# look over Aat M<sup>c</sup> E<sub>her</sub>R<sup>shoulder</sup> C A N beside her and taps FIL Μ I N Ε S nma. Momma, get up. GREENWRIT ING ayes open like slits. SHOWCASE 2024 What happened, baby? di sighs. Logan looks to the grou

(beat

ome on Mon

come on.

hospital.

You

bad.

hay nods slowly.

You got hurt Monma. T hur

messed up.



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the AFI Conservatory 2024 Screenwriting Showcase, where we spotlight the talent of a diverse group of 27 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 27 AFI screenwriters of 2024 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

INQUIRIES: GKelly@faculty.AFI.edu

### **MASHAEL ALQAHTANI**

#### 857.294.7226 | <u>mashael.k.alqahtani@gmail.com</u>



#### APOTHECARY GIRLS | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

In medieval Italy, a nosy teen girl discovers that her secretive mother, an apothecary, owns an underground husband-poisoning business and joins her in protecting the women who need their help. Together, they must evade the insane but very real danger of being burned at the stake.

#### TAFHEET | FEATURE - ACTION-COMEDY

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a thrill-seeking cabbie and single mom—with an addiction to the music of Cher—enters the dangerous world of desert drifting when a corrupt detective blackmails her into going undercover to bring down a female-led criminal enterprise running the races.

#### LINEAGE | FEATURE - HORROR

Based on an Arab legend. When a sheltered Muslim teen girl inherits a mysterious, demonic hunger for human flesh, she teams up with a shady loner to hide her transformation from her strict, religious mother before she consumes those she loves the most.

### **CRISTINA BARTOLUCCI**



AFI Scholarship Recipient

#### 818.415.6354 | <u>cbbartolucci@gmail.com</u> | <u>cristinabartolucci.com</u>

#### BEE STUNG | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

When the naive, idealistic makeup artist and the jaded, filter-free hair stylist on a hit TV show accidentally invent the world's first lip plumper, they discover their opposite personalities are both the key to their success and also its greatest barrier.

#### THE MANTLE | FEATURE - ANIMATION, FAMILY COMEDY/DRAMA

A spirited but sheltered teenager discovers that her doting parents are "intra-terrestrials"—here from earth's mantle to help humans solve climate change. When they mysteriously disappear, she must journey down to the mantle herself to save her family and the entire human race.

#### MRS. BERRYCLOTH | FEATURE - COMEDY/DRAMA

When an unhappy marketing executive plans the funeral of her mentor, she discovers that her beloved "Mrs. B" has made plans from beyond the grave to upend her life by reuniting her with two childhood friends who will become the keys to her happiness.

## DULGUUN BAYASGALAN 213.343.5430 | dulguunbayasgalan1@gmail.com



#### **REVOLVER** | FEATURE - CRIME DRAMA

In Ulaanbaatar, the tumultuous modern capital of Mongolia, three stories—a hustling, young model trying to seduce a troubled, rich businessman; a depressed Uber driver who gets roped into a farfetched plot by a debt-ridden passenger; and a mute burglar couple searching for a new house to rob—collide violently one night.

#### THE PETIT BISTRO | FEATURE - ROMANTIC COMEDY

An unassuming chef's world is turned upside down when her folksy, small-town bistro is mistakenly awarded three Michelin stars meant for an upscale Parisian restaurant with the same name. When the two chefs try to work out the mess, it ends up being about much more than food.

#### THE SECRET LIFE OF MARGOT | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

After spotting a former classmate on a porn site, Margot ventures into making adult videos behind her jealous husband's back to bring excitement back into her humdrum life.

### **CECILIA CEREIJIDO-BLOCHE** 202.821.5247 | <u>cecilia.cereijido@gmail.com</u> | <u>ceciliacb.com</u>



#### TRANSFERENCE | HALF-HOUR - DARK COMEDY THRILLER

When a joyless financial analyst finds the mother she never had in the form of her new therapist, she is driven into an obsession with that woman's college-age daughter and starts inhabiting her life.

#### PROCEDER CON PRECAUCIÓN | FEATURE - COMING-OF-AGE COMEDY

Over the course of a spring break in Mexico City, a sheltered American teen, forced to take care of her grandiose and senile grandfather, finds the task brings them both to a newfound understanding of life and death.

