

Speakers for Talent Week 2019 (Alphabetically by last name)

Select SHOW DOCUMENT OUTLINE (View) for the Table of Contents

Rabia Abedian

Rabia Abedin began her career at The Walt Disney Company straight out of college after attending UC Irvine for her undergraduate degree in English & Business Management. Her tenure with Disney last six wonderful years working in various disciplines of Human Resources and supporting multiple segments from Disney Consumer Products & Interactive Media to Corporate to Parks & Resorts. While at Disney she pursued a Masters (MPA) at USC Price while working full time, fight on! From there, she entered into the music industry where she worked at Live Nation in Diversity & Belonging. Today, she is back in the entertainment sector, working in her true passion which is Film/TV, as a University Relations Rep at DreamWorks TV Animation based in Glendale, CA. Rabia is currently managing the early career programs at DreamWorks TV, including internships and Trainee Programs. Connect with her on Twitter to follow along her journey @RecruiteRabs

Kim Adelman

Kim Adelman is the author of Making It Big in Shorts. She produced 19 short films that won 30+ awards and played over 150 film festivals worldwide, including the Sundance Film Festival four years in a row. Since 2006, Ms. Adelman has written about short films for Indiewire. She has also co-programmed the American Cinematheque's annual Focus on Female Directors short film screening series since its inception in 2006. Ms. Adelman currently teaches Low Budget Filmmaking at UCLA Extension. She was honored as Entertainment Studies Instructor of the Year in 2014 and won the Distinguished Instructor Award in 2016.

Dakota Adney

Raised in rural Oklahoma, Dakota Adney is a cinematographer based in Los Angeles. He studied economics at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) before transferring to the USC School of Cinematic Arts, where he focused on cinematography. He has shot branded work for McDonald's, Airbnb, Apple, and more. His branded work has aired on national television, and his narrative work has been screened at film festivals worldwide.

Eliana Victoria Alcouloumre

Eliana Victoria Alcouloumre graduated from SCA in December of 2017 with a double major in Film & TV Production and Cinema & Media Studies. In the year since, she has worked full time as an on-set production assistant in feature film, television, and commercials. She is currently staffed on HBO/A24's upcoming series, *Euphoria*. Prior staffed PA credits include *Lucy in the Sky* and *Strange Angel*, as well as day playing on *This is Us, Call the Wild*, and a half dozen commercials. While still in school, Eliana worked as a researcher on the feature film *Detroit*, as well as the first seasons of *Mindhunter* and *Yellowstone*.

Cinzia Angelini

Cinzia is a story artist and director, with an unbridled passion for all types of animation. Her years directing her independent short film "Mila", combined with her experience on some of the biggest animated features of our time, gives her a unique ability to develop a wide spectrum of projects. Most recently, these include her series of TedX talks in Italy and the U.S. that strive to promote socially relevant, short and feature length animated films.

Clara Aranovich

Clara Aranovich is the daughter of two immigrants; an Argentine physicist and a Chilean market researcher/author. She holds a BA from Dartmouth in Literature/Creative Writing and an MFA from USC's School of Cinematic Arts in Film Production. Her narrative fiction work has competed in festivals around the world, from SXSW to Stockholm Film Festival, and has been featured by curators such as the Flux Screening Series at the Hammer Museum, NOWNESS.com and Le Cinéma Club. Her original web series, TANTALUM, stars Marcus Henderson (GET OUT) and is having its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in April. Her feature MAYACAMAS earned her a spot in the Sundance Screenwriter's Intensive. Among other notable commercial successes, Clara is the first woman to ever direct a commercial for Major League Baseball, and her campaign with them went on to win a Bronze Lion and several Clios. Clara additionally loves the out-of-doors, dark absurdism, sci fi surrealism, and creamy peanut butter. When not writing or on set, she can usually be found watching films, on a mountain somewhere, or volunteering at a women's clinic with LA4Choice. She is also a certified Wilderness First Responder.

Lindsay Armstrong

Lindsay Armstrong graduated from the MFA program in the Winter of 2014. After graduation she moved to the Bay Area to work as assistant editor at Pixar, where she assisted on *Finding Dory* and the upcoming film *Onward.* She has since moved back down to LA and has been working as an assistant editor in film and television. She is currently working on Season 3 of Netflix's *GLOW* and is editing her first feature, *Nanay Ko,* which was directed by a fellow USC MFA alumna.

Jordan Bahat

A Los Angeles native and son of Israeli and German immigrants, Jordan began working as an editor while attending USC's School of Cinematic Arts. After graduating, he produced and directed the awarded feature length documentary, Jealous of the Birds, and began directing music videos for local bands. To date his music video work has acquired nearly half a billion views online while recognized and awarded at the Music Video Producer's Association, UK MVAs, MTV MVAs, and Vimeo staff picks. He has direct short-form documentaries on conceptual artist Adrian Villar Rojas, chefs Craig Thornton and Danny Bowien, and architect Tatiana Bilbao. His film, The Bullet, about the world's greatest living human cannonball, David "The Bullet" Smith, Jr took awards at the Seattle Intl Film Fest and Slamdance. His commercial work for clients such as Gatorade, Powerade, Toyota, Acura, Samsung, McDonalds, Google, Sony Playstation, Equinox and others, have won the Clio, ADDY, AdWeek ARC Award, Ciclope, and D&AD Pencil, amongst others - with work for Jeep featured during the Super Bowl in both 2015 and 2016. He has recently stepped into scripted filmmaking, having directed episodes of the TV show Guidance for Awesomeness TV and HULU, with a feature-length scripted debut forthcoming. He is represented for commercials by Caviar in the US and France, and Markenfilm in Germany.

Ryan Bartley

Ryan Bartley has been working in theater, film, television, and radio since she was a child. After attending the prestigious theater program at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, located in Dallas, Texas, Ryan graduated early and relocated from Dallas to Los Angeles. There she began working in anime, video games, and animation. Her anime credits include *Re:ZERO* (Ram), *Sword Art Online The Movie: Ordinal Scale* (Yuna), *Charlotte* (Yusa Nishimori and Misa Kurobane), *Hunter x Hunter* (Komugi), *Mob Psycho 100* (Tsubomi and Mukai), *Berserk* (Nina), *Erased* (Osamu), *Maquia: When the Promised Flower Blooms* (Dita), and *Satellite Girl and Milk Cow* (KITSAT-1). Ryan is the English voice of Plachta in the Atelier video game franchise. She's also provided additional voices for some of the top performing recent feature films including *The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part*, *The Boss Baby*, *Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie*, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*, *X-Men: Apocalypse*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, and *Bumblebee*. Ryan is the voice of Jay the blue jay in the Netflix original animated series *Treehouse Detectives*, the voice of Pammee the fennec fox in the Netflix original series *YooHoo to the Rescue*, the voice of Young Zeta on Nickelodeon's *Shimmer and Shine*, the voice of Pupkin Cake and Bunny Bow in the Shopkins franchise, and her on-camera work includes the Lifetime movie *Queen Sized*, the horror-comedy *Halloweed*, and the award-winning digital series *L.A. Macabre*, available now on Amazon Prime. Ryan is a graduate of USC School of Cinematic Arts with a major in Cinema-Television Critical Studies and a minor in Screenwriting.

Debbie Benami-Rahm

Debbie is currently the Manager, Talent Acquisition for Paramount Pictures and Viacom – West Coast who works on the early to mid-career roles for Paramount Pictures, Viacom Media Networks, Viacom Digital Studios and Nickelodeon. Along with a Master's of Science in Counseling, she brings 10 years of entertainment industry career expertise and a professional history recruiting and developing talent in 9 other industries. Her passion for hiring the right talent for the right role with the right manager continues to prevail. She is very excited to sharing tips for launching your entertainment industry career.

Steve Bender

Steve is the VP Corporate Finance for Smith Family Circle and Westbrook Entertainment. He is a creative producer and film finance veteran who associate-produced eight films, and is credited on more than 30 films that earned a cumulative worldwide box office of $1.1 billion. Steve graduated from USC film school in 2000.

Jan Bezouska

I grew up in Prague a film making family. My dad is a screenwriter and my mom is an actress. Movies were naturally a big part of my life. I come from the first generation of Czech people that were able to study abroad after the fall of the iron curtain. That's why upon finishing my Bachelors in Film Sound in 2008 I came to the the states as an exchange student where I began my Masters at West Virginia State University and then moved Los Angeles to study at USC where I received my Masters of Fine Arts in Film and TV Production specializing in sound.For the past five years I've been mostly freelancing as a sound designer and mixer for clients as Sony, Netflix, Universal or Lionsgate. I am mostly supervising independent features but I work on documentaries, music videos and commercials. I worked with Kanye West, Nas or Machine Gun Kelly. This year I've been nominated for the Motion Picture Sound Editors Award for - The best foreign feature.

Steven Brookman

Steven Brookman is the Co-Head of Motion Picture Business Affairs at leading entertainment agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA), where he serves as a high-level negotiator and advisor to many of the most acclaimed and successful artists in film today. He joined CAA in 2003 from the entertainment law firm Bloom, Hergott and Diemer, where he was a partner. Steven received his law degree from the University of California Berkeley and his undergraduate degree from Colgate University. Most recently, Steven has joined the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts faculty as a professor teaching the course "Breaking into the Entertainment Industry".

Linda Brown

Linda Brown is a recipient of a Kodak Vision Award for cinematography, a Kodak Education Award and a Fulbright Scholar. She studied filmmaking at Temple University and cinematography at AFI. Her credits include *Little Indiscretions, Lucky Bastard* and *American Beauties: In Pursuit of Art*, which she also produced. Brown shot *Walking to Waldheim* with Doris Roberts and episodes of Showtime's *Women: Stories of Passion*, plus various documentaries and music videos throughout her long career. Her documentary, *Your Favorite*, detailing her relationship with her father, won recognition at Athens International Film Festival and the American Film Festival. Brown's latest documentary, *You See Me*, received a USC Humanities Research Grant and has has screened in Spain, Poland, Netherlands, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Sudan and has received 7 nominations and 6 awards at international and national film festivals. Linda has taught at AFI, Maine Media Workshops, City University of Hong Kong, Temple University, the Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts and Multi-Media University in Malaysia. She is an Associate Professor and Head of the Cinematography track.

Kimberley Browning

Kimberley Browning is a film and television producer based in Los Angeles. She is the founder and Festival Director of Hollywood Shorts, currently in it's 20th season. She is an Associate Short Film Programmer at the Tribeca Film Festival. She previously served as an Associate Short Film programmer at Los Angeles Film Festival and Guadalajara Film Festival's Los Angeles annual FICGinLA. Raised in Washington DC, Kimberley studied music and film at the University of Southern California, then began her career working in production at Disney's Touchstone Television. She is also the Executive Producer of HBO Access, a directing and writing fellowship program for emerging talent from diverse backgrounds in episodic television, and is a directing mentor of YoungARTS regional Miami and Los Angeles programs. Her producing and directing credits include television, digital episodic content, feature films and documentary.

Bonnie Bruckheimer

Bonnie Bruckheimer has been a film and television producer for many years, having produced such films as "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood", starring Sandra Bullock, Ellen Burstyn, James Garner, Ashley Judd, and Maggie Smith. She formed All Girl Productions, with partner, Bette Midler, in 1985 and made her debut as a film producer on "Beaches," having served previously as associate producer on "Big Business," the hit comedy that starred Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin. Her many screen credits include MAN OF THE HOUSE, FOR THE BOYS, THAT OLD FEELING, and she was Co-Producer on HOCUS POCUS. Bruckheimer served as executive producer on the Bette Midler HBO concert film "Diva Las Vegas" which earned ten Emmy nominations and won three Emmy awards, including "Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Special." She was also executive producer on the highly rated CBS special television production of "Gypsy" starring Bette Midler, which won both Emmy and Cable Ace Awards. She also served as Executive Producer on the short-lived “Bette” sitcom, after which All Girl closed its doors. In 2011, Bruckheimer had a dream come true, and started teaching the wonderful “History of Women in Film,’ “Career Choices and Challenges” course at USC School of Cinematic Arts Because of her many years of working in film and television, she has had an array of influential, successful and fascinating guest speakers to her class. The class is limited to 25 students, but there is a waiting list, every fall. Bruckheimer has been involved in numerous charitable organizations, including eight years of National Spokesperson for Cedars-Sinai Research for Women’s Cancers. She has been an animal rights activist and supports a variety of dog and cat rescues organizations. Bruckheimer is on the Advisory Committee of the National Women’s History Museum. She has volunteered on political campaigns and travelled over the country, knocking on doors for the candidates she supports. She is active in several veteran’s organizations. She is a mentor to many of her USC students and speaks at film schools, other than USC. In 2008, she became a volunteer grief counselor at Our House-Grief.org, and has worked with teenagers grieving the death of a parent or parents, for the past nine years. This work has changed her life. Although Bruckheimer has enjoyed tremendous success in both career and personal life, she unequivocally states that the greatest achievement and joy of her life are her son, Keith Martell (31), a glassblower, who resides is Portland, Oregon, and her

daughter, Miranda Martell (27), Campaigns Manager at Fake Love, an ad agency, which is owned by the New York Times.

Dennis Budde

Dennis Budde (Product Manager) is a sketch comedian, writer, and creative translator between WriterDuet's brilliant team of developers and extraordinary user base.

Logan Burdick

Logan Burdick is a multi-hyphenate creative, and digital media executive. From producing at Maker Studios to being VP of Production at pocket.watch, Logan has developed, produced, or overseen production of thousands of episodes of original content for name brands, top creators, and digital studios. His inaugural feature film, “Rhino” (starring Jared Gilman of Wes Anderson’s “Moonrise Kingdom”) is out this year.

Jordan Cazamias

Jordan is an Interaction Prototyper on Magic Leap's UX Team, where he's worked with a ton of different systems including gestures, eye tracking, meshing and shared experiences. He's particularly excited about VR & AR as a way to make tech that bends to people, rather than the other way around.

Chanell Chen

Chanell Chen is the Director of Entertainment and Media, Greater China at East West Bank, based in Shanghai. She has been with East West Bank since 2011 and specializes in providing highly structured financings for companies based in the US and in Mainland China that create, produce and distribute content. Chen has facilitated a number of landmark partnerships such as Perfect World’s slate investment with Universal Pictures, Bona’s investment in pictures produced and released by various studios including Twentieth Century Fox and Sony, the co-investment deal between Hunan TV & Ltd and Lionsgate Entertainment, and the multi-picture slate deal between Huayi Brothers Media Corp and STX Entertainment. She has worked in East West Bank's Entertainment Industries team in Beverly Hills before relocating to Shanghai in 2018.

