



Roundtable: Agents and Managers



Abe Bengio
Manager - Film Group, Advisory
ENDEAVOR CONTENT

In Person

Abraham Bengio is a Manager in the Film Advisory and Sales group at Endeavor Content. His concentrations are packaging, financing, and domestic/worldwide sales, as it relates to independent film. He has worked on films such as Billy Porter's directorial debut WHAT IF, Radha Blank's THE 40-YEAR-OLD VERSION, Roseanne Liang's SHADOW IN THE CLOUD, and Rei Marcus Green's GOOD JOE BELL. Prior to Endeavor Content, Abraham had a short stint working at talent agency William Morris Endeavor. He received his undergraduate BFA in Creative Producing from the University Of North Carolina School Of The Arts.



Alvar Carretero
Director, Awards & Global PR
JOSHUA JASON PUBLIC RELATIONS

In Person

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Adam Keresztes
Shorts Programmer
CALGARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual

Adam Keresztes is a Programmer at the Calgary International Film Festival. He has worked on films such as Billy Porter's directorial debut WHAT IF, Radha Blank's THE 40-YEAR-OLD VERSION, Roseanne Liang's SHADOW IN THE CLOUD, and Rei Marcus Green's GOOD JOE BELL. Prior to Endeavor Content, Abraham had a short stint working at talent agency William Morris Endeavor. He received his undergraduate BFA in Creative Producing from the University Of North Carolina School Of The Arts.



Finessing Your Festival Strategy



Amanda Salazar
Head of Programming and Acquisitions
ARGO

Virtual

Amanda Salazar is the Head of Programming and Acquisitions at Argo. She is also the Programmer at the Northwest Film Forum, a two screen arthouse in Seattle and the co-Director of Camera Obscura, a pop-up cinema and event that celebrates experimental cinema. Previously she was a Programmer with SFFILM and before that, the VP of Acquisitions at Fandor. She has guest programmed at Oak Cliff Film Festival, Sonoma Film Festival, and was the Director of Programming at Newport Beach Film Festival and she currently prescreens for Sundance.

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Adriana Banta
Executive
30 WEST

Virtual

Adriana Banta is an executive at 30WEST, an investment and advisory company with offices in Los Angeles and New York that provides capital and strategic guidance for high caliber creative projects and forward-thinking companies operating throughout popular culture. The company's corporate investment portfolio includes NEON as well as Altitude. Adriana helps to spearhead the company's nonfiction work, which includes investing, packaging and sales across a range of TV and film projects. Recent standouts include Sundance 2021 Grand Jury Prize winner Flee, acclaimed documentary features Some Kind of Heaven (Magnolia) and Fyre (Netflix) as well as the extraordinary break-out series Tiger King (Netflix).



Meet the Programmers

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Amber Love
Programmer
NEW ORLEANS FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual

Amber Love is a filmmaker, festival programmer, and documentary editor based in Chicago, IL. Her films have premiered at the Camden International Film Festival, played Indie Memphis and the Milwaukee Film Festival, and have been supported by the Tribeca Film Institute. She has been a core member of the programming team for the New Orleans Film Festival since 2016 and most recently joined the SFFILM Festival for the 2021 edition of the fest.



Albert Lee
Motion Picture Agent
CAA

In Person

Albert Lee is a Motion Picture Literary Agent at leading entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA). He is based in the Los Angeles office and represents many of the world's leading directors, writers, producers, and actors. Albert graduated from Harvard with a degree in Human Evolutionary Biology with a secondary in Visual and Environmental Studies.



Amelia Shugrue
Manager
2AM

In Person

Amelia Shugrue is a literary manager and producer at 2AM, a new management and production company with financial backing from A24. She represents and continues to be inspired by filmmakers and writers who push the boundaries of storytelling in unconventional and exciting ways. Previously Amelia worked alongside Manager/Producer Kevin Rowe supporting clients such as Janicza Bravo, Jeremy O. Harris and Ari Aster. Amelia is a graduate of University of California Santa Barbara's Film & Media Studies program and is based in Los Angeles.



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Alexis Galfas
Head of Tracking/Acquisitions
CINETIC MEDIA

Virtual

As the Head of Tracking at Cinetic Media, Alexis works across the Development, Finance, Management, and Sales teams to identify and bring in filmmaker-driven projects that are creatively unique and commercially viable. Her responsibilities include establishing relationships with emerging filmmakers, building Cinetic's film festival slates, assessing potential financing opportunities, and tracking film festival, market, and industry trends. Recent films she has been involved with include TIME, COLLECTIVE, AILEY, RBG, MUCHO MUCHO AMOR, WE THE ANIMALS, KNOCK DOWN THE HOUSE, SCIENCE FAIR, AMY, STRONG ISLAND, GREEN BOOK, and BOYHOOD.



Breaking into Episodic

@andrewahnfilms



Andrew Ahn
Filmmaker

Virtual

Andrew Ahn is a queer Korean American filmmaker. His feature DRIVEWAYS premiered at the 2019 Berlinale and was nominated for two Film Independent Spirit Awards. His feature SPA NIGHT premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and went on to win the John Cassavetes Film Independent Spirit Award. Ahn has directed television for Sundance Channel, Netflix, FX, HBO Max, CBS, and KCET. He has promoted diversity in the arts by mentoring filmmakers through programs like Pacific Arts Movement's Reel Voices, Outfest's OutSet, and the Sundance Institute's Native Filmmaker Lab. He received an MFA from CalArts.



Alice Royer
Cataloguer
NETFLIX
Film writer | researcher | archivist

Virtual



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Andrew Friedenberg
Director
CINEMA SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

In Person



Andrew Murphy
Director of Programming
INSIDE OUT TORONTO LGBT FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual

Since 2012, Andrew Murphy has been the Director of Programming at Inside Out. While leading the artistic direction for the Toronto and Ottawa LGBT Film Festivals as well as year-round initiatives, he initiated the organization's Industry program, including the launch of the world's first LGBTQ film financing forum. Prior to Inside Out, Murphy was Programming Manager for the Atlantic Film Festival. During his tenure, he created its youth film festival, ViewFinders, as well as securing films for galas, special presentations, genre and queer content. He has previously served on the jury for Berlinale's Teddy Award and for Cardiff's Iris Prize.

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Ariel Richter
Manager, Documentary
ENDEAVOR CONTENT

In Person

Ariel Richter is a Manager in the Documentary department at Endeavor Content, a division of global entertainment leader Endeavor. In his role, Richter supports the group in identifying financing opportunities, handling sales and providing advisory services for media companies and content creators in the premium non-scripted space.

Richter joined Endeavor Content in 2019. Prior to that, he served as Director of Israeli Competitions at the Jerusalem Film Festival and as Associate Director of The Jerusalem International Film Lab. He holds a BFA in Film & Television Production from The Jerusalem Sam Spiegel Film & Television School.



Angel Kristi Williams
Director / Writer

In Person

Angel Kristi Williams is a filmmaker born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. Her feature directorial debut Really Love, produced by MACRO, won the Special Jury Recognition for Acting for co-stars Kofi Siriboe and Yootha Wong-Loi-Sing at SXSW. The film World Premiered as part of AFI Fest's Special Presentations to much acclaim. Angel is a 2014 Film Independent Project Involve Directing Fellow, a recipient of the Sony Pictures Diversity Fellowship, and is a Sundance Institute Momentum Fellow this year. Most recently Angel directed an episode of Colin in Black and White, Ava DuVernay & Colin Kaepernick's limited series for Netflix.

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Ash Hoyle
Associate Shorts Programmer
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual

Ash is a member of the programming team at Sundance Film Festival, working as an Associate Shorts Programmer and to support Director of Programming Kim Yutani. He is also the Director of Programming of Damn These Heels Film Festival and a Senior Programmer at Outfest Los Angeles. Ash is a 2021 Project Involve Fellow with Film Independent. Ash has also been involved in programming, NewFest NY, Sun Valley Film Festival, Overlook Film Festival, and AFI Fest and worked in production at ABC, Mssng Peces, and The Annoyance Theater. Ash is from Philadelphia and holds a dual degree from Vassar College.



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Angela Lee
Associate Director, Artist Development
FILM INDEPENDENT

In Person

Angela C. Lee oversees the selection process and curriculum for the fiction labs, including the Screenwriting, Directing, Episodic, Producing Labs and Fast Track Finance Market. Angela is a Spirit Award nominated independent producer whose first feature film, Songs My Brothers Taught Me, premiered in competition at Sundance Film Festival and Directors' Fortnight at Cannes. She is a 2018 Women at Sundance Fellow and has previously been supported by the Berlinale, Film Independent, IFP, PGA Diversity Workshop, Sundance Institute Creative Producing Lab and Fellowship and the Center for Asian American Media. A native Chicagoan, Angela graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Economics.



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Ayo Kheper-maat
SVP, Acquisitions
DECAL

Virtual

Ayo Kheper-Maat is the SVP of Acquisitions at DECAL. Previously as Director of Acquisitions at NEON, Kheper-Maat facilitated the acquiring of two Sundance 2021 Film Festival breakout documentaries: Jamila Wignot's AILEY and Theo Anthony's ALL LIGHT EVERYWHERE. Other acquisitions include Oscar-shortlisted DEAR COMRADES and Independent Spirit John Casseate's nominated KILLING OF TWO LOVERS. Kheper-Maat has previously held positions at Universal Pictures Home Entertainment, The Film Arcade, and Creative Artists Agency. She is based in Los Angeles.

[Dissecting Feature Distribution](#)

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Angelique Jackson
Film & Media Reporter
VARIETY/PMC

Virtual

Angelique Jackson is a film and media reporter for Variety, based in Los Angeles. Prior to joining Variety, she worked as a producer for Entertainment Tonight, winning three Daytime Emmy awards for her work. She is a graduate of Grady College of Journalism at the University of Georgia.

[Short to Feature - Making the Leap](#)

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Benjamin Schwartz
Director of Sales
SUBMARINE ENTERTAINMENT

Virtual

Ben Schwartz is the Director of Sales at Submarine Entertainment in New York. Submarine is one of the leading sales, distribution, and production companies for independent documentaries and non-fiction series. Ben works on a wide variety of the company's sales titles, as well as on the acquisitions team, where he helps build the company's slate. Ben started his career at RADIUS.

