she's tried hard to forget. Hers is the homecoming every 30-something with a dream does their best to avoid. But as her late dad once said: if you don't laugh...you'll cry.

#### BEYOND SUFFERN

#### BY ARDEN KASS & MARK GALLIN

Disillusioned by the political, cultural and environmental missteps of our times, two ultra-woke Brooklyn families (and a few friends) reject their inauthentic, consumerist lifestyles to found

a sustainable Intentional Community on an up-cycled Hudson River Valley "farmette". It goes even worse than you might expect.

### BOHEMIAN ACADEMY

When the lonely, 10 year old Lashawn Reid skips two grades to ascend to junior high, he leaves the comfort of his home school life with his best friend Dad behind for a more traditional school program at a quirky Charter middle school. After bonding with a small group of peers over mutual distaste of boring lunch periods where everyone is glued to their phone, Lashawn and his new friends have one common goal: make recess fun again.

## CANUSA STREET BY ZACK MORRISON

Single Cam/Half Hour: In a small town cut in half by the Vermont/Quebec border, a jaded US Border Patrol Agent struggles to stave off boredom while maintaining a fierce rivalry with her twin sister in the Canadian Mounties. "BROOKLYN NINE-NINE" meets "PARKS & REC"

#### CLASS PRESIEDENTS

BY JESSIE CANNIZZARO & MARISA BRAU-REYES

Former high school debate star and current fast-talking lawyer, Mimi Ramirez, is feeling adrift. When her prestigious high school leadership camp invites her for alumni weekend, she jumps at the chance to recapture the inspiration that she found there. What she finds instead is a struggling organization strapped for cash and friends that inexplicably hate her. And the idea of success that she was fed as an impressionable teen? Honestly? Horseshit.

## DEBLANDIA BY PAULA SKAGGS

Shannon, a State Department employee whose career is going nowhere, is in over her head when she accepts a temporary diplomat job for a micronation created by two eccentric women- who just declared international war on Germany. (Loosely based off the very true story of the Principality of Sealand).

## DEMBOW BY DANIEL CONTRERAS

When a brash Dembow Rapper finds himself on the brink of crossover stardom, his only obstacles are OG Rappers who see him as an imposter in an industry that values authenticity, & the fear that someone will discover the fish out of water Latina immigrant ghostwriting his lyrics.

## EXPATS BY DORIAN FRANKEL

A half hour comedy pilot script about a recently divorced couple who are shocked to find each other in the remote paradise they've each chosen for a fresh start.

#### GEORGI & THE BOT BY FRED SOLIGAN & JADE DAUGHERTY

When Georgi's company tasks her with training "Opto," a robot that will eventually replace her, she accidentally teaches it to be a neurotic mess, jeopardizing both of their futures.

## GINGERBREAD HOUSE BY BRENDAN SOKLER, SONJA O'HARA & TAYLOR CORIELL

Ginger Bread House is the story of three ginger friends who leave for Ireland when Trump wins a third term. They live and work in a bakery while pretending to be Irish as to not be deported.

## GIRL STUFF BY TIFFANY CORNWELL

A comedic examination of the ways in which intimate female friendship manifests; for better, for worse, and often for snackies. In episode 1, five friends take up the gauntlet to navigate a double-virgin family wedding with only cake, wine, and each other to save them from certain judgement. May Beyonce be merciful, amen.

## KILLER MOMS BY ANA BRETON

A young mom, discovers that after having babies, their old selves continue to live the life they would have had before kids, and the only way to stop them is to kill them - literally.

## KILLER WORKOUT BY ERIK POTEMPA

I have a question for you: "Is violence justifiable in a violently oppressive culture?" This is the quandary I explore in my Sundance Episodic Lab finalist project, KILLER WORKOUT. Logline: As a personal trainer for the elite of New York City for the past 12 years, Joy, a traumatized, broke, Queer Black woman, stumbles upon her true purpose — brutally murdering toxic rich assholes. Think Tarantino meets Jordan Peele.

## LADYLIKE BY TAYLOR CORIELL

Ladylike is a post-Gilded Age buddy comedy about two young society women who disguise themselves as men to sneak into New York City's Players Club to meet their hero, Sarah Bernhardt, on her historic visit in 1911. Think Room With a View meets The Spy Who Dumped Me.

## LOON RIDGE BY JOHN KERBER

A paralegal searches for the missing will of a deceased country club owner, while along the way dealing with the lunacy of its potential beneficiaries.

