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MEET THE 2021 PARTICIPANTS

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CANADA FONDS DES MÉDIAS MEDIA FUND DU CANADA



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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Serving 100 participants annually—and nearly 400 to date over the course of the program—the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative is a professional development and access program for underrepresented creators and producers. Participants are given the opportunity to attend the Banff World Media Festival and take part in a dedicated stream of programming. The overall goal is to supercharge career opportunities and help projects at all stages move forward.

In addition, a sub-group of twenty-five (25) of the program participants are selected to take part in the Diversity of Voices Pitch Program each year, through which they receive one-onone mentorship and private networking opportunities with senior international development executives.

If you are interested in working or connecting with any of this year's Diversity of Voices participants, please reach out to our team at banfffellowships@brunico.com to be put in touch with them.

CONTACT US

Program and application enquiries: **banfffellowships@brunico.com**

Sponsorship opportunities: kejem@brunico.com & bboudreau@brunico.com

Media enquiries: sberment@brunico.com & eharding@brunico.com

www.dov.banffmediafestival.com



Fabio Abreu

CEO, The Lakeview Productions



Fabio Abreu is a writer, actor and producer who was born in Portugal and now calls Toronto home. He was a part of the WIFT Scripted Series Incubator, and a featured writer/ comedian in Second City's Diversity Showcase where he explored topics such as immigrant belongingness, mental health stereotypes, the shame of vulnerability, etc. Fabio is the co-founder of The Lakeview Productions, under which he has created, produced, starred in, and written 5 short films. Fabio's latest short film, The Independent, was shortlisted as part of

Toronto's Best Films 2019 taking home The 48hr Film Project's Audience Choice Award. As a writer, Fabio is passionate about creating comedic content that tackles emotional and psychological conversations our society avoids. Some of his writing credits include the short films Monsterhood, Robophobia and The Basic Package, Snake King, and the series Three Quarters.



Ryan Atimoyoo

Writer



Ryan is a Cree First Nations writer/ filmmaker from Little Pine Reserve. Ryan's accomplishments include numerous international awards and screenings including being a Semi Finalist in the Sundance Screenwriting Program, being a participant in 2021 Pacific Screenwriting Program, recently completing a Virtual Reality Sci-fi short film, and holding an MFA in Screenwriting/Film Production from UBC.



Anaëlle Béglet

Producer, Art et Essai



A Montrealer with Franco-Caribbean roots, Anaëlle holds a bachelor's degree in Cinema Studies from the Université de Montréal. Following her studies, she worked as a production coordinator on several TV series, then joined Apartment 11 Productions where she assisted producer Jonathan Finkelstein with his slate of youth programming. In 2019, she attended L'inis to train as a film producer, and later joined our team as a producer to develop new fiction and documentary series. Equally passionate about genre films, Anaëlle is looking

to add some audacity to her portfolio by working with emerging creators with bold ideas. As a person of colour, she advocates for more cultural representation both in front of and behind the camera.

www.artessai.ca



Jamie Bourque

Executive Producer/Director, Multipel Inc.



Multipel Inc. is a Canadian 100% indigenous-owned and operated production company established in 2009. Multipel Inc. immediately became a parent company in Sweetgrass and Sage, Inc., which produced two seasons of the APTN documentary series Chaos & Courage, and the one-hour doc Our Home and Native Land: Heroine Healers. We are currently in production with APTN's feature-length film 're-kən-,si-le- 'a- shən' (APTN, PBS, AMF, Visible Films) and 'Pehonan' an interactive memory-work platform that will

house a 60 part digital series, with release scheduled for August 2021. Multipel Inc. was also a parent company of Square Pixel Inc. which develops cutting edge documentaries, animations, interactive content and digital applications. Developing productions with a cross platform experience 'Mother Earth and Me' - (Animation Preschool Series - CMF) Through an interactive tablet a multicultural classroom explores the world. 'Join the dialogue' (Documentary Digital Series, Rogers, iThentic Inc.) An interactive digital platform showcasing six Canadians engaging in dialogue as they tackle social issues.'pan-Gender' - (One Hour Television Documentary - CMF, APTN) The two spirit teaching is explored through the lives of a LGBTQ Aboriginal youth.



Nicole Chrysostom-Murray Writer/Producer, BrooklynBrown Productions



No More Dreams Deferred. These four words ignited a passion that had been smoldering in Nicole's heart since childhood; a passion that started to burn so brightly over her last few years as a senior marketing executive in the TV and film industry that once fate stepped in and created an opportunity for her to finally pursue her lifelong dream of being a screenwriter and producer, there was no turning back. To hear her proud Caribbean mother tell it, Nicole's desire to paint pictures with words began at an early age as she regaled the family with

her poems, short stories, and plays. After graduating from the University of Maryland and marrying a Canadian, she moved to Toronto, armed with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in journalism and an urgency to create content that fed her spirit and entertained the world. The journey, however, was not a straight road - it included two amazing daughters, a successful career as a senior marketing executive at Sony Music Entertainment, promoting superstars like Diddy, P!nk, Chris Brown, and Usher; and a six-year stint as the Head of Global Television Marketing at Entertainment One (eOne) spearheading major campaigns for The Walking Dead, Designated Survivor, Rookie Blue, The Book of Negroes, Sharp Objects, and many others. But Nicole's creative calling kept tugging on her heart, so she filled every spare moment with freelance writing gigs, and Toronto and LA-based screenwriting courses. Being at eOne, immersed in reading and evaluating scripts, contributing in writers' rooms, visiting sets, and meeting regularly with global network, streaming, and studio executives also provided ample opportunities for Nicole to hone her writing skills. Key decision makers, who read her scripts, often encouraged her to transition to the creative side of the business. So, after many a winding yet necessary turns, Nicole has embraced a full-time screenwriting career. Its seemingly insurmountable odds no match for her immense love of the craft and the giddiness that arises each time she types the words INT. or EXT. and transforms a blank 'canvas' into another exciting world of compelling characters and relatable stories. Nicole's recent competition accolades for her dramedy pilot Rhythm & Brew - placement in the 2020 AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL; OFFICIAL SELECTION, DIVERSITY FILM & SCRIPT SHOWCASE; and admission into an exclusive Top 25 cohort of the 2021 NETFLIX/BANFF WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL DIVERSITY OF VOICES' INITIATIVE - reinforces her resolve to never give up and proves that her dearly departed mother really did know best.



Maya Despres-Bedward

Filmmaker, Third Culture Media



Maya Annik Bedward is a Jamaican-French Canadian filmmaker based in Toronto, ON. She holds an MA in International Communications from the University of Leeds and a BA in Political Science and Cinema Studies from the University of Toronto. After living in Brazil and the UK, Maya returned to Toronto to teach digital storytelling and stopmotion animation at the National Film Board of Canada. After working in development at Conquering Lion Pictures, Maya launched Third Culture Media with support from the Michaëlle

Jean Foundation. Her films have since screened at festivals across North America and Europe and sold to Air Canada and the CBC. Maya is a recipient of the CBC/WIFT-T Business of Broadcasting Mentorship and a fellow of the inaugural EFM Doc Programme at Berlin. Her most recent short THE HAIRCUT premiered at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival. Maya is currently in production on her first feature, BLACK ZOMBIE with the Documentary Channel. She is also Board Secretary of the Black Screen Office.

www.3rdculturemedia.com



Kent Donguines

Producer, Aimer Films



Kent Donguines is a Filipino-Canadian narrative and documentary filmmaker based in Vancouver, BC. He produced the award-winning CBC short documentary, THE INK RUNS DEEP, which premiered at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival. He also wrote, directed, and produced the Telus Storyhive short film KALINGA (Care), a documentary about the sacrifices Filipina nannies make to work in Canada. Kent is one of five Canadian producers selected for the prestigious 2020 Canadian Film Centre Producers Lab. He was a finalist in

the 2017 Whistler Film Festival Power Pitch Competition. He's also an alumnus of the Telus Storyhive-Banff Fellowship and HotDocs Doc Accelerator programs. Kent has worked for production companies in Canada and the Philippines, including Cedar Island Films Inc., Black Cap Pictures (Ten17p), Viva Entertainment, and Star Cinema.

www.aimerfilms.com



Damien Eagle Bear

Producer, Bad Bannock Productions



Niitsitapi. Amateur physicist. Frybread eating machine. Damien Eagle Bear is a writer, director and producer from the Kainai Nation of the Blackfoot Confederacy. He moved to Vancouver in Coast Salish Territory to study filmmaking at Capilano University in the Indigenous Filmmaking Program and the Cinematography Program. He got his start with the short experimental documentary, Napi, which explored the Blackfoot trickster and the importance of telling Indigenous stories. It premiered at the opening night of the 37th American Indian

Film Festival in 2012 and went on to screen at multiple film festivals. He is an alumnus of the National Screen Institute's IndigiDocs program where he produced the short documentary, Big Momma. This documentary follows an aspiring Two-Spirit comedian as he rehearses for his first stand-up comedy gig and reflects on his insecurities. It premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival in 2019. With frequent collaborator, Madeline Terbasket, Damien produced the short film q'sapi times, with support from Telus Storyhive's Indigenous Edition. It is a modern take on a traditional Sylk (Okanagan) coyote story. It premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival in 2019. His largest project to date is a 9-part web series called The Bannocking. It was a recipient of Telefilm's Talent to Watch Program and will be released through CBC's streaming service Gem in 2022. The Bannocking explores family dynamics and relationships during an outbreak of a zombie-like sickness. Damien's projects explore the themes of belonging and Indigenous resiliency.



Emilia Eyo

Producer/Director, Wolf Noir Media



Emilia Eyo is a Canadian based Producer/Director originally from Nigeria. While here in Canada, she has made some impact in the field, working as producer and/or Assistant Director on various projects ranging from short films, Feature films music videos and TV commercial such as: The Book, Black and Blue, I Phub you (a Telus sponsored project),I am Rare (Telus sponsored) Rise Up (Telus Sponsored) and a host of others. Emilia is a firm believer that what you do must put a smile on peoples' faces; touching and transforming lives in a positive

way. She views film as a medium that transports you to a world where you can forget about your worries, smile, draw strength, and be inspired. She has a passion for entertainment and loves being involved in the process of telling good stories She holds a BA in Mass Communication Major from the university of Nigeria, a Diploma in business administrative management from London academy business school and a Certificate in Directing from PEFTI film institute Nigeria.



Mandeq Hassan

Writer



Mandeq Hassan is an emerging writer and filmmaker hailing from Regent Park, Toronto. Mandeq has a passion to write dramas centered on stories that capture diverse cultures and heritages, akin to the community she's from. To hone her craft, Mandeq became an originating Company Member, and writer/creator of THE REGENT PARK PROJECT, a dramatic, digital web series. Mandeq was also staffed on two seasons of the Telefilm-funded web series GAY MEAN GIRLS. Mandeq's love of story led her to

an opportunity to serve as a Programs and Acquisitions Director, curating programs for Sisterhood Media events, and the streaming platform Sisterhood Media TV. As Mandeq pursues her TV writing career, she does so with the intent to tell compelling stories around social themes, particularly within her community. Mandeq brings a wealth of first-hand knowledge of young adult urban life, which influences the multidimensional characters she creates, like the ones in her female-centric sci-fi thriller THE BUMP, and her one-hour drama, GROWING UP REGENT.



Natasha Heschélle

Writer, Producer, Actress, Heschélle Entertainment



Natasha Heschélle is a Canadian-Zimbabwean writer, producer and actress. Her work as a writer has played on AppleTV, Amazon Prime Video and Super Channel and earned several awards and official selections at festivals, including Academy-Award-qualifying presented by Halifax Black Film Festival and Blood in the snow film festival. She is also the creator, producer and writer of the female-led genre web series/ series concept, which was featured in FORBES, and won the IPF Pitch Pit competition, was nominated for Best Digital Series at Blood In

The Snow Festival, and Best Low Budget Series at T.O. WEBFEST 2020.

www.heschellentertainment.com



Tally Yong Knoll

Writer



Tally Yong Knoll has written on numerous animated children's series including Mysticons (Nickelodeon), Big Blue (CBC) and The Snoopy Show (Apple+). She has also worked as a story coordinator on a variety of shows, including The Beaverton (CTV), Heartland (CBC) and an upcoming family sitcom on Peacock, for which she is also writing. Tally is ready to take the next step into writing for one-hour dramas, particularly in crime and sci-fi. After graduating from the University of Edinburgh, Tally attended Vancouver Film School's Writing for Film and

TV Program. Later she took part in the Bell Media Diverse Writers Program. Tally's original series "The Futurists" won the 2014 Innoversity Summit Scripted Series Pitch Contest, which is what brought her to Toronto.