#### FORESEEABLE FUTURE | FEATURE - ROMANTIC DRAMEDY

After taking dream jobs on opposite coasts, a conflict-avoidant architect and a codependent journalist try to stay together even as new cities, romantic prospects, and professional wins redefine who they are apart.

#### YOU & ME (& CHAZ & RODNEY) | AFI THESIS - COMING-OF-AGE

**CO-WRITER** 

After making a plan to give blow jobs for the first time, two codependent 13-year-olds must confront their shifting friendship.

Link available upon request.

### **PAULA DA SILVA**



Somos Nosotros Scholarship Perenchio Family Endowed Scholarship

786.474.5017 | paupauladasilva@gmail.com | dasilvapaula.com

#### **BETA** | HALF-HOUR – SUPERNATURAL SATIRE

When a bloodsucking fraternity abducts her only friend, an antisocial social justice warrior must save her by joining forces with her worst enemies: sorority girls.

#### HORSE GIRLS | FEATURE - COMING-OF-AGE DRAMEDY

Bad at making friends and alone in a family too busy for her, a desperately lonely 12-year-old daydreamer tries to find connection with horses at a run-down horse summer camp.

#### DEVILBABY | FEATURE - HORROR

As a demonic fetus grows inside of her, an obsessive evolutionary biologist conceals her pregnancy to stay on the research expedition she thinks will save her soul.

### SHUCHI DWIVEDI



American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Scholarship

#### 213.513.8296 | shuchi.dwivedi.sd@gmail.com

#### TIFFIN | HALF-HOUR - DRAMEDY

When a canned food enthusiast discovers emails from her late husband detailing his Indian recipes, she decides to recreate his meals to save his debt-ridden business and reconnect with him.

#### DESI RBG | HALF-HOUR - ROMANTIC COMEDY

In New Delhi, an ambitious young lawyer battles a conniving American lawyer to get her promotion in the law firm, or she will have to give in to her mother's demands and get married.

#### FRIENDS AND FASCISM | FEATURE - COMEDY

In an all-girls Catholic boarding school in India, know-it-all Rinky is desperate to become the School Captain, which is her family's legacy. Her dreams are disrupted by an election when she's forced to compete against her former best friend. IFFLA LAUNCHPAD PITCH COMPETITION WINNER SHORTLISTED FOR CANNES W SCRIPTED COMPETITION EMERGING SCREENWRITERS COMEDY COMPETITION SEMIFINALIST

#### BABY GOES WEST | FEATURE - HORROR COMEDY

A Churel is a type of demon known in India, created when a woman is abandoned in childbirth. BABY, a churel, comes to LA to kill her deadbeat husband; the only problem is her college-aged daughter starts to bond with her Dad.

### **ARDEN EARNEST**



#### 703.901.4896 | <u>arden.e.earnest@gmail.com</u> | <u>ardenearnest.com</u>

#### COSA NOSTRA | ONE-HOUR - CRIME DRAMA

In 1903 New Orleans, the loyalties of three teenage Sicilian-American sisters will be tested when the unruly middle child Serafina joins the city's mafia. Inspired by my Sicilian, gun-toting great-grandmother who was in the mob.

STAGE 32 TV DRAMA SCREENWRITING CONTEST 2024 FINALIST

#### COUNTERPOINT | FEATURE - THRILLER

At an elite high school conservatory in New York City, the friendship between two violinists—one privileged, one poor—turns vicious when a life-changing competition is announced. SCREENCRAFT FEATURE COMPETITION 2024 SEMIFINALIST

#### FRANK & BETTY | FEATURE - CRIME THRILLER

In the dead of an Alaskan winter, a thief's cold heart begins to thaw when he bonds with a stray dog—all while hiding from assassins sent to kill him and retrieve the eight million dollars he's hidden in the ice.

### **COLE GREENFIELD**



#### WIDE-OPEN TOWN | ONE-HOUR - DRAMA

Hell's Half-acre, Kansas City, 1920: When a young bootlegger reluctantly takes over as city councilman of a downtrodden industrial ward after his politician brother's mysterious death, he quickly discovers that doing right by his constituents will mean getting his hands dirty in a town run by gangsters and corrupt politicians.