## MIXED SIGNALS BY MIKALA STACER & LOGAN STACER

Mixed Signals is an absurd comedy that deep-dives into the biracial experience. The story centers around Mak, a 24 year old mulatto woman back in her hometown of Kansas City trying to reinvent her career & restart her childhood friendships. Mak, with the help of her Black & White Consciences that only she and the audience can see, must navigate her evolving creative & racial identity in an unsupportive environment or risk falling into a cycle of mediocrity she's worked her whole life to escape.

## NOTORIOUS MILFS BY TIFFA FOSTER

A group of bored, suburban housewives recruit a new mom with savvy computer skills in hopes she will help them pull off some grand, but harmless pranks. However, their world quickly spirals out of control as they discover that she wants more than to pull pranks. She wants to over turn the whole of society as we know it.

## RIDE OR DIE BY NATALIE RICH

When a veteran cycling champ finds herself with an invasive protégé, the two strangers come to realize this unexpected friendship will challenge their perceptions of success, queer womanhood and their place in the male-dominated arena that is competitive cycling.

## TALK BY TOPHER HARLESS

A jaded comedienne makes an unconventional comeback to television after a publicized suicide attempt.

## TECH BETTYS BY MARY MCGLOIN

Tech Bettys was an award-winning web series, but is now TV half-hour comedy. I'm reworking the scripts for TV, and have finished the first three episodes. I am hoping to find funding to produce Season One. After starting their new jobs at the exclusive, bustling Manhattan tech start-up "VD-ME.com", savvy and feminist QA Engineer Cass and broke and searching Office Manager Bailey quickly become aware of the socially awkward and often openly sexist male coworkers they'll now have to contend with.

## THE GRAND WATERMELON BILL

#### BY JANIE HADDAD TOMPKINS

A half-hour generational family dynamic dramedy pilot, inspired by the writer's eccentric, complicated Southern upringing. At their father's funeral in Charleston, South Carolina, three estranged sisters discover that not only was their father gay, but he has left them all a very quirky inheritance one they can only claim by working together.

## THE HOTTEST SHIT IN OHIO BY MAXIMILLIAN CLARK, CARLA LERNER MONTERO, BRENDAN SOKLER

"There's no place like home," Alexa says, dramatically throwing her bourbon into the fireplace. She and her bestie Tom wouldn't be wasting booze, but somehow they have found themselves back home in Ohio. These two failing New York artists have come home to find that they are local celebrities. Worse still, the town is willing to produce their dream project, if Tom and Alexa stay there to film it. It's like those horror movies about being stuck in the abandoned murder house, but worse: it's Ohio.

## THE USHERS BY MICHAEL SWIFT

Lewis turned 30 without much of a career, an unsuccessful love life, and no significant signs of adult stability. When his best friend gets married, Lewis is sure he will be the best man. Instead he's asked to be an usher, joining a mismatched group of second- rate friends and weirdo family members. Lewis must confront why he wasn't included in the main wedding party, and learns something

about where he fits in in the world. His friendship with the groom is not the only thing he is wrong about.

## TOM & LAURA BY TIFFA FOSTER

A sweet, odd-couple comedy about how 43-year-old Laura's life is turned upside down when she accidentally meets Tom, her 20-year-old sperm donor.

#### WENDY THE DOMME BY RACHEL MUSIC

Written by a former Dominatrix, explore the ins and outs of a struggling NYC dungeon through the eyes of terminally nice Wendy, who moonlights as Mistress Gigi after her husband skips town. On a quest to save her marriage, she finds a rabbit hole of hijinks and self-discovery in a zany ensemble comedy about whipping up a new life.

## WINGMOM BY KELLY SHANLEY

After news that her dad cheated on her mom prompts a comedian to discover her own fiance's affair, Katie channels her angst into a vengeful dating blog to exact revenge on all the fuckboys of Los Angeles. But when her heart-broken mother shows up to crash with her, Mom's belief that love conquers all doesn't exactly align with Katie's new jaded M.O.

#### **DRAMA SCRIPTS**

## AMERICAN VIRTUOSA BY LILLIE GARDNER

American Virtuosa is an hour-long historical drama limited series based on the life of Amy Beach, America's first successful woman composer. It's the story of a young prodigy in nineteenth-century Boston who must fight gender barriers and her own family to follow her dream of being a world-famous musician. The series is a "feminist Amadeus" comprised of 6-8 episodes that are tonally similar to The Queen's Gambit and visually rich as a nod to Amy's synesthesia—her experience of music as color.