[Navigating the Documentary Landscape](#)



Anna Sampers
Senior Programmer
MILWAUKEE FILM

Virtual



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Apoorva Bakshi
Producer and Managing Partner
GOLDEN KARAVAN

Virtual

Apoorva Bakshi is an International EMMY Award winning producer, spearheading production of most notably Sundance favorite & International EMMY Winner DELHI CRIME, National Award winning film, SHUT UP SONA; Netflix Musical WHAT ARE THE ODDS?; and widely watched Facebook Original HOMESPUN. She serves as a Co-Founder & Managing Partner of Golden Karavan carving her niche as one of the youngest producers of prolific South Asian productions. Her latest doc film WOMB - WOMEN OF MY BILLION, premieres across festivals in 2021. A fierce guardian of independent voices, Apoorva successfully acquired and distributed over 50+ award winning south asian independents across platforms world wide.

[Co-Productions & International Collaboration](#)

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Beth Friedenberg
Associate Director
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In Person



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Bijan Tehrani
Editor in Chief
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Carey Williams
Director
ELORCA

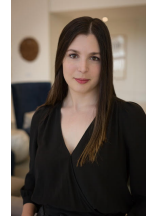
Hailed by Filmmaker Magazine as one of 2018's New Faces of Independent Film, Carey Williams is a director bringing a unique and visually striking cinematic eye to the exploration of the human condition. Williams' short film CHERRY WAVES, won Best Short awards from HBO, NBC Shortcuts, San Diego Film Festival, as well as Best Narrative from Hollyshorts Film Festival. He recently premiered his feature R#J, a modern day retelling of Romeo and Juliet, at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival and is in production on the feature version of his 2018 Sundance and SXSW Award winning short film EMERGENCY.

[Short to Feature - Making the Leap](#)



Bill Hargreaves
Founder
SAN JOSE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

In Person



Charlotte Lichtman
Sales Agent
ICM PARTNERS

Virtual

CHARLOTTE LICHTMAN is an agent in the International and Independent Film group at ICM Partners focused on structuring and arranging financing, packaging and securing distribution for independent films. She has worked on sales titles across each of the major film festivals including Venice, Toronto, Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca and Cannes. Recent notable sales include Michel Franco's Silver Lion winning NEW ORDER to Neon, and Nancy Buirski's documentary, A CRIME ON THE BAYOU, to Shout! Factory which is the last in a trilogy of films exploring pivotal stories from the Civil Rights era.

[Roundtable: Agents and Managers](#)



Bojana Sandic
Programming Director
NEW FILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES

Virtual

Bojana Sandic is a film festival programmer with an enthusiasm for authentic voices. She is currently Programming Director of NewFilmmakers Los Angeles, where she is focused on connecting emerging filmmakers with new audiences, industry knowledge and opportunities. Formerly the Director of Short Film Programming at the Newport Beach Film Festival, she maintains a love of shorts as a medium for storytelling. She has worked in short film development and served on film festival juries including those of Slamdance, Outfest and Palm Springs Shortfest.

[Finessing Your Festival Strategy](#)



Chester Gordon
Filmmaker

In Person

Chester Algernall Gordon is an award winning and groundbreaking producer on the rise. With an eye for boundary pushing content, their work has been featured at more than 200 US-based and international film festivals. Their upcoming feature documentary "Pier Kids," directed by Elegance Bratton, will premiere on PBS and stream on Criterion. Gordon and Bratton are in post-production on their latest documentary, "Hell Fighter," a co-production with Five Fifty Films and Rainshine Entertainment. They are also an accomplished costume designer, and were the first gender non-binary, African American costume designer to compete in competition at Cannes with the film, "Port Authority."

[Finessing Your Festival Strategy](#)



Bronwyn Cornelius
Producer

Virtual

Bronwyn is an award-winning filmmaker best known for developing and producing critic favorite CLEMENCY, which won the 2019 Sundance Grand Jury Prize, was nominated for 3 Independent Spirit Awards including Best Feature, and received a BAFTA nomination for Leading Actress, Alfre Woodard. Her films have played at festivals around the world including Toronto and BFI London, have won top jury prizes at Sundance and SXSW, and been released theatrically and worldwide by such companies as NEON and Focus Features. Other features include the upcoming and innovative UNTITLED HORROR MOVIE, GREENCARD WARRIORS (over 4MM online views), SXSW Jury Winner MADE IN CHINA, and critically-acclaimed NEVER HERE.

[Dissecting Feature Distribution](#)



Chloe Walters Wallace
Manager - Artist Programs
FIRELIGHT MEDIA

Virtual

Chloe Walters-Wallace manages Firelight Media's artist programs, including the Documentary Lab and the Groundwork Regional Lab, which supports diverse, early career non-fiction makers from the South, Midwest & US Territories. Currently, she's helming Firelight's new digital shorts series, HINDSIGHT in collaboration with Reel South and CAAM. Chloe was program director of the New Orleans Film Society's Emerging Voices program and in 2018, she designed and launched the Southern Producers Lab. Chloe is a 2021 JustFilms Rockwood fellow, a 2007 Mellon Mays Fellow, and an Oritque Leadership Institute fellow. She lives between New York and New Orleans and is on the board of Third Horizon.

[Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development](#)



Bryan Leder
Manager / Producer
AUTHENTIC TALENT

In Person

Bryan Leder, Manager at Authentic Talent, a full service bi coastal management company has over 20+ years in the industry. He grew up in the families music merch business and while working as an actor discovered his passion for talent and projects by working in casting for Broadway which led him to the world of management and representation. Today, he represents actors, writers and other creatives whose distinct voices he's proud to share with all.

[Roundtable: Agents and Managers](#)



Christine Davila
Head of Development and Production
OJALÁ

In Person

Christine Dávila is currently the Head of Development and Production for Ojalá, founded by Tanya Saracho, creator and showrunner, of "Vida" on Starz. The company has a wide ranging development deal with UCP, a division of Universal Studio Group, which includes the launch of Latinx incubator, The Ojalá Ignition Lab. Prior to Ojalá she was Director of Development at Warner Bros' Stage 13. Previously Davila established the U.S. non-profit arm of the traveling international documentary film festival, Ambulance. She has been a Programming Associate at Sundance Film Festival since 2007.



Caleb Ward
Vice President of Acquisitions & Development
HIGHLAND FILM GROUP

In Person

Caleb Ward oversees feature acquisitions and production development for Highland's global sales slate as well as its domestic releasing arm, The Avenue. He is the creator and Director of the Late-Night program for the Colorado-based festival SeriesFest.

Caleb graduated from University of Carolina Wilmington with a B.A. in Film and Cinema Studies as well as another B.A. in Creative Writing. At his time at University of Carolina Wilmington Ward Directed the film Children of Salt and participated in the Atlantis Creative Magazine, Treehouse Magazine, and co-founded the Treehouse Magazine.



Clay Pruitt
Head of Programming
SEED&SPARK

Virtual

Clay Pruitt (he/him) is the Head of Programming at Seed&Spark. He has with highly regarded organizations such as the Sundance Institute, WME, Film Independent, the Palm Springs International Film Festival & ShortFest, and Outfest, and has served on juries for Slamdance Film Festival, Guanajuato International Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, and Outfest. He was the architect of the Film Festival Survival Pledge to support film festivals during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been signed by 280+ festivals. His production credits include United Skates (HBO), Above and Beyond: NASA's Journey to Tomorrow (Discovery), I'm Fine (Dekkoo), American Epic (PBS) and more.





Constanza Castro
Co-Founder / EP
271 FILMS

Virtual

Constanza Castro is a native of Mexico City. She has a Masters in Film Producing from The American Film Institute. She's produced numerous award-winning shorts and music videos that have been featured on Vimeo Staff Pick, Refinery 29, Short of the Week, Billboard.com, MTV Clubland, HBO, The New Yorker's The Screening Room, Nylon.com and Vice as well as festivals such as including AFI Fest, Tribeca, Seattle FF, Atlanta FF, LA FF, Hollyshorts, Austin FF, Sarasota FF, Berlin Shorts FF, Palms Springs to name a few.

She produces commercials, music videos and is developing various film and television projects.

[Walking the Walk: Building an Inclusive Set](#)

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Deborah Sadai
Producer/Content Acquisitions Manager
MAJESTIC ENTERTAINMENT INC

Virtual



Craig Parish
Senior Programmer Docs and Features and Founder of Episodes Program
SLAMDANCE

In Person

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Diego Najera
Director, Narrative Film
PARTICIPANT

In Person

Director of Narrative Films at Participant, the leading company dedicated to entertainment that inspires audiences to engage in positive social change.

Prior to Participant, he worked as an executive at AG Capital and as film programmer and producer for the Guadalajara International Film Festival. Diego holds an MFA from USC's Peter Stark Producing Program and his projects have been supported by the Sundance Institute, Tribeca Film Institute, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and Film Independent. In 2017, he co-founded the Latin Tracking Board, an organization that supports Latin talent in the film & TV executive ranks.

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Crystal Caicedo
Agent
CAA

Virtual

Crystal Caicedo is a Colombian American Television Scripted Agent at Creative Artists Agency. She has been at CAA for over six years and specializes in the international market, with a focus on Latin American territories and Spain. Fernando Frias, Armando Bo and Los Javi's, are some of several incredibly talented writers, directors, producers and showrunners which Crystal represents.

In 2020 Forbes magazine selected Crystal as part of their annual 30 under 30's edition.

[Breaking into Episodic](#)



Dilcia Barrera
Programmer
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual

Dilcia Barrera is a Film Programmer for the Sundance Film Festival. For over a decade, Dilcia has worked for film festivals including a tenure as Programming Director for LALIFF, Senior Programmer at AFI FEST, a Sundance Shorts Programmer and has collaborated with programming teams at OUTFEST and The Los Angeles Film Festivals. Most recently, she was LACMA's Film Curator and was invited to curate two new shorts categories for NYFF54. She was featured in "IndieWire's 20 Latin Americans Making a Difference for American Independent Film Today" in 2016 and ScreenDaily's "Future Leaders 2019: programmers and curators to watch" list.

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Cullen Conly
Literary Manager
MOSAIC

Virtual

Cullen Conly is a literary manager at Mosaic, based in Los Angeles. Among his current clients are Cory Finley, Sian Heder, Andrew Ahn, Kat Candler and Dean Fleischer-Camp.