#### WURLITZER | FEATURE - DARK COMEDY

When a misanthropic adjunct professor runs over his dean's beloved bulldog—jeopardizing the only shot at tenure he'll ever have—he attempts to cover it up by burying the dog's body on campus. But when a failing student witnesses the crime and blackmails him into a series of increasingly unethical deeds, the professor must fight to keep his life from unraveling.

#### NORTH HOLLYWOOD | FEATURE - DRAMA

Arthur is a dreamer who doesn't want to give up on being a Hollywood musician, while Myrna, his partner, is more than ready to settle down. When they survive a harrowing car crash, each has to reevaluate their own life, and the future of their relationship. The other side of La La Land.

### **GRACE HANSEN**



#### 208.589.6159 | gracehansen77@gmail.com

#### JORDY BLACK, ESQ. | HALF-HOUR - FAMILY COMEDY

Graduated law school at 12. Discovered his gift for spotting liabilities at 13. Became a partner in his law firm at 14. Kissed his long-time, adrenaline-junkie crush at...nope. When neurotic teenage genius Jordy Black became the best attorney in town, he thought he tested out of regular teenage trials—proms, sports, and even first kisses. But it turns out growing up is the biggest liability of all.

#### TRIPLE JURISDICTION ONE-HOUR - CRIME PROCEDURAL

After a white, rookie prosecutor takes a job on a Native American reservation, a murder on the border between the reservation and the town ignites a jurisdictional nightmare. Now, the prosecutor must solve the crime before her own naiveté destroys the tribe's fragile trust and leaves justice to a federal government unwilling to take up the task.

#### LADY KNIGHTS | FEATURE - SPORTS DRAMEDY

When an idealistic, small town softball coach welcomes a transfer freshman onto her team, everyone's delighted to discover the new girl is a star pitcher who could save their season—until rumors spread that she's trans. Now, the teacher has to stop the conservative community from turning on the team—and the team from turning on itself.

#### ADVERSE POSSESSION | FEATURE - ROMANTIC COMEDY

When an unromantic hotshot lawyer returns to her rural hometown for her sister's wedding, she gets sucked into defending her grandpa's new girlfriend—the town squatter—in a murder trial. Worst of all, the prosecutor fighting against her is the ex-boyfriend who broke her heart.

### **ELINOR HOWELLS**



#### 202.3407.766 | <u>elinormhowells@gmail.com</u> | <u>Elinor-Howells.com</u>

#### FROM HERE | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

The bond of a chaotic, unlucky-in-love bisexual and her life-long best friend, a neurotic straight dude, is put to the test when his long-distance girlfriend moves to town and they are thrust into a unusual love triangle. Will they be able to navigate friendship and modern dating in the messy and intertwined Los Angeles queer community?

#### THE RUBICON | FEATURE - ROMANCE

When best friends and roommates—one a hopeless romantic and the other wildly independent—hook up unexpectedly, the shift in their dynamic forces both young women to redefine their views on friendship, love, and their own identities in the "situationship" era.

#### SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH EZ | FEATURE - HORROR COMEDY

When an uncool college freshman is initiated to the most exclusive sorority on campus—to the surprise of her and everyone else—she begins to suspect a sinister motivation behind her acceptance. As she tries to make it through initiation, she finds there might be a deadly cost to fitting in with her new "sisters"—and an other-worldly explanation for their blonde perfection.

#### CANCELED AT SHIVA | FEATURE - DRAMEDY

When a B-list actor gets canceled for some off-color comments about a co-star, he quickly becomes the most hated man on the internet. However, his attempts to reinvent himself are put on hold when his grandfather's death forces him to come home to Pennsylvania for shiva. He quickly realizes being trapped with his smothering and chaotic family is worse than being ostracized in LA.

### **UMUT IPEK**



AFI Scholarship Recipient

#### +44.776.929.4351 | <u>umut\_ipek@icloud.com</u>

#### THE REGULATOR | ONE-HOUR - DRAMA

A master watchmaker with crippling OCD becomes a bombmaker for hire who infiltrates global terrorist organizations in order to uncover the conspiracy behind her innocent sister's murder, all the while navigating the lethal power struggles within those organizations.

#### STIFFIES | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

After being mistaken for a sex-worker at an illegal brothel, a privileged New York City cosmetologist must undertake her community service and adjust to the new normal, working in a dilapidated funeral home run by a cynical rabbi, an optimistic priest and a self-serving Imam.