Teresa Cheng

With more than 30 years of animation and visual effects production experience, Teresa Cheng has played key roles as a studio executive and a producer. Cheng most recently served as the general manager of Lucasfilm Singapore and previously oversaw production for the joint venture between DreamWorks Animation in the U.S. and the newly established Oriental DreamWorks in Shanghai as Senior Production Executive. Cheng’s feature film credits include *Shrek Forever After, Madagascar, Batman & Robin and True Lies.* During her 17-year tenure at DreamWorks, Cheng traveled extensively to evaluate CG studios in Shanghai, Nanjing, Taipei, Seoul, Mumbai, Bangalore, Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto – culminating in the company’s

expansion in China and India in the last few years. In the visual effects community, Cheng has worked as both a client (Warner Brothers Studio) and a vendor (Rhythm & Hues) and is no stranger to startups (Digital Domain). A native of Hong Kong, Cheng moved to Seattle where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Washington. Cheng has also lived in Vancouver, Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Yokohama. Her interest in scuba diving has led to underwater excursions in Palau, Solomon Islands, Truk Lagoon, Belize, Curacao and Cayman Islands. She is an avid student of Brazilian percussion and recently started playing the ukulele.

Bonnie Chi

In addition to working with current students and alumni to cultivate and promote USC talent to the entertainment industry, Bonnie Chi oversees the office of Industry Relations. She is also an Adjunct Professor for the Marshall School of Business/School of Cinematic Arts (BCA) program. Chi has over 20 years of entertainment experience starting at The Chasin Agency, working her way over to the William Morris Agency until her move to the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

HyeonJeong Cho

HyeonJeong Cho is South Korean-born animated filmmaker and storyboard artist located in Los Angeles where she recently finished her MFA degree at *University of Southern California* for Animation and Digital Arts. Currently she is working as a Storyboard Revisionist at *Nickelodeon Animation Studio*. Her thesis film, *Nowhere* won the Best Animation at Los Angeles Cine Fest, and has been selected many film festivals such as *Palm Springs International Animation Festival*, *Bucheon international animation festival* and more. Before HyeonJeong comes to US, she has been in 20 countries including Working Holiday in Australia, 50 days solo backpacking in India, completing Camino de Santiago by herself in Spain, volunteer work in the Philippines. Also, she has diverse work experience in 4 different countries, South Korea, Australia, Japan and US. Most recently HyeonJeong interned at *Nickelodeon* as a Production Intern on *Shimmer and Shine* for Summer and Fall 2017, and the previous summer she worked at *Tokyo Broadcasting System* and created short animated assets and commercial bummers for the TV show, *CatChat*, which was aired in Thailand in 2017.

Melissa Cobb

Melissa Cobb is Vice President of Original Animation at Netflix, the world's leading internet entertainment service. Cobb leads the content team responsible for bringing animated series and feature films to Netflix members in 190 countries around the world. Prior to Netflix, Cobb spent over a decade at DreamWorks Animation, where she produced the Academy Award-nominated *Kung Fu Panda* trilogy. She most recently served as Chief Creative Officer for Oriental DreamWorks, where she oversaw development and production as well as business and production strategy for a slate of high-quality animated feature films targeted to a global audience. Before joining DreamWorks, Cobb was at 20th Century Fox Feature Animation (*Titan A.E.* and *Ever After*) and Walt Disney Pictures, where she was responsible for discovering and

developing live action titles. Cobb earned an M.B.A. from the Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA and a Bachelor of Science from Stanford University.

Elisabeth Collazos

Elisabeth Collazos is a freelance writer for publications and websites that focus upon Fashion, Art and Entertainment. She enjoys the creative and learning process of taking a writing project and developing it through fruition. Elisabeth especially enjoys interviewing artists and finding out what inspires them. She has contributed to *The LA Fashion Magazine*, *Basic Magazine*, Occhimagazine.com, and LA-Story.com. “There is nothing more inspiring to me than interviewing artists (as well as creative entrepreneurs), listening to their life experiences, and finding out the motivation that keeps them going. Everyone has a story,” says Elisabeth. Currently Elisabeth is focusing upon her online website – *Gemma Magazine*, an online site featuring fashion and entertainment from a diverse perspective. She is LA based with her spouse and three children.

Xiomara Comrie

Xiomara Comrie began her career in the film industry in 1990 in New York City as an Assistant Cameraperson. Her first jobs were on music videos and as an intern in the camera department on Spike Lee’s Malcolm X. That exposure and experience led to a 2-year stint on Law and Order as a Camera Trainee and 2nd Assistant. For the next 15 years, Xiomara was fortunate enough to work alongside cinematographers Philippe Rousselot, Sven Nykvist, Robert Richardson and with directors Sidney Lumet, Robert Redford, Tim Burton, Robert DeNiro and Denzel Washington on projects including *Night Falls on Manhattan, Lions for Lambs, Big Fish, Planet of the Apes, The Good Shepherd, Antoine Fisher Story and The Great Debaters and Remember the Titans.* In October 2008, Xiomara joined the staff of the International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600 as a Business Representative and in late 2015, she was appointed the first National Diversity Officer. In addition to enforcing contracts and serving the membership, she is working alongside National Executive Director Rebecca Rhine, the diversity committee and women’s groups to increase awareness and promote inclusion and access within the membership and the industry. Under her watch, Local 600 has implemented negotiating seminars for women, Unconscious Bias training for the Local 600 Board and has various collaborations with numerous organizations including the PGA, Hollywood CPR, Canon and Tiffen. She is particularly interested in expanding access and opportunities for future cinematographers and camera persons. Xiomara is a proud 1st generation American of Panamanian descent and mother of 2 toddlers, Walker and Camila. She is an avid runner and an amazing tennis player.

Liz Cook Mowe

Liz Cook is the Director of Documentary film at Kickstarter. Previously she has worked in France with the U.S. State Department, in India with A.R. Rahman, composer and musician, and in NYC as the acquisitions manager for the digital distributer, SnagFilms. She has spoken at a variety of film festivals including Sundance, SXSW, TIFF, Tribeca, Cannes, Sheffield Doc Fest, Hot Docs, and IDFA. Kickstarter is a public benefit corporation focused on bringing creative projects to life through crowdfunding. Since the company started 10 years ago, more than $4 billion dollars have been pledged to support over 160k creative projects. Of that, we have seen more than 26k successfully funded film projects with more than $430 million dollars pledged to films in total.

Midge Costin

Midge Costin is the Kay Rose Professor in the Art of Dialogue & Sound Editing. She is the first to hold this endowed chair, which was given by George Lucas in 2005 and has been Head of Sound at SCA since 2000. For 20 years, Costin has been a feature film sound editor in Hollywood, having worked at every major studio. Costin has collaborated on the soundtracks for filmmakers such as John Waters (*Crybaby*), David Wolper (*Imagine: John Lennon)*, Kenneth Branagh (*Dead Again*), Tony Scott (*Crimson Tide*) and Jerry Bruckheimer (*The Rock*). Two of the films, *Crimson Tide* and *Armageddon*, for which she edited effects and dialogue, received Academy Award nominations for Sound Editing. Several of the films Costin has sound edited have received nominations for the Motion Picture Sound Editors' Golden Reel Award. *Crimson Tide* won for Best Feature Film Sound Editing. Costin worked her way up to editing sound on action adventure films at a time when very few women were cutting Fx in Hollywood (a situation which has not changed significantly). She is a past Board member of the MPSE and is a long-standing member of the Editors Guild. Her avocation as a surf kayaker has earned her a spot on the U.S. Surf Kayaking Team in 2005, the winner of the World Championship in Costa Rica. In 2007, the team took fifth place in Spain.

Jayjit DasGupta

Jayjit DasGupta started out in Theater. He studied directing at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA). He was the Artistic Director and Executive Producer of the Generic Theatre Co. in Washington DC. In 2001, he became the first ever undergraduate to be awarded the Lannan Fellowship for Writing at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Loss of close friends at the Pentagon during September 11th propelled Jayjit to take a hiatus from the arts. He studied medicine at the University of Tennessee. He served on the Heart & Lung Transplant team at Vanderbilt University and trained at University of Pennsylvania and the Gift of Life programs. During his tenure at SCA, he was awarded the Jean and Ruth Negulesco Fellowship in 2016 for Writing and Directing. He is a two-time College Television Awards finalist in the Commercials category. In 2017, he was invited to be a part of the prestigious internship program at the Emmys/Television Academy. He was also elected the Student Body President for all 7 divisions for 2017 and 2018. Since his graduation in 2018, Jayjit has been directing commercials locally and internationally. He has primarily been working with Left Productions. His latest project was with JWT India and the State of Gujarat tourism. His next project is with the Tales of the Cocktail group. He is repped by Innovative Artists.

Kelly Decsy - Lawyer (COMING SOON)

Antonio Diaz

Antonio Diaz is an Emmy-winning and James Beard Award nominated filmmaker for the docu-series, The Migrant Kitchen, and founder of the culinary publication, Life & Thyme. For over six years, Antonio has been at the forefront in food journalism by covering the cultural significance of what we eat across the globe.

Lauren Dineley

Lauren Dineley is the Coordinator at Writ Large, a literary management and production company based in Los Angeles. Lauren is originally from Toronto, Canada where she attended the University of Toronto. She graduated from the Peter Stark Producing Program at USC's School of Cinematic Arts in 2016. She has produced several theatrical productions, and two short films.

Rebecca Doyle

Rebecca Doyle is a graduate of USC's School of Cinematic Arts and Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism. In the digital space, she has produced over 450 pieces of content amassing over 300 million views for entities including New Form Digital, Nintendo, SMOSH, Screen Junkies, Watsky, The Warp Zone, EA, FOX, Kellogg's, Ubisoft, T-Mobile, American Heart Association, and the NFL. A member of the Producers Guild of America, her

most recent producing work includes the independent feature film "Red Rover" and "Expiration Date," the first digital pilot for the SyFy channel, both of which will be released in mid-2019. Her most recent directing work includes a spot shot on location in London under mentorship of BBC Media Action, which regularly broadcasts internationally on network EWTN. In addition to her freelance work, she is an in-house Interactive Producer & Creative Director at Imperson, a creative studio for conversational artificial intelligence.

Andy Dulman

Andy's love for writing and directing began at a young age when he used his father's camcorder to film close-up magic shows, robotics competitions, and comedy videos – which may or may not have accidentally recorded over his baby sister's first steps. He then went on to cut his comedy chops in improv and sketch comedy. At age 20, he co-created a company called MakingOf.com, a behind-the-scenes web portal, with his co-founder and actress Natalie Portman, where he produced and directed hundreds of interviews with legends of the film industry. His April Fools Day spot for Google's "Google Play for Pets" campaign earned him a place in SHOOT Magazine's 2018 New Directors Showcase. Andy's style-with-substance approach and knack for working with actors is expertly illustrated in recent commercials with distinguished brands like Coca-Cola, Instagram, Mercedes-Benz, TripAdvisor, Airbnb, and Lexus. Andy's projects have been featured in such publications as Variety, TIME Magazine, Adweek, Comedy Central, FunnyOrDie, Bustle, and others.

Jenn Duong

Jenn Duong is an immersive director and producer. With VR as her native medium, she has directed and produced a range of cutting edge projects from short form VR docs to VR music experiences for artists like Banks to a VR/AI experiences with Taryn Southern. Recently named in the top #25 in Onalytic's 100 Top VR Influencers 2016, she is also a Future of Storytelling Fellow 2016, a featured creator that piloted the Google Jump Start program, as well as one of LA Weekly's People of 2017. In 2015, she co-founded Women in VR/AR one of the largest channels for resources, opportunities and collaboration in her industry. She has become a leader and advocate for women and underrepresented groups in the emerging technology space growing the role models of tomorrow through advocacy today. Outside of VR, Duong is always down to talk Game of Thrones, dance awkwardly, and make art.

Matthew Edwards

Matthew Edwards is an award winning cinematographer based in Los Angeles. His work has been recognized by the ASC and has played in competition at Camerimage. He is a graduate of Stanford and USC, and an alum of Industrial Light & Magic. Most recently, he shot the first season of BET's reboot of The First Wives Club.

Jack Epps

Jack Epps, Jr. is an award winning writer and filmmaker who first became involved in making films while an undergraduate at Michigan State University. Inspired by a student film festival, Epps made his first film the following semester and has been making movies ever since. His student film *The Pigs vs the Freaks*, was purchased by NBC and made into a Movie of the Week, re-titled *Off Sides*. Epps produced and worked as second unit director on the film. Upon arriving in California, Epps wrote an episode of *Hawaii Five-O* and *Kojak*. While continuing to pursue his writing, Epps also worked as a cinematographer and an assistant cameraman on various local productions. Epps had the good fortune to work for a period of time as a second unit cameraman and assistant cameraman for Orson Welles on Mr. Welles' last film, *The Other Side of the Wind*. Epps united with his screenwriting professor from Michigan State University, Jim Cash, and began writing screenplays together. After writing seven unproduced screenplays, their first produced screenplay was *Top Gun* which went on to become the #1 world wide box office hit in 1986. Within eleven months, the writing team of Cash & Epps had three produced screenplays in the theaters: *Top Gun*, *Legal Eagles*, and *The Secret of My Success*. As a screenwriter, Mr. Epps co-authored over 25 screenplays and eight produced motion pictures including *Dick Tracy*, *Turner & Hooch*, and *Anaconda*. Epps also did extensive revisions on *Sister Act* and *Die Hard III*. While Epps is primarily known for co-authoring big actions movies, Epps equally enjoyed writing romantic charm and chase comedies inspired by the films of Hitchcock, Wilder and Sturges. Films like *The Secret of My Success*, *Legal Eagles*, *Turner & Hooch*, *Viva Rock Vegas*, and *Sister Act* are examples of the comedy of Cash & Epps. Recently, Epps wrote the video game *Top Gun* for the Sony PlayStation network. Epps has also written video games for THQ. Epps had the pleasure to write for some of the most successful actors in the motion picture industry including Robert Redford, Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks, Warren Beatty, Michael J. Fox, Debra Winger, Al Pacino, Anthony Edwards, Bruce Willis, Meg Ryan, and John Voight. He also worked with such motion picture giants as Ivan Reitman, Jerry Breckheimer, Joel Silver, Herb Ross, Tony Scott and Dick Donner. Epps was recently honored as the recipient of the first Victoria and Jack Oakie Endowed Chair in Comedy at the School of Cinematic Arts. Epps was the fall 2008 commencement speaker at the Michigan State University graduation ceremonies and was awarded an honorary doctorate by Michigan State University. In addition, Epps is recipient of the Michigan State University Spartans in Hollywood Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, the team of Cash & Epps was recently honored by the American Film Institute as one of the Top 100 Greatest Quotes in American Cinema for their line: "I feel the need… the need for speed." Epps is a thirty five year member of the Writer's Guild of America, and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Michele Farinola

Michele Farinola has been working in documentary features and television for over twenty years. She is currently the executive producer at PCH Films, where she recently produced DAVID CROSBY: REMEMBER MY NAME along with Cameron Crowe's Vinyl Films and BMG, which sold to Sony Pictures Classics at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival and will be released in theaters July 2019. She is currently producing LINDA RONSTADT: THE SOUND OF MY VOICE for CNN Films, which will premiere at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival in April. Prior to PCH, Michele served as Co-Head of Documentary Features at Spitfire Pictures, a unit of Exclusive Media, where she was an executive producer of the 2012 Academy Award® winning documentary, UNDEFEATED released by The Weinstein Company and the 2012 Grammy®

Award winning documentary, FOO FIGHTERS: BACK AND FORTH. In addition, Michele was the executive in charge of production of HBO's 2012 Emmy® winning documentary, GEORGE HARRISON: LIVING IN THE MATERIAL WORLD, directed by Martin Scorsese; and THE LAST PLAY AT SHEA, released by Lionsgate and Showtime. Michele started her entertainment career at Paramount Pictures and 20th Century Fox, working for a studio chairman, eventually segueing into producing and directing dozens of high-profile, award winning cable documentary series and specials for AMC, A&E, USA Network, SciFi Channel, Starz and Animal Planet under the Fox Television Studios banner.