Prior to Mosaic, he was a motion picture literary agent at ICM Partners, based in the NY office. He began his film career at the Sundance Institute in the Screenwriters and Directors Labs. While there, he supported Benh Zeitlin, Ryan Coogler, Marielle Heller and David Lowery, amongst others.

[Roundtable: Agents and Managers](#)



Domenica Castro
Co-Founder / EP
271 FILMS

In Person

Domenica is a native of Mexico City. She studied film at UNLV, where she focused on both narrative and commercial work. Domenica's award-winning work has screened nationally and internationally at festivals, including Tribeca, Berlin Shorts FF, Nordisk Panorama, LA Asian Pacific FF, Palms Springs among others. While primarily focused on developing film and television, Domenica has worked in alternative media and produced music videos, for Die Antwoord, Becky G, Lil' Jon, Boogie collectively garnering over 2 billion views. She has a strong interest in continuing to develop and grow the Latinx market both within Mexico and the United States.

[Walking the Walk: Building an Inclusive Set](#)

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Dave Binegar
Vice President, Scripted Programming
SHOWTIME

In Person

Dave is the Vice President of Scripted Programming for Showtime where he develops original scripted comedy, drama, and limited series. He's recently worked on the limited thriller Your Honor, queer dark comedy Work In Progress (which he found as an independently produced pilot at Sundance), UK comedy Back To Life, upcoming half hour The End, & the survival drama Yellowjackets, in addition to several development projects. He started his career in San Francisco where he worked in production management on animated features for Disney + Pixar. Dave received his MFA in Producing from USC's Peter Stark Program and his BA in Media Studies from USF.

[Breaking into Episodic](#)

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Donna Lozloskie
Curator, Writer

Virtual

Donna K. is a media curator and critic working coast-to-coast while rooted in the Midwest. Her film fest experience includes True/False, Citizen Jane and Oxford Film Festival. Her annual "Ten Best Films Directed By Women" can be found online at Filmmaker Magazine.

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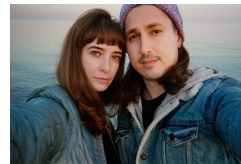
Dea Vazquez
Project Involve Manager
FILM INDEPENDENT

Virtual

Dea Vazquez joined Film Independent in 2014 and currently serves as Project Involve Manager, overseeing Film Independent's signature mentoring program. Prior to her role with Project Involve she was the Artist Development Associate where she coordinated day-to-day operations for the Artist Development labs and programs. Dea has served on juries for various organizations including Women in Film and the Shift Film Fund. Before joining Film Independent, Dea was the Coordinator at The Murtha Skouras Agency, and prior to that, she was the in-house Production Coordinator at Colibri Films, a commercial production company for the Hispanic Market.

[Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development](#)

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Dusty Mancinelli & Madeleine Sims-fewer
Director, Writer, Producer
DM FILMS LTD.

Virtual

Madeleine Sims-Fewer and Dusty Mancinelli met at the TIFF Talent Lab where they quickly joined forces as a filmmaking duo. Their short films have screened at Telluride, Slamdance, London Film Festival, VIFF and Krakow, among others. Their debut feature, VIOLATION, premiered at TIFF where Madeleine was selected as a TIFF Rising Star. VIOLATION won the Emerging Canadian Artist award at the Calgary International Film Festival, the Emerging Canadian Director award at the Vancouver International Film Festival, and was nominated for a Directors Guild of Canada Discovery Award. VIOLATION had its international premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, and was nominated for 5 Canadian Screen Awards.

[Short to Feature - Making the Leap](#)



Edson Oda
Writer/Director

In Person

Edson Oda is a Japanese-Brazilian writer/director based in Los Angeles. He graduated from the University of São Paulo - bachelor's in Advertising – and completed his Master of Fine Arts in Film and Production at the University of Southern California.

His first feature film NINE DAYS - starring Winston Duke, Zazie Beetz, Benedict Wong, Bill Skarsgard and Tony Hale - premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2020 (U.S. Dramatic Competition), winning the Walt Salt Screenwriting Award.

He's a Sundance Screenwriters Lab Alumni and Latin Grammy nominated director for

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Ernest Quiroz
Programmer

In Person

Programmer for The Loft Film Fest, Milwaukee Film Festival, Phoenix Film Festival, Cine Las Americas.



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Edwin Ruiz
Creative Producer
MONDO MACHINE

Virtual

At Mondo Machine we strive to highlight social mission-driven media content for wider audiences and with so much happening in our country right now, keeping up with the direction of the film industry is now even more important so that we can achieve our mission.



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Evan Morehouse
Head of Growth
ALTAVOD

In Person

Evan Morehouse is a film industry executive with experience in acquisitions, marketing and film festival programming. He previously held the position of Director of Acquisitions at the all-rights boutique distribution company The Orchard. After graduating with a BA in Film from Northwestern University in 2011, Evan worked in various capacities for several major film festivals across the country. In 2015, he relocated to Los Angeles to work for the President of Marketing at Broad Green Pictures. He currently holds the position of Head of Growth at Altavod, a startup VOD platform designed to arm independent filmmakers with the tools to market and distribute their films.

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Ekwa Msangi
Writer/Director
OUTRAGEOUS FILM PRODUCTIONS

Virtual

Ekwa Msangi is a Tanzanian and American filmmaker whose award-winning and critically acclaimed feature film Farewell Amor premiered in competition at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, garnering 98% on Rotten Tomatoes, is being distributed by IFC Films (North America), MUBI and Netflix Africa (Worldwide). Msangi has written and directed for both television and film, and along her journey has been awarded the NYWIFT Director's Award, the 2020 Durban International Film Festival award for Best Screenplay, and was named a 2020 Sundance Momentum Fellow as well as a 2020 BAFTA Breakthrough. Most recently Msangi won the 2021 Indie Spirit "Someone To Watch" Award.

[Working with Actors](#)

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Fabiola Ferral
Director/Writer
MONDO MACHINE

In Person

At Mondo Machine we strive to highlight social mission-driven media content for wider audiences and with so much happening in our country right now, keeping up with the direction of the film industry is now even more important so that we can achieve our mission.



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Eliza Hajek
Manager of Development
SAGINDIE

Virtual

As Manager of Development at SAGindie, Eliza travels to film festivals, speaks on panels and at seminars, and interacts with independent producers worldwide to get the word out about the SAG-AFTRA Low Budget Agreements. She's really happy to be here!

[Walking the Walk: Building an Inclusive Set](#)



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Felipe Montoya
Chief of Programming
BOGOSHORTS - BOGOTÁ SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual

Colombia, 1993. Chief of Programming of BOGOSHORTS - Bogotá Short Film Festival and the BOGOSHORTS Movement, a local, national and international short film exhibition program, from 2015. He holds a BA in Audiovisual and Multimedia Communication from University of Antioquia. He has worked as producer and PR manager of VARTEX Video Art and Experimental Film Showcase (2013-2015), Pantalones Cortos Film Marathon (2014), Santa Fe de Antioquia Film Festival (2014), and other film events in Medellín, his hometown. He directed the distribution and exhibition program of Cultura AV Collective (focused on promoting the film production from Medellín) until 2015.

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Ellie Wen
Documentary Filmmaker

Virtual

Ellie Wen is an award-winning filmmaker from Hong Kong and Los Angeles. She is an alumna of Film Independent's Project Involve fellowship program and a graduate of the Documentary Film MFA Program at Stanford University. Her films have been featured on The Guardian, The New York Times, The New Yorker, Short of the Week, SoulPancake, selected as Vimeo Staff Pick, and screened at premier festivals around the world. She lives in San Francisco and is developing her next documentary as an artist-in-residence in the SFFILM FilmHouse Residency Program.

[Navigating the Documentary Landscape](#)

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Florian Fernandez
Industry Coordinator
CANNES COURT MÉTRAGE / SHORT FILM CORNER | RENDEZ-VOUS INDUSTRY

Virtual

Holding a Master degree in Film Studies – after studying Cinema, Literature & Arts – Florian joined Cannes Court Métrage team in 2014. Since then, he coordinates the Industry events (workshops, pitches, meetings, panels, masterclasses...) of the Short Film Corner – a 5-day Rendez-vous Industry gathering organized by the Festival de Cannes, which aims to promote short film forms & emerging talents. The goal of this networking event is to facilitate the interactions between the filmmakers & the short film industry. The SFC | Rendez-vous Industry gathers hundreds of international professionals every year around a lively program and a buzzing atmosphere.



Emily Kelleher-Best
CEO
SEED&SPARK

Virtual

Emily Best is the founder and CEO of Seed&Spark. Seed&Spark accelerates the cultural impact of creativity through crowdfunding for inclusive storytelling and delivering stories into workplaces for powerful diversity&inclusion training.

[A Guide to Distributing Your Short](#)

@emilybest



@emilybest



Gabe Van Amburgh
Film Programmer
SXSW


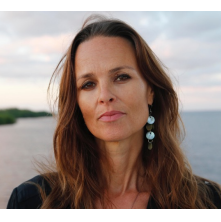







Virtual

Gabe Van Amburgh is a Film Programmer and the Film Exhibition Manager for SXSW in Austin, Texas. Since 2011 he has directed all aspects of exhibition including film print traffic, theatre build outs, the transition to 100% digital DCP exhibition, pivot in 2021 to an online Film Festival, plus a variety of valuable analytical and strategic contributions as part of the Film Team. Previously, Van Amburgh worked for seven years in many different technical roles at the Alamo Drafthouse, SXSW and Fantastic Film Fest.