Jerome Kruin

Filmmaker, Uncharted Pictures



Jerome Kruin is a passionate filmmaker who creates innovative stories through moving pictures. He jump-started his career by collaborating with award-winning filmmakers Kevin Bray and Julien "Director X" Lutz. Jerome's distinct style is a visually stunning rollercoaster ride that is musically charged with a vibrant sense of beauty, colour, and composition. His intuitive creative insight and vast knowledge of Film & TV Production, Film History, Screenwriting, Color Correction, Visual Effects, Music, and Pop Culture have allowed him to successfully

penetrate a variety of mediums, such as Short Films, Commercials, Branded Videos, and Music Videos. Over the years, Jerome's flair for energetic, high impact, stylized Music Videos for Universal Music, Sony Music, Virgin, and Warner Records has reached into the world of Advertising, where he has successfully written, directed, and produced several spots for Infiniti, Nike, Under Armour, and Harley Davidson. In 2015, Jerome won the PAGE International Screenwriting Awards – TV Drama Pilot – Silver Prize for an original TV show spec script titled "Chasers." Jerome maintains the same calibre of standards no matter what genre he works in, making him one of the most sought-after filmmakers in recent years.

www.jeromekruin.com



Stephanie Law

Screenwriter



Stephanie Law is a Canadian screenwriter and filmmaker, who received her B.F.A. Honours in Film Production and Screenwriting from York University (Toronto). She was selected to participate in several national mentorship programs: Writers Guild of Canada (WGC)-Bell Media Diverse Screenwriters Program, Canadian Media Production Association (CMPA) National Production Program, Reelworld Film Festival's Emerging 20 Program, and the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative. She is the writer of feature project, SMASH

SMASH REVOLUTION, selected for the 2017 National Screen Institute's Features First program. Stephanie was honoured with the ZoomerMedia Bursary to further support her NSI training. The project also received Second Round consideration for the Sundance Institute's Asian American Fellowship. Stephanie is also the writer of feature project, DUCK DUCK CHEF, which was developed through the 2018 Reelworld Film Festival's Emerging 20 Program. The project received Second Round consideration for the Sundance Institute's Asian American Fellowship. Her darkly comedic short film, LITTLE MISS JIHAD, won the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival's "So You Think You Can Pitch?" Competition, as well as Audience Choice Award at the inaugural Scarborough Film Festival. The film was supported by the Ontario Arts Council. It has since screened at festivals in Asia, Europe, North America, South Asia, and Dubai Film Market. For more info: www.littlemissjihadfilm. com. Her most recent dramatic short film, AFTER THE QUAKE received support from the Ontario Arts Council, and the Toronto Arts Council with funding from the City of Toronto. The film stars Canadian actors Grace Lynn Kung (Transplant, Mary Kills People, Clarice) and Matthew Gin. For more info: www.aftertheguakefilm.com. Stephanie currently works for Rverson University's School of Image Arts. In the past, she has worked for several film production companies, including Triptych Media and Union Pictures. She also has experience working for non-profits, such as the Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival, and Women in Film and Television - Toronto (WIFTT). She sits on the Board of Directors at Charles Street Video, a non-profit production organization that supports media artists.



Stephie Mazunya

Multidisciplinary Artist



Stephie Mazunya is a trilingual and multidisciplinary artist born in Burundi and raised in Ottawa. In 2015, she moved to Montreal to attend the National Theater School of Canada. Since her graduation in 2019, she had the opportunity to work with a variety of great directors amongst which, Stéphanie Jasmin and Denis Marleau in Soifs Matériaux (Espace GO and FTA), Solène Paré in Les Louves (Espace GO et CNA), Krystel Descary in Les Zinspiré.e.s (Théâtre Français de Toronto). In the upcoming year, she will have the opportunity to work with

Wajdi Mouawad in Notre Innocence, (Théâtre de la Colline in Paris) and Sophie Cadieux in Nassara (Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui). Stephie is also an upcoming writer who is developing various writing projects. 2021 will mark her writing debut as one of 21 Black playwrights selected by Toronto's Obsidian Theatre, her play Chronology will be available on CBC GEM as of February 2021.



Daniela Mujica

Producer, Productions Ocho & Pimiento



Academy-award winning producer Daniela Mujica combines project financing as well as business & content development. She is mainly dedicated to producing documentary features & series and feature films. Working since 2010 as a content producer for broadcasted projects for SRC, RDI, TV5 and APTN, she was later in 2018, awarded a Gemini for Best Documentary/Biography for Claude n'est pas mort, as an author and content producer. Between 2016 and 2020 she worked at Telefilm Canada for the CMF Program Administration where

she was quickly promoted as a Deputy Director. Since mid-january 2020, she decided to continue working as a producer, collaborating with Pimiento Medias, Cayenne Medias, Yzanakio, Jane Losa Films and Zwitfilms. She also founded her own production company, Productions Ocho, dedicated to developing her own IPs. She sits on the Administration Board of FCTMN (WIFT-Quebec) and recently co-founded Coalition M.É.D.I.A, an organization dedicated to represent BICOP Francophone Producers & Creators all across Canada.



Julie O'Bomsawin

Co-Fondatrice, Présidente et Productrice, Kassiwi Média



FR: Julie O'Bomsawin, membre de la Nation Abénakise, est présidente, productrice et cofondatrice de Kassiwi Média. Cette compagnie de production autochtone crée, développe et produit des projets télévisuels et numériques qui visent à promouvoir l'expression créatrice, la richesse de la diversité culturelle et la fierté des autochtones. Après avoir complété un Baccalauréat en Communication à l'UQAM au profil télévision, Julie a cumulé plus de dixneuf années d'expérience sur les plateaux de tournage,

dont onze dans les communautés des Premières Nations. Depuis la création de Kassiwi Média en 2015, elle développe et produit des concepts originaux qui visent à faire entendre la voix des autochtones d'aujourd'hui. Julie a produit notamment Rite de passage 1 et 2, documentaires uniques pour Radio-Canada ainsi que les volets télévisuel et numérique des deux saisons de la série documentaire Policier autochtone diffusées sur les ondes d'APTN et de RDI. Elle travaille aussi au développement de 3 nouveaux projets, dont 2 séries, pour différents diffuseurs.

ENG: Julie O'Bomsawin, a member of the Abenaki First Nation, is the president, producer and co-founder of Kassiwi Media. This indigenous production company creates, develops and produces television and digital projects that promote the creativity, the richness of cultural diversity and the Indigenous pride. After completing a Bachelor's degree in Communication at UQAM in television, Julie has accumulated more than nineteen years of experience on film sets, eleven of which were spent in First Nations communities. Since the creation of Kassiwi Media in 2015, she has been developing and producing original concepts that aim to make the voices of today's Indigenous people heard. Julie has produced Rite of Passage 1 and 2, unique documentaries for Radio-Canada as well as the television and digital components of the two seasons of the documentary series Policier autochtone aired on APTN and RDI. She is also working on the development of 3 new projects, including 2 series, for different broadcasters.

www.kassiwimedia.com



Ananya Ohri

Creative Producer, Mixed Up



Ananya is an award-winning community-engaged creator who was born in India, and moved to Canada when she was ten years old. For seven years, she was the Executive Director at the Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF), Toronto's longest running free community film festival. At RPFF, Ananya also founded and directed the Lieutenant General Award-winning and Governor General Award finalist (Honourable Mention) project, Home Made Visible (www.homemadevisible.ca), where she worked to preserve old home movies for BIPOC families across

Canada. Driven by her experience programming for a community-based film festival and consuming media alongside her own kids, Ananya is motivated to cultivate a greater, and more complex diversity, both in front of and behind the screen in the Film and TV industry. As a filmmaker, her short experimental films and documentaries have screened locally and internationally, including the Toronto Urban Film Festival, Berlinale, the Images Festival, for UNICEF, and Pleasure Dome, and have garnered recognition such as Best Film. As a recipient of CBC/Radio-Canada and Canada Council for the Arts Creation Accelerator funding, Ananya is currently producing and writing a kids' animated adventure mystery series headed to CBC Kids, created with collaborator Fiona Raye Clarke.

www.ananyaohri.com



Boris Rodriguez

Director, Majika



Boris Rodriguez debuted with the award-winning documentary HAVANA KIDS before attending the Canadian Film Centre in Toronto and his subsequent films have screened at festivals including TIFF, Tribeca and Karlovy Vary. In addition to working in the US, Boris holds Mexican and Canadian citizenship and was recently selected to participate in NBCUniversal's prestigious Emerging Directors Program and CFC-Netflix's Market-accelerator Program. Both are select initiatives that seek to increase the diversity of episodic directors and series

creators. Boris is currently developing his next slate of features and series which include EAST LOS ALIENS, and ZOILA AND ANDY and BLOOD AVOCADOS AND BUTTERFLIES. All are timely adventure thrillers that deal with culture clashes and economic disparity.

www.borisrodriguez.net



Renuka Singh

Screenwriter



Alumni of the Pacific Screenwriting Program, Renuka was shortlisted to participate in the Netflix-sponsored Scripted Series Lab under show-runner Robert C. Cooper (Stargate, Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency, HBO's Unspeakable). She has both scripted and unscripted experience with prominent production houses throughout Canada serving as Associate Producer, Story Editor, Script Coordinator, and Development Producer. Her scripted work has placed in competitions within North America, her latest being a semi-finalist in the 2020 Vancouver Horror Show.



Trevor Solway

Director, Blackfoot Nation Films



Trevor Solway, Sinakson, is a Blackfoot filmmaker from Siksika Nation. Trevor attended the Independent Indigenous Digital Filmmaking program at Capilano University in 2012. He then graduated from Mount Royal University with his Bachelor's of Communications in 2017. In 2020 Trevor was a recipient of the Mount Royal University Alumni Award for his early career success. Trevor has self produced and directed various short narrative and documentaries that have screened at Calgary International Film Festival, ImagineNATIVE Arts and

Media Festival and Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. Trevor is the founder of The Napi Collective, a mentorship filmmaking society based in Siksika. From 2018-2020 Trevor mentored eighteen emerging Indigenous filmmakers from his community to write, direct, shoot and edit four narrative films, which screened in their community and abroad at Indigenous film festivals such as the American Indian Film Festival, LA Skins and Maoriland Film Festival. In 2019 Trevor appeared on CBC's Still Standing and was interviewed by Johnny Harris about his filmmaking mentorship initiatives with The Napi Collective. In the fall of 2020 Trevor had his broadcast debut on CBC for his documentary Intertribal. Trevor is greenlit for production for his first feature length documentary Siksikakowan The Blackfoot man, a look into how Indigenous men express and experience masculinity. This documentary is produced by the National Film Board. He is in development for an hour long documentary titled Kaatohkitopii (The Horse He Never Rode) which will broadcast on CBC Calgary and CBC GEM.



Chris Strikes

Producer/Director, Callowgrove Entertainment



Chris Strikes is an award winning director who began his career in music videos working with top Canadian and international artists, including Nelly Furtado, Kardinal Offishall and Machel Montano. In 2013, Chris was MMVA nominated for Pop Video of the Year for "Turn It Up" by Kardinal Offishall. In 2017 Chris' animal awareness music video "Chains of Silence" for Stephanie Braganza won Best Music Video at both the Global Music Awards and the Merit Awards of Awareness. Chris expanded to producing and directing short narrative films, which have

screened in festivals in Cannes, London & Manchester UK, Toronto, Halifax, Hamilton and LA. In 2019 Chris was accepted into the HotDocs Accelerator Fellowship. He was also one of only six recipients of HotDocs' first CrossCurrents Canada Fund, with his first feature length documentary BECOMING A QUEEN. In the same year Chris was also accepted into Reelworld's E20 program.

www.callowgroveent.com



Rachel Webb

Screenwriter



Rachel Webb is an Indigenous woman and member of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, lyiyuu Istchee (James Bay). Rachel grew up in Montreal and graduated from the prestigious lvy League Dartmouth College. At Dartmouth, Rachel completed a double major in Film Studies and Math while also interning in writers' rooms at Hasbro Studios in Los Angeles. Rachel was then admitted to the renowned Master's Screenwriting and Directing program at Columbia University in NYC. Immediately after Columbia, Rachel was hired to write a dramatic fantasy

romance series about Indigenous spirits. The resulting series pilot, Minduu, has been optioned by Rezolution Pictures, where Rachel currently works part-time as a Junior Drama Development Executive, including working on the Shaftesbury/Rezolution development team for the dramatic series Raven Falls, co-created by Shirley Cheechoo (Rogers/Sundance Channel). She now also works with the MCM production Bones of Crows (CBC), directly under creator/producer/director Marie Clements. This spring, Rachel will join Marie Clements as a writer for the Canadian-German action-adventure series Winnetou. Rachel has just finished her directorial debut with her short film, Period (writer/ director) about a young woman who gets her period for the first time while out for lunch with her grandpa. Period will make its festival debut in 2022.