Michael Fink

Michael has earned degrees from California State University Northridge, San Francisco Art Institute, and California Institute of the Arts, in an attempt to leave behind a checkered past that included stints as an Army officer, a money manager, and a studio artist and photographer. Michael started his film career on "The China Syndrome", followed shortly by films such as "Star Trek – The Motion Picture", and "Blade Runner". Michael received his first Visual Effects Supervisor credit on "War Games" in 1982. And during the very early years of digital animation and visual effects, on films such as "Buckaroo Banzai" and "Project X", Michael innovated novel ways to integrate computer graphics with live action and traditional visual effects. In 1988, Michael saw Kirk Gibson hit the game winning home run in the first game of the World Series between the Dodgers and the Oakland A's. Michael produced and directed for Sony a live action and animation short which was the first demonstration of real-time integration of computer graphics with high definition video in 1989 (Symbolics and Sony HDTV). Michael received an Academy Award nomination for "Batman Returns" in 1993. In that film he supervised the creation of the first photo-real computer graphic creatures in a feature film that faithfully replicated existing, living, beings (penguins and bats). In 1993, Michael directed the first Coca-Cola "Polar Bear" spot, which may be the first public showing of a computer graphic creature with three-dimensional fur. Michael was honored in October 2001 at the Premio Imaggine in Milan, Italy for his contribution to the art and science of digital filmmaking. In 2008, Michael received an Academy Award for Best Visual Effects, and a BAFTA Award for Best Special Visual Effects for the film "The Golden Compass". The film combined live action, animation, and visual effects in nearly every cut. From 2008 to 2011 Michael headed the North American visual effects group of Prime Focus, and guided the development of a global visual effects pipeline between North America, the U.K., and India. He supervised visual effects and animation on a number of films, including Terrence Malick's "Tree of Life". Michael was happy to contribute to the Academy Award winning film "Life of Pi" in 2012, working with BUF Compagnie on a 1½ minute sequence known as Tiger Vision, which was often cited in reviews of the film as a seminal moment in the story, establishing the strong bond between Pi and Richard Parker, the tiger. Michael is a Professor at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts, and continues to do 2nd unit directing, visual effects supervision, and consulting on visual effects, animation, and 3D projects. He serves as Chair of the Division of Film and Television Production, and holds the George Méliès Endowed Chair in Visual Effects, and the Kortschak Family Endowed Division Chair in Film and Television Production. He is on the Executive Committee of the Visual Effects Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences,

and is a founding member, former Board member, and a Fellow of the Visual Effects Society. Michael and his wife Melissa Bachrach live in Los Angeles.

Sean Flanagan

Sean Flanagan is a writer/producer who has made his name in film distribution and marketing, working on over 800 feature films in the past five years. He has worked for Swingset Creative, BidSlate, Mojomakers, Buffalo 8, Visual Data Media Services, Premiere Digital, Quiver and for dozens of North American distributors during his career. Key projects include Al Pacino's Wilde Salome, Ashley Judd's Trafficked, Zedd: True Colors and HBO's Dia De Gracias. Previous clients include Sundance Institute, Film Rise, Paradigm and Samuel Goldwyn. Sean's producing credits include the documentaries *Ghost Empire: The Forgotten Story of Harvey Comics* and *The Tabasco Documentary*. On the narrative side he is a producer on *Easy Does It!* starring Linda Hamilton and Dwight Henry as well as the upcoming films Scouts and Fruitcake. His involvement in the film community has included serving as a juror, panelist or mentor with USC, San Diego Comic Con International, New Orleans Film Festival, Austin Film Festival, Emerging Voices, Women in Film, DC Short Film Festival and Studio City International Film Festival.

Nancy Forner

Since the moment Mel Brooks promoted her from Assistant Editor to full Editor on the movie *Solar Babies*, Nancy has been busy picture editing movies and television series. During her career she has worked on many notable and diverse projects in genres and styles that range from comedy, horror, action/adventure, fantasy and medical/legal procedurals. The award-winning B*uffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Vampire Diaries*, *Witches of East End* and the cult classic *Return to Horror High* are a few, but not all, of her many and varied credits. Currently she is finishing up "Poisoning Paradise" a feature documentary produced by Pierce Brosnan and directed by Keely Brosnan. Nancy is a member of IATSE Local 700 and also a proud member of the American Cinema Editors, ACE. One of the mandates of the American Cinema Editors is to "further the understanding of the art of editing."
To that end, Nancy has been highly involved with mentoring and internship programs for aspiring film students and a Professor of Editing at USC School of Cinematic Arts. Nancy is the Editing Track Head for the Division of Film and Television and is an Endowed Chair, holding the Michael Kahn Endowed Chair for Editing.

Caroline Fraissinet

Caroline Fraissinet is the Internship Coordinator in the Industry Relations office at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. She has a B.S. in Film/Video Production from Drexel University, and an M.A. in Cinema Studies from NYU. Prior to joining USC, Caroline worked as a freelance VFX Producer and Coordinator for clients including ABC, Disney, FOX, Marvel, Blumhouse and History Channel. When she's not working, Caroline likes to write and draw comics, volunteer with rescue cats, run, and read.

Lisa Fox

Born and raised in the Big Apple, Lisa Fox's extensive entertainment background is vast and varied. Prior to joining USC, Lisa was an agent at the Kaplan Stahler Agency, where her clients included production companies, show-runners, directors and on-camera talent. Before transitioning to the agency side, Lisa was Senior Vice President of Development at Pink Sneakers Productions as well as the Vice President at Motion Picture Production, Inc, where she created, sold and produced several shows in the cable landscape. Prior to that, she was Director of Development at LMNO Productions where she oversaw several television series. Lisa got her start at GRB Entertainment as Manager of Development and is especially proud of creating GRB Entertainment's internship program for highly motivated students pursuing careers in the entertainment industry. Due largely to Lisa's passion for helping others achieve their dreams, the skills obtained during her internship program provided a platform for all of her interns to take their careers to the next level. Today many of them are producers, directors and writers that hold executive positions at major networks, studios and production companies. During her career in alternative television, Lisa has been instrumental in selling projects to CBS, Amazon, Netflix, TLC, HGTV, DIY, Food Network, Discovery ID, FYI, Discovery Channel, CNN, A&E, Bio, Spike, History Channel, VH1, MTV, E!, Lifetime, WE, Travel Channel and TruTv. Before entering the world of alternative television development, Lisa was a Talent Manager at the McConnell Management Group, and is a graduate from the University of Florida at Gainesville, School of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts.

Jay Francis

As VP of Current Series and Diversity & Inclusion for Disney Television Animation, Jay has been instrumental in the development and creative management of a long list of successful animated series for both Disney Channel and Disney XD. He recently expanded his role to work closely with the development and recruitment teams to identify, secure, and mentor diverse creative talent for Disney Television Animation and Disney Junior. Prior to joining Disney Television Animation, Jay held the position of VP and General Manager of LEVEL13.NET, developing original properties and acquiring films for Film Roman's internet subsidiary. In addition to his duties as VP, Jay also handled all of the company's artistic and production recruitment for The Simpsons, Family Guy, and King of the Hill. He has given presentations to high profile and elite educational institutions such as UCLA, Purdue, Texas, and Vanderbilt as well as most of the country's most prestigious art and animation schools in the country. A native of Boston,

Massachusetts, Jay received a B.S. in TV/Film Production from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. Jay is a member of Disney's Leadership Learning Advisory Board, ATAS, and ASIFA, as well as having served as an advisory board member at several schools.

Julio Vincent Gambuto

Julio Vincent is a writer/director, working on his first feature film, "Team Marco." The son of a bus-driver-slash-bread-baker, "Julie" grew up in a large Italian family on New York's Staten Island, where aunts, uncles, and cousins gathered often around Mom's seafoam-green formica kitchen table for "cake and coffee" — always an Entenmann's crumb cake — to tell stories, argue about the Mets, and play cards with the neighbors. Julie left Staten Island to go to Harvard, where he graduated with honors. He completed his training as a film director at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, where he was honored as an Annenberg Fellow. Julio is most proud to be "Uncle Julie" to six: Joseph, Marco, Anthony, Milania, Nicky and Nico. He grew up in the Rossville neighborhood on the South Shore of Staten Island and is a graduate of Staten Island Academy, where he now serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. When he is not in production, he enjoys teaching the art of storytelling to creative and business teams in Los Angeles and New York. In addition, Julio is a Cabinet Member of the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation, a member of the SIEDC Creative Council, and a founding member of the Italian Cultural Foundation at Casa Belvedere. Julio lives in Los Angeles and on Staten Island.

Caroline Garcia

Caroline Garcia manages recruiting at HBO's L.A. office. She is responsible for all full time hiring in addition to hiring interns. Caroline moved to Los Angeles 5 years ago from Houston Texas to pursue a career managing diversity & inclusion recruiting within the entertainment industry. Prior to HBO she worked at companies such as *(CAA, Deluxe Entertainment, and Entertainment Partners & Central Casting)*. In her spare time she loves to attend events and volunteer around the city supporting causes for children, teens and disadvantaged women in our communities.

Greg Gerwickey

Greg Gewickey is a VP of Technology for Warner Bros. Greg's group assesses the impact of emerging technologies and platforms on content creation and distribution, implementing new production and distribution technologies in support of the mission/goals of the WB divisions. This involves outreach to universities, interfacing with the venture community and managing new technology initiatives within WB. Greg also serves on the WB patent committee. He has worked with various standards bodies including UltraViolet™, the UHD Alliance, SMPTE, the Blu-ray Disc Association, and EIDR. He is a member of the NATAS Emmy technical awards committee. Greg has over 30 years of experience in the software industry. He started his career with IBM designing software for mainframe systems. From there, he worked on Mobile Computing for the IBM PC Company (ThinkPad). In 1995, he joined Philips Electronics as a Manager of Research with a focus on the Internet and networked consumer electronics. His group started two home network initiatives, the Home AV Initiative (HAVi) based on IEEE1394 (Firewire) and HomeAPI based on IP, which later became Universal Plug-n-Play Forum (UPnP). While consulting for several start-ups, he joined InterActual™ which created Internet-enabled DVD applications for major Hollywood releases like the Matrix and Harry Potter. Greg then spent time at Walt Disney Studios in the Studio New Technology department and several years developing an OTT service for Deluxe Entertainment. Recently, at WB, Greg has been co-leading a cross-divisional team exploring the entertainment opportunities employing VR, AR and MR. Additionally, Greg works with the Time Warner Investment team on technology-related opportunities. Greg has had experience in systems architecture and design, strategic planning, competitive analysis, solution architecture, IP rights and management. Greg has degrees in Math and Computer Science from Furman University.

Darrien Michele Gipson

An M.F.A. recipient from the Peter Stark Producing Program at USC, Darrien Michele Gipson is the Executive Director of SAGindie. An experienced producer, she leads a team that specializes in teaching filmmakers how to use SAG-AFTRA's low budget contracts in order to hire professional talent for independent film. A frequent moderator and speaker on panels and production workshops, Darrien has traveled to film festivals around the world, consulting with filmmakers, partnering with film organizations and throwing epic filmmaker parties.

Guy Goldstein

Guy Goldstein (Founder and CEO of WriterDuet) is a screenwriter, improvisor, and builder of technology to help people create better.

Vince Gonzales

Vince Gonzales supplies cinematic arts students with film stock and production supplies and is the USC liaison for Fotokem, a full service motion picture post production facility. A self-taught

photographer, Gonzales has worked in landscapes and portraits since the early 1990s. His photographs have appeared in *Variety*, the *Hollywood Reporter*, the L*os Angeles Times, Millimeter, Hollywood Independent*, and *Emmy Magazine*. His works have been exhibited at the Klasky Csupo Studio Gallery in Hollywood (2003), the ArcLight Hollywood (2003), the Forest Lawn Museum in Glendale (2004), and the Hollywood Entertainment Museum (2005). Gonzales' aesthetic interest in filmmaking technology has taken him to fascinating locations in and around Los Angeles. His latest exhibition, Tech Art, which completed a display at the Linwood Dunn Theater at the Academy's Pickford Center for Motion Picture Study in Hollywood is being taken by A.M.P.A.S.' Science and Technology Council to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Museum in Washington, D.C. at the end of September

Jeff Grace

Jeff Grace started his career in writing/directing/producing/acting on the stages of Second City and ImprovOlympic, while working days as an ad-man on the Altoids campaign at Leo Burnett in Chicago. He made his television debut as an actor opposite Jon Hamm on the Emmy Award-winning *Mad Men*and in 2013 he made IndieWire's "25 Best Breakthrough Performances" list for his role in the film *It's A Disaster*. Since then, he's starred on such shows as *Narcos*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Castle*, *Still The King*, and *Silicon Valley*. Jeff has produced and starred in several award-winning feature films -- *It's A Disaster* (Julia Stiles, David Cross), *Mothers & Daughters* (Susan Sarandon, Christina Ricci), *The Scenesters* and *Folk Hero & Funny Guy* (Alex Karpovsky, Wyatt Russell, Melanie Lynskey) -- all of which received theatrical distribution through Oscilloscope, Screen Media, Monterey Media and Gravitas Ventures respectively. His directorial debut *Folk Hero & Funny Guy* received a Rotten Tomatoes "Certified Fresh" (80%). IndieWire listed Grace as "a filmmaker to watch," and Screen Anarchy called him "a remarkable filmmaking talent whose progress will be well worth watching." As a stand-up comedian, Jeff released his first stand-up comedy special (*Live In Los Angeles*) through Amazon Prime Video. Coming full circle with his advertising roots, Jeff is also part of the creative team at 20th Century Fox's branded content agency, All City, working on campaigns for such brands as Google, AirBNB, Mars, Lays and Samsung. You can keep up with Jeff on Twitter or Instagram at @jeffgrace.