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 <p>Georgina González Director of Development GAUMONT USA</p> <p>Georgina Gonzalez is Director of Development for SPLATAM at Gaumont Television. She was previously Director of Development for the newly formed production studio at Cinepolis, the second-largest theater chain worldwide. She's a CUEC-UNAM & USC's Peter Stark film producing program graduate, sponsored by Fulbright, FONCA & HBO. She worked in development at Fox, Universal, MGM and the Univision-Netflix joint venture, Story House Entertainment on films and series such as worldwide hit "El Chapo" and the critically-acclaimed "Tijuana". In parallel, through her production company, Off-Hollywood, she produced films which have premiered at Venice, SXSW, Tribeca, Rotterdam and other international film festivals.</p> <p>@tjina ✉</p>	 <p>Heather Rae Producer</p> <p>Heather Rae has produced such films as Academy Award nominated Frozen River, Netflix Originals Tallulah and Dude, festival darling I Believe in Unicorns, award-winning The Dry Land and more recently Bull which premiered in Cannes. Rae has been recognized as one of Variety's Producers to Watch and won the Piaget and Cinereach Producers Awards. She is a member of the Academy and serves on the Producers Branch Executive Committee. Rae is currently in a First Look deal with Amazon Studios and is an Executive Producer on series, Outer Range starring Josh Brolin. Rae works as a narrative change strategist with IllumiNative.</p> <p>Feature Financing 101 ✉</p>
 <p>Gerren Crochet Associate ENDEAVOR CONTENT</p> <p>Gerren is an Associate at Endeavor Content in the Film Advisory practice. His primary areas of focus are packaging and selling independent films, advising financier clients, and building multi-platform media companies around technology, talent and financing. Prior to Endeavor Content, Gerren worked at The Gersh Agency in film finance and distribution where he packaged and sold films. Prior to The Gersh Agency, Gerren was a producer and film finance consultant. Gerren began his career in Investment Banking and Management Consulting and is a graduate of Stanford University and UCLA's Graduate Producers Program.</p> <p>Perfecting Your Pitch ✉</p>	 <p>Heriselda Begaj-viotti Director, Impact PARTICIPANT</p> <p>Heriselda oversees impact campaigns at Participant where she works across sectors with non-profits, multinational companies, government agencies, foundations and other organizations to raise awareness and mobilize viewers around film and episodic content. She's currently building a campaign focused on engaging audiences around public health content and previously led campaigns for Oscar-winning films including AMERICAN FACTORY, the first project out of President and Mrs. Obama's Higher Ground Productions, and Alfonso Cuarón's ROMA, which helped to support efforts for domestic workers in Mexico and in the U.S. She holds a BA in Political Science and an MIA in Economic and Political Development, both from Columbia University.</p> <p>Social Change & Impact Filmmaking hbegaj@participant.com</p>
 <p>Giulia Caruso Producer NONETHELESS PRODUCTIONS</p> <p>Giulia Caruso is an Italian independent producer based in LA and founding member of Nonetheless Productions. With partner Ki Jin Kim, she was nominated for the 2018 Piaget Producers Award. Giulia won an Independent Spirit Award for Andrew Ahn's debut feature SPA NIGHT and a LA-Emmy for KCET's docuseries LostLA. She produced Kogonada's critically acclaimed Sundance debut COLUMBUS (starring John Cho) and Araceli Lemos' debut feature HOLY EMY (Greece/ France/ USA, currently in post), which she also co-wrote. Under the Nonetheless banner, Giulia produced award winning short films and content for clients such as Armani, Focus Features, MTV, Intel, GoPro.</p> <p>Co-Productions & International Collaboration ✉</p>	 <p>Hope Watson Agent UNITED TALENT AGENCY</p> <p>Hope Watson is a Literary Agent at UTA hailing from Canberra, Australia. Hope moved to New York in 2010 with an ambition to work in fashion, but after studying film and business at Columbia University she pivoted to a career in Entertainment. Before working at UTA Hope produced music videos, commercials and short content in the fashion/pop-culture space. Hope now resides in Los Angeles, she has a big passion for soccer, nature and art and her favorite film is ADAPTATION.</p> <p>Roundtable: Agents and Managers ✉</p>
<p>Golriz Lucina CoFounder SOULPANCAKE</p> <p>Idea generator. New York Times Bestselling Author. Passionate about using storytelling to effect change. Making stuff that matters for people who give a damn. Custodian of SoulPancake's distinct brand 'voice' - ensuring that both mission and aesthetic is imprinted in the DNA of all the offerings - digital short form content, publications, podcasts and events.</p> <p>Spearheaded first-to-market formats and content that has amassed over 1B views and received the following distinctions: NAACP Image Award, The Voice Award, Digiday Award, Streamy Award, Shorty Award, and EIC Prism Award.</p> <p>golriz @golriz glucina@participant.com</p>	 <p>Ina Pira Senior Curator VIMEO</p> <p>Ina Pira is a Senior Curator for Vimeo's signature Staff Picks. Previously, she was the Senior Programmer at the Hamptons International Film Festival, the Montclair Film Festival, and the Sarasota Film Festival. Ina has extensive experience in festival programming, online curation, and digital distribution. She recently helped produce the Vimeo Festival & Awards and launched a Live Director's Commentary screening series in New York City.</p> <p>A Guide to Distributing Your Short ✉</p>
<p>Gracie Henley Director of Media Operations IVOX TV</p> <p>@gracie_henley; @ivoxnews gracie@ivoxmedia.com</p>	 <p>Jason Sondhi Co-Founder SHORT OF THE WEEK</p> <p>Co-Founder of the influential website Short of the Week, for 12 years Jason Sondhi has curated shorts for international audiences on the web, via S/W, and as Vimeo's Lead Curator from 2011-2016. S/W recently welcomed Oscar-winning producer Michael Sugar, Cary Fukunaga & David Gordon Green as minority investors, and partnered with Netflix on a first-look deal, as the company seeks to grow its mission to provide audience and opportunities to the next generation of innovative visual storytellers.</p> <p>@Shortoftheweek @jasondhi sondhi@shortoftheweek.com</p>
<p>Harrison Perkins Freelance Creative Producer</p> <p>✉ harperkins@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Jeff Allen President - N. America & Latin America SHORTSTV</p> <p>Based in Los Angeles, Jeff Allen is president of ShortsTV (U.S.), the first and only 24/7 linear and OTT channel dedicated to short form video entertainment, and its Latin American channel TVCortos. He is an industry veteran with over a decade of experience at the intersection of entertainment and technology. Prior to ShortsTV, he was vice president of operations at Hallmark Labs, LLC, the subsidiary of Hallmark Cards, Inc., that enables their digital, direct-to-consumer (DTC) businesses including Hallmark Movies Now, where he served as the head of marketing during a period of rapid subscriber growth, and roll-out across numerous streaming platforms.</p> <p>✉</p>



Dissecting Feature Distribution



Jeffrey Winter
Co-Executive Director
THE FILM COLLABORATIVE

Virtual

Jeffrey Winter is co executive director at The Film Collaborative since 2010, an LA-based independent film distribution company with specialties in human rights, social justice, environmental issues, and LGBT cinema. Highlight films during this time include Kirby Dick's THE INVISIBLE WAR, David France's THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON, Nanfu Wang's HOOLIGAN SPARROW, Andrew Haigh's WEEKEND, Rita Coburn Whack and Bob Hercules' MAYA ANGELOU: AND STILL I RISE, Sam Feder's DISCLOSURE, Jacqueline Olive's ALWAYS IN SEASON, David Charles Rodrigues' GAY CHORUS DEEP SOUTH, Ondi Timoner's MAPPLETHORPE, Kirsten Johnson's CAMERAPERSON, Louie Psihoyos' RACING EXTINCTION, and many more.



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Jon Gursha
President
FILM MARKETING SERVICES INC.

Virtual



Working with Actors

✉ @jenelleriley

Jenelle Riley
Deputy Awards & Features Editor
VARIETY

In Person

Jenelle Riley is a writer, journalist, host, actor, director, and producer. She wrote the award-winning short film "Warning Labels," directed by Jennifer Morrison, starring Karen Gillan. Other films include "Crazy Love" and "Grand Gestures." She is an editor at Variety, and as the host of Variety's "Actors on Actors," is a three-time Emmy Award winner. She wrote and directed the award-winning plays "A Kind of Love Story" and "Jane Austen's Emma Frankenstein," both of which premiered at Sacred Fools Theater Company in Los Angeles. She is the regular host of "Conversations" for the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, where she has conducted lengthy interviews with various actors.

✉ @jenelleriley



Short to Feature - Making the Leap

✉ @joncuartas

Jonathan Cuartas
Director

Virtual

Jonathan Cuartas is a Colombian-American filmmaker from Miami. His debut feature, My Heart Can't Beat Unless You Tell It To, won the Citizen Kane Award for Best Directorial Revelation at Sitges 2020, where the film was also awarded Best Feature Film in the Noves Visions category. The film received a Special Jury Mention at Tribeca Film Festival 2020. Jonathan graduated film school in 2016, screening his thesis film at Palm Springs International ShortFest. Jonathan is a proud 2019 Sundance Knight Fellow.

✉ @JonnyCuartas

✉ jcuartas99@gmail.com



Roundtable: Agents and Managers



Jennifer Levine
Partner
UNTITLED ENTERTAINMENT

Virtual

Jennifer Levine, Partner at Untitled Entertainment, divides her time between representing a diverse group of writer, director, producer, and actor clients and shepherding a wide range of projects as a producer. Recent producing credits for Ms. Levine include the feature films: LAVENDER, THIS BEAUTIFUL FANTASTIC, THE LAND, and PARTS PER BILLION. Upcoming projects include BYALL (Legendary), THE GREAT NOTHING (Tango Entertainment), and OZMA (Netflix). Prior to her position at Untitled, a company she helped start over twenty years ago, Ms. Levine held positions in both feature film development and production, including stints at 20th Century Fox, Disney, and Kopelson Entertainment.



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Josh Solomon
Programming & Licensing
ARGO MEDIA

In Person

I am a member of Argo Media's Programming and Licensing Team. Argo is a streaming platform and global curator of short films. At our core, Argo's goal is to support filmmakers and provide a platform to stream the highest quality short films across the globe. I am excited to meet new filmmakers and identify new short films for us to bring to the platform across a range of genres (drama, comedy, animation, documentary, etc.).