Helmann Wilhelm Writer, Canted Pictures



An award-winning writer and director, Helmann was born in Texas, but raised in Kitchener, Ontario. After graduating from the University of Toronto's Cinema Studies program, Helmann co-founded Canted Pictures. He is a two-time winning recipient of the Canada Council for the Arts grant, the Waterloo Region Arts Fund, and the Ontario Start-up Pitch Competition. His spec script, SUCCESSION: HUMAN PIÑATA, was selected as a semi-finalist at the 2020 Austin Film Festival where it ranked the top 2% out of 13,000 submissions. In the same year,

his 1-hour pilot, THE DISAPPEARED ONES, was a quarterfinalist at the Atlanta Film Festival and Austin Film Festival, both Oscar-qualifying competitions. Helmann was also chosen as one of Canada's top 20 emerging BIPOC filmmakers by the Reelworld Film Festival and Screen Institute. Recently, his 1-hour pilot, CREEMORE VILLAGE, was selected for the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Fellowship.

www.cantedpictures.com



Jerry Wolf

Director, Cinethetica



Jerry Wolf is a Writer and Film Director born in Toronto, Canada. Of mixed Waywayseecappo First Nations and Vietnamese descent, he's been working in the indie short film scene in Toronto since 2010, and is a graduate of the Toronto Film School. He discovered a passion for working with young performers in 2017 when he was hired to work as video maker for a children's performance arts studio in London, Ontario. In 2018, he began work on the horror-drama, WE ARE NOT THE MONSTERS, a web series about the troubled youth of a

Northern Ontario community that must band together to defend themselves against a powerful supernatural menace. Designing the series as an ambitious fully formed multi-episode proof-of-concept package ready to be developed for television. He formed CINETHETICA, a production company comprised of 20+ actors, dancers, and musicians, to undertake this project. He resides in Woodstock, Ontario where he continues to develop WE ARE NOT THE MONSTERS.

www.cinethetica.com



Tobi Abdul

Director & Producer, Little Andro



TOBI ABDUL (she/they) is a Nigeria-born, Milton-raised, and Toronto-based director and story producer working in docuseries, unscripted/factual television, branded content and music videos. Most recently, Tobi was a senior story producer on BIG BROTHER CANADA S9 (Insight/ Global) and the casting, story & associate producer for SHINE TRUE, an 8x22min docuseries (VICE Studios/OutTV/ Fuse) and made her official network debut directing and writing EP 106. Currently, she is in development for her

first docuseries, JUJU, and in the early stages of writing a very Toronto, very lesbian scripted web series (18-30). Tobi has worked on a range of unscripted programs including PROPERTY BROTHERS, THE BACHELOR CANADA, 50 WAYS TO KILL YOUR MAMA and in 2019, was the Talent Coordinator for CANADA'S DRAG RACE S1 (Saloon Media/Crave/OutTV). They have produced a slew of short-form campaigns from TD Pride 2021, Adidas Canada's "Change is a Team Sport" and Roy Wood's OVO music video "Bubbly," and for brands like Under Armour, WestJet, Hudson's Bay and more. She is an Olympic-level logistics hurdler, lover of food television, and is 'the calm' before, during and after the storm. They are most passionate about amplifying diverse voices with rich, thoughtful stories. As a Black, androgynous, gay woman, Tobi is dedicated to uplifting other 2SLGBTQ+ BIPOC folks both in life and work. They're not just looking for a seat, they want to build a whole new table.



Darren Anthony

Writer/Producer, Playing With Crayons



Raised in the cultural mosaic of Toronto by Jamaican parents, playwright and producer, Darren Anthony's voice, shaped by his upbringing and 10-year professional experience in youth counselling and social work, is truly unique. Darren's first written piece, Secrets of a Black Boy, was a play about 5 black males and their inner thoughts as they explore love, mental health issues, racial injustice, sexuality and masculinity. With tremendous success and critical acclaim, the play has toured Ontario and parts of

the US. Darren recently secured funding through the Indigenous Screen Office to adapt the play into his first feature film. Darren's most recent piece, a family sitcom called Dwayne Has Issues, was selected as one of the winners of the 2019 Telefilm Canada New Voices Award recipients, in partnership with the Toronto Screenwriting Conference, and selected for development through the NSI Totally Television Program 2020, making it to the program's highly coveted final phase. Dwayne Has Issues is currently in development at CBC. Just recently Darren was selected as one of Playback's 10 To Watch and, as of late, wrapped participation in the writers' room for the new series, Children Ruin Everything, created by Emmy award winner, Kurt Smeaton.



Joe Balass

Producer, Compass Productions



Compass Productions founder Joe Balass works in both fiction and documentary. He has produced and directed a number of award-winning films including: Nana, George & me (1997), The Devil in the Holy Water (2002), Parting Words (2006), Baghdad Twist (2007), JOY! Portrait of a Nun (2012), The Length of the Alphabet (2013) and Venus (2018). He expresses a very spontaneous blend of seriousness and humour in his approach to filmmaking. His work has screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, Tribeca

Film Festival, DocuWeek, IDFA, MIX Brasil and the Torino Film Festival. He was the winner of the Artv Springboard Award at the International Festival of Films on Art in Montreal, and the Télé-Québec Award for Best Documentary at the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois. In 2014, both the Cinémathèque québécoise and the Toronto Jewish Film Festival honoured him with a retrospective of his work. He has also been selected for the Talents Program at the Berlinale, Telefilm's Producers Without Borders, and the SODECLab at Cannes. Balass recently completed production on the feature-length, gender-bending drama Venus, by writer/director Eisha Marjara. Together, they are developing Calorie, her new feature, as well as the new TV series based on Blended. Balass also has a french-language feature in development, Akram the Surrealist, co-written by the award-winning Canadian-Iraqi writer Naïm Kattan. In addition, Balass organises the Journées du cinéma québécois en Italie, a festival dedicated to screening francophone Canadian work in Italy, now in its eighteenth edition.



Samir Ballou

Screenwriter



Samir Ballou is a writer working hard to break into kids television, half-hour comedies, and hour-long dramas. He recently completed the Kids TV Writing Bootcamp, BIPOC TV & Film (2020), studying under seasoned professional writers. Through this writing bootcamp for BIPOC writers, Samir developed an original Tween series called "Pinky's World". This project allowed him to further explore issues of empathy, social perspective and the complex emotions that children are faced with. Samir recently worked as

a story editor for a truly unique pre-school series in development and had the chance to pitch story ideas. As a graduate of Ryerson University's Media Production program (2016), Samir wrote and pitched comedy series that garnered attention from professors and industry professionals. Samir went on to intern at Rogers Media and Boat Rocker Media. Both of these work opportunities allowed him to understand the TV landscape in Canada and work on the development of original scripted series such as "Second Jen" and "Bad Blood". Samir continues to explore complex family relationships, the imaginative mind of children, and telling truly diverse stories as he develops original series and spec scripts. Born in Toronto and raised on a tiny island called Mayotte, Samir is excited to bring his originality and worldview perspective into the writers' room.



Marie Barlizo

Screenwriter & Playwright



Marie Barlizo is a Filipino-Chinese playwright from Montreal. She is a graduate of UBC's Creative Writing MFA Program and the first visible minority to graduate from the National Theatre School's (NTS) Playwriting Program. She is the playwriting mentor at Black Theatre Workshop's Artist Mentorship Program, an instructor at NTS and an Artist-in-Residence at Imago Theatre where she is developing The Warrior. Her play LUCKY was developed at Banff Playwrights' Retreat and was a hit at the 2019 Next

Stage Theatre Festival in Toronto. Her solo play, The Healing, is part of Centaur's Catalyst readings. Her play The Little Mighty Superhero is part of Geordie Theatre's 2020-21 season 2Play Virtual Tour. Her TV sitcom Organic Living was selected for Netflix Canada 2020 Virtual Pitch Day. She is adapting her play Lucky into a limited TV series and Familia (Family), a TV sitcom.



Mariam Barry

Creator: Actor, Screenwriter, Producer



Mariam Barry is a multi-hyphenate artist of Norwegian and African descent. Her creative work as an actor, screenwriter, and producer, is grounded in her experience as a Third Culture Kid. Mariam grew up internationally between the United States, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, The Netherlands and The Gambia, before moving to Canada as a young adult. This multi-lens ignites Mariam's voice as her work celebrates what it means to be Black around the world. Her latest short film LEGACY was filmed between

Canada and The Gambia, West Africa, exploring true stories from the African migrant crisis. Mariam is currently in production for several projects; CYPHER (a hip-hop documentary, Telus Storyhive & the National Screen Institute) and in pre-production for TIANA (short film, The Harold Greenberg Fund & Creative BC). As an up and coming artist who works globally, Mariam's work is both youth and Afrocentric. Mariam is excited to bring BECOMING and LEGACY to the Banff World Media Festival as a recipient of the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative Fellowship.



lan Bawa

Director



In 2007, Ian Bawa, a born and raised Winnipegger, switched paths in becoming a lawyer to pursue a career in filmmaking. As a graduate of the University of Winnipeg Film program, Ian's bachelor film 'Offline' was met with great success and toured around the world, winning at festivals such as Yorkton Film Festival and Fargo Film Festival. Since then, Ian has produced, directed, and worked on a number of features, short films, documentaries, music videos, and a variety of other

projects. His past work has won him many accolades and recognition locally and around the world, and has been written about in publications such as Ain't it Cool News, The AV Club, and was awarded a Vimeo Staff Pick for his film 'The Champ'. His film, 'Imitations', premiered at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival with great acclaim, and toured globally from there, playing at festivals such as Vancouver International Film Festival, Fantastic Fest, and many others. Ian's film, 'Tapeworm', premiered recently at this year's 2019 Vancouver International Film Festival and 2020 SlamDance Film Festival. His latest film 'Strong Son' will premiere at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival.



Jessica Beauplat

Scriptwriter/Producer, Beautifulplate Productions



Jessica Beauplat est scénariste et titulaire d'un baccalauréat en communications de l'Université Concordia. Elle a également été animatrice, productrice et scénariste de deux webséries. Elle a été nominée pour faire partie de la cohorte 2020 des femmes issues de la diversité du Festival Québec-Cinéma: «Femmes aux voix plurielles». Elle a également obtenu une résidence de création au centre M.A.I. Elle a fondé sa boîte de production: Beautifulplate Productions. Sa

vidéo humoristique créée en collaboration avec Ton Petit Look est devenue virale en février et cumule plus vues sur Facebook, 244 réactions, et 66 partages. Elle a notamment produit la pièce solo Touche pas à mes cheveux récipiendaire des Prix Meilleur texte francophone et Prix du Public au Festival Fringe de Montréal en 2019. Sa pièce saluée par la critique médiatique et le grand public est récipiendaire de deux prix Frankies: Meilleur texte francophone et Prix du public! En parallèle de ses activités à titre de scénariste et productrice Jessica est journaliste pour La Presse Canadienne depuis septembre. Auparavant, elle a écrit pour l'Agence Science-Presse, le HuffPost Québec et le Voir. Elle est lauréate d'une bourse pour la Semaine mondiale de l'éducation aux médias et à l'information de l'UNESCO 2019.



Harmeet Bhatti

Writer/Actor, Ariel Productions



HARMEET BHATTI is a South Asian writer and actor from Toronto. She has been acting and improvising for over 10 years, studying with one of Toronto's most notable instructors (Kate Ashby - CFC, Ryerson, Kate Ashby Academy) landing roles on shows such as: Kim's Convenience, Working Moms, Baroness Von Sketch and many more. She recently completed a TV Writing course through the Sundance Collab program, and has a produced credit on the animation series, Total Drama Rama.

Harmeet's transition into writing was a natural progression from her acting career. The inspiration for her content derives from the lack of nuanced characters and roles available to her as an actor. Harmeet's goal is to have her stories offer a fresh and true portrayal of the South Asian diaspora.


Adrian Bobb

Writer/Director, Exocentric Productions



Adrian Bobb is a writer, director, and VFX Artist with over 15 years of experience in the Film, TV, and Videogame industries. His short proof-of-concept film E-X-T (2019) - a film about robot-clad digital-humans fighting for the future of their digital homeworld in a nature-reclaimed reality - premiered at the Cannes Film Festival Animation Day and went on to screen at 40+ internationally recognized festivals including LA Short International Film Festival, Blood in the Snow Film Festival, Woods Hole Film Festival,

Australia International Film Festival, San Antonio Film Festival, The Art of Brooklyn Film Festival, Phoenix Film Festival, and is now available for viewing on the CGBros Youtube Channel. The film also took home a number of festival awards (and nominations) including Best Sci-Fi Short, Best International Film, Best Director, and Best VFX.



Mariah Braun

Director



Mariah Braun is an indie filmmaker and marketing professional from northern Alberta. Mariah seeks to amplify the voices of underrepresented individuals and tell stories through a unique point of view. This has drawn her into short documentary filmmaking and producing commercial projects with an emotional tone. In 2019, Mariah was awarded a TELUS STORYHIVE grant to direct and produce her short film Life Without Diagnosis. Mariah is currently the Vice President of the Peace Region

Independent Media Arts Association (PRIMAA) board. PRIMAA is a non-profit society that supports and helps develop film and digital media artists throughout Northern Alberta & BC. Recently, she was awarded her second STORYHIVE grant to direct, write and produce her new short documentary film, Able which is currently in production.



Andrew Chung

Writer/Director/Producer, Jaded Pictures



Andrew is a Writer/Director based in Toronto, Canada. His films, "Ma", "Lovebites", and "White Elephant", have screened at festivals around the world, and have been broadcast on Air Canada, CBC, and the Super Channel. His critically acclaimed digital series, "Millions", won him Best Director at the Marseille Web Fest in France. His feature film, "White Elephant", won Outstanding Feature Film, Standout Director, and Standout Writer at the Reelworld Film Festival, and Best Canadian Feature and Best Overall

Performance at the Vancouver Asian Film Festival.