## CROSSING STATE LINES BY KATE BAILEY

Five years after a popular amendment to the constitution redefined states' rights, creating fifty individual power structures, one Florida family sets off on a road trip across the country to Oregon, witnessing the good, the bad, and the ugly of what each state has decided is right for them. It's just gold.

#### DAKOTA

#### BY JUSTIN SECOR

In this drama series, Dylan, a cynical, down-and-out political aid in Chicago, recounts his memories of his life with him and his three friends in Bismarck, North Dakota during the Dakota oil boom to a journalist he meets in a bar. As he tells his story, it all becomes clear as to why everything about his former life in North Dakota went up in smoke.

#### HAUNTED WATERS

#### JENNA REILLY & MEGEN MUSEGADES

In this paranormal adventure drama set on the shores of Lake Superior, four teenage girls are gifted with powers after they accidentally conjure up the ghosts of the lake. They balance their boring high school lives with never-ending chaos and danger.

## HORROR REWIND: THE VIDEO STORE

#### KELLY FLORENCE & MEG HAFDAHL

It's 1985 and a found footage horror archive leads to the discovery of a local mystery.

## HOW YA LIKE ME NOW? BY CRAIG T. WILLIAMS

Real life hip hop legend Kool Moe Dee struggles to keep his music relevant with the emergence of a new rival on the scene, LL Cool J.

## LEADING EDGE BY JEAN SU AND TONY SCOTT

Rachel Su, an edgy Chinese tech prodigy in Silicon Valley, has invented a disruptive energy technology that could eliminate much of the world's need for oil, and solve global warming. But her technology puts Rachel on the razor's edge between those who want to exploit it, and the companies and countries who will do anything to stop it. A one-hour Asian female led drama similar tonally to "Billions", "Scandal", "Halt and Catch Fire", "Alias" and "Mr. Robot".

## NEVERMORE BY BRANDON COLE

In this dark love letter to Poe, a young writer struggles with balancing his work

and home life with his new dark habit. As he struggles to find balance he realizes Poe and many of the other greats may have lived a life of tragedy for a reason.

## OBJECTIFIED BY RANDI LUNDELL

Kara Wolff, a graduate student in Social Work at a midwestern university, comes across an old case of sexual harassment on campus. In her quest to help the victim she is met with retaliation by external forces that threaten to undo her career and involve her in a battle for her life.

#### R. DERBY

#### BY CHRISTIAN THOMPSON

Glow meets Dear White People in a serialized hour-long drama. With the pandemic finally coming to an end, the diverse, kick ass women of a local roller derby league battle grief, racism, an eager business man, and each other in order to save the sport they love, and survive this so called "new normal".

## THE KANO CHRONICLES BY ALISON GUESSOU

It is the 1500's and we are in the midst of the Golden Era. The Songhai Empire is in its prime and the Imperial family is expanding its reach through global trade. Amina, a young teen, hopes to one day lead her father's army in battle to expand their great empire – but her vision for her future is never taken seriously. With the infamy of the empire, the Songhai Imperial Family struggles to protect its crown in the midst of invasive globalization during Africa's pre-colonial age.

## THE LIFE OF CLARE BY BODHI WERNER

The Life of Clare is a ten-hour family drama told from the perspective of a brilliant young girl in a terribly dangerous environment set in 1968 Orange County, CA. Based on the memoir of Clare Cooley, a successful, self-taught artist from a severely dysfunctional family. This story travels between reality and imagination and explores how creative genius can be born from adversity. We will journey into the mind of a teenage creative genius and see how tragedy and adversity fuel her artistry.

## THE SEX MYTH BY HEATHER TAYLOR

A one-hour drama inspired by Rachel Hills' nonfiction book of the same name, and it explores this tension between labels and reality, through the stories of six diverse friends who struggle with the complex, messy, exhilarating work of exploring and experimenting with their sexuality. Where Girls showed real Millenial sex, THE SEX MYTH aims to show real, nuanced sexual identities. This show is for those who think they have it figured out, and those who have just started questioning.

## TRIPTYCH BY SHARBARI ZOHRA AHMED & ABIGAILE SANDS

After the brutal murder of her parents and subsequent slap on the wrist of their killer, 22 year old Layla Jahan is invited to a residency for troubled young artists at a sprawling oceanfront estate in southern Connecticut. Here, she discovers everything her beloved

mother taught her about dark, preternatural forces in the world are true, and she must muster all her strength and wisdom to face her profound grief-among other, more literal demons.