#### **IBRAHIM** | FEATURE - DRAMA

A conservative Imam based in London, still haunted by guilt over his gay brother's death, must turn against faith, tradition and community in order to fulfill his dying mother's last wish: to reject burial and to be cremated, which will sever her ties with their Islamic faith.

### **JINA JOHNSON**



Paul and Monica Bancroft Scholarship Foundation Award

### 202.607.5462 | jinacjohnson@gmail.com | writtenbyjina.com

#### **DEMONSEED** ONE-HOUR – SUPERNATURAL DRAMA

When clues from her recurring nightmares lead to the discovery of a young girl's body, a tortured rookie detective—with a penchant for breaking the rules—uncovers a sinister link between this case, her own family, and the forces of heaven and hell.

#### THE ASSISTANTS | FEATURE - COMEDY

When a tenacious but constantly exploited assistant to an egomaniacal Hollywood A-lister is framed for a crime her boss committed, she and a vengeful gang of equally abused underlings join forces to take down his predatory system before he ruins their lives, or worse...their careers.

### **BEN KEESHIN**



Irwin And Sheila Allen Endowed Scholarship AFI AWARDS Honorary Scholarship

#### 224.388.2344 <u>benkeeshin@gmail.com</u> <u>benkeeshin.com</u>

#### DAIRY QUEENS | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

To save their Vermont town from being taken off the map by a search engine algorithm, two teen outcasts break into an abandoned Dairy Queen to invent a viral Tik-Tok ice-cream cone.

#### TWO KNOCKS TO GET IN | ONE-HOUR - ROMANTIC DRAMA

In 1970s Chicago, a closeted college student finds out his father's money comes from organized crime including an illegal gay bar he's expected to take over. Plunged into a Technicolor underworld, he must choose between sexual freedom and the support of his tight-knit Jewish family.

#### HOUSE OF THE BRUTAL | FEATURE - HORROR

After discovering that a dilapidated local mansion is his father's design, a carpenter trades the house's owner his services in exchange for room and board. Inside the rotting walls, he uncovers a dark secret that permanently entwines him with his eccentric landlady.

#### **OFFRAMP** | FEATURE - ROMANTIC COMEDY

Bullied into rehab by her conniving son, a sardonic, hard-drinking actress must seduce a young male orderly and escape to LA before she's trapped in a legal conservatorship forever.

### **MICHAEL KEFEYALEW**



AFI Conservatory David Pincus Memorial Scholarship for Screenwriters The Julie Andrews Endowed Scholarship Scott Patterson Scholarship

#### THE RETURN | ONE-HOUR - MYSTERY DRAMA

An avoidant child psychologist returns to her Ethiopian immigrant community to treat a young girl who has witnessed a brutal murder. As she learns more of the crime, she realizes it holds clues to her own mother's disappearance years before, forcing her to contend with her own traumatic past.

#### MOTHERSHIP | FEATURE - DRAMA, COMING-OF-AGE

Escaping bullies and a fanatically religious mother, a lonely black girl finds acceptance and freedom in an Afro-Futurist Space cult. But, as the leader's plans for cosmic travel start sounding like a blueprint for mass death, she begins to question her faith as she realizes the potential loss of her new family.

#### **RECONSTRUCTION** | FEATURE – HISTORICAL DRAMA

In the aftermath of the Civil War, a brilliant African American pianist discovers that her long-lost, formerly enslaved husband is alive, passing as white, and married to her employer. As they secretly rekindle their relationship, she finds herself caught in a deadly love triangle.

#### THE SERVICE | FEATURE - COMING-OF-AGE DRAMEDY

A young and aimless Ethiopian American woman begrudgingly agrees to do a favor for a family friend and ends up on a life-changing road trip with a mail-order bride from Ethiopia who's secretly trying to reunite with her long-lost lover in Las Vegas.

### **JOSE SALOMON LOPEZ**



#### MEZCAL | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

An unemployed scheming former hot-dog vendor, desperate to transform his family's homegrown mezcal into an international brand, teams up with his faux-ranchero uncle to shake up the white-washed celebrity tequila industry and win back his ex-wife.