✉ josh@argomedia.co

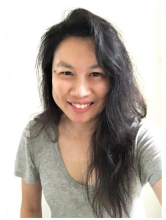
Jennifer Joiner
Content Manager
IVOX TV

In Person



Joshua Deitell
Manager/Producer
ZERO GRAVITY MANAGEMENT

In Person



Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development



Joan Wai
Director
AMPAS - NICHOLL FELLOWSHIPS IN SCREENWRITING

Virtual

As Director of the Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting, Joan Wai oversees all aspects of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' international amateur screenwriting competition. She has worked with the Nicholl in various capacities for over a decade. Prior to joining the Nicholl, Joan was a published author, story analyst, script consultant, and had judged for a variety of screenwriting competitions. She earned her screenwriting degree from USC's School of Cinematic Arts. Established in 1985, the Nicholl Fellowships' mission is to identify and encourage talented new screenwriters. Up to five \$35,000 fellowships are awarded annually. www.Oscars.org/Nicholl



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Joshua Jason
Owner
JOSHUA JASON PUBLIC RELATIONS

In Person



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John Stadelman
Senior Programmer-Narrative Shorts
ASHLAND INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual



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Judith Wajsgrus
SALAUD MORISSET

Virtual



Kate Chamuris
Producer

Virtual

Kate Chamuris is a producer and director whose films include BLOCKS (dir. Bridget Moloney) Sundance '20, MILLER & SON (dir. Asher Jelsky) Oscar Shortlist Live Action Short '20, Gold Student Academy Award '19, BAFTA Live Action Short '19, BALLOON (dir. Jeremy Merrifield); Hollyshorts Grand Prix, Best Drama Series College Television Award, UNSPEAKABLE (dir. Milena Govich) SXSW '18. Currently screening, NUEVO RICO (dir. Kristian Mercado Figueroa) Best Animated Short SXSW '21. Her directing includes A SARI FOR PALLAVI, first prize Best Comedy Short Rhode Island International '19. Kate currently works in production for the VFX department on live-action Lucasfilm streaming properties.

[A Guide to Distributing Your Short](#)

@katechamuris

@katechamuris



Kiyoko McCrae

Director of Documentary Programming & Filmmaker Labs
NEW ORLEANS FILM SOCIETY

Virtual

Kiyoko McCrae is the Director of Documentary Programming and Filmmaker Labs at the New Orleans Film Society where she fosters professional development initiatives and strives to connect Southern filmmakers to resources and relationships, often inaccessible in the region. She is also an award-winning film and theater director. Her films include WE STAY IN THE HOUSE, ARTIST IN EXILE, COME HOME, and BLACK BACK. She is currently developing her first feature documentary, WITHIN, with support from CAAM and Southern Documentary Fund. She is happy to call New Orleans home with her husband Jason and their two children, Manami and Koji.

[Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development](#)

@kiyokomccrae

@kiyokomccrae



Katie White
Producer

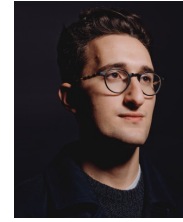
In Person

Katie White is an independent producer. She has produced award-winning films including BEST SUMMER EVER (SXSW 2021), a musical feature made with an integrated cast and crew of people with and without disabilities, named as a 'Critics Pick' in the New York Times, and praised widely for its groundbreaking inclusivity, WHAT I SEE WHEN I LOOK (Sun Valley 2021) and STILL WYLDE (SXSW, Palm Springs 2020). She recently produced Grindr's first foray into the narrative space with the series BRIDESMAN. Katie is the co-founder of the Eastside Women's Film Club, a volunteer with SELAH, and an active member of the DPA, Member and Inclusion committee.

[Walking the Walk: Building an Inclusive Set](#)

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Lance Oppenheim
Filmmaker

Virtual

TO BE FORMED, CORP.

Lance Oppenheim is a mediocre baseball player (but has a lot of heart!) and filmmaker from South Florida. His films have been screened at film festivals across the world including Sundance, Rotterdam, Lance was a 2019 Sundance Ignite Fellow, named one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film 2019, and is the youngest active contributor to The New York Times Op-Docs. His first feature, SOME KIND OF HEAVEN, premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival and was distributed by Magnolia Pictures and is available on Hulu. It received rave reviews upon its release and was named a NYTimes Critics' Pick.

[Short to Feature - Making the Leap](#)

@lanceopp

@lanceopp



Keely Badger
MOZAIK PHILANTHROPY

In Person

Keely Badger is a millennial expert and advocate on international human rights and development issues. Her work centers at the intersection of restorative justice, movement-building, new media, and the emerging human right to know the truth. Her unique expertise champions durable solutions for underrepresented voices, communities and causes, by working with leading philanthropists, brands, and content creators to catalyze storytelling as a tool for peacemaking. Keely holds a B.A. from the University of San Diego in Cultural Anthropology & Political Science, M.A. from Dartmouth College in Globalization Studies, and MST. in International Human Rights Law from University of Oxford.

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Larry Laboe
Executive Director | Co-Founder
NEW FILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES (NFMLA)

In Person

Larry Laboe is Co-Founder of NewFilmmakers Los Angeles and is a member of the PGA. Larry has served as Faculty at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) and L Art University. He is a Board Member of the BRIC Foundation, a Committee Member of SAGindie and Co-Chair of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Entertainment, Arts and Media Committee. Larry has produced scripted and unscripted streaming series and commercials, directed by talent including James Franco and Joseph Gordon Levitt, for some of the world's leading brands, networks and studios, including Disney, NBC, CBS, MTV, DEFY Media, Comedy Central, Amazon and more.

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Kelly Lui
Distribution Coordinator
OUAT MEDIA

Virtual

Kelly is the Distribution Coordinator at Ouat Media. Based in Toronto, Ouat Media is an Academy Award® winning film sales and distribution company, providing high-profile and award-winning short form content from the world's top emerging filmmakers for all international platforms. To date, Ouat Media has represented 12 short film Academy Award® Nominees, including 3 Academy Award® winners.

[A Guide to Distributing Your Short](#)

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Laura Comella
New Media Intake Supervisor
IVOX TV

In Person

Laura Gomez-mesquita
Director of Programs
KARTEMQUIN FILMS

Virtual

Laura Gomez-Mesquita (she/her) currently serves as the Director of Programs at Kartemquin Films, leading their filmmaker development programs, which center BIPOC filmmakers and those traditionally excluded from the documentary space. Prior to that, she was with Free Spirit Media, a youth media organization teaching young people media literacy and production on Chicago's South and West sides. She's also worked in community access (at BRIC Media Arts Brooklyn) and public television (interning and later freelancing at WETA-TV, the PBS affiliate in DC). She has an MFA in Film from American University and a BA in Writing Seminars from Johns Hopkins University.

[Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development](#)

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Kentucker Audley
Filmmaker/Actor
NO BUDGE

Virtual

Kentucker Audley is a filmmaker, actor, and programmer. His latest film Strawberry Mansion debuted at SXSW to critical acclaim. His previous film Sylvio was named one of the Best 10 Movies of 2017 by The New Yorker. As an actor, he recently starred in Amy Seimetz's psychologically thriller She Dies Tomorrow distributed by Neon. He founded NoBudge, "one of the best places to sample what's happening in low-budget cinema worldwide" (The New York Times) and Movies Brand. NoBudge was profiled in The New York Times, The Guardian and Vulture. Audley lives in Brooklyn with his wife Caroline.

[Working with Actors](#)

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Kimberly Reed
Founder
BIG SKY FILM

Virtual

Kimberly Reed's trailblazing film PRODIGAL SONS won 14 international awards and was the first documentary by a transgender filmmaker to be theatrically released in the US. Her most recent film DARK MONEY, an award-winning selection at Sundance 2018, was promptly named one of Vogue's 66 Best Documentaries of All Time, nominated for 4 Critics' Choice Awards and the IDA Award for Best Documentary, shortlisted for an Oscar, and won the duPont Columbia Prize. She was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film" and Out Magazine's "Out 100."

[Social Change & Impact Filmmaking](#)

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Laura Jumel
Producer
SALAUD MORISSET

Virtual

Laura Jumel, a graduate from Sciences Po and La Sorbonne university, is a French producer. Her previous experiences include work in production companies specialized in documentaries and feature films. She joined Salaud Morisset in 2018 and took part to both the distribution activities of the company and the development of its production branch. She produced several short films, selected in numerous festivals worldwide.

[Co-Productions & International Collaboration](#)



Lauren Dineley
Manager
WRIT LARGE

Lauren Dineley is a literary manager at Writ Large working with writers & directors across film and TV. A native of Toronto, Canada, Lauren attended the University of Toronto before moving stateside to attend the University of Southern California's Peter Stark Producing Program.

Virtual

Roundtable: Agents and Managers



Lisa Ogdie
Programmer, Short Films
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Lisa Ogdie is a Shorts Programmer for the Sundance Film Festival. She has been part of the shorts programming team since 2009, selecting the Sundance short film slate from over 9,000 submissions each year, and has curated shorts for the 2019 & 2020 editions of the Durban Film Festival in South Africa.

In addition to her work as a curator, Ogdie is also Membership & Talent Development Manager for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, overseeing all aspects of membership relating to the Los Angeles office, as well as BAFTA's new talent initiatives here in the US.

Virtual

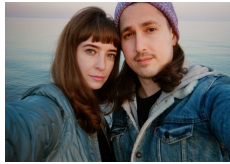
Meet the Programmers



Liane Cunje
Discovery/International Programming Associate
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Liane Cunje is a Manager of Festival Programming for TIFF. After completing a Film Studies degree from Concordia and working in TV development in Montreal, Liane moved to the UK and completed an MA in Producing Film & TV. There, she worked as Operations Executive for cult label Arrow Video. A former Programmer with the Overlook FF, she features on international juries and panels, and is a board member for the Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies.

Virtual



Madeleine Sims-Fewer
Director/Writer/Producer
DM FILMS LTD.

Madeleine Sims-Fewer and Dusty Mancinelli met at the TIFF Talent Lab where they quickly joined forces as a filmmaking duo. Their short films have screened at Telluride, Slamdance, London Film Festival, VIFF and Krakow, among others. Their debut feature, VIOLATION, premiered at TIFF where Madeleine was selected as a TIFF Rising Star. VIOLATION won the Emerging Canadian Artist award at the Calgary International Film Festival, the Emerging Canadian Director award at the Vancouver International Film Festival, and was nominated for a Directors Guild of Canada Discovery Award. VIOLATION had its international premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, and was nominated for 5 Canadian Screen Awards.

Virtual



Linda Blackaby
Senior Programmer
WASHINGTON DC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & LUNAFEST

Linda Blackaby has worked in public exhibition and film festivals for a very long time, in Philadelphia where she Directed a year round public exhibition and filmmaker support program and founded the Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema, to Programming at The Hamptons, the Flaherty Seminar and Director of Programming at San Francisco International Film Festival (now SFILM). Now she is senior programmer for the Washington, DC International Film Festival where she curates the Justice Matters section and co curates programs of shorts, and LUNAFEST, a touring program of films by & about women.

