

A M E R I C A N F I L M I N S T I T U T E

# SCREENWRITING SHOWCASE 2023 |

 AFI CONSERVATORY



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the AFI Conservatory 2023 Screenwriting Showcase, where we spotlight the talent of a diverse group of 35 Screenwriting Fellows. In this time of change and challenge, they have worked with exceptional Faculty Mentors to complete and share their film and TV projects with you. Thank you for being part of our Transition to Industry Program, which introduces Fellows into the business, as we celebrate them and their stories.

**Susan Ruskin**

AFI Conservatory Dean and Executive Vice President of AFI

During their intensely creative two and a half years at the AFI Conservatory, Screenwriting Fellows write at least five full-length scripts, both features and TV. They are mentored by a stellar group of screenwriting professionals, a team whose credits collectively number in the hundreds and who train these talented storytellers in rigorous small workshops, readying them to enter the film community as creators and collaborators.

The 35 AFI screenwriters of 2023 have met the extraordinary challenges of a world and industry that is going through profound changes by working harder than ever; they've produced compelling, emotional and hilarious scripts. Please reach out to them, read their work and get to know them.

**Anna Thomas**

AFI Screenwriting Discipline Head

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**B'ITHA ("EXPEDITION" IN ARABIC) | HALF-HOUR COMEDY**

Three Saudi students struggle to navigate college life, co-ed classes, and halal romances after coming to the U.S. on scholarships, post 9/11.

**THE ROWER | FEATURE – SPORTS DRAMA**

How do you fight with dignity and grace knowing that you can't win? An amateur Saudi rower enlists the help of a retired English coach in his relentless pursuit to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Inspired by a true story.

**BLIND TASTING | FEATURE – DRAMEDY**

After losing his job to a DUI, a success-driven banker and wine enthusiast is forced to teach finance to a bunch of community college students. When he discovers the untapped potential in four of his students' palates, he turns them into championship wine tasters.

**DOSH ("FAULT" IN HINDI) | AFI PRODUCED SHORT – DRAMA  
CO-WRITER**

When her son's life is put at risk at a family ritual, a hard-of-hearing mother must decide how to seek help for her husband in order to keep her family safe.

**AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST NARRATIVE SHORT – TASVEER FILM FESTIVAL 2023**

[www.doshfilm.com](http://www.doshfilm.com)

**PUBLIC LANDS | HALF-HOUR WORKPLACE COMEDY**

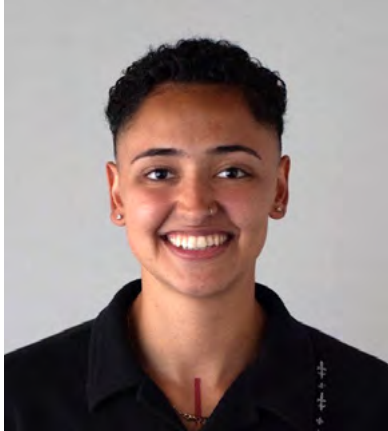
When right-wing conservative Latino Daniel Flores White is appointed to the obscure California State Lands Commission as a puppet for corporate interests, he must choose between remaining loyal to his corporate developer boss (who happens to be his ex-girlfriend) or protecting the Golden State from environmental chaos. In his pursuit to persuade extremist liberal commissioners, he instead finds himself challenging his own convictions.

**TEXAS HOLD 'EM | FEATURE – ROMANTIC COMEDY**

Julian, a gay hopeless romantic mariachi singer, plans to propose to his dreamboat jock boyfriend Gus during their Christmas vacation in Texas. But when Gus' disapproving sister Maritza gets wind of Julian's plans, she schemes to break up the couple by blackmailing Julian into stealing from a casino in exchange for her blessing.

**MEAN GOALS | FEATURE – SPORTS COMEDY**

Jesus, an adorkable elementary school teacher, joins a gay soccer team to bond with his ailing, homophobic father over their shared passion for the sport. Yet his desire to win his father's approval (and his childhood crush's love) is eclipsed by a new obsession once he discovers the team is filled with arrogant soccer gays: he must build a rival team to crush them at the Gay Games.



**THE WOMAN WHO NEVER CRIES | *HOURLONG BODY HORROR***

After receiving an unnecessary hysterectomy, a once-healthy, joyful woman develops gruesome sores and gashes around her body that only she can see. Desperate for answers and deemed crazy by her family and community, she sets off in search of the surgeon who has since disappeared, battling physical deterioration as her will for revenge grows.

**FLOOR 66 | *FEATURE – DYSTOPIAN ROMANCE***

In a soulless dystopian future, wherein humans are akin to robots and relationships are considered a threat to productivity, a cold, emotionless woman—the picture-perfect member of society—falls for her superior in her pursuit of a promotion, risking herself, her social standing, and the very thing that has defined her – her career.

**STACY'S MOM | *FEATURE – COMING-OF-AGE ROMANCE***

Determined to bring an end to her player-like ways, a college graduate returns home with plans to confess her love to her childhood best friend. But when her friend moves away with a new boyfriend, the graduate initiates an affair with that very friend's mom, only for her one true love to return home just days later.



**CATCHLIGHT | ONE-HOUR HISTORICAL DRAMA**

A daring young woman in 1950s L.A. sets out to change the world as a photojournalist, but her harrowing weekly assignments are a breeze compared to a domineering boss, newsroom machismo, and her own brassy ego.