Donna Grillo

As an animation casting and voice director Donna has worked on hundreds of t.v. episodes at all of the major animation houses: Nickelodeon's Spongebob Squarepants, The Fairly Oddparents, Invader Zim; at Cartoon Network: Dexters Laboratory, Johnny Bravo, Cow and Chicken, at Disney Jr.; Miles From Tomorrowland (original pilot) to name just a few examples of the shows she's worked on. Her industrial clients include the U.S. Immigration Service where she cast and directed an animated film in five different languages. Her most recent work has been on the t.v. movie and series - Barbie: Dreamtopia for Mattel. Keep an eye out for season three of Valt The

Wonder Deer to be released in 2019 and an upcoming animated series on Netflix. Besides casting and directing animated projects, Donna is also a demo producer and voiceover acting coach. (website: http://www.donnagrillo.com)

Gina Hall

Gina holds a degree in Cinematic Arts from the University of Southern California. She has made several documentaries for studio clients such as Warner Brothers, MGM and Universal. She has also worked as a producer at New Wave Entertainment, a director's assistant at Tollin-Robbins Productions and on television series *Friends* and *Big Brother.*
Her video work has been seen on Huffington Post and her writing is featured on popular sites, including Huffington Post, Silicon Valley Business Journal, The Wrap and BizWomen. She is currently working on her feature directing debut that will shoot this summer.

Ben Hannini

Born, raised, and currently living in Los Angeles, Ben Hannani is a first-generation Iranian-American writer and director. He attended the University of Southern California, where he graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and Minor in Screenwriting. "L.A.'S HOTTEST BAR IS...," a short film co-written by Hannani about a water bar, won Second Prize at USC's Jack Oakie Comedy Film Festival in 2016 and was selected for the 2017 Berlin Flash Film Festival. Following graduation, Hannani worked at William Morris Endeavor, where he started out in the mailroom before becoming an assistant in the Motion Picture Literary and Scripted Television departments. Since then, he has assisted multiple TV writers' rooms, including TBS' PEOPLE OF EARTH and Netflix's COWBOY BEBOP, on which he currently serves as Showrunner's Assistant.

Eric Hanson

Eric Hanson is CEO of Blueplanet VR, as well as a faculty member at the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California. With a background in design, architecture, photography, and feature film visual effects, Eric currently creates volumetric VR content spanning natural history, cultural heritage, and science visualization. His VFX work can be seen in "The Day After Tomorrow", "Cast Away", "Fantasia 2000", and "The Fifth Element", among others. Recent work has led to collaborations with The Dunhaung Foundation, Frontline/ PBS, The Navajo Nation & Ai Weiwei, and the Onward Project. At USC he leads curriculum in Cinematic VR and Visual Effects, but mostly wishes he could sleep more.

Michelle Hantman

Michelle Hantman graduated from USC in 2016 with a BA in Film & Television Production as well as with minors in Screenwriting and Psychology. In her final semester at USC she interned

at Nickelodeon in their Original Movies department. Immediately upon graduating she was hired fulltime as the executive assistant to the SVP of the Original Movies Department. There she not only performed administrative duties but participated in the development process. Wanting to be in a writers' room, she transitioned in January 2018 to a script coordinator position for a new CG animated show called Wonder Park. She has written two episodes for the series so far and in her own time works on other writing projects.

Michael Harbour

Michael is one of the founders of Mammal Studios, a Hollywood-based visual effects company, where he is also a Visual Effects Supervisor, acting in this capacity for the studio on FX's *"Legion, Season 3"*, Sony Picture's *"Equalizer 2"*, and Marvel Studios' *"Black Panther"* among other projects. Prior to this, Michael mastered his craft through his experience as both an artist, and a supervisor, at some of the top vfx companies in the world. He has worked on over 80+ feature-film, television, and music video projects, including: *"Suicide Squad";* "*Maleficent*"; *"Argo"; "The Curious Case of Benjamin Buttons"; "The Day After Tomorrow"*; "*Starship Troopers" ;* and *"Contact"* to name just a few. Founded in 2013, Mammal Studios has worked on projects such as *"Yellowstone, seasons 1 & 2"* (Paramount Network), *"Bird Box"* & *"Bright"* (Netflix), "*Fury*" & "*The Shallows*" (Sony Pictures), *"Bad Times as the El Royale"* & "*Joy*" (Fox), and music videos for "*Eminem"*, "*The Weeknd"* and "*Sza"*, among many other film, television and music video projects. A graduate of USC (B.A. English/Creative Writing, class of '93), Michael was also a member of the Men's Water Polo team, as well as being selected for T.C. Boyle's *Advanced Writer's Program.* Fight on!

Butch Hartman

Michigan native Butch Hartman remembers wanting to create cartoons as far back as kindergarten. "I drew a picture of my teacher and she kept raving about it. I realized art was a good way to get attention and I was hooked," said Hartman. He has been with Nickelodeon for 18 years, spearheading four successful series including: *The Fairly OddParents*, *Danny Phantom*,*T.U.F.F. Puppy* and *Bunsen is a Beast.* Hartman pursued drawing through high school and then attended Cal Arts to study animation. Hartman decided on animation as a career after working freelance as an assistant animator for Don Bluth on "An American Tail" during his junior year at Cal Arts. Upon graduation, he worked as a character designer and storyboard artist for Marvel Productions, and later, Ruby Spears Productions. Soon after, he earned a job working on *Family Dog* for Amblin Television before joining Hanna-Barbera in 1991. Hartman worked at Hanna-Barbera for six years doing storyboard work, directing cartoons and creating his own shorts for *What A Cartoon!* He also wrote and directed episodes of *Dexter's Laboratory*, *Cow & Chicken* and *Johnny Bravo* before churning out three shorts – *Pfish & Chip, Hillbilly Blue* and *Gramps*. Following his stint at Hanna-Barbera, Hartman began working on Nickelodeon's *Oh Yeah, Cartoons!* where he created a new short, *The Fairly OddParents*. The short was then developed into an animated series and became a mega-hit for the network when it launched in 2001. *The Fairly OddParents* ranks as Nickelodeon's third longest running animated series,

behind*SpongeBob SquarePants* and *Dora the Explorer.* It has currently been running steadily on Nickelodeon for the last 17 years. In 2011, Nickelodeon commemorated the 10th anniversary of the animated series with the live-action/CG animated TV movie *A Fairly Odd Movie: Grow Up, Timmy Turner!* The series came to life once again in the original TV movie, *A Fairly Odd Christmas* in 2012 and *A Fairly OddSummer* in 2014*. The Fairly OddParents* was nominated for an Emmy in 2002 in the Outstanding Music and Lyrics category for an original song co-written by Hartman entitled, "I Wish Every Day Could Be Christmas." The series garnered two additional Emmy nominations the following year in the same category for original songs co-written by the creator entitled, "What Girls Love" and "It's Great to be a Guy," and in 2004 for "Wish Come True!." *The Fairly OddParents* received two BMI Cable Awards for Outstanding Theme Song and Underscore in 2002 and 2003. In 2010, *The Fairly OddParents* earned an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Writing. The successful animated series has also earned several Annie Award nominations. In 2004, Hartman created *Danny Phantom*, an animated comedy series featuring a teenage boy endowed with ghost-like superpowers, and in 2010, he created the Nickelodeon animated series,*T.U.F.F. Puppy*, which follows a gung-ho, dim-witted dog named Dudley Puppy who is thrust into the role of "hero" when recruited by the super secret crime fighting organization T.U.F.F. (Turbo Undercover Fighting Force). In 2015 Nickelodeon announced the 20-episode greenlight for Hartman's fourth series with the network, *Bunsen is a Beast*, following the adventures of Bunsen, the first beast ever to attend a human grade school, and his human best friend Mikey. Hartman also launched his own online kid's destination called "THE NOOG NETWORK". An interactive app featuring all-original cartoons, live-action shows and games for kids. Some of which were created by Hartman himself. Butch has also become a You Tube creator. His channel: "Butch Hartman" currently has 740,000 subs and is growing steadily. It's a great arena that allows him to create whatever he wants for his ever-expanding audience. In 2005, Hartman and his wife, Julieann, founded Hartman House, a non-profit foundation whose mission is to help underprivileged children all around the world. Since its formation, Hartman House has helped support numerous global child-based charities, including The Angola Girls Project, a shelter for adolescent girls in Angola, Africa. Hartman House has also spearheaded aid projects in orphanages in Uganda, Africa and Haiti. In Los Angeles, Hartman House has funded school scholarships for inner city children and sponsored a complete home renovation for a family in need. More information regarding the non-profit foundation is available at www.hartmanhousefoundation.org. Hartman lives in Bell Canyon, Calif. with his wife, two daughters, one dog and one mother-in-law. And she has an attitude. In a good way.

Kyle Hausmann-Stokes

Kyle is an LA-based director of commercials, video and digital content.
Like all filmmakers, he got his start in the US Army...as a paratrooper.
With cutting-edge Hi-8 technology, Kyle would film his unit's monthly airborne jumps and tank maneuvers then cut together (totally rad) videos to share with his battle buddies.
Following the military Kyle traveled the world, worked/studied abroad, graduate from the USC School of Cinematic Arts, created a production company, co-founded a nonprofit, and has been

working in the advertising space ever since. Kyle is originally from Madison, WI, enjoys fly fishing, Balderdash and dog parks.

George Heller - Manager (COMING SOON)

Chris Holmes

Chris Holmes has been a visual effects supervisor, producer, consultant and artist for over 25 years. Recently he has been tasked with building and supervising a cloud based in-house visual effects facility for Netflix. Offering a rare blend of creative and operational strengths, Chris is widely recognized in the industry for his success in delivering high quality work under strict deadline and budgetary constraints. He has owned, built and managed visual effects post production facilities. This invaluable experience has given him the ability to quickly identify and diagnose solutions in a production environment on over 75 films, including numerous television and streaming projects. A graduate of the University of Southern California, Chris began his career as an associate producer, line producer and production manager for live television broadcasts at Dick Clark Productions.http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0391778/

Shih-Ting Hung

Shih-Ting Hung has had a lifelong passion for cinema and has been a film and commercial director ever since her first film from the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Her film, the fantasy fairy tale " VIOLA: The Traveling Rooms of a Little Giant," was recognized with the 35th Student Academy Award®. The film appeared as the cover story of the Oscars® magazine, Academy Report, and continues to screen in more than 200 international film festivals around the globe. Having experienced the landscape of the 2009 recession as well as the ever present challenges of gender and race issues in the industry, Shih has overcome much adversity to achieve success at an international level as a commercial director by persistently knocking on doors and never taking no for an answer. Shih continues to build her impressive repertoire as a director between the USA and China. Her multi-cultural experiences give her a distinctive eye to tell stories. Bilingual in English and Mandarin, Shih has also since developed into a strong voice and advocate for women's rights by sharing her experiences at symposiums for women filmmakers at such institutions as USC, UCLA, and CalArts, as well as at the Shanghai International Film Festival, and the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. Aside from her portfolio of films and commercials, Shih's work has also appeared at the New York Guggenheim Museum and several art museums, and has been written about in the New York Times, The Hollywood Reporter, The Los Angeles Times, and Variety magazine. She has a deep love for Taiwanese food, and an insatiable appetite for a witty sense of humor.

Adriana Iglesias-Dietl (COMING SOON)

Lauren Johnson

In an industry dominated by men, SCA MFA graduate, Lauren Johnson, is breaking barriers and making a strong name for herself. Lauren has paid her dues in the audio engineering world by interning at several post facilities, working as a runner at a renown recording studio, teaching classes and workshops, and eventually becoming a full-time technician, while working her way into the chair behind the board. Currently, Lauren is providing workflow solutions and system design/integration for pro audio clients of Avid while staying up-to-date in the newest technologies in the audio industry. Her client list currently includes Netflix, NBCUniversal, Disney/Fox, Earth, Wind and Fire, and so on.

Idel Judanin

After graduating USC, Idel started in the UTA mailroom and worked his way up to become part of the UTA Ventures investment team, where they would invest into early stage media startups and build companies and brands around the agencies biggest clients like Sophia Vargara and Seth Rogen. In the beginning of 2018 Idel left UTA to help start a digital content studio alongside Adam Goodman, former Studio head of Paramount and Dreamworks, where they bring Hollywood storytelling to digital content and its biggest influencers and creators.

Jyotsna Kadimi

Jyotsna built University of Southern California (USC) XR student community (then VRSC, now XRSC) and the Inter-Collegiate XR (ICXR) group while pursuing her Master's degree in Electrical Engineering. Fondly known as ‘Jyo,’ she graduated earning USC Viterbi’s Most Inspirational Award and the title of ‘Young Entertainment Professional’ from Hollywood Professional Association (HPA). She developed interactive, immersive experiences and drove R&D efforts at Disney ABC, Warner Bros., USC Gamepipe, and USC ICT MxR Studio. She drove several customer-facing activities and product growth initiatives as the first employee and Product Manager for a Silicon Valley-Madrid tech startup, YBVR, for streaming premium-quality VR videos. With over 3 years of experience in the serious-games, media and sports-tech industry, she is an advisor for Women in Sports-Tech (WiST) and currently, a Program Manager for an Open-Innovation advisory firm, Mind the Bridge, scouting for new technologies and driving global corporates through startup M&As.

Rachel Kafka

Rachel is currently a Manager, Talent Acquisition at Paramount Pictures, working on Finance and Marketing roles from entry to executive level. Rachel holds a BA from The George Washington University and a MA from New York University, with more than 6 years of entertainment recruiting experience as well as a personal passion for film and TV. Rachel loves helping talent at various stages of their career find that right role that will help launch, or continue, their professional growth and fulfillment. She is excited to share tips and tricks to help upcoming grads break into the entertainment industry.