Virtual



Malin Kan
Programmer
AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE, AFI FESTIVALS

Malin Kan is a Los Angeles based film programmer at the American Film Institute, programming year-round for AFI FEST, AFI DOCS and the "Meet the Press" Film Festival. Her educational background is in film and media studies and moving image archives and she holds degrees from both the University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, Los Angeles. Her past programming work includes the George Eastman Museum and the LA Film Festival. She has served on juries for both Tacoma Film Festival and the Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films.

Virtual

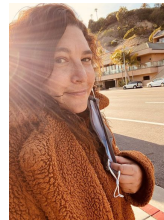


Linda Olszewski
Vice President, Acquisitions
SHORTSTV / TV CORTOS / OSCAR SHORTS RELEASES

Linda Campos Olszewski aka "Linda O." is one of the most passionate and knowledgeable people in the short film industry. An AMPAS (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) member of the Short Film and Feature Animation branch, she has overseen acquisitions of the Oscar Shorts Theatrical/VOD/Airlines/iTunes/Amazon releases since 2006 and is the "go to" person for all things Oscar Shorts. She launched shorts on iTunes for Shorts International and serves as Vice President, Acquisitions for ShortsTV & TV Cortos. She has supported several films in their Oscar run which have gone onto become shortlisted or nominated including The Eleven O' Clock, The Wolf, The Jackal, The Rifle and The Boy, as well as Bear Story and Skin, which won the Academy Award.

Virtual

A Guide to Distributing Your Short



Malina Saval
Features Editor
VARIETY

Malina Saval is features editor at Variety, where she covers the human interest and entertainment beats. Her writing and essays have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Glamour, Jerusalem Post, Forward, Tablet, and various other publications. She has won two L.A. Press Club awards and is a board member of the L.A. Press Club. Prior to joining Variety in 2013, Saval wrote screenplays for Touchstone Pictures and Walt Disney Films. Saval's book, The Secret Lives of Boys: Inside the Raw Emotional World of Male Teens, was published in 2009 and she has appeared as a guest on such programs as NPR's Talk of the Nation, CBS Radio, and the Patt Morrison Show.

Virtual



Lindy Leong
Senior Film Programmer
LOS ANGELES ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL (VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS)

Lindy Leong is the Senior Film Programmer at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, presented by Visual Communications, the first non-profit organization in the nation dedicated to the honest and accurate portrayal of the Asian Pacific American peoples, communities, and heritage through the media arts. In her other professional lives, she is a film and media educator, arts administrator, and audiovisual archivist. She co-chairs the annual conference for the Association of Moving Image Archivists, a nonprofit international association dedicated to the preservation and use of moving image media.

In Person



Marc Mounier
Manager
MANAGEMENT 360

Marc Mounier is a producer and literary manager at Management 360. Born and raised in Switzerland, he worked in broadcast TV news before switching careers and obtaining an MFA from The Peter Stark Producing Program at USC.

In Person





Mari Walker
Filmmaker
VANISHING ANGLE

Virtual

Mari Walker is an award-winning director, writer and editor. Films she has worked on have screened at over 300 film festivals including Sundance, SXSW, Frameline, and Outfest. Mari's film The Soul of a Tree won Best Short Documentary at the Kerry Film Festival in 2016. Swim, her narrative short, won an Audience Award at the 2017 Los Angeles Film Festival.

Her first feature, See You Then, had its World Premiere at SXSW. Now heading into it's eleventh festival, it has won four awards, including Best Narrative Feature at the Sun Valley Film Festival.

Working with Actors

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Matt Rosen
Manager
MAZO PARTNERS

In Person

Matt Rosen is a manager and a producer at MAZO PARTNERS. He works with filmmakers in the Film and TV world and tries to convince them that there are actually people in Hollywood who still deeply care about cinema. His whole goal in life is to basically never be a white dude at the Soho House talking about The Dark Knight and Pulp Fiction.

Roundtable: Agents and Managers

roseguy21

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Marie-louise Khondji
Founder
LE CINEMA CLUB

Virtual

Founder and programmer of LE CINÉMA CLUB, a curated and free streaming platform which presents one film a week, with an emphasis on short formats.

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Matthew Doyle
TV Literary Agent
VERVE TALENT & LITERARY AGENCY

Virtual

Matthew is a TV Literary Agent at Verve in Los Angeles

Breaking into Episodic



Marielle Membreno
Development & Acquisitions Executive
PROTAGONIST PICTURES

Virtual

As Development & Acquisitions Executive at Protagonist Pictures, Marielle Membreno is responsible for helping build a slate with a focus on festival breakouts, emerging filmmakers and cast-driven crowd-pleasing titles. Marielle is responsible for sourcing projects for international finance, production and sales that align with company's track record of focusing on filmmakers with exceptional vision and storytelling skills. Previously, Marielle held various production related roles in Los Angeles on both narrative and nonfiction feature films.

Co-Productions & International Collaboration

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Matthew Takata
Senior Manager, Feature Film International
SUNDANCE INSTITUTE

In Person

Matthew Takata is the Senior Manager for the Feature Film Program's international work at Sundance Institute. His focus is on international outreach and selection for the Institute's Screenwriters and Directors Labs in Utah, FFP's international labs and workshops, and the annual Sundance/NHK Award. Previously, Takata worked in development at GK Films, following a stint at Key Creatives and International Creative Management. Takata attended the University of California, Los Angeles, and is a native of the San Francisco bay area.

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Marisa Balkus
Sr. Development, Production & Content Executive
CRUNCHYROLL

In Person

Marisa Balkus is currently the Senior Development, Production and Content Executive for the anime streaming service Crunchyroll. She has produced Crunchyroll Original animated series "Onyx Equinox" and "High Guardian Spice," and has served as production executive on the upcoming series "Shenmue." Prior to Crunchyroll, Marisa served as Creative Executive in live-action feature film at New Regency Productions.

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Megan Costello
Programmer & Program Manager
HAMPTONSFILM

Virtual

Megan Costello is a Brooklyn-based film curator. As the Program Manager for HamptonsFilm, she programs for the Hamptons International Film Festival, oversees the annual Screenwriters Lab, and contributes to the curation of year-round programs. She is a member of the Cinema Eye Honors nomination committee, and has been invited to speak on panels by the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, Film Fatales, IFC Center, NYU Tisch, Palm Springs ShortsFest, and Jacob Burns Film Center. Megan has previously worked with the Tribeca Film Festival, Tribeca Film Institute, and the Rubin Museum of Art, and has served on the screening committees for the Rooftop, Nantucket, and Montclair Film Festivals.

Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development

@mcostellophoto



Marissa Frobes
Media Finance Executive
CAA

In Person

Marissa Frobes is a Media Finance Executive at leading entertainment agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA) focused on packaging and sales of independent films. She began her career in New York working at women's media brands InStyle, ELLE and StyleHaul. She then moved to Los Angeles and began working at Participant Media initially on the social impact campaign for HE NAMED ME MALALA and then for CEO David Linde. She left to work on Participant-backed film DARK WATERS directed by Todd Haynes. She joined CAA in 2019.

Roundtable: Agents and Managers

@mfrobes



Megan Leonard
Programmer
SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

In Person

Megan Leonard is a producer and festival programmer based in Seattle, WA. She started working for film festivals in 2010 and is currently the head Programmer for New American Cinema and ShortsFest at Seattle International Film Festival. She has also programmed for Indie Memphis, DOC NYC, and CUCALORUS.

Leonard has produced multiple award-winning shorts which have premiered at festivals around the globe, including her film "Mixtape Marauders" which was awarded Short of the Week's 2019 Best Comedy of the Year. She attended the 2019 Sundance Creative Producing Summit and 2020 Sundance Talent Forum with the feature adaptation.

@itsmeganleo

@itsmeganleo



Martina Fiorellino
Acquisitions and Sales
PREMIUM FILMS

Virtual

Martina Fiorellino handles acquisitions and sales at the French sales agent specialised in short films Premium Films. The company was created in 1998 and represents many internationally acclaimed and award winning short films, like Cru (Student Visionary Award at Tribeca 2020), The Christmas Gift (Grand Prix Winner - International Competition at Clermont-Ferrand 2019), The Field (Bafta nominee in 2019), and the Academy Award nominee DeKalb Elementary.

Martina Fiorellino

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Mei-ling Andreen
Film Acquisitions
INDIEFLIX

Virtual

Film Acquisitions at Indieflix, Executive Producer, Universal Studios, Disney, former Casting Director, Personal management.

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Mei-Ling Andreen

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Melissa Verdugo
Manager of Career Programs
WIF

Virtual

Melissa Verdugo is a versatile Producer & Line Producer in the Television, Film and Live Event space. She got her start in the comedy industry as a Talent Manager for comedic writers and performers before moving to producing full time. Her credits include the documentary Always Amazing, the scripted feature The Opening Act, and numerous hour comedy specials. Since 2017, Melissa has served as the Manager of Career Programs at Women In Film (WIF) in Los Angeles where she runs the organization's Talent & Career Development programs. As a producer and Talent Developer, Melissa strives to create projects that positively affect culture and social change.

Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development

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Monika Skerbelis
Programming Director
AMERICAN PAVILION EMERGING FILMMAKER SHOWCASE AT CANNES

Virtual

Monika Skerbelis is the co-author of The Complete Filmmaker's Guide to Film Festivals and I Liked It: Screenplay Development from the Inside Out. She is the programming director for The American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at the Cannes Film Festival. Previously she was Artistic & Programming Director for the Big Bear Lake Film Fest for 14 years and a VP of creative, and executive story editor at Universal Pictures for 10 years overseeing the story department. Prior to Universal, she was story editor for 20th Century Fox and began her career in the story department at Paramount Pictures.