**VAINGLORIOUS | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER**

A destitute and fastidious vodka maker lusting for the good life charms a wealthy couple into bankrolling his new distillery, but when sex, jealousy, and kidnapping enter the mix, he finds himself in a twisted nightmare of his own making.

**FAUSTO! | FEATURE – HISTORICAL THRILLER**

Italian Alps, WWII – In the peaceful mountains far from the battlefield, a champion cyclist uses his charm and celebrity to smuggle rebel documents in his bicycle frame, but when his former coach joins the enemy, his race for victory becomes a battle of wills.

**PRAIRIE NOIR | FEATURE – CRIME THRILLER**

In the dead of winter, an isolated oilfield worker discovers the body of a murdered teen activist. A personal connection compels him to solve the crime, but first he must untangle a conspiracy among the prairie's reclusive communities and confront the scars of his past.



**STACKS | HALF-HOUR DRAMEDY**

A newly graduated, Black youth services librarian from the suburbs sets out to positively impact an underserved community while taking on a heavy workload, supervising unruly older staff, and trying to please a rigid boss. Inspired by a true story.

**GRAY MATTER | FEATURE – THRILLER**

Desperate to compete with artificial intelligence and receive recognition in his field, a Black neuroscientist leaves academia to develop a groundbreaking “smart drug” with a close friend, yet finds himself investigating a scandal that threatens his career and life.

**KINGS OF SAN ANTONIO | FEATURE – COMING-OF-AGE DRAMA**

1975. After promising a girl tickets to a concert, a timid and broke 15-year-old boy takes a job in his flashy father’s popular and groundbreaking record store, but the real work is in mending their broken relationship. Inspired by a true story.

**BETWEEN STORMS | FEATURE – DRAMA**

After a hurricane destroys his home, a discontented retiree seeks the means to a better life by linking up with a young father and son crime duo, yet must keep his plans from his no-nonsense wife.



**LA PAPESSA (THE FEMALE POPE) | ONE-HOUR DRAMA/THRILLER**

Going undercover as a nun to rescue her missing girlfriend, a fearless teenage girl infiltrates the Catholic Church and tugs on the thread of a sinister conspiracy that snakes all the way up to the Vatican.

**THE DOLL HOSPITAL | FEATURE – HORROR**

Summoned to Rome after her estranged mother's death, a non-religious young woman inherits an apartment and discovers a demonic secret lurking within its walls – a secret that has been guarded for centuries by the Vatican and by her own bloodline.

**THE ANGEL'S GAMBIT | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER**

A grieving Catholic mother makes a Faustian bargain with the wrong Angel to resurrect her son but is unaware that to honor the deal, she must commit a string of murders – all in the name of God.

**THE GARDEN OF EDETTE | AFI PRODUCED SHORT – HORROR  
CO-WRITER**

Bonded to a flesh-eating garden for centuries, a weary Creole woman unexpectedly befriends the garden's next victim and must choose between sacrificing her newfound friend or disappointing her cherished garden.

<https://vimeo.com/866176034>

Password: bewarethegarden





**FABI | HALF-HOUR COMEDY**

BARRY meets DEXTER. Years after making the hard choice of leaving his girlfriend and newborn baby for their safety, a top detective fighting organized crime in Mexico City is drawn back into his son's life when he discovers the kid is showing sociopathic tendencies. He will do everything to shield his son from the criminal world and the quirky demons brewing inside his brain.

**GHOST IN OUR BLOOD | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR**

While exploring her grandfather's house, an anxiety-driven woman discovers a mysterious portal leading thirty years into the past, where she encounters her long-lost aunt. As she delves deeper into her aunt's disappearance, she unravels the haunting truth behind the deep-rooted trauma that has plagued her family for decades.

**BROTHERS | FEATURE – DRAMA**

Guilt-ridden by his brother's misfortune, a kid helps his neuro-atypical brother adapt to a group of friends their age to keep him out of a mental health hospital. He faces a Mexican system ill-equipped for the mentally troubled, as well as a struggling mother in denial of having an atypical son.

**INVOLVUNT | FEATURE – THRILLER**

Eager to make her mark in Hollywood, a naive and talented young actress secures her breakthrough role, only to discover that the manipulative director exploits her Method acting abilities to satisfy his inconsolable longing for his deceased wife, leaving her trapped in a harrowing web of emotional manipulation and deceit.



**ROBYN | ONE-HOUR DRAMA**

A modern-day adaptation of Robin Hood set in the world of Brooklyn's Black elite. When the daughter of a mayoral candidate discovers that her tough-on-crime father is funding a private prison, she resolves to right her family's wrongs by stealing from the rich to give to the poor...without destroying everything they have built.

**AS ON EARTH | FEATURE – FAMILY DRAMA**

On the brink of the sale of her beloved late grandfather's farm, a defiant teenager battles with her mother to save it, but in the process, uncovers flaws about him that lead her to question his legacy.

**BROWNSTONE | FEATURE – MYSTERY DRAMA**

When his older brother returns from prison, an aimless high school senior attempts to repair his brother's damaged reputation by proving his innocence, both in the community, and to their father...the police captain who arrested him.



## **THE EAST WITTERING FUN CLUB** | *HALF-HOUR COMEDY*

Inspired by my stately, British grandma – this is a typical British comedy, set in a typical English village, at a typical weekly social club... except everyone is a nudist.