Duane Crichton

Writer/Director, Nomad Republic



Duane Crichton is a writer, director who began his career directing music videos. After gaining many accolades, including the Much Music Video Award for Best Hip Hop and Best R&B videos, he turned his sights to advertising. Winning the Shots International Young Director Award at Cannes launched his career as a commercial director, where he has helmed spots for dozens of international brands. Duane wrote and directed the short films Queue and All Things Fare which showcased at the Vancouver

International Film Festival, and the NYC ReelWorld Film Festival. His feature film directorial debut, Saving God, starred Ving Rhames, Ricardo Antonio Chavira, Genelle Williams, and Dwain Murphy.



Juan Cruz Baldassarre

CEO, Moonshot



I started writing as a teenager, back in Buenos Aires, Argentina. But my looks got in the way, and I began acting in my 20s. Tinkering with software, I taught myself VFX and animation. Arriving in Canada during the dot-com boom, I got a tech job but secretly wanted to write. I rocked at this computers-and-kids' stuff, so I left a declining .com firm to focus on Flash Animation. I created show ideas, but my pitches failed for having too many female leads and irrelevant environmental premises. So plodding along

in service animation, on work-for-hire shows like Teen Titans Go!, Care Bears, and Curious George, some high-profile music videos for Nelly Furtado, Weird Al, and Jack Black came my way. It was all 2D work, but I started working on interactive content, which introduced me to Unity and Unreal. In 2020, I started tinkering (again!) with game-engines to create animated content. Not just rendering, but redefining the entire pipeline (yes, design and animation!) inside the game-engine. But writing is still my absolute passion. My answer to the question of what would you do if you won the lottery is pretty simple: I'd be a full-time writer.



Damon D'Oliveira

Producer, Conquering Lion Pictures



Under the banner of production companies Conquering Lion Pictures (with partner Clement Virgo) and Filmshow Inc., Damon D'Oliveira's films have been distributed internationally and have been selected for festivals around the world. D'Oliveira's first feature, RUDE, had its world premiere in Official Selection, Un Certain Regard, at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival. Since then, Damon has produced some of Canada's most innovative feature films, including Poor Boy's Game (Berlinale, TIFF, Chicago 2007),

Lie With Me (TIFF 2005, Berlinale 2006), Love Come Down (Berlinale, TIFF 2000), H (Locarno, TIFF 1990), and most recently, The Grizzlies starring Ben Schnetzer and Will Sasso (TIFF 2018, Palm Springs 2019), and has executive produced, Honey Bee with Martha Plimpton and The Rest of Us with Heather Graham and Sophie Nelisse. Damon's recent miniseries adaptation of The Book of Negroes, the best-selling novel by Lawrence Hill (2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize winner) had its world premiere as the Opening Night Selection at MIPCOM in October 2014. The series debuted to historic ratings on the Canadian Broadcasting Network (CBC) in January 2015, marking a twenty-five year high for a one-hour drama premiere. It premiered in February 2015 in the US and drew landmark ratings for BET Networks. The Book of Negroes stars Oscar[®] winners Cuba Gooding Jr. & Louis Gossett Jr. along with Aunjanue Ellis (The Help), Ben Chaplin (Remains of The Day) and 3-time Oscar[®] nominee – Jane Alexander. To date, the miniseries has won 12 Canadian Screen Awards and earned two nominations for U.S. Critic's Choice Television Awards, four NAACP Image Awards and was a finalist for the 2016 Peabody Award.



Krisy Davis

Writer, Integrity Co.



Krisy Davis is a Writer, Business Consultant and Founder of her production company, Integrity Co. Kristin has worked extensively in the tech space developing training programs and curriculum for entrepreneurs in business strategy, marketing and customer service. She has served on numerous boards in support of Women, BIPOC and the LGBTQ+ community, including: Lesbians Who Tech, The Canadian Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and was a Founding Member of Start Proud, which equips

young LGBTQ+ professionals & students in the tech sector. Being amongst these diverse groups, she was able to witness women, BIPOC & members of the LGBTQ+ community build their career and business AS WELL AS fall in love and have healthy family lives and partnerships- HER MISSION, to see this fully represented in film and television. With a passion for romance AND business, her projects are unique in the sense that she writes authentic, gay, hilarious, heartfelt love stories that speak to the positive portrayal and intersectionality of a person. Collaborating with industry experts and building authentic ties with production partners and distributors alike, she hopes to create impactful content that supports fellow creatives in industry and strengthens the engagement of a diverse audience.



Kik Di Nino

Creative Producer/Director, Soothsayer Media



A big picture thinker, Kik Di Nino enjoys being the guiding force on creative projects, leading the vision from ideation to completion. As a director and producer, she has collaborated with some of the more well-known factual formats, gathering experience in all facets of production. Her passion and drive have allowed her to work with leading Canadian and American networks, including CBC, Global, CTV, FOX, NBC, and Netflix. Focused on breaking new artistic ground, Kik carries projects forward with

infectious energy and has become known for her unique vision and innovative direction. She has a meticulous eye and understands the 'big picture' is actually in all the fine, micro details. Kik has created hit-linear content for audiences on both sides of the border, as well as national commercials and music videos. Most notably, her story-telling work on the series "Where To I Do" produced for Bell Media, alongside the amazing crew that created the show, was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for Best Lifestyle Series. Intrigued by magnifying life through the lens, Kik picked up her first camera at age seven, and that single moment changed her perspective forever. A true artist and philosopher at heart, she describes the lens as one of her first love languages.



Ashley Duong

Writer, Director, Producer, Da Le Films/Catbird Productions



Ashley Duong is a writer, director, and producer currently based in Tiohtiá:ke (aka Montreal, Canada) with over a decade of experience in film, TV, and other mediums. She has produced over 15 segments/shorts for the CBC documentary series CBC ARTS: EXHIBITIONISTS and directed two episodes of CANADA'S A DRAG. Her directorial debut, the feature-length documentary A TIME TO SWIM, won numerous awards including Best First Feature at Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival. Prior to directing and

producing, Ashley wore many hats such as the production manager for the feature documentary and CBC episodes, THE FRUIT HUNTERS; production coordinator for the CityTV series, ONLY IN MONTREAL; and script supervisor for the feature narrative, UVANGA. An advocate for advancing ethical documentary practices, Ashley is an active member of Brown Girl Doc Mafia, A-Doc, and BIPOC TV & Film. She also frequently works as an editor, story consultant, and mentor to support the vision of collaborating creators. Ashley earned a BA in Environment Studies and Cultural Studies from McGill University in Montreal. She is particularly interested in stories about identity, culture, and nature.



Cynthia-Laure Etom Creative, CLE UP AGENCY



Cynthia-Laure is a bilingual creative (media & visual artist / Writer / Journalist / Comms consultant) from Paris, presently based in Toronto. With a strong commitment to human rights and gender equality, her expertise extends to the place and image of women within the media. In 2020, she was nominated by the Canada International Black Women Event (CIBWE) as one of the « 100 Black Women to Watch ». Her work invites shifting perspectives through immersive experiences and interactive storytelling. She

wants to inspire self-reflection, different ways of thinking about communities through untold stories about identity, roots, being, and mental health. Cynthia-Laure draws inspiration from her background and her travels. Passionate about all forms of communication she writes and produces news media's content, for broadcast news (radio and television), print media (newspapers, newsmagazines), and online (online newspapers, news blogs, podcasts). She has various projects at different stages of production. Currently, she is in development for a podcast series on "Black Mental Health" and a documentary about "Black Feminism".



Osas Eweka

Producer, Writer, Director, Oghoro Productions



Osas is an emerging, Edmonton-based filmmaker passionate about telling stories that keep her grounded in her Nigerian/Edo/Bini roots, elevate the human spirit, and bring marginalized voices to the forefront. She gives visibility, equity, and access to stories that otherwise would go untold. In 2020, she debuted her first film — Beyond Curls & Kinks — which follows a group of women who are challenging beauty standards and empowering each other and the next generation to embrace their coily

kinky curly hair. The film explores the complex relationship they have with their Afro-textured hair and issues such as self-esteem, confidence, and identity. It also challenges society to see women and girls beyond their curls and kinks. Osas has made content for TELUS, and is looking for opportunities to create more exciting and meaningful work. She has over 10 years of experience in public relations/ communications before venturing into filmmaking.



Kevin Fitzgerald

Director, Producer, Creator, Hip Hop Films



Kevin is an Award-Winning and Critically Acclaimed filmmaker of Indigenous heritage and African descent known for his renowned classic documentary Freestyle: The Art of Rhyme. It screened at numerous film festivals worldwide and won several awards including the HBO Documentary Award and Kodak Maverick Award. His films have been released theatrically, globally, and commercially broadcast on MTV Networks/VH1, B-Sky-B, and SBS; and distributed on Video by Netflix, Palm Pictures, Universal,

Sony and Agnes B. He studied acting at the Beverly Hills Playhouse with Milton Katselas and his father Robert who was an on and off-Broadway actor and student of Sandy Meisner at The Neighbourhood Playhouse, and the 1st director of NBC's The Tonight Show. Kevin was nominated for a Student Academy Award while at LACES where he shot one of his first films with actor David Arguette and performed with fellow Unity Committee crew member Lucas McFadden aka Cut Chemist of Interscope music recording artists Jurassic-5 and the Grammy Nominated Ozomatli. Kevin is also a former radio and club DJ and music artist having performed with Mos Def, Wu-Tang Clan, Young MC, DJ Shadow, Macey Grey, The Black Eyed Peas, and Aloe Blacc. He attended USC Film School and was taught directing by Jay Roach, DGA (Austin Powers), screenwriting by Robert Mckee and Oscar Williams (WGA), and sound by Tom Holman (inventor of THX) of Lucasfilm. He further mentored and apprenticed under directors D.A. Pennebaker and John Singleton, DGA on the feature film Higher Learning for Columbia Pictures. Kevin directed and produced a documentary on Macy Gray for Columbia Records. He followed this with the film 7 - Days In Paris about Ben Harper and his band The Innocent Criminals recording their final album for Virgin Records Lifeline at the all-analog Gang Studio in Paris, France. Kevin was also the Director of Photography on the documentary film Soundz of Spirit, featuring Common and was a Producer on the feature film Half Widow shot in Kashmir. He is currently the filmmaker in residence at Ballet BC and a founding principal partner, creative director, executive producer, and showrunner at Hip Hop Films.



Laura Friedmann

Producer/Director, Wrapped Productions



Laura Friedmann is a Colombian-born, Toronto-based creative producer and director passionate about championing diverse content and using film as a tool for education and social justice. She is an executive producer at Wrapped Productions Inc. Her feature documentary film, THE PAINTING, based on her family history and personal journey, is currently in development with Fathom Film Group after receiving development funding from Telefilm and the Indigenous Screen Office.

Laura participated in the Creators of Colour Incubator offered by CaribbeanTales in 2019 and 2020. At the recent incubator, the feature film she is producing, TENAYA was awarded the Audience Choice Award at TIFF's The Big Pitch. The film is in pre-production after also receiving development funding from Telefilm and the Indigenous Screen Office. A feature documentary she worked on, GLIMPSES INTO THE SPIRIT OF GENDER EQUALITY, premiered virtually at the 2021 UN Commission on the Status of Women and was officially selected to a number of festivals receiving multiple awards. In 2020, she was awarded a scholarship and graduated from the WIFT Toronto/Bell Media Leadership Program in association with the Schulich School of Business at York University. Laura is an advocate for women in film and media and for 5 years served on the board of directors of Breakthroughs Film Festival which is devoted exclusively to showcasing films by emerging female directors. She was co-creator and facilitator at the Native Film & Storytelling Institute and is involved in a number of grassroots initiatives aimed at promoting BIPOC women in the Canadian film industry. With over 15 years of experience her work has taken her to over a dozen countries where she has led creative projects for a variety of not-for-profit organizations and grassroots film initiatives. Prior to working with Wrapped Productions, her commercial work included projects with CBC, YesTV, Harley Davidson, Audi, Bell, KitchenAid, ParticipAction and Special Olympics Canada.



Mia Golden

Writer/Producer/Director, Empress Avenue Media



Producer, writer, actor, and director whose background as a counsellor provides a deep understanding of human behaviour and allows a unique perspective and delving into topics and characters. A producer on a variety of productions ranging from the award winning feature comedy 'Jackhammer' (eOne Films, 2014) to factual series, documentaries and shorts. Currently working on several projects including 3 features, all in the completion stages of post production (one dramatic thriller, one horror and

one Documentary) as well as some projects in pre-production including another dramatic thriller.