#### **UNDER GROUND**

#### MEGAN MARSNIK & MARK BRADLEY

Inspired by true events, Under Ground is the story of a young Slovenian woman who emigrates to Minnesota's Iron Range in 1915, where the miners are on the brink of revolution. Working for her aunt's secret newspaper, she chronicles shootouts at labor rallies, murders in the mines, police corruption, and false imprisonment. When strikers are forbidden to assemble, she joins a heroic band of women who take over the strike, risking rape and murder to oppose corrupt lawmen and strikebreaking thugs.



## **Podcasts**

All content may not be appropriate for children under 18. Please note: Some stories deal with sensitive and difficult subject matters that can cause emotional reactions or distress.

## ALL THINGS UNDONE BY CHENÉ LAWSON & JOEL PEISSIG

In 1850 Mississippi an ancient prophecy of a massive solar eclipse is about to be fulfilled, as a young black woman finds herself under threat by her enslaver. However, unbeknownst to her, ancient forces are unfolding a much bigger plan for everyone.

## GOING THERE BY STEVE DALAGER

Going There is made possible by a MinnState Pay-It-Forward Mindfulness and Equity grant. Hosts Tara McCoy and Steve Dalager and students Dan Riihiluoma and Cheyanne Warner interview students to explore the ideas of community, equity, and mindfulness at Lake Superior College and the surrounding area. After all, LSC's tagline has recently become "Our Community's College."

## SUPERHUMAN PUBLIC RADIO

## BY MAXIMILIAN CLARK & JOHN DORSEY IV

Superhuman Public Radio a comedy audio drama about a publicly funded radio station (ahem, NPR) in a world where Superheroes are not only real, but central to American life. SPR is an immersive experience bringing you news, ads, music and slice of life stories that explore the unexplored comers of the superhero world. Over the course of the season, the news programs develop season-long stories of alien deportations, genetic data breaches, corporate greed and stolen identities while our programming blocks explore more intimate, personal stories of people in every facet of the super world. Or as we say: "the stories that fall between the panels."

#### THE TRIAL OF JEFF DAVID BY TIFFANY JACKMAN

A recently freed slave and his determined white lawyer must work together to prove his innocence after being accused of the bloody murders of his former masters.

## WHERE THE HELL AM I?

Where the Hell am I is a paranormal adventure comedy podcast where Chelsea takes her best friend Tenea to an undisclosed haunted location to spend the night, learn the history, and investigate the current paranormal inhabitants. Tenea never knows where she is until she is in the recording chair and asks, "Where the hell am i?". Tenea is also completely unaware of possible episode locations.

# Executives, Panelists & Speakers



ADAM FRATTO Chaotic Neutral Entertainment Producer

Adam Fratto is an award-winning executive producer with an international track record in TV development, programming, and production, as well as feature films and new media. He recently ran the scripted department for History, overseeing shows like PROJECT BLUE BOOK and VIKINGS, and has produced shows including CLEVERMAN, HAVEN and GREEK.



ADAM TESLER Founder of ITVFest; Producer Los Angeles, CA

AJ is the founder and president of Peak Curiosity, a Los Angeles-based production company. He has directed and produced for Netflix, Comedy Central, Lionsgate, Sony, FTVS, VH1, MTV, History Channel, CBS Studios and more. Since online content has grown up, AJ has been an architect of its growth, first founding the Independent Television Festival (now

Catalyst) and subsequently helping launch the production arm at one of the first MCNs, Big Frame, running production at Jash, (the digital collective founded by Sarah Silverman, Michael Cera and Adam Carolla), helping enterprises like Omaze build a production infrastructure, and helping established traditional companies move in to the digital space. AJ recently finished his narrative feature directing debut titled HERO'S MODE, which stars Sean Astin and Mira Sorvino set to release in 2021. His award winning documentary about his daughter who lives with Rett Syndrome, MAGNOLIA'S HOPE, will be released in 2022...



BILL HENDRICKSON SAG-AFTRA, Director of Locals Administration

Bill Hendrickson is the Local Administrative Director for the Twin Cities and Michigan Locals of SAG-AFTRA. Bill began his career with SAG-AFTRA in 2012 when he was hired as an organizer in the Union's Kansas City office. As an organizer he helped journalists at several Chicago broadcast news stations form unions and assisted in negotiating their first contracts.