## **A RAVEN IN THE WOODS** | *Y. A. SERIES – ANIMATED SPOOKY COMEDY*

Once upon a midnight dreary, a young and scared Edgar Poe sets out on a quest to save his sickly brother Alan. But the Night is a dark and terrifying place, and unfortunately, most of those terrors are just waiting for Edgar to pass by. (A monster of the week show, with just enough scary to scare kids.)

## **JUST SAY SORRY** | *FEATURE – COMEDY*

First rule of P.R. – you can lie, just don't get lied to. When Jess Wright, a low-level spin doctor, discovers her only client has kept her in the dark – she'll have four hours to piece together the truth, spin it to the masses, and somehow save both a Governor's career and her own.

## **GORDON** | *AFI PRODUCED SHORT – COMEDY*

### *WRITER*

A lonely old man stumbles into an arcade to find a claw machine, where the grand prize is... a kitten. But does Gordon have enough quarters to actually win himself a friend?

<https://tinyurl.com/gordonfilm>



**OPEN WOUNDS | ONE-HOUR MYSTERY/THRILLER**

In '90s Brazil, a headstrong evangelical mother and a former detective-turned-shaman forge an unlikely alliance to find her missing son. However, as their investigation uncovers startling secrets from the boy's hidden life, fears escalate that he has become a target of a serial killer.

**BOUND BY BLOOD | FEATURE – THRILLER/HORROR**

A mythomaniac scammer seeks revenge on the uncle who abandoned her to foster care and plots to seize his house in gentrifying Flatbush, Brooklyn. Little does she know, her uncle is entangled in a macabre business and hatches a deadly scheme against her.

**PRODIGAL SONS | FEATURE – MYSTERY/THRILLER**

A cunning Brazilian-American politician watches his bid for the GOP nomination be nearly derailed when his estranged, homeless father vanishes in Los Angeles. Now, he must help his idealistic half-brother to find their old man before this scandal shatters his campaign.



**THE FIRST 48: SINGLE VICTIMS UNIT | HALF-HOUR COMEDY**

In the gritty underbelly of the Los Angeles dating scene, we follow two Breakup Detectives as they battle the clock to uncover the truth behind gruesome splits, all while pursuing the identity of a serial f\*ckboy. "Because Heartbreak is a Felony Offense."

**DIGITAL NOMADS | HALF-HOUR DRAMEDY**

Heartbroken, drunk, and suffering from a mid-30s crisis, an impetuous woman trades therapy for a one-way ticket to Mexico where she must risk leaping into a new way of life or crawling back to the safety of the devil she knows.

**ONE ART | FEATURE – DRAMA**

A small-town Texas housewife takes the NCAA to court in a landmark case after her husband dies from CTE, a dementia caused by his time playing college football. Based on a true story.

*SLOAN SCREENWRITING AWARD WINNER 2023*

**WHAT'S MY AGE AGAIN? | FEATURE – COMEDY**

Daisy met her soulmate at a pop-punk music festival when she was 16... and then promptly lost him. Still pining for him twenty years later, she convinces her estranged high school BFFs to join her at the same music festival one last time in order to recapture their lost youth... and the one who got away.

**DEADMAN'S HOLLOW | FEATURE – COMING OF AGE ADVENTURE**

In a small Texas town in the late '90s, four girls reluctantly come of age while on the search for a missing teen. Friendships are tested and lives are at stake when they discover the boredom of their youth may be preferable to what lies in wait.

**THE PRINCIPAL | ONE-HOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR**

An aging prima ballerina, who moonlights as an escort to LA's elite, confronts her past as she's called to audition for the role that catapulted her to stardom. With a company of ruthless, young dancers who embody her own lost youth, she must fight to retain her position, while competing with the prodigy who looks disturbingly like her younger self.

**UTOPIA DYSTOPIA | FEATURE – COMING-OF-AGE**

Expelled from boarding school, a 14-year-old boy befriends the new girl in the neighborhood during a dysfunctional summer at home. Initially enamored by her seemingly perfect family, he soon uncovers a dark secret – her father is not the loving family man he portrays.

**THE GOLDEN NUGGET | FEATURE – DRAMA**

A lonesome Las Vegas motel manager's suicide plans are derailed when a mysterious young girl claims to be his long-lost daughter. Rejecting her initially, he pushes her away until the arrival of a corrupt police detective ignites an unexpected determination in him to protect the daughter he never knew existed.

**THE FLOOD | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER**

In a small Australian town devastated by a flood, the discovery of a missing teenage girl's body forces a former police officer to confront her past when her own brother emerges as the sole suspect.

**SOME KIND OF PARADISE | AFI PRODUCED SHORT – QUEER WESTERN  
CO-WRITER**

In a chance encounter on Grindr, a rugged cowboy connects with a charismatic Hollywood actor, forcing the cowboy to confront his deeply ingrained habits and embrace a newfound understanding of the transformative power of vulnerability.

<https://vimeo.com/866997276>

Password: KIND



**THE VALLEY OF APPLES | HALF-HOUR DRAMA**

When a Muslim family in 1980's Southern Lebanon finds themselves stuck in between a civil war and an incoming occupation, the family must endure the war around them and still stick together as a family in the midst of sickness, fear, love, and life.

**COYOTE'S TRICK | FEATURE – COMING-OF-AGE**

When a young skater from the Bay Area witnesses the senseless killing of his friend from high school, he must find a way to come to terms with his friend's death or be consumed by his own shortcomings and miss out on a chance at love and life.