Matt Keibler

After graduating in 2016, Matt had a summer internship at Legendary Entertainment. The production executives he met there kindly passed his resume along, leading to day play PA gigs. Day play gigs turned to week gigs turned to month gigs, with various freelance work in between until Matt signed on as an Office PA for Disney's The Lion King. He has been there ever since.

Catherine Keithley

Catherine produced Seasons 1 & 2 of "*Escape the Night"* for YouTube Red, starring Joey Graceffa. She's sold and developed a number of shows for BGM at various stages of development, casting, presentations, and pilots for networks like E!, Bravo, GSN, A&E, Fullscreen, & YouTube Red. Before joining BGM in 2013 as the first development hire, Catherine was a Development Associate for Ellen Rakieten (Executive Producer for "*The Oprah Winfrey Show"*) & Tom Forman (Executive Producer for "*Extreme Makeover: Home Edition", "The Great Food Truck Race",* & "*Catfish: The TV Show"*) at Ellen Rakieten Entertainment, a division of Relativity Television (now Critical Content). During her time at Relativity, she helped develop shows like the Emmy Award winning, "*Trisha's Southern Kitchen"* (Food Network), "*Hollywood Girls Night"* (TV Guide), "*Hideous Houses"* (A&E), "*Teen Trouble"* (Lifetime),*Celebrity Dish* (Food Network) & "*Pretty Wicked Moms"* (Lifetime). Catherine started her career in talent management at The Collective Management Firm (now Studio71) in Beverly Hills. She was an executive assistant to a leading talent manager and handled day to day scheduling for clients like Michael Kenneth Williams, Margarita Levieva, Wilmer Valderrama, Eliza Dushku, June Diane Raphael, Cat Deeley, and Katherine Waterston. Catherine holds a B.A. in Cinematic Arts & Communication from the University of Southern California.

Julia Kennedy

Julie Kennedy is a writer and director concerned with issues of race, gender, and fate and the way these forces affect human relationships. She is a recent MFA graduate from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts in the Film and Television Production program, where she concentrated in Screenwriting. She directed the third episode of the web series "Sigh," which screened at the Austin Film Festival. She is one of nine directors of the USC feature film, "Samir." She produced the short film "Beads" which played at the LA Femme Fest, the Athena Film Festival, UTA's First Look series, and the First Glance Festival. She works on the production team for the Shondaland show "Station 19" as the assistant to the co-executive producer.

Bill Kinder

Bill Kinder is the co-author of *Making the Cut at Pixar: The Art of Editing Animation*. During his eighteen year run at the renowned studio, he founded the Editorial & Post Production department — which became known as the "hub of the wheel" for an unprecedented string of critically acclaimed box office winners from the renowned animation studio. His leadership transformed the development of imaginative stories in a process that stands as the studio rolls into its third successful decade. Mr. Kinder began his career producing television news, sports and other live programming; editing commercials; and creating experimental art and non-fiction films — the most celebrated of which is the Emmy®-nominated *Dangerous Company*, about California's prison-industrial complex. Kinder was then the Director of Post Production Facilities at the birthplace of electronic cinema, American Zoetrope in San Francisco. There he contributed to the finishing of feature films for Francis Ford Coppola, and brought that director's Storyboard Department into the digital era. Today he applies his proven ability in developing creative talent to various studio consulting and producing assignments, which have included: an animation startup in Vietnam; a "must-see" independent feature film; and essay films exploring cinema culture. More at www.boxpix.co.

Katrina Kudlick

Katrina Kudlick, graduated from USC's School of Cinematic Arts, and quickly produced multitudes of music videos, commercials, interactive and VR content. She's worked with clients such as Freeform, Amazon, MAC, NRDC, Solo Cup, LucasFilm, Jaunt VR, Marvel and Pixar. After producing in every cinematic medium she's found her niche in the indie filmmaking world. She's been a producer on six features, most recently completing LADYWORLD, which premiered at Fantastic Fest and London BFI. In addition to her work in the independent film world, she is also a resident producer at Disney+, where her focus is in marketing, enhancing Disney's digital brands across their online platforms.

Larry Laboe

Larry Laboe is President of Production at SXM where he has produced for entertainment companies including Disney, NBC, VEVO, Dailymotion, MTV, Break Media (now DEFY Media), Comedy Central, and Complex Media. These projects have been directed by talent such as James Franco and Joseph Gordon Levitt. In addition to his work at SXM, Larry also serves as Co-Founder and Executive Director of New Filmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA), and is a Faculty Member teaching in the film department at the prestigious San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI).

Michael Lane

Michael holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Western Ontario and an M.F.A. from the Peter Stark Producing Program. Prior to studying film, Michael's focus was outdoor and environmental education. Since graduating from USC Michael has worked as a literary manager, development executive and is a founding partner in the production company Good 'n Proper, where he produced the award-winning feature documentary *Rock Paper Scissors: A Geek Tragedy* about the World Championships of the children's game Rock Paper Scissors.

Esther Lee

Esther Lee is a Korean-American, born and raised in the states who graduated from University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Ecology and minor in Education. She then went on to pursue her Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at the University of Southern California, while working full time at Twentieth Century Fox. Esther made the decision to transition from Education to Human Resources while working in the Entertainment Industry. She has a strong passion to work with people and building relationships. Currently she is working at Legendary Entertainment, managing the Internship Program, Recruitment, Engagement, Wellness, and general HR.

Jonathan Lee (COMING SOON)

Lisa Leeman

Lisa Leeman believes that films can change the world, one story at a time. Spanning thirty years and six continents, Leeman's films illuminate contemporary social issues through intimate character-driven stories that follow people at critical turning points. She is currently directing a follow-up to her first film, *Metamorphosis*, which won Sundance's Filmmakers Trophy & aired on POV in 1990. Roger Ebert named Leeman's *One Lucky Elephant* as one of the best documentaries of 2011. Other producing & directing credits include Awake; Crazy Wisdom; Out of Faith; and Who Needs Sleep (with Haskell Wexler). Two weeks after #MeToo surged on social media, Lisa directed and produced three #MeToo PSAs. Lisa's films have been seen in theaters, festivals, and broadcasts around the world, including IDFA, PBS, HBO, OWN, ARTE,

and the UK's Channel 4. Her work has been supported by the Sundance Institute, Catapult Film Fund, the Producers Guild, the American Film Institute, National Endowment for the Arts, and the California Humanities Council. Lisa is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, is a tenured Professor of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California, and teaches documentary filmmaking for the U.S. State Department's American Film Showcase. www.lisaleeman.com

Melissa Lerner

Melissa is an associate at Lavely & Singer, P.C., where her practice covers an array of legal issues for clients across the entertainment industry. Prior to joining Lavely & Singer, Melissa was a litigation associate at Foley & Lardner LLP and an intellectual property litigation associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. She has experience litigating contract disputes, intellectual property disputes (including patent, trademark, and trade name infringement), antitrust cases, pharmaceutical industry class action defense, defamation, right of privacy/publicity claims, fraud, securities, employment, and film finance matters. She also has experience with white collar criminal defense and internal investigations for accounting firms and healthcare companies. Melissa is a graduate of Princeton University (2009) and the Columbia University School of Law (2012).

Brandon Liebman

Brandon Liebman is a partner in WME's Talent department. He represents an established roster of leading talent, including Jason Clarke, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Armie Hammer, Liam Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston, Diego Luna, Pedro Pascal, Dev Patel, Vince Vaughn and Ken Watanabe. Liebman began his career at the Endeavor agency in 2003 and was promoted to agent in 2007. He transitioned to WME in 2009 following the agency's merger with the William Morris Agency, and became a partner in 2013. In addition, Liebman was named to *Variety's* New Leaders list. He resides in Los Angeles with his wife and two children.

Michael Linowitz (COMING SOON)

Harry Locke IV

Harry Locke IV is an award-winning filmmaker with over 100 on-screen credits that include Academy-Award winners (ICARUS), Sundance breakouts (Tangerine), and popular blockbuster franchises (X-MEN, DIvergent). Through various roles as a colorist, post-production supervisor, finishing editor and director, Locke brings a focus on bridging the divide between the visceral and the physical through communication and innovation. His feature-length directorial debut, CITY OF GOLD, debuted at number 17 in the UK's VOD sales charts and was the only independent release in the top 25 for the month of August. Locke recently completed work with Pierce Brosnan and Keely Shaye Brosnan on Poisoning Paradise, an explosive documentary

that sheds light on chemical testing that currently plagues the Hawaiian Islands and is inciting an agricultural revolution.

Saul Lopez (COMING SOON)

Li Lu

Li Lu is an award-winning director based in Los Angeles, CA. Raised in Sugar Land, TX, Li received her BA from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. THERE IS A NEW WORLD SOMEWHERE, her debut feature, won three Best Feature awards and was distributed theatrically and on demand. Her current project, A TOWN CALLED VICTORIA – a docuseries about an arson of a Texas mosque – has garnered support from Sundance, Firelight Media, IFP, and Austin Film Society. Li is also a FOX Directors Lab alumna and Film Independent Screenwriting Fellow. Through her work, she focuses on narratives that create social impact and expand representation.

Jason Lubin

Jason Lubin is a manager-producer and the principal at First Story Entertainment, which he founded in late 2018. The lit management company represents a diverse roster of talented writers and directors with fresh voices in all genres for Film and TV. Jason is also developing both feature film and television projects under the company's banner. Prior to starting First Story, Jason was a seasoned development executive. He worked as the Head of Production & Development at Lynda Obst Productions, a Sony based production company whose credits include Interstellar, How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days, Contact and the television shows Good Girls Revolt and The Hot Zone. Prior to Lynda Obst Productions, Jason worked at Lionsgate for seven and a half years where he rose to Story Editor in the Motion Picture Group and served as the junior creative executive on multiple feature projects. Jason cut his teeth as the assistant to CEO Jon Feltheimer and was named one of Variety's Ten Assistants to Watch in 2013. A graduate of USC's School of Cinematic Arts, Jason currently sits on the board of the Trojan Entertainment Network where he was elected President of the organization for the 2018-2021 term.

Josh Ludmir

Josh Ludmir is a Los Angeles-based attorney, activist, and producer. He currently practices law at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, where he represents talent and media companies in a wide array of transactions in the digital/mixed reality, TV, music, advertising, and motion picture industries. Previously, Josh spent seven years as in-house counsel at Participant Media, where he oversaw business and legal affairs for the company's digital, marketing, and social impact divisions, and for its short-form digital content company, SoulPancake. Josh is also a founder of the animation

studio Inklings Creative and genre film production company Parallax Pictures, and has produced award-winning original content for film, TV, digital media, and VR.

Annie Lukowski

Annie is an award-winning storyteller and prolific content creator. She co-founded Vanishing Point Media, a full-service virtual reality production company with clients like ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live, Toyota, and Banana Republic. VPM partners with forward-thinking producers, brands and agencies to produce industry-leading VR content and provide production and post-production services to studios and corporations alike. She previously co-founded WorkingBug Media, a digital entertainment company through which she wrote, directed and produced comedies and also impactful spots for major brands including Jeep, teenVogue, Maybelline and the USA Network. Annie and WorkingBug are also the creative force behind a number of branded digital comedy series including *Random Comedies* (Randall Park), *Series of Unfortunate People* (Keegan-Michael Key) and *Road to The Altar* (Jaleel White), which won the PGA Award for Outstanding Independent Series. Annie is an accomplished dramatic storyteller as well, having directed the festival- and award-winning shorts *The Protest* and *Waiting for Hello*, and produced *Have Your Heard About Vukovar?*, which premiered at Tribeca and went on to become an Official Selection at over 30 film festivals across four continents.

Brittany Machado - Sundance (COMING SOON)

Aashna Mago

Aashna is a Product Developer driving research and engineering efforts on the Education Modernization (EdMod) team at Facebook, which builds programs and products to provide grassroots support of K-12 learning communities where computer science (CS) educational resources and opportunities are relatively scarce. She studied Computer Science at Stanford University with a concentration in Systems and founded Rabbit Hole VR, Stanford's virtual and augmented reality student organization. She has experience working with virtual reality startups and investors, has interned at Oculus as a software engineer, and has worked on multiple virtual reality documentaries and productions. Based in the Bay Area, Aashna is eager to use research and data-driven approaches to drive social impact and make education and other opportunities more accessible and equitable. She also loves traveling, learning languages, and playing tennis.

Boomer Malkin

Boomer Malkin is a partner in WME's Talent department. He represents an established roster of leading talent, including Christian Bale, Joaquin Phoenix, Casey Affleck, Joseph Fiennes, Dylan O'Brien and Joel Kinnaman. Malkin began his career at the William Morris Agency in 2001 and was promoted to agent in 2004. He became a partner in 2014 following the agency's merger with Endeavor in 2009. He resides in Los Angeles with his wife.

Petar Mandich

A pioneer in the space, Mandich is a leading digital content strategist, producer and talent manager working with many of the top content creators and channels on YouTube including: Justine Ezarik (iJustine), Joey Graceffa, Evelina, Nadeshot, Threadbanger, amongst others. He and his team offer best in class direction and strategy to brands, producers, publishers, and talent for creating and designing content and assets targeted at specialized, young adult audiences that can be monetized on digital, mobile, broadband TV, VOD and other video and social platforms. His leadership has focused the firm on talent management, digital and endorsements. He has a keen business sense for monetizing talent's current business content through licensing, merchandise and original content and building short and long term strategies to achieve goals. Mandich has been instrumental in forging strong, successful partnerships with brands such as Ford, Toyota, Electronic Arts, Activision, Kraft, Microsoft, L'Oreal, Cover Girl, Keds, Olay, Nordstrom, AOL, Verizon, INTEL, Frito Lay, eBay, Johnson & Johnson, P&G and Unilever, to name a few. His clients have also been featured in national television and print commercials with brands such as Target, Nordstrom, Crest, and Samsung. Mandich also serves as an Executive Producer on "Escape the Night," the Streamy Award winning YouTube Premium unscripted murder mystery series starring creator Joey Graceffa, who has more than 11 MM followers on YouTube. He shepherded the launch of Graceffa's memoir "In Real Life: My Journey to a Pixelated World," which became a #1 New York Times best seller and his recent New York Times best selling novel "Eden" 3 part series. With Mandich's guidance, his longtime client, Justine Ezarik (iJustine), has crossed over into traditional media including appearances on major networks such as NBC, The CW, CBS, MTV, and E!. Mandich began working with Justine early in her career and has helped her forge a massive, dedicated audience of over 5.8MM subscribers on YouTube and more than 1.9MM Twitter followers, as well as winning a Streamy and becoming a New York Times best-selling author in 2015.
Mandich was recognized as "YouTube's Gatekeeper" in a LA Weekly cover story and named one the industry's most formidable dealmakers in the YouTube space by Entrepreneur Magazine in 2015. ReelSEO recognized him as one of the 25 Top YouTube Power Players of 2013. As one of the initial members of the Collective Digital Studio (now Studio71), Mandich helped oversee the acquisition and growth of top digital influencers developing their brands and presence both inside and outside of the YouTube platform and worked with the critically acclaimed rock band Avenged Sevenfold and the world renowned, Alanis Morissette. Mandich grew up in Chicago and graduated from The University of Southern California (USC) with a B.S. in Music Industry.