CAISSIE ST. ONGE Kismet Productios Co-Founder

Caissie St.Onge is a comedy writer and TV producer best known for her work on The Late Show with David Letterman, The Rosie O'Donnell Show, Best Week Ever and Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen. She recently moved to Los Angeles when Tina Fey hired her to Executive Produce late night talk show Busy Tonight with actor, Busy Philipps. Fey and Philipps were also Executive Producers. St.Onge also had a long-time side gig writing for Joan Rivers, and has written material for Bette Midler as well. She's written for the Grammy, Tony and International Emmy Awards. She currently is the cofounder of Kismet Productions with Busy Philipps and she co-hosts the podcast, Busy Philipps is Doing Her Best!



CARLO GONZALES-MOSS Maranty Media Founder/CEO

Carlo Gonzales-Moss is the Founder and CFO of MARANTY MEDIA, the startup that he created in order to demystify the art of pitching for creators all over the world. He most recently served as the SR. DIRECTOR OF **DEVELOPMENT AT THE RUSSO BROS' OCTOPIE STUDIOS** and CCO AT EXTRA CREDIT STUDIOS, the animation studio he co-founded in 2013. Carlo has developed, sold, and produced television and digital properties with a wide variety of partners, including NBCUNIVERSAL, WARNERMEDIA, VERIZON, TWITTER, CHARLIZE THERON, ERIC ANDRE, RONDA ROUSEY, FREEFORM, and SYFY, among others.

CASEY LEWIS

SAG-AFTRA
Twin Cities Board Member

Casey has worked on USA Network's "Colony," Showtime's "Masters of Sex," "Transparent" on Amazon, and YouTube Red's "Do You Want To See A Dead Body?," as well as multiple independent short films and features, including Princess of the Row. Since returning to Minnesota he has worked on the features Christmas Break-In, Sold Out, and Kendra and Beth. He was an influential team member in the effort to pass the Minnesota Film Production Tax Credit.



CHRIS PFAFF Chris Pfaff Tech Media LLC CEO

Chris Pfaff is a leading new media and technology producer and strategist. He was the first to use IRC for an interactive corporate webcast; produced one of the first DVDs, in March, 1997; produced the first HD animated logo; produced some of the first mobile short films, and produced the first Twitter Wall in 2011. Chris was one of the founders of the Producers Guild of America (PGA) New Media Council East, and served as chairman of the group from 2007-2013. He served as the vice chairman of the national PGA New Media Council, and served as a delegate on the PGA Board of Directors from 2008-2013. He is a founder of the NY chapter of the VR/ AR Association, for which he serves as vice-chairman of the Storytelling Committee.



CHRISTINA PUMARIEGA Actress & Television Writer

Her play "Lei Chiede" ("She Questions"), inspired by her Italian-American grandmother's experience interrogating POW's in Baltimore Harbor, was commissioned by the Ammunition Theatre Company and developed with New Georges. "Her Math Play" has been developed at Joe's Pub at the Public Theater, and received a

virtual performance as part of Hartford Stage's American Voices New Play Festival. Her TV writing credits include Turner & Hooch for Disney+ and Bluff City Law on NBC. Acting, she has cross examined Coach Taylor, made out with the Fly and set a Cuban pharmacy ablaze in a corset.



CIRINA CATANIA Director/Founder/CEO Catania Studios

Crina was one of the original co-founders and former executive director of the Sundance Film Festival, She is a writer, director, DP and tech-oriented filmmaker/ iournalist with numerous film, broadcast television and broadband credits. She served 8 years as a senior executive with MGM/UA and United Artists. For nine years beginning in 2008, her company produced the weekly Digital Production BuZZ tech podcast heard in over 195 countries. She currently is the Sr. Producer and Host of OWC RADIO sponsored by Other World Computing.



ERICA A. HART, CSA Hart Casting Casting Director

Erica (Casting Director/ Producer) graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and has been casting for over a decade. She has cast commercials for high-end brands such as Maybelline, Gillette, Hasbro, and Delta, to name a few. She has collaborated with The National Black Theatre and Drama League and has cast a handful of their productions. She was the CD for THAT DAMN MICHAEL CHE (HBO MAX) and BLACK DON'T CRACK (ABC). Currently she's casting two Broadway plays: CHICKEN AND BISCUITS and PASS OVER both to premiere in 2021 as well as BUST DOWN (PEACOCK). Erica has been the Casting Associate for shows like RAY DONOVAN (SHOWTIME), THE BOLD TYPE (FREEFORM), DEFENDING JACOB (APPLE+), and GODFATHER OF HARLEM (EPIX). She is on the Board of Governors for The Casting Society of America and a member of the Television Academy.