**THE CARCASS | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER**

A quiet high schooler in Beirut, Lebanon finds herself in an unhealthy relationship with her piano teacher and must find a way to detach herself from the post-civil war chaos of Beirut or else be dragged down into her own father's murder mystery.

**THRU THE SILO | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER**

After the 2020 explosion that rocked Beirut, a local artist must overcome her PTSD in order to save her injured brother from a snake-friend lurking in the aftermath of the explosion.

**THE BOOK | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER (CO-WRITER)**

When two recent refugees from Iran—cousins—find themselves mixed up in a heist involving art theft, political conspiracies, and ancient Persian poetry, they must find a way to untangle themselves from the tentacles of corruption strife in modern day LA.

**OPEN | HALF-HOUR DRAMEDY**

When a bisexual chronic people-pleaser becomes enamored with a client at her publishing company, she struggles with the monogamist status between her and her fiancé. The series follows her and her interconnected queer friend group as they navigate the boundaries and many shades of the biggest threat to modern relationships: non-monogamy.

**SKIN | FEATURE – HORROR COMEDY**

When a famed Beverly Hills dermatologist's status begins to slip as she nears middle age, she murders her husband's much younger mistress and creates an anti-aging serum made from her blood. Hooked on the results, she soon discovers the only way to look young forever is to keep killing.

**THE BIG THREE-0 | FEATURE – COMEDY**

On the day of her thirtieth birthday, a neurotic screwup with a case of serious arrested development goes on a wild ride back in time to right the wrongs of her twenties, only to discover some mistakes are better off made, and new mistakes — like time traveling — cannot be undone.





**DAUGHTER OF MONSTERS** | *HALF-HOUR FANTASY COMEDY*

Werewolves and vampires are at war, naturally. On her 15th birthday, the human daughter of a disgraced werewolf queen discovers she is the chosen savior of the werewolves and soon must juggle a normal adolescence and her burgeoning monster identity.

**DOVES OF BIHAR** | *FEATURE – DRAMA*

When a progressive Muslim woman is divorced via the archaic Islamic practice, *instant triple talaq*, she begrudgingly enters a temporary marriage with a stranger to save face and maintain her dignity. When an unexpected romance blooms, her sense of duty proves tested as she navigates her own desires and society's expectations.

**THE LAST GENERATION** | *FEATURE – ACTION COMEDY*

To secure a postgrad Governor's grant, a Yale student attempts to stop her ex-girlfriend's climate protest against the fossil fuel-loving state Governor, only to find herself caught in a militia attack and must join forces with the contentious politician to save her girlfriend.

**ATLAS' ARTIFACTS | HALF-HOUR WORKPLACE COMEDY**

When a morally uptight treasure hunter discovers his parents' death left him a \$3,000,000 debt, he is forced to start over with an amoral and chaotic replacement, sourcing artifacts for a pawn shop that caters only to the extremely wealthy.

**FLEDGING | FEATURE – DRAMEDY**

On the day he's set to leave for college, an overprotective older brother's plans for one last day with his little sister are disrupted when her missing cat compels him to confront the suffocating neighborhood he's longed to escape, leading him on a transformative journey involving power washers, stuffed penguins, and unwanted confrontations.

**LOS PELADITOS FOOTBALL CLUB | FEATURE – DRAMEDY**

A recent immigrant (and retired professional soccer star) from Ecuador starts a youth soccer club in New York City to connect with his son... who loves baseball. Determined to pass on his roots to a child growing in different soil, he fights to navigate a new world far from his glory days.

**THE BULLFIGHTER | AFI PRODUCED SHORT – COMEDY****CO-WRITER**

An ex-bullfighter actively triggers his haunted past when he gets a job as a Los Angeles garage flag attendant in order to avenge his grave past by reliving his glory days with one final battle against a modern bull.

<https://vimeo.com/827696734/8400d384d5?share=copy>



**KING OF EVERYTHING | *HALF-HOUR DRAMEDY***

When a Mexican-Puerto Rican-American teenager relocates from his Southern Arizona barrio to reunite with his estranged father in Venice, California, he navigates the chaos of growing up too fast, forging a wild and loyal friend group, and finding his voice as the lead singer of their band.

**CHILDREN OF WAR | *ONE-HOUR SCI-FI FANTASY ADVENTURE***

Denied his honorable death, a cursed sixteenth-century Samurai is thrust into the future to battle warriors and beasts as a gladiator. Alongside a Viking shield-maiden, an Aztec Jaguar Warrior, and a Zulu Chief, they fight to free themselves from the Emperor of America's clutches, facing the perilous choice between returning to their time or saving the future.

**PANTHER | *FEATURE – SPORTS DRAMA***

In the wake of their schools' merger, rival Drumline Captains Micah Virgil and Cesar Fuentes must put aside differences and unite their Marching Band. With their music program's future in jeopardy, they set their sights on the first annual Los Angeles Drumline Competition, where a \$50,000 prize and the prospect of college await — if they can learn to play as one band and one sound.

**SILENT TRENCH | *FEATURE – HORROR ACTION***

In the horrifying depths of World War I, a Black American Microbiologist leads a segregated platoon behind enemy lines to unravel a dark mystery: a weaponized virus inducing madness and murder. With millions of lives at stake, they must thwart a genocidal German scientist's plans before the outbreak reaches Paris and London.