Ashley Maria

Ashley Maria is a filmmaker based in Los Angeles, CA. Winner of the coveted Directors Guild of America (DGA) award, she was also featured by the DGA Women's Steering Committee as a director who represents The Future of Women in Film. When she's not running her own production, she is a directing instructor at UCLA. Very recently, Ashley was selected as a North

American delegate to attend the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women – the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. Her first feature documentary, Pioneers in Skirts, is in post-production, set to be released mid 2019. The film follows her own journey to understand the bias and sexism women confront in their careers and what we can do as a culture to evolve past it.
If you can't find Ashley on a film set or behind a computer screen, you can find her on the court playing competitive dodgeball! She's also a fellow Trojan, receiving her MFA in Production in 2012.

Jack Martin

Jack is a 2016 Graduate of USC's Film Production program. In his Senior Year, he directed the 480 "*Bye Bye Bernard",* followed by his web series, "*My Friend D-Rone",* produced by Ron Howard's New Form Digital. These projects earned him a job right out of school as a director's assistant on Netflix's "*Little Evil"*. Since then, Jack has worked as a Production Assistant on numerous big budget projects, including FX's "*Fargo"*, Disney's "*The Lion King"*, and Legendary's "*Godzilla vs. Kong".* Now three years out, Jack is putting together the pieces to shoot a $100k Micro-Budget first feature in the Fall that he hopes can kickstart three more features that are currently in development with a Netflix producer.

Charles Mastropietro

CHARLES MASTROPIETRO is a talent and literary manager at Circle of Confusion. He represents such actors and filmmakers as Frances McDormand, Willem Dafoe, Sarah Polley, Pablo Schreiber, Alfre Woodard, Benjamin Bratt, Molly Parker, Mary Harron *(Alias Grace, American Psycho),* Daniel Minahan *(Deadwood, American Crime Story: Versace),* Thomas Higgins *(13 Reasons Why)*, Maddie Parry *(Hannah Gadsby: Nanette),* Cory Michael Smith*(Gotham).* Circle of Confusion represents numerous other exciting filmmakers and writers such as The Wachowski's, Joe Robert Cole (writer of *Black Panther*), Ben Edlund (Creator and Executive Producer of *The Tick*), Adam F. Goldberg (Creator and Executive Producer of *The Goldberg's*), Derek Kolstad (writer of *John Wick*), Chad & Carey Hayes (writers of *The Conjuring, San Andreas*, etc.), Jon Spaihts (writer of *Doctor Strange, Passengers,* etc.); and the company produces such television shows as *The Walking Dead*, *Fear The Walking Dead*, *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* and such films as *Straight Outta Compton, Mr. Right, American Ultra, Spare Parts* and *Mayhem*. He received a BFA in Illustration from the Ringling College of Design and is originally from upstate NY.

Megan McDonnell

Megan McDonnell is a Staff Writer on Marvel Studio's The Vision and Scarlet Witch series for Disney+. After graduating from USC's Stark Producing Program in 2016, she was an assistant in Comedy Programming and Development at Fox Broadcasting Company. Then she assisted

John August (Big Fish, Charlie's Angels, Go) and produced Scriptnotes -- a podcast about screenwriting and things that are interesting to screenwriters. Prior to Stark, she studied English and Mandarin at Harvard.

Evan McGahey

Evan McGahey graduated from the University of Southern California in 2014 with a B.S. in Human Biology and minor in Screenwriting. Originally inspired to become a doctor because of the TV show House, at USC he realized what made shows entertaining was the writing more than the premise. Since graduating he has worked on the CW's MADtv reboot, NBC's The Blacklist and currently is a Writers' Assistant on Starz's Outlander.

Nare Mkrtchyan

Born in Armenia and raised in Los Angeles, Naré Mkrtchyan tries to combine both: the American filmmaking technique and the international, independent spirit. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. She has written, directed and produced over sixty short films. For years she was an Executive Producer and Director at Hallmark's instant streaming company Feeln. Her passion is telling unique human stories that connect people and move beyond the boundaries of nationality, gender, and religion. Her last documentary, The Other Side of Home became and still remains as the only Armenian Genocide shortlisted for Oscar.

Sky Moore

Schuyler M. Moore is a partner in the corporate entertainment department of Greenberg Glusker, practicing entertainment, corporate, and tax law. Mr. Moore holds his undergraduate degree from UCLA (Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude) and his law degree also from UCLA (first in class). Moore has been practicing in the entertainment industry since 1981, and he represents a broad spectrum of clients throughout the entertainment industry, including producers, sales agents, foreign distributors, and financiers. He has handled some of the largest financing transactions in Hollywood, including Reliance's investment in DreamWorks, the Ratpac-Dune slate financing for Warner Brothers, the Hemisphere slate financing for Sony and Paramount, and the Hunan Group slate financing for Lions Gate. He is the author of several books, including The Biz: The Basic Business, legal, and Financial Aspects of the Film Industry, a popular book in its 4th edition, Taxation of the Entertainment Industry, the leading treatise on that topic, and What They Don't Teach You in Law School. He is an adjunct professor at the USC School of Law, and he is a frequent speaker and writer on a wide variety of entertainment subjects. Mr. Moore has been named (a) one of the top 100 entertainment lawyers by the *Hollywood Reporter*, (b) one of the top 25 entertainment lawyers by *Variety,* (c) one of the top 100 lawyers in California by the *Daily Journal* and (d) one of top 3 "Most Influential Lawyers" in media by the National Law Journal.

Mercedes Morgan

Mercedes Morgan is a Los Angeles-based director with a BA in Film and Television Production from USC's School of Cinematic Arts. Mercedes has directed series for Adaptive (Project Greenlight), New Form Digital, and Eko. She has also created content for Disney, Solo, Red Bull, Apple Music, Beats, The Garcia Companies, Slushii, the Plain White T's, Jaunt VR, Ubisoft and Armani, among others. In 2017 she directed and executive produced the series, "STARGATE ORIGINS" for MGM, the newest continuation of the long-running Stargate franchise. In 2018, she directed on Todrick Hall's full-length visual album, "Forbidden". Her most recent music video, "Happier" (Bastille, Marshmello) has more than 200 million views and was #1 trending in the world on the day of its release. Her work is characterized by strong, diverse characters that challenge the status-quo.

Jenny Morgan (COMING SOON)

Ashley Morris (COMING SOON)

Sarah Moshman

Sarah Moshman is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and TEDx speaker whose work has been featured on *Upworthy, Marie Claire, CNN,* and *Good Morning America*. After directing two short documentaries about female empowerment in young women, (*Girls Rock! Chicago* (2010) and *Growing up Strong: Girls on the Run* (2012)) she set out to direct her first feature doc - *The Empowerment Project: Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things* (2014) which has been screened over 700 times around the US and around the world starting conversations about gender equality. Sarah's second feature doc, *Losing Sight of Shore* follows the incredible journey of four women who rowed across the Pacific Ocean and was released globally on Netflix in May 2017. Next up she's directing a documentary examining sexual harassment in the workplace entitled*NEVERTHELESS*. Sarah is a new Mom to daughter Bryce and is dedicated to telling stories that uplift, inform and inspire as well as showcase strong female role models on screen.

Dale Nelson

Dale recently joined Donaldson + Callif, a boutique firm that specializes in documentary clearance and fair use, as a partner. Previous to that she spent over 20 years as in-house counsel to Warner Bros., most recently as Vice President and Senior Intellectual Property Counsel. As a senior member of the Warner Bros. Intellectual Property Group, she handled a wide variety of domestic and international intellectual property law and transactional matters

across all business divisions of the company, providing advice and managing resolution on rights disputes, clearance, distribution, marketing, production, enforcement, IP policy and legislative matters, and providing transactional drafting and negotiation for acquisitions, licensing, and vendor services relating to production, marketing and distribution. The intellectual properties she has managed include franchise properties (e.g., Harry Potter), new feature and television series, and library classics. Dale has a particular expertise in international laws relating to motion picture production and distribution, copyright, trademark, rights of publicity, moral rights, free speech and fair use. Dale was raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin and is a long time Packer fan. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law, and was an extern to Justice Allen E. Broussard of the California Supreme Court. Her affiliations include AIPPI/AIPLA, of which she serves on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Treasurer of the US Chapter; Los Angeles Copyright Society; and Copyright Society of the USA. Dale is also a long-time supporter of the Western Center on Law and Poverty, of which she is a former board member and current Development Committee Member.

Mette Norkjaer

Mette Norkjaer is the Creative Executive at BOOM! Studios, a production company and publisher with a First Look deal with 20th Century Fox. BOOM! Studios controls the largest library of comic book IP outside of Marvel and DC Comics. BOOM! is currently developing multiple projects for film and TV including, MOUSE GUARD with Wes Ball directing, GOLDIE VANCE with Rashida Jones attached to write and direct, LUMBERJANES, IRREDEEMABLE, IMAGINE AGENTS, and many more. Mette earned her MFA from the prestigious Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts in 2016. She is originally from Copenhagen, Denmark and is passionate about collaborating with new rising talent.

Storm Nylen

Storm Nylen has worked across the spectrum of Hollywood, from startup to studio, from VR to VFX. She began her career as the Production Manager for Bovard Auditorium at USC, and held the position for all 4 years of her studies. Since graduating with a degree from the Media Arts + Practice program at USC, she has worked for the award-winning VR startup Specular Theory, on Walt Disney Studio's Magic Camp (directed by Mark Waters) and A Wrinkle in Time (directed by Ava DuVernay), and on Marvel Studio's Avengers: Infinity War and Avengers: Endgame (directed by Joe and Anthony Russo). She now works as the Digital Producer for VNTANA, a leading interactive hologram startup, producing the software and content for projects with major international brands including Lexus, Disney, Adidas, ESPN and more.

Jen O'Connor

Jen has worked as a career services professional for 15+ years. She is passionate about engaging alumni and students in the career development process and working with first-year students and students in transition. She is also interested in providing seamless learning environments for students through collaborating cross-campus and loves finding new ways to use technology to help students and alumni around the world gain 24/7 access to high quality career-related resources.

Bobbie O’Steen

Bobbie O’Steen is the co-author of Making the Cut at Pixar: the Art of Editing Animation: the authoritative, media-rich book about the editor’s pioneering role at the acclaimed studio. The book grants access to footage from deep inside Pixar’s vault and to the cutting room, where the animation editor is more involved in every stage of production than any editor in film history. Bobbie is an Emmy®-nominated editor and film historian, who has written two other books focusing on the crucial and often elusive contributions of the editor: Cut to the Chase, based on interviews with her late husband and colleague, legendary editor Sam O’Steen; and The Invisible Cut, which deconstructs classic movie scenes through a cut-by-cut analysis. She has taught graduate school workshops at NYU’S Tisch School of the Arts and lectured at the American Film Institute, John Hopkins University, Emerson College, and UCLA. For the last ten years, she has moderated one-on-one panels with master editors at EditFest for American Cinema Editors and has partnered with Manhattan Edit Workshop to host “Inside the Cutting Room,” evening events that honor each editor’s work with screening and discussion. Bobbie also created an ongoing class series, “Making the Cut,” which explores the end-game choices and techniques of the editing process, based on her interviews with over sixty editors. She contributes commentary and interviews for The Criterion Collection’s DVD/Blu-Ray releases and has written articles for such publications as CinemaEditor Magazine, which named her “Film Editing’s Greatest Champion.” More information at bobbieosteen.com.

Dima Otvertchenko

Dima Otvertchenko grew up as an immigrant in New York. After studying film at Vassar College, he moved to Los Angeles and worked for companies such as Sony PIctures, HGTV, & G4tv before earning his MFA in production at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He currently works freelance, coming off the festival circuit with two films: the disability-rights drama "Guest Room" (SXSW, Palm Springs) and the pop-punk musical "O-Star" (Palm Springs, CineGear Expo). Dima loves cats, Korean BBQ, the New Jersey Devils, & the Vegas Golden Knights. He is fluent in English, Russian, and the Simpsons.

Arianna Pane

Arianna is a Los Angeles colorist for feature films, television, commercials, and music videos. Based at Apache in sunny Santa Monica, available remotely across the globe. Arianna’s narrative color grading includes the Netflix feature film *Ibiza* as well as the TV series *Zac and Mia*, available on Hulu. Her long form work has also premiered at acclaimed film festivals including Sundance, Tribeca, and South by Southwest. Her commercial work includes campaigns for Nike, Chevrolet, Budweiser, Microsoft, Nintendo, and Coca-Cola. She has also

brought her creative eye to MTV VMA nominated music videos "Wild Thoughts" for Rihanna and Justin Bieber's visual album for "Purpose", among many others. Passionate about both the artistic and technical demands of color grading, Arianna draws from her background in painting, drawing, and photography to inspire her work in the color suite. Aside from coloring, Arianna loves exploring Los Angeles, on a mission to find hikes with the best ocean views, and bakeries with the best chocolate chip cookies. With Northern California roots, her middle name comes from her parents who met at a Grateful Dead concert during the song “Shining Star.”

Liza Pano

Liza Pano is Senior Vice President, Worldwide Distribution Services at Paramount Pictures Corporation. In this position, Ms. Pano is responsible for overseeing global localization operations for all theatrical and non-theatrical product. Ms. Pano joined Paramount Pictures Corporation in 2006, when DreamWorks and Paramount Pictures Corporation merged. She began her tenure at DreamWorks in 2005, serving as Vice President, Worldwide Technical Services, supervising the international delivery of all theatrical and non- theatrical DreamWorks product. Prior to joining DreamWorks, Ms. Pano was Executive Director of International Theatrical Services for 20th Century Fox, where she managed all operational phases of post-production for the studio’s international distribution units. She came to Fox from Dolby Laboratories, Inc. in San Francisco, where she served as Director for International Theatrical Services. She began at Dolby as its Manager for Theatrical Marketing and Promotions, managing the company’s creative marketing and promotions campaigns for both its domestic and international efforts. Ms. Pano began her career at Sovereign Pictures, an independent international distribution company. She continued her upward momentum with The Walt Disney Company as Technical Administrator of Film Operations, before moving to Warner Bros. as Manager of Film Operations, Corporate Film and Video Services at Warner Bros. Born and raised in Oxnard, California, Ms. Pano is a graduate from the USC School of Cinema-Television. Among her many pursuits outside the entertainment industry, she is actively involved in several local charities. She currently sits on the Board for the Los Angeles branch of Covenant House California. In 2014 Ms. Pano was also named one of the most Influential and Powerful Latinos in Entertainment by the Imagen Foundation. In 2015 she was honored as Executive of the Year, by The Latina Global Executive Leadership Institute affiliated with the USC Marshall School of Business.