#### **PROVOKER** | FEATURE – SLASHER

After the members of a popular band in the punk scene are burned to death, an insecure and paranoid lead singer wrestles for control of her band from her ego-maniacal ex-boyfriend while a murderous fan inches closer to her.

#### **ONLY SHE KNOWS** | FEATURE – MYSTERY

Years after her friend's disappearance, an idealistic investigator for the prosecution is forced to combat her own father, a county public defender, when they end up on opposite sides of a murder case that hits too close to home.

### **ZOE MILLER**



AFI Awards Honorary Scholarship

#### 917.399.5612 | <u>millermzoe@gmail.com</u> | <u>zoemillerprojects.com</u>

#### PAT AND MATT GET CANCELED | ONE-HOUR - DRAMA/DARK COMEDY

When a beloved comedian's friend and long-time comedy partner is accused of sexual assault, he fears that the skeletons in his own closet will come to light. HUMANITAS CAROL MENDELSOHN COLLEGE DRAMA AWARD FINALIST

#### THE OTHER ACTRESS | ONE-HOUR - DRAMA

Washed-up, recently sober film and radio star Mercedes McCambridge gets one last chance at reclaiming her lost fame when hot young director William Friedkin approaches her with an unusual role—voice the Devil in his upcoming horror film THE EXORCIST. Although he proves extremely demanding, Mercedes decides to do whatever it takes to fight her way back into the spotlight—no matter the cost.

#### THE GIRL IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE | FEATURE - HORROR

Following her mother's death in a grotesque accident, a depressed teenaged girl and her widower father spend the summer in an isolated beachfront community. Soon, she discovers something's not quite right on this tranquil island—and something's not quite right with Daddy.

#### LINDWORM | FEATURE - SCIENCE FICTION HORROR

An ambitious young singer prepares to marry into a powerful family of oligarchical billionaires. However, her new in-laws are hiding a monstrous and unnatural secret. Her husband-to-be is a genetically altered "designer baby" and the same gene editing that made him perfect mutated his brother into an inhuman creature—who is now coming for revenge on his family.

### **MORGAN MINIX**



## LIVE OAK | ONE-HOUR - DRAMA

A tight-knit southern community, rocked by depression-era strife, splits between the influence of a wellknown landowner and a mysterious tent revivalist who both long to control the town.

#### **OBJECT PERMANENCE** | FEATURE – FAMILY DRAMA

504.343.1021 | morgan.a.minix@gmail.com | morganminix.com

Rattled by a bizarre clause in his father's will, a young, agoraphobic Catholic seminarian must venture into semi-reclaimed, post-Katrina New Orleans to find his estranged brother and mother who hold the key to saving his beloved lifelong home.

#### A NEW SOUND | FEATURE - DRAMEDY

Following a shocking loss, an ascending SoundCloud rapper struggles to mount an impromptu performance. While the rapper's biggest fan, desperate to get into this show, is forced to manage her rowdy kid brother to experience the concert of her dreams.

### **YSABEAUX NG**



### 509.432.4296 | <u>ysabeauxng.film@gmail.com</u> | <u>ysabeauxng.org</u>

#### 7TH | HALF-HOUR - CHILDREN'S ANIMATED DRAMA

When even her own supreme deity mother turns a blind eye to the collapse of the human race, a young and naive deity sets out to collect the 7 holy relics once gifted to Earth and use their power to stop humans from self-destruction.

#### **BIG SISTER |** *FEATURE – LIVE-ACTION DRAMA*

In 1940's, Mainland China, when a fatal drought compels her parents to sell her younger sister off to a rich merchant, a dogged 12-year-old rice farmer braves the southern provinces to find her sister and bring her back home. Inspired by true events.

#### YEAR OF THE RAT | FEATURE - CHILDREN'S ANIMATED

Rat, head of the Lunar Zodiac, takes his legendary lies too far when he tricks the other animals into misfiring an asteroid at Earth. Now at risk of getting kicked off the Zodiac and back into Earth's sewers, he must gain the trust of the long-estranged animal Cat and guide her back to the Zodiac kingdom to prove he is, in fact, worthy of Heaven.