**IZZY** | *HALF-HOUR DRAMA/COMEDY*

A Chinese-American woman navigates modern dating with her motley group of friends, as it collides with the thousand-year-old traditions rooted in their immigrant backgrounds. Torn between her racist mother's nightmare and a Chinese-American man she never has to explain herself to, will she choose passion or comfort?

**ROUGE** | *ONE-HOUR ACTION DRAMA*

When her estranged father goes missing, a misanthropic bar owner must reconnect to the life and friends she abandoned to track him through Little Cambodia and untangle the mysteries of his refugee past – before he meets his deadly end.

**TEAHOUSE** | *ONE-HOUR PERIOD DRAMA*

In 1900, a wealthy Chinese merchant stakes it all on opening a teahouse in the heart of Sydney's British colony, riling up both racist British forces and downtrodden Chinese immigrants – just as Australia prepares to unify as a nation and define its identity. Inspired by a true story.

**RIVING** | *FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR*

An ambitious young artist of color competes for a prestigious mentorship under a famed recluse, but when strange and unnatural events start to unfold around her, she must discern whether she is caught in her unravelling trauma or in a Faustian web of lies before she loses her life— or worse.

**AMERICAN BOY** | *FEATURE – DRAMA*

In this modern look at the American dream, a girlhood infatuation leads a Chinese-American woman into an obsessive pursuit to remake herself, but when she finally has a chance to be with her elusive crush, she must learn the dream is just an illusion, before she misses the opportunity at true love. Inspired by "The Great Gatsby."



**ON AIR | ONE-HOUR WORKPLACE DRAMA**

In the 1970s, a group of avant-garde artists contend with their drug addictions, ambitions, and egos as they work together against crushing deadlines and controlling censors to keep their groundbreaking educational kid's show on air.

**NIGHT RADIO | FEATURE – SUPERNATURAL DRAMA**

Set against the romantic desolation of the Mojave desert, a midnight radio host, deeply depressed by the tragic loss of her parents, finally agrees to meet her number one fan: Death himself.

**THE PATHOLOGIST | FEATURE – CRIME THRILLER**

The Pacific Northwest. 1985. When a dead body washes up on her shore, a reclusive and disgraced ex-pathologist uses yet-unproven DNA technology to finally identify the cannibalistic 'Bleed & Feed' serial killer.

**MIS-ALIGNMENT | AFI PRODUCED SHORT – SCI-FI  
WRITER**

When a disillusioned engineer responsible for the humane destruction of malfunctioning androids encounters a shocking abnormality in a new patient, she is confronted with a choice that will not only test her compassion, but also her sense of self.

<https://vimeo.com/877672850/3606870117?share=copy>

**OUR HOME MOVIE | LIMITED SERIES – DRAMA**

Fleeing Bangladesh, a country where she faces death threats and imprisonment for illegally leaving her first marriage, Amina finds herself as wife to the Canadian ambassador in Thailand. When her new husband proves as abusive as her first, a group of mothers band together to escape their varying toxic family dynamics and get her asylum in Canada. Inspired by a true story.

**THE WEIGHT OF A FEATHER | FEATURE – FAMILY DRAMA**

A self-effacing teenage aerialist lives precariously on the fringe of society with her alcoholic mother in a traveling circus troupe. When her estranged grandparents pass away, she tries to leverage her inheritance to save her mom from her addiction and their beloved circus from financial collapse, but must reckon with the fact that doing so means sacrificing any chance at saving herself from their ruinous fate.

**ASHES TO ASHES | FEATURE – SUPERNATURAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL-HORROR**

After her little brother is severely wounded in a fire while under her supervision, Raffey is haunted by monstrous manifestations of his revenge and ostracized by their disappointed father. Guilt-stricken, she tries to regain her dad's affection by proving her near-comatose brother is terrorizing her at night, only to realize an even more sinister force bedevils their family.

**TOSSOU | AFI PRODUCED SHORT – VISUAL ESSAY****WRITER/DIRECTOR**

The veil between the living and dead is thinning. An aging woman spends her last day in the physical world tending to her Vodun altar where she cares for the spirits of her deceased children before accepting the summons of Azetor, an anthropomorphic bird likened to the spirit of death, to join them in the ancestral world.

<https://vimeo.com/828530467/f398e504a4>



**CHERRY PICKED | *HALF-HOUR DRAMEDY***

A recently divorced sourpuss moves from NYC back to her hometown to care for her aging father and his beloved antique mall. Her own worst enemy, she bumps against locals, her ex-wife, and the slow pace of the small Pennsylvania town, only letting her cynical guard down when alone among the dusty antiques who are also awaiting new homes.

**DRAIN | *FEATURE – HORROR COMEDY***

Desperate to achieve her childhood dream of being on Broadway, an unremarkable young woman seeks a quick fix to make her stand out by way of a new cosmetic leeching procedure, but is horrified when she begins to transform into a gigantic human leech.

**HELLA STELLA | *FEATURE – ACTION COMEDY***

When brutal pro-wrestler Hella Stella unexpectedly dies, she's pissed to discover she's destined for Hell. With the help of a ditsy Angel, she battles Hell and Earth, literally, to prove she's more than her villainous persona, only to realize Hell may actually be right where she belongs.