Marcy Patterson

Marcy Patterson was Co-Producer of the Emmy Award-winning show “Mad Men.” She was an integral part of the producing team for seven seasons. Most recently Patterson completed work on yet another period television drama, serving once again as Co-Producer on Amazon’s “The Last Tycoon” starring Matt Bomer and Kelsey Grammer. After graduating from University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts, formally known as School of Cinema-Television, Patterson began her career when she was accepted in the Directors Guild of America Assistant Directors Training Program in New York. She worked on several television shows including “The

Sopranos," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," and "Law & Order: Trial by Jury." Patterson also worked on feature films including "Stay," "Lord of War," "Annapolis," and "In Good Company." She co-produced the 2014 film "Are You Here" written and directed by Matthew Weiner and was part of the producing team of the independent feature film "Sophie and the Rising Sun," which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2015 Patterson produced the half-hour comedy pilot "Jake & Amir" for truTV, which marked her launch into comedy, a world she had long desired to be a part of. It should be no surprise that Patterson then jumped at the opportunity to produce season one of "Rhett & Link's Buddy System." She is thrilled to have had the opportunity to produce one of the shows that pioneered YouTube Red's venture into scripted programming.

Diego Perez - Sound (COMING SOON)

Audra Priluck

Audra Priluck currently serves as Vice President, Business Development for Media & Entertainment at Maru/Matchbox. Maru/Matchbox is a global consumer intelligence firm, providing technology-driven insights gleaned by understanding people, their behaviors and their decisions. Earlier in her career, Audra conducted TV program syndication sales for Warner Bros. Domestic Television Distribution in the Western Region, including The People's Court, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Extra and Friends. Previously, she worked at 20th Television as their television program syndication sales trainee and research analyst, responsible for daily tracking and trending analysis for shows including Divorce Court, The Practice, Cops, Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Malcolm in the Middle. Audra began her TV production career working behind the scenes on several Emmy-winning programs such as Mad About You, The King of Queens, The Young and The Restless, Arli$$ and J.A.G. Since 2000, Audra has been an active member of the Academy of Television, Arts and Sciences (ATAS) in the Interactive Media Branch, as well as a volunteer and supporter of the Television Academy Foundation. Audra is regularly invited to guest lecture at USC's Annenberg School for Communications, UCLA and has also presented at Cal State Univ.-Fullerton's AdCon Week. She also serves on the Advisory Board for Knect365's Media Insights & Engagement Conference. Audra holds a B.A. in Cinema-Television Production from the University of Southern California's School of Cinema-Television.

Ilana Pulvers

Ilana Pulvers has been in HR/Talent Acquisitions for most of her life. She started her entertainment HR career at ICM Partners. After 6 years at ICM, she made the move to MGM Studios where she is currently the Director of Talent Acquisitions/HR. She loves that she gets to do what she is passionate about in an industry that is always changing and growing. Her favorite part of her job is the excitement she hears when candidate accepts an offer.

Melissa Purner

Melissa Purner is a producer with a background in traditional and digital non-scripted programming. She is a graduate of The USC School of Cinematic Arts. Melissa has spent time working in development at MTV Networks, WME, Herzog & Company, and helped launch the digital studio at Endemol USA. Most recently she was a transmedia producer on HBO's BALLERS. In addition to consulting clients regarding content creation and digital media strategy, Melissa continues to work on new projects through her company On The MAP.

Mike Ramirez

I have worked in Visual Effects for the past 24 years as 3-D artist specializing in Matchmoving, Integration and Camera Tracking. I have had the pleasure of contributing to a number of feature films and episodic Television shows including The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Tron Legacy, Cowboys and Aliens and Black Sails. I am currently in production on The Flash, Supergirl and Seal Team for Encore Burbank. I am also a active member of the awards committee for the Visual Effects Society.

Dee Robertson

Dee A. Robertson is currently the ECD at ATTN: where he oversees the brand studio and creative department, leading a team that creates premium, forward-thinking branded content for some of the biggest brand partners in the world. Previously, he was at BuzzFeed where he was behind the most successful digital branded campaigns like Dear Kitten and Puppyhood. Robertson co-wrote (story) and Executive Produced the divisive feature length film 'The Happytime Murders' starring Melissa McCarthy, Maya Rudolph, Elizabeth Banks and Joel McHale. The Hollywood Reporter calls it "uproariously funny," The Boston Globe calls it "undeniably hilarious," and Vanity Fair calls it "maybe the worst movie of the year".

Torrie Rosenzweig

Torrie Rosenzweig began working in the entertainment industry as a union camera assistant and also was the cinematographer on the short documentary, *David Mamet and The Atlantic Theater Company.* Rosenzweig moved out of production and into development and producing and worked as an Associate Producer on two *Cagney and Lacey* reunion specials for CBS and then researched and associate produced on several PBS documentaries and biopics for TNT, ESPN, and The Disney Channel with EMK productions. In 1995 Rosenzweig went to 20th Century Fox / Van Ness Films to produce and direct several episodes of *Biography* for A&E. Some of her credits on *Biography* include, Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Ida Lupino, Andy Griffith, Shirley Temple and Bill *Bojangles* Robinson. She directed, produced and co-wrote her first documentary feature film, *Smoke and Mirrors* which won several awards on the festival circuit in 2000, including being named a shortlist finalist for Best Documentary for the 2000 Academy Awards. In 2002 she segment produced *Fifty Years of Late Night on NBC* for Executive Producers Lorne Michael and Andrew Solt. In 2003 she made her first narrative short film, *Wishing Time* with Seymour Cassel and Natasha Gregson Wagner. After finishing a TV doc special, "Just the Facts" for Fox, she began working on her next feature documentary, *Tick Tock*. In addition to her film and television work, Rosenzweig is a part-time lecturer and the Director of Talent Development at the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

Jason Rubin

Jason Rubin is VP of Facebook's AR/VR Content and Partnerships team, which is responsible for collaborating with developers to build VR games and experiences for Oculus Rift, Oculus Quest, and Oculus Go. A 30-year veteran of game development, Jason most recently served as co-founder of Naughty Dog where he created the hit games Crash Bandicoot and Jak & Daxter. Prior to that, he co-founded the media mashup tool Flektor, which he sold to Fox Interactive, and was president of THQ, Inc.

Elan Ruspoli

Elan Ruspoli is a Motion Picture Talent Agent at leading entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Ruspoli works in the Los Angeles office and represents many of the world's top actors and filmmakers, including *Academy Award Winner* Eddie Redmayne, *Academy Award Winner* Jennifer Hudson, *Academy Award Nominated* Willem Dafoe, *Academy Award Nominated* Daniel Kaluuya, *Emmy Award Winner* Jeffrey Wright, *Emmy Award Winner* Darren Criss, James Marsden, Luke Wilson, Trevante Rhodes, and Josh Boone, among others. Ruspoli began his career at CAA in 2007. He was promoted to agent in 2012. In 2015, Ruspoli was named *The Hollywood Reporter's* Next Gen Up-and-Coming 35 Execs under 35. He graduated Cum Laude from the University of Southern California with a degree in Communications and a minor in International Relations.

Leander Sales

Member of the Motion Pictures Editors Guild and serving as the Chair of MPEG African American Steering Committee. Has worked with Spike Lee on nine of his feature films in the editing department. Associate editor on *Clockers* and *Girl 6*, then as editor on *Get on the Bus*. As a director, Leander received first prize at the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Film Festival of Oakland, California for his debut feature film *Don't Let Your Meat Loaf*. *The Life I Meant to Live* is Leander's second feature film.

Ari Sandel

Ari Sandel started his career in entertainment in 1999, creating and hosting the comedic TV segment, *The Traveler*, for the FX Channel's, *The X Show* where he traveled the globe, offering a tongue-in-cheek view of the world's unknown hot spots for the young and hip.
With a Master's Degree in film from the University of Southern California, Ari directed and co-wrote the short film, *West Bank Story,* which won an Academy Award in 2007. His documentary, *Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show*, was his feature documentary directorial debut which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and was released nationwide in theatres in 2008. Ari then went on to direct Aim High 2, an action-comedy, for Warner Bros Digital. In 2015, he directed the hit high school comedy, *The D.U.F.F.,* for CBS Films which was nominated for a People's Choice Award and 5 Teen Choice Awards. 2018 saw two films by Ari Sandel. The first was *When We First Met,* a Netlfix romantic comedy starring Adam Devine followed by Sony Pictures', *Goosebumps 2,* the sequel to the successful Jack Black film inspired by the globally renowned book series. Ari is currently attached to direct a franchise launch of Universal's *Monster High* based on the billion-dollar toy line from Mattel. Ari is represented by WME and Artists First Managment and is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures of Arts and Sciences. Ari is also repped by the Harry Walker Agency as a public speaker and speaks globally about filmmaking and how to tackle controversial subjects through comedy. Between projects, Ari is an adjunct professor at U.S.C's School of Cinematic Arts teaching a Graduate level course on how to navigate the film business. When not teaching, Ari splits his time between reading U.S. Presidential history and being awesome.

Beth Sasseen - Pixar (COMING SOON)

Samantha Scott

An East Coast native, Samantha Scott relocated to Southern California 3 years ago – moving quickly into the world of Hollywood and entertainment. Looking for a way to integrate her social impact interest and blend her media and non profit background, landing at Participant Media allowed for an ideal mix. As Human Resources Manager, Samantha is able to help lead recruitment efforts, corporate volunteerism, internship programs and a number of other elements for Participant Media and SoulPancake.

Amber Sealey

Amber Sealey is an award-winning director, writer, actor, and producer. She was selected for AFI's Directing Workshop for Women, Film Independent's Directing Lab and Fast Track, WeForShe's DirectHer program, The Future of Film is Female grants, and Sundance and Women In Film's Financing and Mentorship programs. Her DWW short, HOW DOES IT START, premiered at Sundance. Her feature NO LIGHT & NO LAND ANYWHERE, EP'd by Miranda July, was theatrically released and won the Special Jury Award at LAFF and the Indie Vision Breakthrough Feature Award at TCFF. Her second feature, HOW TO CHEAT, won Best Performance at LAFF, and won both Best Narrative and Best Acting at BendFilm. Her first film, A PLUS D, was released by IndiePix. She has directed music videos, content for AOL, Yahoo, and Oath. Amber has shadowed Jill Soloway (Amazon's Transparent), Jamie Babbit (Netflix's Girlboss), and Daisy Mayer (NBC's Reverie). As an actor she has worked with Gwyneth Paltrow, Simon Pegg, and David Schwimmer, among others. She has been directed by Oscar-winner Andrea Arnold, and BAFTA-winner/Emmy-nominee Susanna White. Amber is also an acting coach and regularly works with Camera D'Or-winner Miranda July, Oscar-nominee Mike Mills, Martin de Thurah, and Josephine Decker. Amber is originally from England and was raised in Santa Fe. She lives in LA with her family.

Niti Shah

Niti is responsible for the strategic implementation of the Academy Gold Program's student recruitment process, including the new production-track program. More recently she was promoted to also lead the implementation of the Academy Gold Alumni Program. She comes to the Academy with 10+ years' experience in university relations and recruiting, client relations, and career services in both Director and management roles both in the technology industry sector as well as for the following universities: New York University, University of Tampa, and the USC Marshall School of Business. Niti has experience in diversity and inclusion initiatives, with regard to campus recruiting, career preparation, and hiring and will be championing alumni relations, career prep services and leading the Academy mentor program. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Miami and an M.B.A. in Entertainment Business (with coursework completed at USC Cinematic Arts) from the USC Marshall School of Business.

Kristi Shuton

Kristi Shuton has spent time working in various positions at ESPN and ABC, and is currently part of the Creative Talent Development & Inclusion (CTDI) team. In her current role as Manager, Shuton oversees the Walt Disney Television Groups Writing and Directing Programs. She works across The Walt Disney Company including ABC Network, ABC Studios, Disney Channel, Freeform, Marvel, Lucas Film and TV and Feature Animation priming talent for

developing content and fulfilling staffing needs from Staff Writers to Directors to Showrunners across the industry. Frequently, you can catch her at speaking engagements and panels at international and local conferences and film festivals as she is very engaged with the creative community, diverse national partners and advocacy groups, as well as entertainment industry guilds.
A Colorado native, Shuton is an avid supporter/volunteer for the Adopt the Arts Organization and mentoring creative young minds thru volunteering at school campuses and workshops. Additionally, she also serves as an ambassador for Global Womens Empowerment Network, sits on a non-profit Board of Directors with Hollywood music producers in support of efforts to end human trafficking, as well as produces film projects. She received her Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from Cal State Northridge.

Nichol Simmons (Coming Soon)

Rosette Sims

Rosette is the Executive Assistant to the COO/Co-Head of Television, Albert Cheng, at Amazon Studios where she supports both the Business and Creative divisions of the company. She has been inspired by creators of color making groundbreaking content and wants to advocate for diverse voices to help tell the stories that have not historically been told. Before starting off at Freeform in Casting, Rosette graduated from the University of Southern California and majored in Cinema & Media Studies and Classics.

Sabrina Skau Grant

Sabrina Skau has come a long way from making LEGO stop motion videos and learning how to edit with the first version of iMovie at age twelve. Born in Malaysia and raised in Portland, OR, she completed two degrees in anthropology (including an MA in visual anthropology & documentary video from the University of Southern California) before jumping headfirst into directing & editing videos for Silicon Valley tech companies. Sabrina spent four years on staff at Sandwich, a creative agency and full-service production company that created the videos that helped launch now-ubiquitous companies including Lyft, Airbnb, Slack, and Square. She was an integral member of the creative team, developing video concepts and directing them, as well as a lead editor and in-house colorist. Now a freelance director & editor, Sabrina is beginning the next phase of her career…as a horror film director.