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Michael Traina
Director
PETALUMA FILM ALLIANCE

Virtual



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Mynette Louie
Producer
THE POPULATION

Virtual

MYNETTE LOUIE is an Emmy-nominated, Spirit Award-winning producer. Her credits include Heidi Ewing's Sundance-winning, Spirit Award-nominated I CARRY YOU WITH ME, Carlo Mirabella-Davis' Gotham-nominated SWALLOW, Jennifer Fox's Emmy, Golden Globe, and Spirit Award-nominated THE TALE, and Karyn Kusama's THE INVITATION. Mynette is on Film Independent's Board of Directors and on the executive and diversity committees in the Producers branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She was named one of Business Insider's "12 Movie Producers at the Top of Their Game to Watch in 2020 and Beyond" and IndieWire's "100 Filmmakers to Follow on Twitter."

Feature Financing 101

@mynettelouie

@mynette



Mike Costa
Co-Executive Producer/Lucifer

In Person



Nick Borenstein
Head of Scripted
TOPIC

Virtual

Nick Borenstein is Head of Scripted for Topic where he oversees the development and production of scripted content for the new streaming service. During his time at Topic, he shepherd the Webby Award winning podcast "Missing Richard Simmons" and the Emmy-nominated digital series "AKA Wyatt Cenac". Prior to Topic, Nick was VP of Development for Hudson Media and also held roles at Pivot, Comedy Central and HBO. Nick is also a filmmaker, having written, directed, and starred in "Sweater", "99" and "Pete Can't Play Basketball", short films that screened at Tribeca, the BFI, Outfest, Palm Springs ShortFest and many others.

Perfecting Your Pitch

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Mike Dougherty
Director of Festival Programming
OUTFEST

In Person

Mike Dougherty, Director of Festival Programming for Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival, has lived and worked in Los Angeles for over 15 years after moving from his hometown of Philadelphia. He worked as a Creative Executive at the film production company Hyde Park Entertainment, and later as Acquisitions Executive for boutique sales agency Radiant Films International, while simultaneously finding his passion for festival programming as an Associate Programmer with AFI Fest and Director of Programming for the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles. He lives in Silver Lake with his partner Chris.

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Nick Ogiony
Sales Agent
CREATIVE ARTISTS AGENCY (CAA)

Virtual

Nick Ogiony is an Agent in the Film Finance and Sales Group at entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Ogiony is based in the Los Angeles office and represents many of the world's leading producers and directors, and specializes in packaging and arranging financing for motion picture projects. Since joining CAA in 2009, Ogiony has packaged and arranged financing and distribution for such films as WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS, SEARCHING, GAGA: FIVE FOOT TWO, THE GUEST, IMPERIAL DREAMS, INSIDIOUS, THE WIFE, FIRST REFORMED, STUDIO GHIBLI and BOSS LEVEL, among others. Ogiony graduated from Boston University with a degree in Film.

Feature Financing 101



Miriam Bale
Artistic Director
INDIE MEMPHIS

Virtual



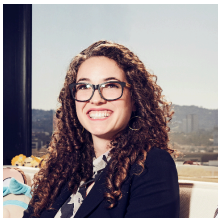
Paige Murray
Exec YA Digital Originals + CBC Shorts
CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (CBC)

Virtual

Paige Murray has worked at the CBC for nine years within the content areas. She is currently Executive in Charge of Production, YA Digital Originals, overseeing production and development of short and mid-length series for CBC Gem. Paige is also the programmer for CBC Short Films, the longest running Canadian short film showcase on national broadcast television. She oversees the film acquisition, programming and scheduling strategy of this weekly show. Paige currently sits on the board of Breakthroughs Film Festival Board. BFF is the only festival in Canada devoted exclusively to showcasing short films made by emerging women and non-binary directors.

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Missy Laney
Director of Development
ADULT SWIM

In Person

Missy Laney is the Director of Development at Adult Swim. She previously worked at the Sundance Institute, growing their #ArtistServices Initiative and focusing on how technology is changing the way audiences interact with films.

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Paola Franco Zaken
TV Creative/Drama Development
NETFLIX

In Person

Paola Franco was born in Mexico City and raised in Inglewood, CA. At first, Television was a medium to learn how to assimilate into a new culture but it quickly evolved into a passion. Pursuing her dream, Paola attended Loyola Marymount University. While at LMU, Paola interned at FOX, NBC, WBTV, and UTA. Paola officially started her career at Amazon Studios, where she worked in the Young Adults department. She is currently working at Netflix under their Drama Development Series team, with a focus on LatinX programming.



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Pat Saperstein
Deputy Editor
VARIETY

Pat Saperstein is deputy editor of Variety magazine and Variety.com, where she helps oversee coverage for film, documentaries, restaurants and much more. A veteran of the international film business, she has been a juror and panelist at numerous film festivals and contributed to books on film history, film festivals and Los Angeles restaurants. She was previously U.S. editor of Le Film Francais magazine.

Virtual

[Dissecting Feature Distribution](#)

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Rachel Walker
Head of Programming + Creative
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LA

Rachel Walker has worked in the film industry for 15+ years in programming, press, producing and publicity with organizations like Comic-Con, Sundance Film Festival, the Film Independent Spirit Awards, and more. Among the films she has produced, her most recent, DEEP TISSUE, (dir Meredith Alloway) premiered at SXSW 2019 and went on to play 30+ festivals including AFI, BIFAN, Overlook, Palm Springs, and Denver, winning a number of awards. The past few years, she has taken a detour into the realm of programming full time for Alamo Drafthouse LA/Alamo on Demand, and producing immersive events with her company Interwoven Immersive.

In Person

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Patrick Gomez
Executive Editor
ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

Currently an Executive Editor at Entertainment Weekly, Patrick Gomez was previously Editor-in-Chief of The A.V. Club and a Senior Writer at People Magazine. He has served as host of The A.V. Club's awards podcast, Push The Envelope; EW's Binge and EW on Set; SiriusXM's Big Brother and Dancing With the Stars recap shows; as well as the national talk show Glitterbomb. The Texas native and University of Southern California graduate currently resides in Los Angeles and is a member of the Television Critics Association and Critics Choice Association.

Virtual

[Walking the Walk: Building an Inclusive Set](#)

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Rahdi Taylor
Executive Vice President, Nonfiction Fellowships
CONCORDIA STUDIO

Rahdi Taylor is EVP of Fellowships at Concordia Studio. She spent 10 years at Sundance Institute where she served as Director of the Sundance Documentary Fund. Films supported include more than a dozen Academy Award nominees. She designed and directed the Documentary Core Application; The Doc Film Money Map, and the Impact Storyboarder. Prior to Sundance, Taylor worked in film distribution at California Newsreel and at Women Make Movies in New York. She serves frequently in the field as a juror and industry advisor for international film festivals, funds, and forums.

Virtual

[Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development](#)



Paul Sloop
Short Films Programming Manager
CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Paul Sloop is entering his 19th year as the lead programmer of short films for the Oscar qualifying Cleveland International Film Festival. In addition to that role, he is also the Director of Programming for Film Pittsburgh and the Short Films Programmer at the Cordillera International Film Festival in Nevada. He lives in Mentor, OH with his wife, Sarah, and is the proud father of six daughters.

Virtual

[Meet the Programmers](#)

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Rebecca Dealy
Casting Director
CHRYSTIE STREET CASTING

Rebecca Dealy (Casting Director) Select film credits: Farewell Amor, Boogie, Topside, The Climb, Luce, Midsommar, Patti Cake\$, Hereditary, See You Yesterday, Yes God Yes (Special Jury Prize Best Ensemble, SXSW), Assassination Nation, Skate Kitchen, Blow The Man Down, A Kid Like Jake. TV: Ramy (Hulu), Emily in Paris (Netflix). Upcoming film: After Yang (Cannes 2021), False Positive (Tribeca 2021)

Virtual

[Working with Actors](#)

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Penelope Bartlett
Director of Programming, Criterion Channel
CRITERION COLLECTION

Penelope Bartlett is the director of programming for the independent streaming service the Criterion Channel.

In Person

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Rebecca Green
Producer & Founder
DEAR PRODUCER

Rebecca Green produced two of the top-grossing, critically acclaimed, independent films of 2015, IT FOLLOWS and I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS, which generated a combined box office total of \$30 million worldwide. A 2017 Women at Sundance Fellow, Green was named one of Variety's '10 Producers to Watch' and was nominated for the Producer's Award at the 2016 Film Independent Spirit Awards. She serves as the Creative Advisor for the Film Independent Producing Lab, is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and is Editor-in-Chief of Dear Producer.

Virtual

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Poh Si Teng
Director of IDA Funds and Enterprise Program
INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Poh Si Teng is the director of IDA Funds and Enterprise Program. She is the producer of the Academy Award-nominated documentary, St. Louis Superman, and Oscar-qualified short documentary, Blood On Our Side.

Prior to joining IDA, she was a documentary commissioner for Al Jazeera English's flagship documentary strand, Witness. Poh was previously a journalist for The New York Times, where she was nominated for an Emmy.

Virtual

[Navigating the Documentary Landscape](#)

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Rebecca Windsor
Director, Television Workshop
WARNER BROS. TELEVISION

Rebecca Windsor is Director of the Warner Bros. Television Workshop, the premier program for artists looking to start their television careers. She helped launch Warner Bros.' Stage13, overseeing Snatchers (Sundance and SXSW) and Netflix's Special, which garnered four Emmy nominations. Previously, she was Creative Producing Manager of Sundance Institute's Feature Film Program, helping to coordinate the Creative Producing, Screenwriters, Directors, and Episodic Story Labs. Prior to Sundance, Rebecca was Manager of Development at Samuel L. Jackson's company, Upptv, and at Mandeville Films. She started her career at the Broder Webb Chervin Silbermann Agency and ICM. A San Diego native, she attended Northwestern University.

Virtual



Princeton Holt
Head of Acquisitions
HEWES PICTURES

Virtual



Reshma Gopaldas
Vice President, Video
SHEKNOWS

Reshma Gopaldas is the Vice President of Video for SHE Media, including SheKnows, StyleCaster and BlogHer. For the last 15 years, Reshma has been directing, producing and writing video content with a focus on women's rights and health. At Planned Parenthood Federation of America, she produced, directed, and wrote the majority of their video content, and managed their celebrity supporters. Her work has been featured on The Daily Show, CNN, ABC, HuffPo, Jezebel, Fox, Good Morning America, among others. Reshma currently resides in New York City.