**MY F\*CKING MEMOIR | HALF-HOUR COMEDY**

Call me a narcissist if you must, but this is my no-holds-barred memoir, filled with way hotter people playing my friends. Annie hits you with the truth like a sledgehammer, direct to camera, as she attempts to 'make it' in LA as a comedy writer. Sure, Annie might seem like a total hot mess, but guess what? It's her fucking memoir, bitch.

**DE FACTO | FEATURE – ROMANCE THRILLER**

As doubts creep in, the relentless gaslighting of a woman's mother creates a disorienting dance between what's real and what's illusion, leaving her to question her own sanity when she meets the man of her dreams.

**LILITH | FEATURE – FANTASY**

A hidden tale that predates Adam and Eve—the untold story of the woman before Eve. In this contemporary possession story, a woman bound to a "mega-church" pastor unleashes the power of Lilith, the dark divine feminine goddess. As she taps into her unleashed wildness, she ignites a cataclysmic battle of the sexes that has been simmering since the dawn of creation.

**HAIL MARY | FEATURE – DRAMEDY**

A young nun (yes, she's hot you pervs) is torn between her faith and her temptations and must navigate the ultimate spiritual dilemma as she turns to stripping as a side hustle.





**BIRTHRIGHT** | *ONE-HOUR DRAMA*

After a harrowing encounter, a quick-witted Saint Louis teen is forced to live with his estranged billionaire father in Lagos, Nigeria, where he is thrust into Nigerian opulence and forced to confront blood tied adversaries when he's offered a future in his father's empire, unknowing of the turpitude that accompanies it.

**THIS IS AMERICA** | *HALF-HOUR DRAMEDY*

An all-American Nigerian immigrant's aspiration for American citizenship is threatened by the unexpected arrival of his wife, forcing him to choose between the American dream and his marriage.

**GIFTY** | *FEATURE – ROMANTIC DRAMA*

In the height of the 1990s supermodel era, a dispirited Ghanian woman's life is transformed when a controversial English photographer convinces her to become his muse, propelling them both to fame, money, and the dangerous addiction of ambition.

**YES, AND ? | HALF-HOUR COMEDY**

Tyra Wang, depressed paralegal by day, improv tyrant by night, leads her amateur Asian-American improv group of middle-aged losers into the cutthroat world of Heehee Fest, an elite improv competition, in order to prove to the world—and her parents—that Asians have a place in comedy.

**INFLUENCE | ONE-HOUR MYSTERY**

Erica, a hotheaded British teen, wrangles her hedonistic social media savvy squad, who are each battling their own demons, to investigate the disappearance of her best friend—and secret crush—YouTube sensation Isla Rose, whose channel is seemingly alive and well.

**WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS | “BABYSITTERS” | SPEC TV EPISODE**

When the idiot human neighbors dump their 14-year-old niece with the vampires in favor of a foursome, Laszlo and Nadja use dating apps to get some action of their own, Nandor becomes besties with the girl as Colin fails to drain the even drier and cringier Gen Z, all while Guillermo battles to keep their vampire identity secret.

**THE DREAM WALKER | FEATURE – FANTASY**

When a stifled pre-teen discovers a portal into a magical dream realm that gives her the power to meddle with other people’s minds, she uses it to prevent her parents from getting a divorce, risking their sanity in the process.

**DEEP INTO THE FOREST | AFI PRODUCED SHORT – DRAMA  
CO-WRITER**

A young Chinese athlete must decide whether to compete in the National Orienteering Competition with a crippling tendon injury, due to the pressure of his mother, the coach and the governor.



**M.A.R.S. | HALF-HOUR DRAMEDY**

An alcoholic nurse stranded in the middle of cornfields at a rehab for misfits struggles to keep the line between patient and nurse clear while balancing big egos, inappropriate relationships, and killer boredom.

**BANANA SPLITS | HALF-HOUR FAMILY DRAMEDY**

Not everything that splits has to be bad” is the motto of Banana Splits, a secret club for children of divorce, that Elinor, a friendless 7th grader, reluctantly joins after discovering her father’s affair. It’s up to Elinor and the other BS-ers to help each other navigate the usual growing pains atop their complicated home lives.

**IMAGINARY BOYFRIEND | FEATURE – ROMANCE**

A chronic daydreamer who has never had her first kiss finds herself in a love triangle between a married man and a figment of her imagination.

**THE VIOLINIST | FEATURE – DRAMA**

A musically gifted adoptee stuck in rural Massachusetts discovers a magical violin that allows her to manipulate people’s emotions.

**BLOOD MOON SHINE | ONE-HOUR DRAMA/HORROR**

In a Tennessee coal-mining town, one year into the Great Depression, a timid, newly widowed salesman must work with his ferocious 11-year-old daughter to sell 500 bottles of illegal moonshine, in order to restart the town's economy. With gangsters and police on their tail, the salesman and his daughter must find help in the most unlikely, and terrifying, of places... an ancient and hungry vampire living in their mine.

*FINAL DRAFT BIG BREAK TOP 5 FINALIST*

**EMBERS | FEATURE – MYSTERY THRILLER**

Eclipsed by her all-male firefighting class, a small but determined recruit sets out to find the serial arsonist terrorizing her Oregon wilderness academy, in the hopes of proving herself. As visions of her unstable past begin to undermine her progress – and each night brings a new blaze of escalating danger – paranoia spreads like wildfire.