Robert Smat

Rob is a Texas native who graduated USC Cinema Studies in 2017 with a minor in screenwriting. Upon graduating he planned to shoot a feature film, but funding abruptly fell through, and he had to totally start over. He began writing THE LAST WHISTLE a few weeks later, prompted by Robert Rodriguez's REBEL WITHOUT A CREW: THE SERIES competition. When the project was turned down for the series, Rob teamed up with his USC colleagues to write and direct it independently. Over the course of seven months, they fundraised and produced their way to a 13-day shoot in his hometown of Fort Worth, with crew and actors including Brad Leland (FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS), Jim O'Heir (PARKS N REC), and BCS Champion-turned-actor Les Miles. Only six months later, the film opened the Lone Star Film Festival to a sellout crowd, played an additional seven festivals worldwide (winning Best Picture at one), and will be distributed day-and-date this June by Vertical Entertainment (exactly a year after production wrapped). Rob lives in Culver City and is developing his next feature, while fielding opportunities for representation.

Randy Starr

Randy Starr is a veteran Visual Effects Producer having worked in the industry for over 20 years in a variety of roles from company manager to freelance producer to studio executive. Randy recently served as SVP of Visual Effects at Legendary Pictures where he oversaw the productions of Godzilla 2, Detective Pikachu, Pacific Rim Uprising, and Kong: Skull Island. Prior to Legendary, Randy worked as a freelance VFX Producer on such films as “San Andreas”, “Journey 2: Mysterious Island”, and “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”. Randy started his film career as a business development manager for industry leading companies such as Cinesite and Rhythm & Hues. Currently Randy is finishing work on “IT: Chapter 2” for Warner Bros and New Line Cinema.

Matthew Steidl

Matthew Steidl is a visual effects artist and animator who has worked in many areas of entertainment, ranging from film to TV to video games. After graduating with an MFA from USC's Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts in 2012, he got his start in visual effects as a camera layout artist at Rhythm & Hues Studios in El Segundo. Afterwards he performed several short stints in commercials before going on to teach 3d animation in Florence, Italy for a semester. Upon his return to Los Angeles, he began a long run in television visual effects for Encore Hollywood. In the last several years he has worn many hats, ranging from character rigging and crowd animation, to show coordinating and on set visual effects supervision. He currently works as a digital compositor for DC superhero shows The Flash, Supergirl, Titans, and Doom Patrol, and teaches animation and visual effects at Cal State Long Beach on the side. Before his professional career, he interned at Tokyo Broadcasting System, Inc. in Japan,

and as a lover of language can talk animation in Japanese, Italian, or French. Last summer he gave a bilingual lecture in visual effects at Tokyo University of Technology, and is looking forward to another trip this July.

Vicky Story

Vicky Story, a Los Angeles native, has spent the greater part of her adult life cultivating a prolific career in Video and Film production. Her venture into the Film business began more than 20 years ago – when she confidently stepped in as Executive Producer of the Independent Feature "*One Of Us Tripped*" (1996 winner of Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Film Festival), produced, wrote, edited and directed by first time Director, Tim Story. She immediately financed and Executive Produced Tim's second Independent Feature, *"Firing Squad"*. Early in her career, she worked as Producer/PM for National Commercials, including high profile clients like Tommy Hilfiger, Sears, Sony, Nintendo, Nike and Ford Motor Company. She then gravitated towards Music Videos adding close to 40 more projects to her production experience. Vicky moved up the ranks on several popular Music Videos including Redman's *"Mascot"*, Maxwell's *"Get to Know Ya",* and Christina Aguilera's "Come on Over", where she finally ended up producing for Director, Benny Boom, when her father was diagnosed with a terminal disease called Amyloidosis, which halted her commercial/music video career. Together with her husband, Tim Story, Vicky founded The Story Company in 1993, producers of *"First Sunday",* starring Ice Cube and *"Hurricane Season"* starring Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker. Currently, Tim Story is in negotiations to Direct Lionsgate and Hasbro's *Monopoly* live-action movie, produced under The Story Company banner and Hartbeat Productions with talks of Kevin Hart starring. Also, New Line has attached Eddie Murphy to star and Tim Story to direct and produce The Grumpy Old Men which will be produced under The Story Company banner. The Story Company has stepped into TV with Netflix Original Prince of Peoria. Vicky is a self made entrepreneur, working on her next venture. Stay tuned...

Shaun Sutton

Shaun Sutton, born and raised in the Kansas City Metro Area, graduated from University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music before graduating USC's Peter Stark Program in 2016. Currently, Shaun is the Scripted Development Coordinator at Funny or Die, where he has worked on shows like American Vandal, No Activity, and I Love You, America. He was a 2017 Variety Assistant to Watch.

Troy Takaki

Troy Takaki ace is a top film editor who has cut such box office hits as SWEET HOME ALABAMA starring Reese Witherspoon and HITCH starring Will Smith. He is one of the few picture editors that splits his time between features and television. He recently edited shows

such as “YOU” for Netflix and “Mr. Mercedes” for Direct TV and just completed his fifth feature with director Andy Tennant, “The Secret”.

Kazu Takeda

Kazu Takeda received his MFA in 2017 from USC’s School of Cinematic Arts, where he studied directing, writing, and editing. His main passion is working with actors. He was active in building bridges between USC’s film school and its School of Dramatic Arts. He also took part in the resurrection of the school’s Asian Pacific Cinema Association. In Wilmington, NC, he was a member of the city’s independent film community and was active in theater as a director and performer. He received his BA from the University of Maryland, College Park, where he was Creative Director of the school’s improv troupe and a founding member of its first co-ed a cappella group.

Gab Taraboulsy

Deeply passionate about the culinary world, Gab Taraboulsy has dedicated his waking life to unearthing the stories happening on plates, in kitchens and restaurants all over the world. His work has garnered a James Beard Nomination and a Webby Award for Best Documentary Series. Most recently, Gab produced and directed his first feature length documentary, "Funke", which explores the dying art of handmade pasta and was named "Best of Fest" at the 2019 Palm Springs International Film Festival. Ever hungry, ever curious, Gab hopes to tap into the infinite power of food to travel the world and shed light on the remarkable people working tirelessly to better our food landscape.

Chris Thomes

As Vice President, Marketing Strategy for ABC Studios, Thomes is responsible for developing and implementing marketing strategies from development, broadcast, and international roll out for all current ABC Studios TV content across North America with a specific requirement to build the Studio brand and its visibility through the creation of creative, high profile and targeted initiatives to support ABCS development team, producers, North American sales directors, partners and broadcasters across the US and Canada. Previously Thomes was responsible for general management and oversight of branded digital video programming at ABC's Digital Studio. There he oversaw production for content created by external producers, including derivative digital series, original digital first series and special event live programming for the Disney-ABC Television Group's diverse portfolio of broadcast and cable networks, including ABC Entertainment, Freeform and Disney Channel networks. He has been awarded two Emmys for his work at ABC in digital programming and was responsible for helping launch ABC's foray into original scripted digital short with ABCd. Prior to joining the Disney/ABC Television Group, Mr. Thomes oversaw digital production and programming for Saban Brands. There he managed the digital assets of Power Rangers and Paul Frank, among others. Before Saban Brands, Mr. Thomes oversaw ABC.com's Digital Oscar Experience, which won the 2011 Emmy for Creative Achievement in Interactive Media. He has served as executive producer at Disney's Interactive Media Group where he oversaw video production and integrated ad sales production and earned four Disney Inventor Awards for his work on Disney Xtreme Digital. At DIMG, Mr. Thomes also produced The Muppets Kitchen with Cat Cora web series, a comedy cooking show and the Webby Award-winning Jim Henson¹s The Possibility Shop, a Disney.com, web-based original production focused on instilling creativity in kids and parents. Mr. Thomes is an active member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences serving as Governor for Interactive Media. He also served as Vice President, New Media for the Producers Guild of America from 2010-2012 and currently sits on the PGA's New Media Council Board. Mr. Thomes holds a BA in Film and Television from University of California, San Diego.

Chandler Toffa

Chandler Toffa is an international filmmaker and producer in both traditional and new forms of media. He studies at USC's School of Cinematic Arts and will soon be graduating with a BFA in Film & Television Production and BA in East Asian Area Studies in May of 2019. With human connection at the focus of his work, he has produced a variety of projects ranging from VR/AR experiences, to idea festivals, to a new documentary series about massages. In 2018 he co-founded one of the world's first student-led mixed reality communities, ICXR (Inter-Collegiate Mixed Reality), aimed at promoting student collaboration and innovation. He currently works for the Universal Pictures' Film Technology team.

Rebecca Vail

Rebecca Vail was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, the youngest of four girls. She attended Baldwin Wallace University, where she received her degree in theatre arts and music. Upon graduation, she began her career in new play development at the Contemporary American

Theater Festival and moved to Philadelphia where she was an active member in the theatre community, working as a producer, dramaturg, and teacher. In 2014, she accepted a place in the Peter Stark Producing Program at USC. During her time in the program she interned for producer Anne Thomopoulos, United Talent Agency, and Syfy. She currently works as a manager on the NBCUniversal Cable Scripted Content team, covering current shows THE SINNER, BRAVE NEW WORLD, and THE MAGICIANS as well as developing new projects for USA, Syfy, Bravo, and E!.

Fernando Valles

Fernando Valles is a multimedia designer with a creative background in interactive, motion, web and static design with over 16 years of experience. He's provided design and production art services for a wide variety of clients in the entertainment, pharmaceutical, automotive, petroleum, and aerospace industries. Some of the clients he provided his services to include Audi, Toyota, Exxon-Mobile, ESAB, Toshiba, Amgen, Baxter, Bell Helicopters, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Sikorsky, Ticketmaster, Rhino Records, ABC, BBC America, CBS, Disney, and Warner Bros. He was also instrumental in designing experiences for digital touch murals, touch and gesture based kiosks, iPad apps, games, DVD, Blu-Ray, internet, and virtual reality.

Ruth Vasquez

Ruth Vasquez began her film career as a Development Intern with James Cameron's production company, Lightstorm Entertainment, while attending USC. After leaving school, she entered visual effects by starting at Cinesite Digital Studios in Hollywood for the film *Space Jam*. Specializing in data management including I/O, render management, and data archiving, the self-titled "Mary Poppins of VFX" is known for bringing order out of chaos and going where she is needed most. She has worked on numerous projects in film, television, DVD games, and theme park entertainment. Currently, she is the Lead Render Manager at Encore Burbank with 1000+ render nodes and managing 2000+ jobs daily to take DC television superheroes. Her credits include: *Air Force One*, *Primary Colors*, *Harry Potter Interactive DVD Game: Hogwarts Challenge*, *Independence Day: Resurgence*, Despicable *Me: Minion Mayhem3D* theme park ride for Universal Studios Japan, *The Flash, Supergirl, Black Lightning, Titans, & Doom Patrol.*

Craig Wagner

Craig Wagner serves as Executive Vice President, Business Affairs, and General Counsel for the Paradigm Talent Agency. Paradigm is a full service talent and literary agency representing clients in motion pictures, television, theater and music. Mr. Wagner joined Paradigm in 2005 and is responsible for all of the agency's business affairs in film and television, corporate legal, employment and related matters. Prior to Paradigm, Mr. Wagner was Senior Vice President, Business Affairs for the Network Television Division of Paramount Pictures. At Paramount, Mr.

Wagner oversaw business affairs relating to the production of episodic television, made-for-television movies and. mini-series for primetime. While at Paramount, he negotiated countless deals for actors, directors, writers, producers and underlying rights as well as license agreements with the major broadcast networks and cable channels. Before joining Paramount, Mr. Wagner was associated with the law firm of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan in the area of corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions. A native of Los Angeles, Mr. Wagner earned his undergraduate degree from UCLA in English and obtained his law degree from New York University School of Law where he was Note & Comment Editor of the Law Review.

Katie Waldron

Katie Waldron graduated from USC School of Cinematic Arts with a B.A. in Film and TV Production and a minor in Screenwriting. After graduating college, Katie worked as an intern at Amazon Studios, then worked as a disgruntled Postmate, then tried to sell handmade greeting cards on Etsy, then assisted biologists in Australia in the conservation of an endangered pygmy possum, then worked as a "shot analyst" for a movie stills database. In terms of "real jobs," Katie has worked as a production assistant on ABC's Code Black and at Nickelodeon Animation and now works as a Researcher/Writer's Assistant on Outlander.

Shiingwu Wang

Shiingwu Wang is an Associate Professor at the Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California. He earned his PhD from the University of Michigan. His research and teaching interest includes financial accounting, personal financial and tax planning, tax and valuation issues in mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, taxes and business strategy, and international taxation. His research has been published in leading academic journals such as the *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, *The Accounting Review,* and the *Journal of the American Taxation Association*. He has received numerous teaching awards at Marshall School of Business and nationally as well. He has also involved in international programs at Marshall School of Business including Global Leadership Program, Pacific Rim Education Program (PRIME), and EMBA training program.

Kacey Weiniger

Kacey Weiniger is a senior at USC studying Communication at the Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism. Kacey is the President of XRSC, the immersive media club on campus. She is actively involved in the immersive industry, including a recent digital marketing internship at Magic Leap and a creative director position on ARnold, a mixed reality narrative about a dog built for Microsoft HoloLens. Currently, Kacey is the chief marketing officer at Across Realities, developing Spatiate, a collaborative mixed reality art creation experience recently launched on Magic Leap.

Sam Wickert

Sam Wickert is an experienced director and VFX supervisor who has worked closely with many clients such as Google Daydream, AMD, Universal Orlando Resorts, Redbull, and Discover. The most exciting projects he has enjoyed working on is the content featured on his YouTube Channel, SOKRISPYMEDIA, which has accumulated over 650,000 subscribers and 200 million views - most notably recognized from its web series, "Chalk Warfare." Most recently, he wrapped a three-part live action VR series with Google Daydream in 2018.

Bochen Zhang

Bochen Zhang is a Los Angeles-based producer who has been working in film and television since 2007. Her work includes the Emmy-nominated TV series, *The Walking Dead: Red Machete* and Netflix's *Ultimate BeastMaster*. She co-produced *Wonderland*, a short film that won 2nd place at HBO's APA Visionaries Award. The award-wining narrative feature she line produced, *End of Summer*, premiered nationwide in China in 2017. Bochen's feature films, short films and TV series have been broadcast on AMC, HBO, Disney Channel, Lifetime, and Bounce Network. Bochen serves as a film festival judge and has been a guest lecture at University of New Orleans Film Department since 2015. She is a graduate of the American Film institute and is originally from Beijing, China.

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