JESSICA GOLDBERG Refuge Productions, Inc. Writer/Director/EP/ Showrunner

Jessica started her career as a playwright. Her play REFUGE won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and she went on to adapt and direct it as a feature film starring Krysten Ritter. Jessica's television work includes NBC's Parenthood. She created and executive produced critically acclaimed THE PATH, with Aaron Paul, Michelle Monaghan and Hugh Dancy that ran for three seasons on Hulu. She served as Executive Producer and Showrunner of AWAY for Netflix starring Hillary Swank. Jessica's film work includes ALEX OF VENICE directed by Chris Messina, and the recent Apple original movie CHERRY directed by the Russo Brothers starring Tom Holland. She is currently writing a movie about The

Golden Record with director Sebastian Leilo; and adapting the novel STILL LIVES by Maria Hummel for Hulu.



JORDAN ELIZABETH GELBER Aperteur Network /Starbaby CEO & Founder

Award-winning actress, producer, and the CEO of Starbaby Enterprises, a marketing and production firm creating and curating content at a grassroots level. She launched the OTT platform - "Aperteur Network" for to creators to showcase new works internationally while having a professional team pitching their IP to distributors.



JOSHUA BUTLER Iceblink Films President

Joshua is an award-winning independent filmmaker who wrote and directed the cult horror feature VLOG for the producers of SAW; produced and directed acclaimed LGBTQ+ short films HOUSE NOT HOME and DOGHOUSE; directed multiple episodes of Syfy's THE MAGICIANS, FOX'S THE FOLLOWING starring Kevin Bacon, the CW phenomenon THE VAMPIRE DIARIES, Disney/Freeform's PRETTY LITTLE LIARS, CBS' LIMITLESS produced by Bradley Cooper; El Rey's MATADOR for Robert Rodriguez; BET's TALES; and STATE OF AFFAIRS for NBC starring Katherine Heigl.



JUSTINE GIANNINO Seven Summits Development Consultant

Justine is currently working with Seven Summits Management to develop with their client roster. She specializes in helping IP find homes, developing ideas with creators and packaging projects. Justine was previously the director of development at Avalon Television (Last Week Tonight with John Oliver). She was responsible for oversight on the Iliza Shlesinger Sketch Show (Netflix), and was the lead executive finding intellectual property for the company and their clients. As the manager, original programming at IFC TV, she was a current series executive for Emmy Award-winning Portlandia, Emmy nominated Documentary Now!, and the Film Independent Spirit Awards.



KARL GAJDUSEK Big Sun Productions Writer / Showrunner

Karl is a writer, showrunner, and executive producer. Current feature projects include The King's Man at Fox/Disney with Matthew Vaughn directing Ralph Fiennes in the next film in the Kingsman franchise. The gun-violence story His Only Living Boy for Amazon Studios for Ben Affleck, the original FOX/ Disney sci-fi feature Courage also with Matthew Vaughn directing as well an adaption of the sci-fi novel Salvation Day for E1 Entertainment. Television work includes showrunning Season 1 of Stranger Things at Netflix, creator and showrunner of ABC's Last Resort with Shawn

Ryan (The Shield, Timeless, SWAT), and Riverview with Daren Aronofsky at HBO. Most recently Karl is creating Flickermen for Peacock/USA and an adaptation of the novel Age of Light about the artist Lee Miller. Before establishing himself in TV and film, Karl was a playwright who's plays have been produced in New York and across the country. Karl has a B.A. from Yale University and an M.F.A. in playwriting from the University of California at San Diego.



KAT AND PETER HARGRAVE Kat- Senior Agent, DGRW Peter- Actor

Kat's an agent. Peter's an actor. Together, they're passionate about helping each facet of the industry understand each other better. From drafting a pitch email to curating a lifelong business relationship, Kat and Peter discuss effective ways to increase agency at your agency and ensure your representation authentically represents you.



KELLY EDWARDS Edwardian Pictures President

Kelly Edwards has been a producer, TV writer, executive, and is now author of The Executive Chair, A Writer's Guide to TV Series Development.



KRIS LEFCOE

No Big Production

Writer/Director/Producer

Kris Lefcoe is a director-writer whose work has screened at SXSW, TIFF, IFC, and the Sundance Channel. In 2020, Kris made her TV directing debut on NBC's "Superstore." Her own halfhour pilot "Giving Up," executive produced by David Wain, was developed with Imagine Television. Kris' audacious feature debut, the audience-awardwinning dark comedy "Public Domain," premiered at SXSW, and was installed at Art Basel Miami. The film was hailed by critics as "creepy-funny and well-acted" (Variety), and "an assured debut" (Austin Chronicle). Kris' intricate animated short "Tiny Riot Project" premiered at International Film Festival Rotterdam, then sold to the Sundance Channel. Kris developed the concept into a stopmotion series with Shadowmachine Films.