**THE BLOODLETTER | FEATURE – ACTION THRILLER**

Hailing from small-town Canada, an aging, retired hockey enforcer is hired as muscle by a volatile young woman, hell-bent on hunting down the man who killed her brother. Reluctant to become the violent goon of his past, the former brawler finds himself on a dangerous manhunt through New York State, with an unpredictable companion intent on awakening the infamous enforcer within him...The BloodLetter.



**SPILL | ONE-HOUR POLITICAL DRAMA**

The corrupt cover-up of an oil spill on the North Pacific Coast forces a disgraced reporter to choose between his family and his career as the pursuit of the truth takes him, and the team of politicians and activists he puts together, into uncharted and immoral waters.

**DOWNHILL | HALF-HOUR WHODUNNIT DARK COMEDY**

BOOM! When his fucking prick of a student skis over a stick of dynamite and dies very inconveniently, a burnt-out ski instructor is forced to investigate the accident to stay out of jail, but more importantly, to keep that tip money flowing. The only problem? Maybe it wasn't an accident at all...

**HARE | FEATURE – POLITICAL THRILLER**

1978. When an East German track star realizes that the mysterious pills her government has been giving her are slowly killing her, she turns to a photographer from West Berlin to help her uncover the plot behind the drugs and escape across the Berlin Wall.

ACADEMY NICHOLL SEMIFINALIST 2023

AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL SEMIFINALIST 2023

PAGE INTERNATIONAL SCREENWRITING AWARDS DRAMA WINNER 2023

**KAKABERRY LAKE | FEATURE – SOCIAL SATIRE**

As rumor spreads that a potentially wonderful treasure lies at the bottom of a certainly mediocre lake, a city boy missing a dad and a local marina owner missing a smile team up to find this... glorious... lost chest.



## **THE RULE OF THE HARLOTS | ONE-HOUR HISTORICAL DRAMA**

897 AD, Rome. Awaiting his execution, in a last attempt to redeem himself in the eyes of his estranged son, the dethroned Pope Stephen confesses to the murderous path he took to steal the papacy. Based on a true story.

## **'TIL DEATH DO US PART | FEATURE – DARK COMEDY**

One year after being left at the altar, an emotionally stunted woman, Kailani, sees her ex-fiancée on a dating show and sets off on a path to get revenge. When her ex is suddenly found dead, Kailani must navigate the reality TV world of contestant politics, ratings-mad producers and dishonest confessionals to get to the bottom of the mystery.

## **THIS IS NOT THAT DAWN | FEATURE – HISTORICAL DRAMA**

1967, Calcutta, when a young refugee worker becomes obsessed with finding the family of an orphaned baby, her path leads her into the depths of the Sundarbans rainforest where she encounters a dark secret about her own broken family.

## **SWEET LIFE | FEATURE – COMING-OF-AGE DRAMEDY**

When his theatrical long-lost grandmother returns home, Aditya does what any 13-year-old with a rebellious attitude would do—he runs away with her. With a scary military-school teacher on his tail, Aditya learns how to survive the gritty world of street theatre troupe while uncovering why his grandmother abandoned her family years ago.



**ANTEDILUVIAN | ONE-HOUR HISTORICAL SCI-FI FANTASY**

A young costume historian is utterly certain she was born in the wrong era – she even dresses like she’s from another time. But her certainty is put to the test when a deal with a handsome stranger goes awry, sending her hurtling back in time. Now she must unravel the plot she’s ensnared in to save herself and the future.

**GALATEA | ONE-HOUR SCI-FI**

A brilliant young engineer is relentless in her pursuit of the bleeding edge. But when her work building military androids clashes with her morality, she’s faced with an impossible choice: destroy the creation she’s falling in love with or allow it to annihilate worlds.

**PRINCESS O | FEATURE – HISTORICAL DRAMA**

Princess Marie Bonaparte is enthralled by the elusive vaginal orgasm. Burdened by a passionless arranged marriage, the regressive views of 18th century France and her own internalized misogyny, will she be able to achieve her obsession? Or will the cost of female desire be too great? Based on a true story.

**FARM FRESH FEET PICS | FEATURE – COMEDY**

After a catastrophic accident, a reality TV contestant and secret OnlyFans star is forced to return home to care for her estranged older sister and young niece. The sisters are like oil and vinegar – will she be able to blend their two worlds, make a fabulous aioli, and save the family farm?



**SPLASH ZONE | HALF-HOUR COMEDY**

A scrappy 30-year-old lifeguard tries to keep his rundown water park afloat with the help of his misfit staff, including his most recent hire: his nerdy younger brother (who, by the way, can't swim).

**BLUE RASPBERRY | FEATURE – DARK COMEDY**

In 1969, an unfulfilled CIA chemist hell-bent on gaining glory attempts to unlock the mind-control properties of a weird substance, but his growing obsession begins to jeopardize his relationships with his wife, an OCD-ridden dolphin trainer, and their son, a wannabe soldier.

**THE SAND SCULPTOR | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER DARK COMEDY**

Desperate for a legacy that the tide can't wash away, a champion sand sculptor facing retirement tries to patch things up with his estranged daughter over the course of one last competition, even as a mysterious breed of insomnia threatens to turn his life into a waking nightmare.



**THE GIFT OF STARLIGHT | ONE-HOUR SCI-FI/FANTASY DRAMA**

On the desolate desert planet of Vrukilla, a Queen – believed to be cursed from birth – murders the King. Pursued by Death himself: she must flee her kingdom amidst political unrest and uncover dark truths that extend beyond time and space, past and present. Inspired by ancient South American and African mythology.