Nadine Gomez

Director, Nemesis Films



Having completed a Master's degree in Communication at UQÀM (Montréal) in 2008, Nadine Gomez has since been passionate about urbanity and cinema, developing over the years a thoughtful practice in documentary filmmaking. Social and urban transformations are themes that have been feeding her work constantly. Having worked in different fields in cinema (distribution, production, research), her main focus has become to create a language of her own through and with reality as matter. Nadine's

debut film, The Horse Palace, allowed her to learn a lot about documentary cinema. Metro, a short documentary, is an esthetic and acoustical point of view on Montreal's suburban transport system and its unique architecture. Her 2nd full-length film, Exarcheia, The Chanting of Birds, is a poetic and philosophical night stroll in a mythical and political neighborhood of Athens in Greece. Aside from working hard to make films, she has been very active in her community, being elected for instance in September 2018 on the Board of the Montreal Art Council as the president of the Cinema committee.



Kara Harun

Writer/Creator/Director/Actor



Kara is a two-time Canadian Screen Award nominee for her work as a writer, producer and host for TVOKids, The Space. Kara has written for children's shows such as Dino Dana (Sinking Ship/TVO), Glowbies (CBC), Dino Ranch (Disney) and It's My Party (Bristow Global Media/TVO). Kara is also a talented singer/songwriter.

Kara worked as writer/producer/director of YTV's The Zone Weekend and Big Fun Movies. In this role she honed

her skills, writing comedy sketches on a daily basis. She just finished writing for My Perfect Landing, a Frank Van Keekan show airing on Family Channel and CBBC.



Joy Haskell

Writer, Director, Story Editor



Joy Haskell is an Indigenous filmmaker who focuses on screenwriting and directing. She has a background in theatre, specializing in acting, singing and dancing. She was associate story editor for Season 1 on Ron E. Scott's TV series Tribal which is airing on APTN. Funded by Telus STORYHIVE in conjunction with Creative BC, she created, wrote, directed and produced the comedy short Hey Cuzzin. It stars Evan Adams, and is now being developed as a half-hour television series with Mosaic

Entertainment. Joy has another original drama series in development through her production company Firediva Productions along with her debut feature film, Cookies or Crack which earned her a spot in the WIFT Vancouver Tricksters and Writers Program for Indigenous Women where she completed a first draft of the script. Cookies or Crack has also received development funding through the CMF and Telefilm Canada Indigenous streams. In 2018, Joy was the recipient the Banff World Media Festival Diversity of Voices Top 25. In 2019 she received the WIFT Vancouver Whistler Film Festival Market Preparation Mentorship and in 2020, she was part of the Women In Focus Series for Whistler Film Festival. She is an alumna of Women In the Director's Chair Career Advancement Module and the 2021 recipient of the WIDC BANFF Fellowship Award, as well as the Banff World Media Festival Diversity of Voices Fellowship. Awards & Nominations: 2021 WIDC BANFF Fellowship Award, 2021 Banff Diversity of Voices, 2020 Whistler Film Festival, Women In Focus, 2019 WIFT Vancouver Whistler Film Festival Market Preparation Mentorship, 2018 Banff Diversity of Voices (Top 25).



Chrisann Hessing

Filmmaker, Turning Tables Media



Chrisann Hessing is a documentary filmmaker and impact producer based in Toronto. She has produced awardwinning short films that have screened at Hot Docs, RIDM, Global Impact Film Festival and the London Asian Film Festival. Her work has been supported by the Ontario Arts Council, Inspirit Foundation, BravoFACT! Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent and Telefilm Canada. Chrisann's latest film, Turning Tables, won Best Short Documentary at the 43rd American Indian Film Festival, and has

screened in over 30 film festivals internationally. She is passionate about using visual storytelling as a tool to educate, raise awareness, and inspire positive change, and has collaborated with a number of community arts organizations including TIFF, JAYU, Reel Asian, and This is Worldtown, an online magazine featuring art and first person expression of women of colour storytellers. Currently, she is the Festival Manager at Breakthroughs Film Festival, the only festival in Canada devoted exclusively to short films made by emerging women & non binary directors.



Jose Holder

Director/Producer/Writer, SteelWalker Productions



Jose Holder is an emerging producer and professional illustrator residing in Montreal, Quebec. Formally, with a degree in architecture and a decade's worth of teaching in the owned and operated Apocalypse Studios, Montreal's 1st comic book art school dedicated to 2D illustration, Jose embarked on a new career in the arts. To date, he has developed storytelling content across multiple sectors including film, television commercials, music videos, comics, advertising, print media, web, live shows,

and video games. The latter of which has included work on such franchises as Assassin's Creed and Rainbow Six, leading to his current position as Sr. Concept Artist for Warner Bros Games on the DC Comics IP, Gotham Knights. Clients have included Marvel, IDW, BOOM!Studios, Ubisoft, Nike, Reebok, Walmart, McDonalds, CocaCola, ABC Entertainment, Dark Castle, Universal Pictures, DC Entertainment and hundreds more. His directorial debut, the horror sci-fi transmedia style project REDRUBY, garnered 31 film festival awards worldwide across 2017-2018, premiering at Silicon Valley's Cinequest Film & VR Festival, the famous TCL Chinese Theatre at HollyShorts, and winning him the Directorial Discovery Award courtesy of the Rhode Island International Film Festival. In 2021, Jose was the recipient of two pioneering fellowships: The Reelworld Producer's Program, presented by Bell Media; and the Netflix - BANFF Diversity Of Voices Initiative, both dedicated to promoting diversity and BIPOC experiences across the Canadian entertainment landscape. A career spanning 20yr+ in the arts that has now culminated in the creation of SteelWalker Productions Inc. An entertainment company specializing in the development of creator-owned IP across media platforms, providing productions with premium art services from a portfolio of A-list talent. SteelWalker has several projects in various stages of production, including the expansion of the REDRUBY universe into tv series, graphic novel, anthology, and radio serial. In his downtime, he enjoys writing sci-fi short stories as a foundation for film projects and series.



Stephanie Sonny Hooker

Producer/Writer, Hometeam Films



Stephanie Sonny Hooker is a first generation Trinidadian Canadian filmmaker based in Toronto. She has worked extensively in various screen mediums, producing music videos, commercials, and web series. Stephanie has also produced three feature films - EDGING by Writer/Director Natty Zavitz, which was awarded "People's Pick for Best Flick" at the 2017 Canadian Film Fest; ACQUAINTED, also with Natty Zavitz, premiering at the 2018 Whistler Film Festival; and THIS PLACE, with director-writer V. T. Nayani, which is currently in post-production (Telefilm Canada Talent to Watch Program).

She is also in development for several other narrative properties, including her first feature film debut as a director-writer, WRONG END OF THE RAINBOW (Recipient, 2021 Indigenous Screen Office Solidarity Fund Development Grant). Stephanie also serves on the Advisory Board for the Prism Prize x RBC Music MVP Music Video Grant. She believes in community development through mentorship, and she prides herself on her sets being diverse spaces that foster creative development and communication. She produced the second season of web series THAT'S MY DJ, which won many awards internationally and many shorts. In 2019 the Supervising Producer at Free Studio. Producing 15 episodes of content filmed internationally for Canon's Creator Class 2019 series. Stephanie also was production manager on Telefilm funded THE CUBAN and Mike Seater's PEOPLE HOLD ON. Comfortable working across mediums, she has worked in the VR space with ComboBravo VR for clients like Nordstrom, GM and TopShop as well as producing the live filming of Drake's OVOFest from 2014 - 2017. Growing that shoot to a crew of 45 across 13 cameras. Stephanie has produced many music videos on behalf of several production companies including Mad Ruk, The Field, Creator Class and Asymmetric for a variety of artists such as Drake, Daniel Caesar, Harrison and Jahkoy. As producer and production coordinator at Touchpoint Films she has produced dozens of nationwide commercials, pre-rolls, experiential spots, and web content for brands including McDonald's, Tim Horton's, CIBC, Best Buy, and Disney. Stephanie has worked closely with The Weeknd's XO label in support of their community incubator HXOUSE. Producing a commercial for their collaboration with Google's Pixel 3 and a multicam livestream of their concert featuring The Weeknd and Bryson Tiller that reached 3 million people. In 2019, Stephanie created and directed Cucci Stories Vol. 1, a play. Recently, she has completed a contract at Free Studio as the Supervising Producer, creating 15 episodes branded of content for Canon. In late 2020 Stephanie began development with Pier 21 Films, on a docuseries for the CBC - Gen Z in the time of COVID. Stephanie is serving on the advisory board for the Prism Prize x RBC Music MVP music video grant. She believes in community development through mentorship and she prides herself on her sets being diverse spaces that foster creative development and communication.



Ania Jamila

Film Producer, Director, and Writer, Sahkosh Productions



Ania [Ah-nia] is a Producer, Director and Writer devoted to shed light on under-represented communities, advocating for racial and gender diversity, and to giving them an authentic voice. Since 2018, she was selected by NFB's Tremplin contest, HotDocs and Al Jazeera's, Telefilm's Talent to Watch fund, for her first narrative series. In the last few months, she received the support of Banff DOV for the second time, and IPF for the development of her new narrative series.



Eric Janvier

Writer, Broken Tree Productions



My film career started on a hot August afternoon way back in 2007 in the wonderful city of Los Angeles when I attended my first class of film school. But if we're being honest here my career goes back even further to when me and my friends watched The Blair Witch Project and thought we could do that but what we made was probably just garbage. And if we go back even further to when I was a young child I had always been interested in performing. It was from my years as a stage performer that I found my

love of directing which guided me to go to film school and be a director. However my time at Film School made me fall so madly in love with producing and combining that with my writing skills I took that and ran with it. Over the years I've had so many great opportunities writing and producing either for myself or for other people. In 2015 I was the producer on the award winning short film Gods Acre which had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. I was also given the opportunity to produce ad campaigns for Disney and Marvel. Most recently I wrote, directed, produced, and reluctantly acted in a short film called Reserved. Reserved opened up so many doors for me as I am currently in development of my first screenplay Cowboys and Indians and developing my first series with the CBC called Indian Summer. Sensing a theme here? Yes I do have a lot of Indigenous inspired projects but for everyone of those I've got a TV series about 4 idiots starting their own gentleman rental company to make money if that's more up your alley. I consider myself very versatile in what I write because much like everyone else I love film and television regardless of the stories and the genres. Ask me about my 1999 cinematic universe. So if you've read this far and you want to give a mixed race kid like me a shot then please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm actually a really cool guy.



Vincent T Joachim

Writer/Director, Warrior Dove X



Vincent T Joachim has been a professional artist for the past 23 years specializing in photography, video and writing. He graduated from SAIT in 1999 with a Photojournalism Diploma AMTC in 2001 with a Multimedia Diploma and graduated from RDC in 2015 with a degree in Motion Picture Arts Production. In 2021 Vincent was selected to participate in the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative. His latest film is called "Footprints in the Snow." It has won numerous awards and has screened

internationally in 11 film festivals. In 2015 Vincent produced, directed and wrote "AN.X.O" a web series for TELUS STORYHIVE which was awarded \$10k to produce a pilot episode. The web series won "Best Production" at RDC's Motion Picture Arts Film Gala & was nominated for a 2016 Alberta Rosie Award. Additionally, Vincent's photography work has been published and showcased in over 9 art galleries, Time magazine and numerous programs and books for the City of Calgary. He has teamed up with many non-profit organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club Red Cross Antyx Community Arts and the Tallman Foundation to empower youth. His most notable projects have been the "Hope Art" program that involved 18 schools in Calgary, the "Trinity Art" program in the country of Trinidad and Tobago and a "Photo Voice" project in Minneapolis. Since 2007 he has worked with over 3000 youth through the arts. Vincent is currently collaborating with artist EJ Negre on several comic books they plan to launch in the near future.



Wanda John

Writer



Wanda John-Kehewin is a published author of two poetry books, a graphic novel, two children's grade one and two readers and is set to publish another poetry book in 2022. She has also finished her first feature film script and is working with a director to obtain funding for production.



Shant Joshi

President, Fae Pictures



Shant Joshi is a queer Indo-Canadian film producer based out of Toronto & Los Angeles. His work is geared towards engaging audiences with stories rooted in the perspectives of the Other.

In the world of feature films, Shant was Associate Producer on the fem- queer coming-of-age tale PORCUPINE LAKE (TIFF, Busan, Rome, Outfest). Shant worked with New Queer Cinema director, John Greyson, as a line producer on

his avant-garde features LAST CAR and JERICHO, centered around subverting and addressing topical issues such as archival untruths and the extinction of Palestine.

Shant produced a queer activist short PINK : DISS for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Keep Calm and Decolonize program and produced the second season of the Dekkoo Original series I'M FINE (Newfest, Queerties).

Five years ago, Shant co-founded a film festival that highlighted films from emerging Canadian filmmakers called the Future of Film Showcase, which saw sold-out audiences at the Scotiabank Theatre in Toronto.

Most recently, Shant worked in literary representation at the Buchwald Talent Group in Los Angeles.



Hussein Juma

Filmmaker



Hussein Juma has been wanting to make films since junior high school when he waxed at length to his Grade 7 Career and Life Management class about the special effects in his favourite horror films. After studying film theory at the University of Alberta, and the technical side of film at SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary, Hussein spent the next several years making numerous short films, music videos, and a 12 episode horror web series called "Horse Mask". Finally, Hussein produced a microbudget feature length horror film

in 2017 entitled "Things Fall Apart" which he wrote, directed and shot and featured 80% improvised dialogue. This film went on to screen at festivals around the world and was eventually picked up for distribution through Vancouver based Darkside Releasing. Hussein has been busy promoting "Things Fall Apart" and has finished writing his next feature which is set to go into pre-production in 2021.