MARY CONROY Boston College Professor

Mary is a writer & screenwriting professor at Boston College. Currently, she works with students to promote them in the industry as 'baby' writers. Her students have gone on to work at Warner Bros., CBS, Disney and various production companies.



MATT VALENTINAS Attorney Sennott, Williams, Rogers

Matt advises clients including authors, screenwriters, directors, producers, production companies, publishers, life-story rights, estate rights, comedians, broadcasters, actors, podcasters, and radio and television personalities. He also serves as an Executive Producer on numerous film and television and digital media productions through Mom's Basement Media Inc.



MAXIMILLIAN CLARK
Walter Masterson Network
Senior Producer

Maximilian has been coming to Catalyst since 2014 as a writer and director, winning best short at the 2019 fest with his horror film Lose It. Since the pandemic, he has collaborated with over 30 Catalyst alumni to create a 13 episode audio drama Superhuman Public Radio.



MELODIE BAHAN MN Film & TV Executive Director

Melodie was appointed Executive Director of MN Film & TV in June 2017. Previously, she served as the Director of Communications for the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. Prior to the Guthrie, Melodie spent 10 years in New York, where she served as the president of the New York chapter of the National Organization for Women.



MICHELLE MCLEAN Namibian Tourism Board

Michelle is Miss Universe 1992, Miss Namibia 1991, an International Media Personality, MC, Motivational Speaker, and Founder & Chairperson of the Michelle McLean Children Trust which she established in Namibia. It has initiated and run hundreds of projects over the past 29 years, including projects for international celebrities, Angelia Jolie and Brad Pitt. Raising over \$40 million dollars.



MICHELLE MILLER
A Little Bit of Good
Productions
Writer/Producer

Michelle's career has has a circuitous path from her Broadway bound days as a singer and an actor, founding and fundraising multiple arts-driven non-profits, to her work on Cannes and Netflix featured documentaries as a consultant, or her Emmy nominated work on an adventure sports series she produced and shot. Her documentary play on reuniting families separated at the border, To Welcome the Stranger, is in talks for publication.



NIKKI COBLE The Willing Collective Actor/Writer/EP

Nikki is an actor, writer, producer & popcorn addict. Named "Best Creator in a Comedy" by Asia Web Awards for her award-winning series, AWKWARDLY, she is the founder of The Willing Collective production company & the host of the industry interview series, Scribble & Point.



NOAH JONES FWRD MGMT CEO/Owner

Noah Jones is the CEO of FWRD MGMT, an independent management and consulting company representing writers, directors and producers in the Film/TV industry.



PAMELA CEDERQUIST Writer/Producer

Pamela was nominated for a 2020 WGA Award for her Manson episode on Mindhunter. Pyro, a feature script, is in development at Wonder Films. In her 30 year career in film, theatre, and live event, she has produced, directed, and written multiple projects in various media.



RAMFIS MYRTHIL Beast of the East Productions Founder & President

Ramfis Myrthil is a New York-based filmmaker who loves telling New York stories. A founding partner and President of Beast of the East Productions (BOTEP), Ramfis has built a career as a producer with many highlights. His continued growth and success in the film industry earned him a spot in Stars' 2018 40 Under 40 list of Movers and Shakers. Ramfis' passion for film is matched only by his passion to give back and pay it forward to his community by sharing and teaching his skills and knowledge to the next generation of students, artists, and creators. Ramfis is an active member of BAFTA NY, The Friars Club, Hollywood Radio & Television Society (HRTS), Toastmasters International - SEC Roughriders, The Long Island Film and TV Foundation.



RIKI MCMANUS Upper Midwest Film Office Chief Production Officer

Riki was part of a group that formed the first MN film commission, MN Film and TV Board. She was past President of the Board as well as Interim Director. She then went on to open MN first casting company, Riki Wuolle Casting Company and her first Feature Film Casting was Purple Rain.

After moving to Duluth she started the Upper MN Film Office. The office was just recently changed to a full time non profit office with the birth of the St. Louis County Incentive and also changing the name to the Upper Midwest Film Office with the intent of serving a larger geographic area.