**KILLAMANTA WAQAY | FEATURE – HISTORICAL FANTASY**

Quito, Ecuador, 1529: War and disease have laid waste throughout society, having killed the former Inca Monarch. A noble, but arrogant, astronomer advises the Emperor-to-be to send a group of women for ritualistic sacrifice. Unexpectedly, not only are traditional lower-class women selected, but also those from noble-born houses...including the astronomer's daughter. Betrayed, the astronomer must rescue his daughter before it's too late.

**ESTA NOCHE | FEATURE – COMING OF AGE/DRAMA**

San Francisco, 2010. Benni, a 17-year-old gay Latin-American runaway, finds himself homeless and desperate for love. When he meets a mid-20's Guatemalan immigrant living within the underground Latino drag scene, a romance ensues which takes Benni on a path, both resplendent and riddled with dark experiences, that changes his life—for better and worse—forever.

**HARSH CLIMATE | HALF-HOUR DARK COMEDY**

Vermont. Unfortunately, the present. A socially progressive commune for natural disaster survivors struggles to preserve their little version of utopia because, as it just so happens, not everyone is cut out for communal living...especially when there is a kleptomaniac on the loose.

**THE NATIONALIST | FEATURE – SOCIAL SATIRE**

After being dumped by his girlfriend, a middle-aged, Jewish-Ukrainian man, disillusioned with the American dream, is radicalized by Russian propaganda. In order to convince his newfound Russian friends that he is a family man, he moves in with his liberal daughter with the intention of persuading her to join him in his imagined Motherland.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN MURDER | FEATURE – COMEDY THRILLER**

New England. 2011. When a popular scholarship boarding student sneaks out to get high, she witnesses the murder of her dorm proctor and only confidante. After reporting it to the school administration, she is promptly ostracized by her wealthy peers, forcing her to reevaluate her allegiances and the perfectly hipster, post-ironic persona she has carefully crafted to fit in.

**CHERRY KOMPOT | AFI PRODUCED SHORT – DARK COMEDY****WRITER**

A stubborn Jewish-Ukrainian senior citizen is haunted by the ghost of his deceased wife as he refuses to sit shiva with his family.

<https://vimeo.com/828352297>

Password: cherry

**THE ANGEL'S SHARE | ONE-HOUR DRAMA**

After surviving the horrors of World War I, a resilient young soldier returns to his rural Minnesota home, yearning for a return to normalcy. But when he discovers his family's livestock trucking business on the verge of collapse and his long-time girlfriend engaged to a powerful railroad scion, he taps back into his military logistics training to infiltrate the lucrative world of bootlegging and reclaim the life – and love – he lost.

**GUARANTEED | FEATURE – SPORTS DRAMA**

Set in 1969, GUARANTEED tells the story of Super Bowl III – the most consequential football game ever played. As the NFL teeters on the edge of failure, maverick quarterback Joe Namath, a blackballed defensive star, and an enterprising secretary team up to orchestrate the greatest upset in Super Bowl history – battling poverty, racism, and sexism to turn the NFL into America's game...for better or worse.

**M.A.D. | FEATURE – THRILLER**

Northern Greenland. 1957. In the middle of a Christmas Eve blizzard at the remote Thule Air Force Base, a dutiful pilot and his skeleton crew discover a nuclear missile heading for the United States. Isolated and without clear orders, they must decide for themselves whether to launch a retaliatory nuclear strike as a terrible truth becomes clear – one of them is a spy.



**E.T.A. | HALF-HOUR COMEDY**

The overwhelmed employees of the only local travel agency confront how little they know about their sprawling country of 17,000 islands to turn the absurd tourist requests into perfect vacations.

**THE FISHERMAN | FEATURE – HEIST**

In Bali, a broke fisherman smooth-talks a tourist onto his boat to kidnap and ransom her, but gets stranded at sea with her instead. Think PARASITE on paradise island.

*SECOND ROUNDER, DRAMA FEATURE SCREENPLAY – AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL 2022*

*TOP 10 DIVERSITY – BIG BREAK FINAL DRAFT 2022*

**CROOKED | FEATURE – HEIST**

An undergraduate class drowning in debt finally does what we all wish we had – robs their college to pay back their student loans. OCEAN'S ELEVEN but with Gen Z.

**THICK AS THIEVES | FEATURE – HEIST**

A low-level stablehand falls in love with the star rider, but they must resist each other to save her reputation and keep him from being imprisoned. CALL ME BY YOUR NAME with horses.



**THE GREAT DIVIDE | *ONE-HOUR HISTORICAL THRILLER***

In 1953, amidst North-South Korean tensions, the disappearance of a South Korean intelligence officer forces two rival spies to unite in their mission to infiltrate enemy territory, locate their mentor, and prevent the outbreak of another potential war.

**THE STAND-IN | *ONE-HOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER***

In Tokyo, a professional stand-in is hired by a grieving widow to pose as her late husband, but as he delves deeper into the role, he starts to lose touch with reality, and the shocking discovery that the widow may have been involved in her husband's death, initially ruled as suicide.

**BLOOD ON THE MEKONG | *FEATURE – THRILLER***

In a relentless pursuit of retribution, a stubborn young girl and an escaped American POW embark on a treacherous journey through the jungles of Laos, where they must unite as one to track down the communist soldiers responsible for tearing her family apart. Inspired by true events.



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