Seydou Kane

Producer-Financing Consultant, Seyka Productions



Seydou Kane est venu au cinéma après des études en journalisme et en communication. Après avoir été assistant réalisateur sur trois long-métrages fiction dans son pays d'origine le Sénégal, il a commencé à réaliser ses propres films. Aujourd'hui, il compte six films court métrage fiction et moyen métrage documentaire à son actif. Ses films ont fait le tour des festivals (Vues d'afrique, Fespaco, Yorkton, FIPA etc...). En 2008, il réalise Falardeau, un court métrage documentaire intimiste à faible budget

pour rendre hommage au controversé réalisateur québécois Pierre Falardeau décédé l'année dernière. Il a publié un roman policier aux éditions Neas "Un 10 Mai sur la croisette" relatif à une prise d'otages à la cinquantième édition du festival de Cannes. Seydou Kane a organise également pendant quinze ans la Semaine du cinéma québécois et canadien de Dakar (Sénégal) ou CINECAN.



Maziyar Khalighi

Filmmaker/Writer, Verbal Pictures



As a young Iranian refugee growing up in the Great White North Mazi often turned to film and television as a conduit to learn English and help connect to western culture. Way back then, it was when he first saw The Mighty Ducks that he knew he wanted to be two things: 1. A hockey player 2. A movie maker. He tried 1. Even made it to assistant captain two years in a row in minor midget and midget house league. Still...didn't work out. Most likely cause of all the pizza. He found out he had a knack for 2 in grade

three when Mrs. Cormier assigned a one page creative short story for homework. He handed in a seventeen page diatribe complete with pictures and directions. Since then, his work in film has earned 7 awards, 30 nominations and 34 official selections. It's taken him all around the world. Even some Oscar qualifying film festivals. His work has sold "to the TV" (as his dad says). His team and he raised over 30K USD on Indiegogo for a project. That was friggin cool! Currently, Mazi is serving as story editor and writer for season 4 of CBC's hit series, Coroner. There are a few labels that he uses to describe himself: storyteller, creator, refugee and empath come to mind. He is most at peace while creating. Whether that be privately, such as working on a script. Collaboratively, such as in a writers room with a roster of fellow creatives or on set as a director, leading a team of artisans and technicians. He's even been known to produce here and there. He can speak to the point of view of a person who's learned to straddle two very different cultures and grown up in an uber ethnic, urban, low income environment. Other than working on his own projects he tries to associate himself with other creators who he respects and admires, such as the time he was Director's Assistant to Sarah Polley as well as the marketing campaign he helped execute for a Terry Gilliam film.



lan Mark Kimanje

Writer, Director, Producer and Co-Founder, Film Garage North



FILM GARAGE North Inc.'s main goal is creating quality broadcast content for diverse audiences. We aim to market culture, provide employment, and economically empower communities and individuals through our media productions. Past clients include: CBC, PBS, National Geographic, Mnet Africa, Facebook, and TVO. https:// filmgaragestudios.org/north/

Ian Mark Kimanje is a Writer, Director/Producer who prides himself as a product of mentorship from mostly powerful women, from his own mom to Mira Nair. With a multitude of experience in Product Marketing, Commercial branding and Content Production. Over his years in the industry, having worked in Africa, Australia, Europe and North America, he has directed and produced content for the likes of Mnet Africa, Facebook, Heineken beer, Microsoft and many broadcasters such as National Geographic, PBS, TVO, and his 2020 film, "lockdown baby" for CBC.



Eric Lafalaise

Producer & Filmmaker, Red Brand Studios



Writer for Kinoreal film blog (http://kino-real.com). Artist, photographer, intellect, arts manager, scientist, filmmaker, and all-around (left-right) brain nut. Producer of several short films through the production company Red Brand Studios (http://redbrandstudios.com). Metropolis, our first fiction Web series (8 eps, 15mns), was accepted to the Makila Incubator this year and placed top 8 at the Fonds TV5 in 2019. Also pitching other projects : ethereal, a transcendent sci-fi feature, and Blood, an apocalyptic horror series.



Kristen Lambie

Screenwriter/Creative Producer, Colrize Productions



Kristen Lambie is a Jamaican/Canadian writer, actress, and creative producer who has worked in front of, as well as behind the camera, in a variety of independent film and television projects. Kristen has a Master of Arts in Media Production from Ryerson University and an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Film Studies with a specialization in Film Production from Wilfrid Laurier University. Spending almost a third of her life growing up in Jamaica, Kristen has a yearning to bring

that culture into the mainstream of television and film. Kristen strives to tell stories about her experiences as a woman of the Caribbean/African Diaspora, including topics of identity, belonging, and her Jamaican culture. She is now taking the next step into a career behind the camera by honing her skills as a writer and producer.



JP Larocque

Writer, Producer, and Journalist



Alongside recent work on CBC's Coroner, JP has written on CTV's JANN, CBC's Diggstown, Netflix's Another Life, Shudder's Slasher, and is creator and executive producer of the OUTtv digital series Gay Nerds. As a journalist, JP has bylines in The Toronto Star, The Walrus, Maclean's, Xtra, The Beaverton, and Flare. A proud member of both the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities, JP is committed to diversity and inclusion in all of their work.

www.jplarocque.com



Arnold Lim

Director, Blue Lake Films



Korean-Canadian director Arnold Lim won Telefilm's Talent to Watch grant twice, winning the national feature film grant to direct his first feature film All-in Madonna which premiered at the Whistler Film Festival in 2020. He was also awarded BravoFACT, Harold Greenberg's Short's to Features and B.C. Arts Council grants and was a graduate of the National Screen Institute's Feature's First Program.



Raquel Lopez Bouganin

VP, Chief Content Officer, Landslide Entertainment



Raquel has over a decade of experience in the film, television and digital media industries. Born in Mexico City, Raquel immigrated to Canada and graduated from University of Regina's Film and Media program. Raquel has worked on several documentaries, animated shows and digital media projects. She is the creator, writer and co-director of the children's animated series, Louis Says (52x11), which airs on APTN and Citytv Saskatchewan. She currently manages her Saskatchewan-based production

company, Landslide Entertainment where she and her husband develop and produce original content for the Canadian and international markets.



Dianne Mahoney

Writer/Director, WUIf Noir Media



Dianne Lopez-Mahoney is an actor/writer/director from Edmonton, AB. She has worked on various commercials, music videos and films including a Telus Optik TV webseries and numerous Telus STORYHIVE funded projects, four of which she directed and five that she co-produced. In 2018, Dianne was chosen to participate as a Junior Writer with the Writers Room for an undisclosed new TV series for APTN. She was nominated for an AMPIA Rosie in 2019 for her work in "The Legend of Mindi". She

was also selected as one of the 25 finalists across Canada for the 2019 Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices for her original concept "Out of This World" and has been selected as one of the participants of the Reel World Emerging 20 Program for her feature film "Disconnected". A short film she directed, "Like Right Now", was one of the 9 finalists in the 2019 CBC Short Film Face Off. In 2020, she was recognized as a recipient by the Alberta Media Arts Alliance (AMAAS) for her musical short film "Where or When" and by Women in Television and Film Alberta (WIFTA) for her concept "Kaze no Denwa".



Arantza Maldonado Trejo

Producer, Faits Divers Media



Arantza Maldonado first worked as Assistant to Producers and Line Producer in independent productions in Europe and Canada. Later on, she joined Tungsten visual, a young production company where she collaborated as Line Producer in web brand films, a short-film, (You're driving me crazy) and an interactive webseries (Fréquences), finalist at Numix 2013. After her collaboration as an Associate Producer for the mobile game Modern Combat 4 developed by Gameloft, she became an associate at Faits

Divers Média. In 2020, she produced her first feature documentary film Havana, from on high (Pedro Ruiz, 80 min.), winner at Canadian Screen Awards for Best Cinematography. Her ample background enlarges her expertise and understanding of media production.


Abdul Malik

Director of Development, Fae Pictures



I'm an award-winning journalist and a screenwriter, and come from a family of Pakistani immigrants. I studied and received a degree in Film Production from York University. I'm a nascent, but prolific writer, whose original scripts have helped land development and production funding, as well as writer-for-hire work. In addition to working as a journalist and story editor, I've previously worked as a photographer who was awarded the 2019 Banff Centre for the Arts photography residency. The combination of

my screenwriting, journalism and visual storytelling, has helped me advance my career. Most recently, I penned PEACE BY CHOCOLATE, a Telefilm-financed biopic of Tareq Haddad, a Syrian refugee who built a chocolate factory in Nova Scotia, which is premiering at the 2021 Tribeca film festival. I currently have several projects in development. My focus is largely telling interesting and genre stories around groups that have been marginalized in mainstream media, informed heavily by my background as a journalist and my own cultural upbringing.



P.J. Marcellino

Producer/Director, Anatomy of Restlessness Films



P.J. MARCELLINO (cmpa | dgc) is an award-winning Cape Verdean-Canadian producer/director, and part of the 2021 cohort of the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative. Having spent over a decade building an international portfolio as a journalist, researcher, and then as a senior political advisor with international agencies, he pivoted to film after graduating from Seneca College's Documentary Filmmaking Institute in 2012.

He is the founder/CEO of Anatomy of Restlessness Films, and a co-founder and Head of Development at Baobab Film Collective, an ensemble of African filmmakers developing Afrocentric TV content for international audiences.

Marcellino's first mid-length documentary, AFTER THE WAR: MEMOIRS OF EXILE (2014) was shortlisted for a 2015 SAMHSA Voice Award, an Obama-Biden White House initiative recognizing mental health stories on screen. His debut feature was the critically acclaimed WHEN THEY AWAKE (2017), which he produced and co-directed with Hermon Farahi (KNOCK DOWN THE HOUSE). It premiered on the opening night gala of the Calgary International Film Festival, as one of the flagships on Telefilm's Movie Nights Across Canada and it would go on to screen in over 60 festivals around the world, garnering awards and nominations along the way. He has produced an array of other factual content and formats in Canada and beyond.

Marcellino holds degrees in International Politics/Economics and is a graduate of the 2020 cohort of WIFTo/Bell Media's Media Leadership Program (MLP) at the Schulich School of Business. He is a voting member of the Portuguese and Canadian Academies, and sat on the 2021 Prix Gémeaux Grand Jury. He's also affiliated with the Documentary Organization of Canada, the Directors Guild of Canada—representing the Directors Caucus on the Diversity Committee at DGC Ontario—and the Canadian Media Producers Association, where he sits in both its diversity committee (REDIAC), the Documentary Committee, and the Kids & Animation Committee.

He's a Rigoberta Menchú Social Award recipient and an alum of Geena Davis' BFF Foundation's Filmmakers Retreat.



Chelsey Mark

Actor, Writer, Filmmaker



Chelsey Mark is a Manitoban Chinese/Metis mixedheritage actor, writer, and filmmaker. He has booked roles on Amazon Prime's Tales from the Loop (2019), CBC's Burden of Truth (2019), APTN's Tribal (2019) and feature film The First Encounter (2019). Chelsey was selected for the Whistler Indigenous Fellowship at the Whistler Film Festival (2019) with his short The Callback. The Callback received funding (2020) from the Winnipeg Film Group and is in post-production. During Covid-19 quarantine Chelsey

solo filmed a comedy short I am Covid-19 (2020). Under the mentorship of Eva Thomas received funding from the Canada Council of the Arts and the Winnipeg Arts Council to write the 1st draft of his feature film Skate like a Girl. Chelsey was selected for the Foundations of Purpose Leadership Intensive at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (2020) and was one of the five finalists in the Gimli Film Festivals RBC Pitch Competition (2020). His short Vengeance (2020) Won Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Actor in the Winnipeg Film Groups 48-hour film competition. Chelsey rounded out 2020 with roles on Cheerleader Abduction (2020), Snow Kissed (2020) and a Covid-19 PSA for the province of Manitoba.



Andy Marshall

Writer/Producer, Mahaica Point Media



I am actively pursuing three avenues in the film and television industry: actor, writer, producer. I am a dual citizen - Canada/USA. As a producer, I attended the Canadian Film Centre's Producers Lab, and produced several short films before creating and being the Creative Producer on a one-hour drama, Soul. It starred Keshia Chanté and Eli Goree. Here is the link to the first episode. https://youtu.be/428EbVygfTI Soul was my first produced writing effort. Since then, I have written and pitched

several shows and feature films. I am excited to be pitching four projects at BANFF this year, three of which I have created or co-created, two of which I have written, and one that I am only producing. Please see my Projects for details. I started as an actor many years ago. I have just completed filming a lead role in the movie Verona. Here is the link to my acting reel.

https://youtu.be/DJwM5XDge84



Vanessa Mitchell

Producer/Actress, Madden & Mitchell Media



Vanessa has worked in the film and television industry for over 10 years as an actress appearing recently in Self Made, The Key To Christmas and Working Moms. However a few years ago, seeing the lack of stories being told about Black Canadians and across the Black diaspora, she felt the strong desire to create content that explored stories about the black experience and create more opportunities for artists of colour. A few years ago, Vanessa co- founded Madden & Mitchell Media and began her journey as a

producer. In 2016, MMM co-produced their first project in association with EMG, a short film called Truth. This further ignited a passion within Vanessa to produce more impactful content for the screen. Three years ago, upon doing research on Black Canadian historical stories, she came across the story of civil rights activist and journalist, Carrie Best. It was there, the creation of That Lonesome Road became a passion project. In 2019, Vanessa was selected as a participant for the Reelworld Film Festival's Emerging 20 program. That Lonesome Road is currently in the development phase as a four-part TV mini series and will be co-produced with Jennifer Holness of Hungry Eyes Media (Subjects of Desire), directed by Sudz Sutherland (Ginny & Georgia) and written by Lawrence Hill (Book of Negros). Vanessa is excited to bring That Lonesome Road to the Banff World Media Festival and to be a participant this year in the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative Fellowship.