Virtual

[Social Change & Impact Filmmaking](#)

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Ritesh Mehta
Senior Programmer
INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF LOS ANGELES (IFFLA)

Ritesh Mehta is Senior Programmer at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles. He is currently or has recently been part of the programming team at AFI Fest, Outfest and LAGFF. In addition to programming, Ritesh works in film and TV development, reads for Sundance and AMC, occasionally writes for MovieMaker Magazine, and has just completed his first stint in a writer's room for a Netflix India show. Ritesh received his Bachelors in Marketing and Management from Penn, his MA in Philosophy from UMSL and his PhD in Communication from USC.

[Finessing Your Festival Strategy](#)



[@mehta_critc](#)



Satinder Chhokar
Coordinator
30WEST

Satinder Chhokar is a coordinator at 30WEST, where he helps coordinate the company's efforts across creative packaging, financing, and sales. He has been on the team for Flee, winner of the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival, Marvelous and the Black Hole, and Werewolves Within. Before 30WEST, Satinder worked in the Content Group at Paradigm, where he assisted in the packaging, financing, and sales of projects including Clemency, winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, and Shirley, which premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. He graduated from USC.

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Rona Edwards
Producer
RONA EDWARDS PRODUCTIONS

CalArts graduate, Rona Edwards became VP of Creative Affairs for Emmy-winner John Larroquette, Academy-Award Winner Michael Phillips and Emmy-winning and Oscar-nominated Producer Fern Field. She Co-Produced/Executive Produced projects for NBC, SyFi, ABC, VH1 and Sat.1/Studio Hamburg. Currently producing with Canadian Awesometown Entertainment. Co-author of 2 critically acclaimed books, I Liked It, Didn't Love It & The Complete Filmmakers Guide to Film Festivals.

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Shelagh Rowan-Legg
Contributing Editor
SCREENANARCHY

Shelagh Rowan-Legg is a writer and filmmaker. She is the Executive Director of The Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies, a Programmer for FrightFest, and Contributing Editor for ScreenAnarchy. She has made several award-winning short films with her company Thirteenth Tiger Films, as well as working as a script and festival consultant.

[Co-Productions & International Collaboration](#)

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Rosa Morales
Artist Development Senior Coordinator
SFFILM

Rosa Morales is the Associate Manager of Narrative Film with the SFFILM Makers team. Inspired by a lifelong passion for storytelling, she has built her career in supporting artist development programs that uplift voices of filmmakers from under-represented communities. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a focus in Media and Latinx Studies and was a member of the 2019 Industry Academy with Film at Lincoln Center. Born and raised in San Francisco, she is committed to cultivating and celebrating the bountiful art community in the Bay Area and beyond.

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Sheryl Santacruz
Programming Manager
OUTFEST

Born and raised in New Jersey, Sheryl has been working at film festivals for over 10 years in various capacities. After obtaining a degree in Communication Studies at New York University, she began organizing guest hospitality at festivals such as Tribeca, New Directors/New Films, Palm Springs, and the New York Film Festival. She currently works with the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and is the Programming Manager at Outfest.



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Roxanne Benjamin
Filmmaker
PLANEMO PICTURES

Roxanne Benjamin is a filmmaker of genre film and television, known for working in the anthology space on titles like the V/H/S franchise (producer 1-3), SOUTHBOND (producer/writer/director) XX (producer/writer/director) and the recent CREEPSHOW television series (director). Other television directing credits include CHILLING ADVENTURES OF SABRINA, RIVERDALE, and NANCY DREW. Benjamin worked in development, acquisitions, and production for over a decade as an executive before moving into producing, directing and writing full-time. Her most recent feature BODY AT BRIGHTON ROCK was released in 2019 by Magnolia Pictures. She's currently working on her next feature, the supernatural thriller 'HIDE!'

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Steve Greene
TV Staff Writer
INDIEWIRE

Steve Greene is a Los Angeles-based Associate TV Editor at IndieWire. In addition to writing about different areas within the TV and podcast worlds, he has covered film festivals up and down the West Coast and beyond. He's also moderated a number of panels and post-screening discussions around his adopted hometown of L.A. When he's not consuming unhealthy amounts of pop culture, Steve is an occasional baseball-game attendee and trivia team member.

[Breaking into Episodic](#)



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Sahar Driver
Grantmaking + Impact
FIRELIGHT MEDIA

Sahar Driver is a documentary impact and engagement strategist, educator, researcher, and advocate. In her work, she helps filmmakers, funders, and movement leaders advance their strategic use of film to strengthen their efforts. Recently she has worked as a consultant to the Hartley Media Impact Initiative at Auburn, piloting new impact models at the intersection of faith and film; the Ford Foundation's JustFilms, authoring the report "Beyond Inclusion: The Critical Role of People of Color in the U.S. Documentary Ecosystem"; and Firelight Media, supporting grantmaking and impact for filmmakers and impact producers of color.

[Social Change & Impact Filmmaking](#)



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Steven Gaydos
Senior VP of Global Content
VARIETY

Steven Gaydos is Senior VP of Global Content for Variety magazine. He is also a film producer, screenwriter and songwriter whose credits include Monte Hellman's "Better Watch Out," "Iguana" and "Road to Nowhere," and Ate de Jong's "All Men Are Mortal." He is a member of BAFTA, European Film Academy and the Writers Guild of America.

[Feature Financing 101](#)

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Sandrine Cassidy
Sr Director of Festivals, Distribution & Talent Development
USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS

Sandrine Faucher Cassidy is USC School of Cinematic Arts Senior Director of Talent Development, Festivals & Distribution. She counsels and mentors students and alumni on strategy for their shorts and independent features in the festival circuit and how best to utilize their projects to network for their upcoming projects and reach their career goals. She also helps students and alumni to create a festival and distribution plan specially adapted to their film, and advises them on copyright and clearance issues. With over 20 years of experience in the film industry and international festivals, Cassidy is uniquely specialized in the distribution and exhibition of independent films.

[Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development](#)



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Steven Hirohama
President/CEO
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Sydney Neter
President
SND FILMS

Virtual

SND Films is a boutique sales agency founded by Sydney Neter in 1994, based in Amsterdam. Selling short films, feature and hour docs. Strong animated and live action shorts are always welcome. Proud to be the exclusive agents for all of Bill Plympton's animated shorts outside the USA. Other animated gems like the Oscar® shortlisted MIND MY MIND and HUMAN NATURE. LGBTQI Cinéfondation titles: RUBBER DOLPHIN and JEREMIAH. The latest TV hour documentaries include the doc on the woman who ran the Blue Book Model agency in Hollywood THE MOTHER OF BEAUTY. And the bio-pic on OMAR SHARIF.

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Toby Brooks
Senior Manager, Sundance Ignite
SUNDANCE INSTITUTE

Virtual

Toby Brooks runs the Sundance Institute's Sundance Ignite Program, which cultivates and supports a new generation of filmmakers. Brooks has worked for Sundance Institute since 2012, first as the Assistant to the Director of the Sundance Film Festival. From 2012-2017, Brooks was a member of the Emerging Leaders Council at Outfest, a Los Angeles film non-profit that promotes LGBT equality by creating, sharing and protecting LGBT stories on the screen. A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, he received his B.A. from UCLA.

[Roundtable: Labs, Grants, and Artist Development](#)

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Tchelet Semel
Cultural Attaché
ISRAELI CONSULATE TO THE PACIFIC SOUTH WEST

In Person

Tchelet Semel has years of experience in a broad range of artistic, art management and art mediation key positions. As an artistic programmer and curator, Actor & TV host, journalist and moderator, as well as content developer & distributeur.

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Tracy Van Slyke
Chief Strategy Officer
POP CULTURE COLLABORATIVE

Virtual

Working at the intersection of media and movement building for more than two decades, Tracy Van Slyke has led a cross-sector of content producers, social justice organizers and philanthropic leaders around the strategy and creation of profound storytelling and audiences experiences that can catalyze mass audiences for social change. As the Chief Strategy Officer for the Pop Culture Collaborative, Tracy co-anchors the design and implementation of organization's strategy and oversees half the grantmaking portfolio around pop culture for social change field building, Muslim Narratives, Gender Justice Narratives and Digital Culture. She also oversees the Collaborative's communications, storytelling, and learning and evaluation programs

[Social Change & Impact Filmmaking](#)

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Terry Scerbak
Director/Programmer
REEL SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual

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Wouter Jansen
Sales Agent
SQUARE EYES

Virtual

Wouter Jansen is the owner of the sales and festival distribution company Square Eyes. Coming from a background of festival programming, in 2013 he started the company, which specializes in having outstanding non-mainstream films find the audience and recognition they deserve. With Square Eyes, Wouter represents bold, author-driven features and shorts, and collaborates closely with the filmmakers to devise bespoke festival distribution and sales strategies.

[A Guide to Distributing Your Short](#)

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Themba Bhebhhe
Co-Creator-Caribbean Film Academy Sessions
THIRD HORIZON FILM FESTIVAL

Virtual

Themba is in charge of Diversity & Inclusion of the European Film Market (Berlinale) on a seasonal basis. This work includes co-managing the DocSalon Toolbox Programme and working as Indigenous Cinema Coordinator alongside imagineNATIVE in order to contribute to programmes designed at capacity-building for Indigenous film creatives. Alongside Mitchell Harper and Tiny Mungwe, Themba is the co-founder of Engage, a series of curated think tank conversations on the pertinent, challenging and multi-faceted questions facing the African (diaspora) screen sector. Themba is also one of the founding members of the Programmers of Colour Collective (POC2).

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Therese Hayes
Programmer
PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

In Person

A student of Far Eastern Civilization at the University of Washington in Seattle, as well as Indian art and cinema, Therese serves as a consultant on Indian films to several film festivals and institutions. She is on the board of Film Trust India in Dubai, and is co-curator for the Stuttgart Indian Film Festival.

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Tiffany Hsiung
Director

Virtual

Tiffany Hsiung is a Peabody award-winning filmmaker based in Toronto, Canada. Hsiung is listed as one of DOC NYC's 40 under 40 and is a two-time Canadian Screen Award winner; Her film 'Sing Me a Lullaby' (2020) won the Oscar qualifying Grand Jury Prize at DOC NYC, the inaugural TIFF 'Share Her Journey Short Cuts Award', The DGC Best Short Film Award and is listed as TIFF Canada's Top Ten of 2020. Hsiung's work has played in over 150 film festivals earning over 25 awards and released and broadcasted globally.

[Navigating the Documentary Landscape](#)

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