SEITU JEMEL HART SeituConsults CEO

Seitu is the first and former CEO of Careers in Entertainment (CIE) founded by the Will & Jada Smith Family Foundation. CIE a premier social impact initiative powered by WJSFF was founded to expose aspirational youth and their families to the plethora of jobs available in the entertainment industry. Today Seitu continues to work to provide more access, opportunity, and inclusion in the entertainment industry with a particular lens on film & television. His work is largely in two buckets: seeding and developing narrative change/storytelling while exposing secondary and post-secondary students and their families to careers in front of and behind the camera.



SHARI MARSHIK Upper Midwest Film Office Executive Director

Shari Marshik is the Executive Director and founding partner of the Upper Midwest Film Office. A true connector, Shari's passion lies in bringing people together to do doing meaningful, fulfilling work that starts ripples of good.



SOFIA MONROE

Daymaker Productions
Founder/CEO/Producer/
Director/Community Strategist

Sofia Monroe is an Entrepreneur, Producer, **Director and Community** Strategist. She is a part of several teams and owns Daymaker Productions which develops programs, consults and creates quality content for social and community impact, commercial and entertainment purposes. Sofia has served as a consultant. content creator, producer, director and teammate to many across multiple industries and has supported several organizations over 11 years.Her experience includes working with MTV Casting teams, award shows, federally funded organizations. independent projects, big brand content, viral videos and original content with companies such as Lionsgate's LOL Network, Pepsi, Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County and others.



SONJA O'HARA Actor/Creator Repred by WME & Management 360 Actor, Writer, Director

Sonja O'Hara is the Emmy nominated creator and star of DOOMSDAY, which won Best of Festival in Catalyst 2017. She was chosen as one of the "10 Filmmakers To Watch" by Independent Magazine, past recipients include MOONLIGHT's Barry Jenkins. She is currently in post-production on her third feature and is represented by WME & Management 360.



TIM EGAN National Chair, Sponsorships & Partnerships National Academy TV Arts & Sciences

Tim is a specialist in broadcast and web based video content services for a marketing and media affairs advisory, practicing in New England & Canada. He has two New England Emmy Awards as Writer/Director/ Producer, among his 28 Emmy Nominations during his 25 plus year career. in 2012 he was named inaugural Marketing Chairman for the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences until 2018 when it was incorporated into his new role: Co-Chair of Strategic Planning. He served as National Trustee in 2010-2012. after two terms as President of the New England Chapter

and Founding Co-Chair of Presidents Council for NATAS, from 2006 to 2010. In 2018 he was elected to the NH House of Representatives for Grafton District #2.



THOM WOODLEY Rizzle Head of Content and Creative Development

Thom is the Head of Creative Development at Rizzle, the fastest growing vertical video app. He served as Executive Creative Director and Director of Creative Partnerships for CH Media / Electus, the company behind CollegeHumor, Dorkly, Drawfee, alongside television shows like Adam Ruins Everything and Hot Date. He first gained attention as the creator/showrunner of the first scripted webseries, The Burg. He was the writer for the four years of commercials for Dos Equis' Most Interesting Man in the World.



VIVIANA ZARRAGOITIA Three Point Capital Vice President

Viviana spent 5 years at Lionsgate, where she started working in the accounting department and segued into the finance division, specifically, profit participation. While working in profit participation, she oversaw the preparation of multi-million dollar film and television distribution deals. In 2013, she joined Three Point Capital, a boutique firm that specializes

in senior lending on film and television projects. While at Three Point Capital, Viviana has been involved in the financing of over 120 independent films, and worked with such producers as Cassian Elwes, Robert Barnum, Anthony Bregman, James Schamus, Aaron Gilbert, Kimberly Steward, Nicolas Chartier, and Kevin Frakes, among others.



WALTER MASTERSON
Walter Masterson Network
Comedian

Walter does political satire in the vein of Sacha Baron Cohen, Colbert and Jordan Klepper. You've most likely seen his video where he has his arm around Matt Gaetz and is claiming "I don't think you're a pedophile at all".



WENONAH WILMS Screenwriter

Wenonah is a 2018 Academy Nicholl Fellow, and is a cocreator and executive producer of "Firekeeper's Daughter," a Netflix original through the Obama's production company, Higher Ground. She is currently a staff writer for an HBO series. Wenonah is a two-time McKnight Media Artist Fellow. She is active in the Minnesota film community both as a writer and mentor. Wenonah is a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa located in Northern Wisconsin and resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota forever.





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