Helena Morgane

Director-Writer & Actor, Gold Water Media



Helena Morgane is an Afro-European multidisciplinary artist, performer and filmmaker based in North America, committed to the craft and support of complex intersectional storytelling. She is an alumni of The Barrow Group, the Maria Psomas Studio(Chubbuck), Black Women Film! Canada and the BANFF x Netflix Diversity Of Voices Initiative. A prolific creative and polyglot, she works globally, having collaborated with organizations such as Interscope, Top Dawg Entertainment, Black Square,

Shopify, BIPOC TV & Film, NIA Centre for the Arts, Sisterhood Media and artists like Kendrick Lamar and Drake. Her work has screened at international festivals, and has been funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, Artscape and the Indigenous Screen Office. Helena was a TEDx Speaker Coordinator, and as the Associate Programmer for TIFF Rising Stars 2020, she had the pleasure of hosting mentorship sessions with David Oyelowo, Tantoo Cardinal and the Casting Society of America. This summer, she will facilitate Workman Arts' upcoming "If You Ask Me" Program supporting emerging filmmakers with mental health and/or addiction experiences. Helena's development slate includes her Creativity & Wellness podcast and various premium Film and TV projects like her comedy-infused crime series "SQUAD" (MACRO Episodic Lab semi-finalist, powered by MACRO, The Blacklist, Lena Waithe and Eva Longoria ; Regent Park Film Fest x ACTRA Lab Winner).

For more information: www.helenamorgane.com/indevelopment



Reem Morsi Writer/Director/Producer, Scarab Films



Reem Morsi is an Egyptian/Canadian writer/director/ producer. She worked as a professional scuba diving then a human rights officer at the United Nations and other International Organizations for a decade prior to becoming a filmmaker. Reem's first feature film as a writer/director/ producer, HYSTERIA, is a Telefilm Talent to Watch project currently in post-production (with support from the CFC/ Netflix Accelerator Program & the Canada Arts Council) to be released early 2021. She is also currently in post-

production on her second feature film, the action/drama "The Last Mark", February 2021. Morsi's feature film script, BOOTLEG, received the Rainin scriptwriting grant/ the San Francisco Film Society (2016) & won the Telefilm Canada New Voices Award at the Toronto Screenwriters Conference in 2017 and is currently in development. She was selected as one of 10 participants at the Berlinale Script Lab 2018, and both herself and her project BOOTLEG were especially highlighted at the Berlinale Talents Opening Ceremony and throughout the program. Following that, Reem & Bootleg participated at Realness Pan African Screenwriting Residency (Summer 2018). Morsi's film credits include THEIR FEAST (2012 TIFF, BBC, Cine Sud), NOSTALGIA (2015 – WIFTV), THE DOOR (Whistler, 2016 & Best Drama at 2017 Yorkton Film Festival, Audience Choice Award & Best Screenplay at WIFT Showcase 2018), SHOW & TELL (2016), which won the WIFT/BravoFact pitch competition & Golden Sheaf Awards for Best Director, Best Short Subject & Best Emerging Director (Yorkton Film Festival, 2017). Reem also won the Canadian National Genre Competition by WIFTV for her series sci/fi genre concept, FISH. Morsi has participated in the Berlinale Talents & Script Station (2012 & Bootleg 2018) & TIFF (2016) Talent Labs, CFC's Directors' & WIDC Director's labs in 2014/2015. Morsi is a recipient of The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television inaugural Apprenticeship Program for Female Directors, through which she shadowed the director of THE HANDMAID'S TALE on a block of two episodes. She has also been chosen as a participant of Women in View's 2xMore 2017 Director's Lab, where she shadowed on two episodes and directed an episode of Sinking Ship Entertainment series DINO DANA (TVOKids/Amazon Prime). She has also written/directed an episode of MY PERFECT LANDING (Family Channel/Netflix).

Link to drama/comedy showreel: https://vimeo.com/461900349



Cathryn Naiker

Writer



A few years ago, Cathryn Naiker decided to leave her career to follow her dreams of becoming a comedy writer, comedian, and according to the British Journal of Psychiatry, completely out of her mind. But the risk has paid off. Currently, she is writing for the new series Son Of A Critch premiering on CBC later this year. Previously Cathryn has written for This Hour Has 22 Minutes, she was the writers' room Script Coordinator for The Mr. D Show, Writer for The Beaverton Season 2, and contributor

for their website. She has also been a writing consultant for the popular YouTube Channel ASAPScience. Cathryn is also a proud alumnus of The Writers Guild of Canada & Bell Media Diverse Screenwriters program. She also wrote and costarred in the IPF funded web series Dhaliwal '15 with YouTube star Jus Reign. As a comedian, she has been accepted to the Women In Comedy Festival (WICF Boston) and performed at top comedy festivals such as JFL42, Just For Laughs Pitch at your own risk & JFLZoo fest, Gilda's Club Laugh Fest, She Dot (Toronto 3 years in a row), Border City Comedy Fest, Brantford Comedy Fest, and NXNE to name a few. She is an in-demand performer in Canada's comedy scene and continues to pursue her goals of hilarious domination.



Gio Olmos

Filmmaker



Gio Olmos was born in Mexico City and immigrated to Montreal in 2006. They graduated from the film production program at Concordia University in 2018. Their film Silvia in the Waves (2017) was Vimeo staff picked and selected by more than 40 festivals. In 2017, they filmed Dulce Hogar guerilla style in their hometown. The resulting film went on to win Best Foreign Director at the BFI Future Film Festival in 2019. The writing of their upcoming short film won a SODEC's Development grant in 2019. Since 2018, Gio

has been a programming assistant of Montreal's Afroqueer Film Festival, Massimadi. In 2019, they sat on the jury of the 32nd edition of Montreal's Image+Nation Film Festival. In 2020, their script Windowpane was awarded the Writers Guild of Canada prize after being selected as one of seven contestants in the Sprint for Your Script competition organized by SODEC.



Tanis Parenteau

Producer/Actor, TDEP Productions



Tanis Parenteau is a producer/actor and a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta (Cree). TV: Billions, FBI: Most Wanted, Designated Survivor, House of Cards. NYC: The Public Theater, Signature Theater, 59E59 Theaters. Regional: Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Tanis does voice over work and narrates audiobooks for Penguin Random House, Audible, Hachette, and Simon & Schuster. She is on the Red House Studios team developing a series titled Red House and has a podcast called "Not Invisible: Native

Womxn on the Frontlines", in which Tanis is co-host. She is on the SAG-AFTRA National Native Americans Committee and is the Tribal Liaison at Alter Theater. Master of Fine Arts in Acting from The New School for Drama.

www.tanisparenteau.com



Giorgio Picone

Actor, Humanaty Studios



2022 is set out to be the most anticipated body of work Giorgio has released to date. Skilled in both film and music, his mission is Xponential. "I'm here to make music, movies and major moves. The X in my name is a symbol of power that everyone has within them. I'm here to spark that inner power in people so they can join me at the top. It's all about HUMANATY!" Born in Canada of Lebanese & Italian descent, Giorgio is no stranger to diversity. Finishing high school in Sri Lanka, here is where his love

for the arts began. Scoring the lead role in his school musical, this was his first time acting and singing. Somewhat foreshadowing his career as he went on to graduate with a Theatre Performance degree back in Montreal. Having a love for music and film, Giorgio began writing poetry at age 14 "I used to freestyle before classes to get pumped. I hate school man, always have, but music and films made it bearable. If I'm not acting, I'm making music". Although he struggled, he was determined to take it to the next level. "I'm too cool for theatre and too hippy for business, so I did what lost souls do. I went to LA". California was eye opening and a critical moment in his life. Here is where Hollywood became a very achievable reality "We had the craziest parties man. David Dobrik, Lil Mosey, 6ix9ine, Iil Jufu, hundreds of influencers came through to party. It was crazy". Ever since, Giorgio has been working relentlessly and preparing for a major introduction to the world. "If I'm not creating, I'm sleeping. I'm here to architect my future and expand my life. On all levels". Let's connect!



Richard Pierre

Writer, Afro Flix



Richard B. Pierre is an award-winning multiracial Black filmmaker who has written and directed over a dozen shorts that have been broadcast globally and screened in festivals worldwide. His work tackles a range of genres and subject matter; most recently focussing on race. His first documentary "What Are You?" was nominated for a 2020 Golden Sheaf Award. His newest fiction short, "An Uninvited Guest" won BEST THRILLER at the 2020 HollyShorts Film Festival and is nominated for a 2021

Golden Sheaf Award for best short subject fiction.



Atul Rao

President, RaoRao



Atul's expertise has been utilized to develop original and branded properties in the international markets and currently shares his knowledge as a Professor at Mohawk College. Recently was a writer on two new Netflix series, "Ghee Happy" while developing/writing/story-editing a new show for Mattel, (TBA) now in production. In recent years Atul has written and/or developed TV shows for majors such as NBC Kids, Disney Channel, Marvel, Cartoon Network, Discovery Channel, Mattel and Netflix. Atul N.

Rao is a writer/producer and performer for theatre, television and feature film in Toronto, Los Angeles, and India. Starting as a staff writer at Nelvana, he wrote for hits such as Babar, Carebears, Beetlejuice and Tintin. Atul toured with children's theatre and later joined a successful Toronto comedy troupe, "The Lost Tribe" as head writer/performer. Next was national television - 4 years as writer, producer and on-air performer for YTV. Atul moved to Los Angeles when Fox Family Worldwide hired him to be Co-Executive Producer of their Interstitial programming. Atul co-produced and co-created four live-action hosted shows for Fox. Atul later cocreated and developed concepts and pilots for Nick, Warner Brothers and Cartoon Network. In 2002, Atul was recruited to Toonz Media Group in senior management where he helped them transform from a service company to international producer. Atul produced a series for Marvel Animation, "Wolverine & the X-Men". Prior to that, Atul produced a series for Disney Channel Asia, "Legends". In addition, Atul writes freelance scripts for hit TV shows such as "League of Super Evil" and MARVEL'S "Super Hero Squad", "Wolverine". He also wrote Teletoon's "1001 Nights", "Apollo's Pad", Disney's "Ella the Elephant", NBC's "Nina's World" and "Transformers: Rescue Bots."



Laura Rivera

Writer, Laura Rivera Art



Laura Rivera was born and raised in the Sonoran desert where she started drawing as soon as she could hold a pencil. This Mexican young lady won a scholarship to study Digital Arts: Film Animation in Arizona, where she directed many short films and animated a short video. After graduation, she went on to share her knowledge as a middle school art teacher in Mexico for four years. During this period, she also taught character design and writing panels at conventions such as Phoenix Comic Con, won

awards in costuming and started writing/drawing her webcomic "1126", which ended in August 2020, among other one shot comics. One of her scripts awarded her a scholarship for Vancouver Film School's Writing for Film and Television program, where she produced more short films. Eventually she also joined the Classical Animation program and graduated with honors. Laura now works as a freelance artist and writer with credits in Netflix's "Club de Cuervos" and Channel Frederator's "101 Facts About". She also teaches drawing, painting, comics and animation at the Richmond Art Center and works as a daycare assistant while writing and illustrating her new graphic novel project "Ninja X".



Chris Robinson

Comedian, Actor, Writer



Chris Robinson began his career as a stand up comedian by attending the Humber College, Comedy Writing and Performance program. After graduating and winning The Billy Crystal Sketch Comedy Award, he continued to pursue his passion by performing as much as possible. As an accomplished stand up comic, Chris has performed at the most prestigious comedy festival in the world, Just For Laughs in Montreal, where he placed runner-up in the homegrown competition for up and coming acts. Later he

was selected as the winner of the Sirius XM Top Comic competition; taking home the \$25,000 top prize. As an actor, Chris has made appearances on CBC's Workin' Moms and Baroness Von Sketch Show, Amazon's The Boys and Netflix's Madame CJ Walker. Now Magazine described him as having "charisma and raw talent to burn." Currently, Mr. Robinson is developing multiple television shows while trying to stay sane, homeschooling his four year old son. You can listen to his solo comedy album Gut Bussa Vol 1. on all streaming platforms.



Justice Rutikara

Filmmaker



Originally from Rwanda, Justice grew up in Quebec City. Passionate about visual arts, acting and then the 7th art, he participated in the creation or played in several professional projects, in theater and cinema. A graduate in International Studies at the Université de Montréal, he chose to devote himself to writing and directing cinematographic works with the desire to explore the beauty, the absurdity and the diversity of the human experience through his concept of "harmonic chaos". His

works have earned him the 2018 Emerging Talent Award at the Run for the Regions of Canada, and a nomination as Best Director of the Year at the 2020 Dynasty Gala. Currently, Justice is directing many projects such as a medium-length documentary film (The City of Others), an animated documentary (On the 7th day), and a short fiction podcast (The Ranger).



Anjali Sandhu

Writer, Actor, Comedian



Anjali Sandhu is a Winnipeg-based writer, actor, comedian and recent law grad. Anjali wrote and performed the one-woman show, I'm Not Taylor Swift, which received four stars from the Winnipeg Free Press. She also wrote and performed the short film, If I Could Go Back, which was featured on CBC's Comedy page. Her short film, Moving Parts debuted at the WNDX Film Festival in 2017. Additionally, she wrote and performed Flight 182, which was featured in Sarasvati Productions' Cabaret of

Monologues, and toured across Manitoba. Anjali has acted both on stage and on screen. Most notably, she played Eszter Vand in CBC legal drama Burden of Truth. In addition to her work in the entertainment industry, Anjali graduated from UofM's Faculty of Law in 2020 and was her Class Valedictorian.



Mostafa Shaker

Writer/Producer, Bow N' Air Entertainment



Mostafa Shaker is a comedian, writer, actor and producer based out of Vancouver, BC. Starting his career in Cairo, Egypt as a theatre actor and on-stage performer, in 2018, Mostafa made his transition into Films and TV to pursue his dream of creating entertaining content for global audiences. After having moved to Canada, he has worked as a production manager on the Opera Network's The Real Houses of... and produced a number of independent shorts, commercials and limited web series called Thank

you for Ghosting. He has acted in over 30 Independent Canadian short films, the latest being Is This a Date (Winner of Best Comedy Award at the 2020 Florence Film Awards). Mostafa has been expressing his artistic voice through projects that reflect his immigrant experience. His most recent project, Full Disclosure is a dramacomedy TV series (in development), is inspired by his real life experiences as a gay person of color, living and working in Canada. As a lead writer on this project he hopes to inspire gay Muslim people from around the world to share their story.



lan Steaman

Writer



lan Steaman is a reformed music industry executive turned award-winning screenwriter who worked with many charttopping and critically acclaimed artists — from De La Soul, Queen Latifah, and Naughty by Nature to Kelis, Big Boi of Outkast, and T-Pain — while working at record labels in New York. Most recently, lan just wrapped up a stint in the writer's room for the marblemedia-produced shows, 'The Parker Andersons' and 'Amelia Parker' as Story Editor and developing the workplace comedy, 'DEADSTOCK' with CBC

Television. He is also working on 'TRAP CITY,' an hour-long character drama which began its life while he was a resident at the Canadian Film Centre in the 2019 Bell Media Prime Time TV Program and 'SHINE,' an hour-long drama set in the world of the Toronto hip-hop industry. Currently he is an Executive Story Editor on the halfhour family comedy, 'TAKE NOTE' for NBC's Peacock TV streaming platform.



Weiye Su

Documentary Director



Chinese-Canadian documentary director, Weiye Su studied cinema at the University of Regina, winning acclaim for his student films Evelyn and I (2017), and My World Is No Longer the World I Knew (2018). He recently directed NFB production documentaries, Jia (2020), Passage Beyond Fortune (in production). Weiye aims to tell cultural and personal stories about family and home that evoke new understandings about the society. After graduation, Weiye continued to pursue his passion in photography

and abstract painting. His art photograph, "Mountain I", won the Jurors' Pick in LensCulture Art Photography Awards 2021.



Sina Sultani

Writer | Director | Producer, Photocell Productions



Sina is an award winning writer/director and a member of the Producers Guild of America based in Vancouver, BC. Currently serving as a Production Manager with Sony Imageworks, his films and screenplays have earned over 70 awards and received funding by the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Edmonton Arts Council with official selections including the Boston Sci-Fi Festival, the Canada International Film Festival and the Oscar-qualifying LA Shorts Festival.

With over 10 feature credits including Aquaman (2018), Pokemon: Detective Pikachu (2019) and most recently, Space Jam: A New Legacy (2021), his experience working on large-budget Hollywood productions has informed the way he writes, directs and navigates complex budgets and timelines.



Ildiko Susany

Producer, Writer, Director, Actor, KoKo Productions



Ildiko Susany is an actor and filmmaker based in Vancouver, Canada. She is a NETFLIX-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative 2021 participant. Marley, Someone is her debut indie feature film as producer, writer, director, and actor. Check out: marleysomeone.com. She is currently developing a 30-min revenge comedy series, PAs. Ildiko is the Script & Clearance Coordinator on Virgin River S4. She was the Script Coordinator and Producer's Assistant on Psych the Movie 3: This is Gus. Ildiko has been the Line

Producer's Assistant on Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist S1 & S2 and Deadly Class S1. She has worked on set on Travellers S3, UnREAL S4, Ice S2 and more. As an actor, Ildiko has appeared in Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist (NBC), Lost in Space (Netflix), and Deadly Class (Syfy). Ildiko has performed on almost every major stage in Australia, performing for the Bell Shakespeare Company, Darlinghurst Theatre Company, and Don't Look Away/Redline Productions. She has also worked in various short films, web series, commercials and voice overs. Ildiko wrote The Day the Galaxy Inevitably Exploded and Died which was shortlisted in Queensland Theatre Company's Young Playwright's Program. She produced and performed in this play for Backbone Youth Arts' 2high Festival and the Sydney Fringe Festival where it was nominated for the Best of Theatre Award. Ildiko graduated with distinction from a Bachelor of Theatre Arts - Acting degree from the University of Southern Queensland. She was a recipient of a Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship to train at the Atlantic Acting School (NYC), The Second City (Chicago) and Bramon Garcia Braun (LA). In Australia, she has been a core member and social media manager of the Women in Theatre & Screen (WITS) and a committee member of the Equity Diversity Committee. As an actor, Ildiko Susany is represented by Kendra Naka at The Characters Talent Agency.



Sami Tesfazghi

Producer, Inferno Pictures



As a young child growing up in war torn Eretria, Sami always dreamed of one day working in the film and television industry. He spent over a decade living and studying in Europe. Sami along with his family settled in Canada where he went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Winnipeg. Sami's passion for making movies led him to an internship with Inferno Pictures. Since joining Inferno Pictures on a full time basis over a decade ago, Sami is responsible for overseeing all

of Inferno's development activities. Sami has executive produced and produced numerous feature films and television movies including Cinema of Sleep, Percy, The Parts You Lose, How It Ends and Incident in a Ghostland. Sami is currently in preproduction on the TV Series The Porter.



Kassia Ward

Animator, Creator, and Director, E.D. Films



Kassia Ward is an Indigenous artist who hails from the Enoch Cree First Nation, a community west of Edmonton, Alberta. She is an animator, creator, and director. Kassia's artistic inspiration comes from her schooling, traveling, photos, nature, vivid dreams, and her Indigenous Culture. After graduating from VanArts in 2018 with a diploma in 3D character animation, Kassia was chosen to take part in the 2019 Hot House 12 animation apprenticeship with the National Film Board of Canada, where she wrote, directed,

and animated a 1-minute short entitled "Collector", which is about the psychology of semi-private spaces and how it can lure people into thinking they are alone. "Collector" has been shown at film festivals such as Imagine Native, Spark Animation, and GIRAF. Kassia has also been chosen as a recipient of the 2020 Indigenous Screen Office/Netflix Indigenous Production Apprenticeship. Through this program, Kassia is currently working as an animation intern with E.D. Films, where she has gained production experience, and she has worked on her skills as an animator and digital artist. In 2021, Kassia received a development grant from the ISO for a project based on her family history, and she was also selected to be part of the Banff World Media Festival as part of the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative where she will participate in a professional development curriculum and network with key industry professionals.



Marc Whiteway

Media Producer, Bellows Media



Marc Whiteway is a film and television writer/director, cinematographer, editor, and producer of mixed roots (Métis, Icelandic, Scottish). Marc has worked on awardwinning productions like Stephen Dunn's Swallowed (Cannes Short Film Corner, TIFF) and Hope Heights (Regent Park Film Festival, IMAs). In 2020, Marc directed and shot "For the Birds" – a short film starring iconic Canadian comedians Colin Mochrie and Deb McGrath, and theatre legends Tom McCamus and Chick Reid. Marc has worked

with numerous Canadian and international TV networks, including multiple seasons of CBC's hit Canadian late-night show George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight, TV5's Frères, Fusils, Festins, TFO's BRBR, and unis' environmental series Mission Verte. In 2012, Marc incorporated Bellows Media and has worked with clients that include Vice, Magnolia Pictures, CNN Films, OWN, Peacock, Apple Music, and Sesame Street.



Grant Willier

Writer



Grant Willier is a 28 year old aspiring first nations screenwriter from the Dene Tha First Nation (Treaty 8). He has experience working in locations, craft service, as well as production coordinating over the past 5 years. Currently striving to bring the most heartfelt and relatable first nations content on a global scale for everyone to enjoy.



Allison Wilson-Forbes

Writer, Consulting Producer, Write More



Allison Wilson-Forbes is a bi-coastal (LA/Toronto) midcareer multi-hyphenate writer-actor who recurred on Saving Hope and appeared on other Network shows like The Expanse, and the upcoming Y: The Last Man for FX. Looking to add TV writer to her resume she attended UCLA's TV writing program graduating just before the Pandemic hit. She's had a diverse professional journey that includes film festival manager and curator; short filmmaker; talent assistant for live events like the NHL

awards; story assistant for an Emmy award winning Doc; to lone scriptwriter for The Harry Jerome Awards. She has a knack for story analysis and thematic structure from her years in academia getting a Masters in Film. Most recently, she worked as a freelance writer/producer developing sizzles for media companies.



Amita Zamaan

Writer, Fig. 5 Productions



Amita is a member of the Writers Guild of Canada and has a sci-fi series, crime series, comedy series and a children's animated digital series on her development slate (it's been a very productive pandemic). She is currently working as a Creative Producer on 'The Great Canadian Baking Show' - the most wholesome and nerdy 'Canadian' show in the history of television. Amita's digital work as a producer/writer/director has been featured on Huffington Post, CTV, MTV, Briarpatch and Times of India. She wore

all three hats for her experimental IPF series "Dhaliwal' 15 starring Jus Reign as Canada's first POC candidate for Prime Minister. Amita is the 2020 recipient of the Harold Greenberg Fund for her feature script 'Weather Woman' which explores the climate crisis through a supernatural lens. As an intersectional storyteller, Amita's works inherently address underrepresentation, misrepresentations and erasures of important voices and stories in the film/television/digital arts industry. She is currently developing the intersectional comedy series 'Wake Me When It's Over' for television with her production company Fig. 5 Productions – it's based on her own life and it's a riot. It also has generous development support from the Indigenous Screen Office and Canada Media Fund. Amita's writing partner is her Schnoodle, "Mia", who eats better than her and has such a charmed life that it's disgusting.



Gabrielle Zilkha

Director/Producer, Four Corners Productions



Gabrielle Zilkha is an award-winning independent film director and producer with experience in long and shortform documentary, scripted shorts and branded content. Gabrielle has directed work for CBC (digital), Shaftesbury, Hollywood Suite, OUTtv and Vision TV. Her credits include writing and directed the essay-driven pop culture documentary feature Queering the Script (2019, Outfest - Special Programming Award) about the rise of queer fandom and LGBTQ+ representation on TV. Prior to this she

directed the feature documentary and its accompanying interactive project Doing Jewish: A Story From Ghana (2016) about a small lost Jewish tribe in rural Ghana. Her short comedy, Stop Calling Me Honey Bunny (2013), was shortlisted for the Iris Prize and the recipient of multiple audiences and jury awards. Gabrielle's work has been lauded for its mix of heart and humour and reviewed in The Hollywood Reporter, Entertainment Weekly, Huffington Post, Globe and Mail, Indiewire, and other notable media outlets. Passionate about equity and social justice, Gabrielle is deeply involved in equity and inclusion efforts in the entertainment industry and currently serves as part of the executive committee for IMPACT.



Tatiana Zinga Botao

Actress, Writer, and Director, TZB



Tatiana is a Congolese actress, writer and director who graduated from the Montreal Conservatory of Dramatic Art. As soon as she left school in 2014, she quickly stood out for her ardor and daring. Tatiana starred in Cinema, Theater and TV series. Tatiana directed her first short film with the NFB in October 2020 "SOL", and is the first corecipient of the La Forge / Netflix / Quebec Cinema grant 2020 in the development of a fictional feature film. She is currently studying writing at INIS. Her artistic approach

consists in decolonizing the arts, that is to say redefining conventions, moving barriers, and introducing new aesthetics.

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