### ANSIA NING



### 734.926.7637 | ansianing@gmail.com | ansianing.wordpress.com

#### THE PREHISTORIUM | HALF-HOUR - SCI-FI COMEDY

At a zoo specialized in housing animals brought back from extinction—mammoths, dinosaurs, even prehistoric bugs—the steadfast director of operations, his zealous social media manager, and the zoo's ragtag gang of keepers strive to bring visitor numbers up by hatching carnivorous raptors for the very first time.

#### THE EXTINCTION CATALOGUE | FEATURE - SCI-FI

An alien robot disguised as a human, sent to Earth a billion years ago in order to document the biological history of the entire planet, meets a dying young woman living on her own in rural South Dakota and forms an unlikely friendship that will jeopardize his sole mission and cause her life to hang in the balance.

#### KUNLUN | FEATURE - ACTION COMEDY

After his eccentric but loving family are put in danger by the ruthless rival who ended his career, a washedup former MMA champion strikes a deal with Kunlun, an ancient sect from the Tibetan Plateau, who are willing to protect them all under one condition: he must win the most prestigious fighting tournament in all of Chinese martial arts.

### **CAMERON OSMOND**



AFI Scholarship Recipient

#### HIRED GUNS | ONE-HOUR - POLITICAL DRAMA

1980s Texas. Amid a political landscape spiraling into polarized chaos, the overlooked daughter of a floundering state politician faces a crisis after her father's shocking death. Determined to salvage her future, she teams up with her closeted mentor to plot her backdoor rise to power in the corrupt and amoral world of Texas lobbying.

#### FORFEIT | FEATURE - SPORTS ROMANCE

In the unforgiving arena of European basketball, a prideful American player is desperate to claw his way back to the NBA before his body gives out. But when he meets an arrogant rising star, he finds he is both drawn to—and threatened by—their dueling ambitions. As they fall into a passionate romance, he realizes he must choose between his long-repressed heart or his fading hoop dreams.

#### **DEMONS** | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR

After a violent breakdown lands a gifted high school debater in juvie, he feels his future is doomed — until the father of his debate partner, a local pastor, recruits him for a youth mission to Mexico. As the debater struggles to fit in with the flock, the pastor's obsession with converting him triggers jealousy in his own forgotten son, who begins to spread a chilling rumor: the new missionary might be evil—demonically evil.

### **COREY PINCHOFF**



#### 248.894.0301 | <u>cmpinchoff@gmail.com</u> | <u>coreypinchoff.com</u>

#### **GREETINGS FROM SAUGATUCK** ONE-HOUR – MYSTERY COMEDY

In order to prove she has what it takes to become sheriff of her absurdly innocent, Midwestern vacation town, an overly optimistic deputy searches for a real crime among the missing cats and drunk tourists. But she gets more than she bargained for when she uncovers a murder...and she's the main suspect.

#### DANDELION | FEATURE - COMING-OF-AGE DRAMEDY

Seattle, 1972: After getting busted trying to escape a Catholic group home, an untrusting, queer teen girl faces yet another repressive foster placement. Desperate to help her, the new case worker—a guarded, lesbian activist, impulsively offers to take the girl into her own home. Can the two figure out how to become a real family before rising conservative opposition tears them apart?

#### CONNOISSEUR OF THE ARTS | FEATURE - DRAMEDY

When a practical, quick-tempered nurse discovers her estranged father being wheeled into the ER after a cocaine-fueled rendezvous with his favorite stripper has left him brain-dead, she must convince her uber religious half-siblings to pull the plug...before they drive her insane.

#### UNDER STUDY | FEATURE - DRAMEDY

When a self-obsessed, 38-year-old, former teen star is ousted from Hollywood after an on-set brawl with her child co-star, she is forced to return to the Podunk Alabama town—and family—she abandoned. Newly destitute, she must decide whether to accept an unglamorous job teaching acting at her bitter grandmother's nursing home or lose the only support she has left.

### HANNAH RICE



#### 818.468.1283 | hannahrice4444@gmail.com | hannahzrice.com

#### ELEVATION | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY/MOCKUMENTARY

An eager newcomer to a three Michelin star, farm-to-table restaurant tries to keep her dream job and her sanity, while being tested by a douchebag sous-chef, an anxiety-ridden general manager, and a clueless chef owner.

#### BOARDING | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

After crashing her sister's car, an aimless rugby fanatic must take a job for money as a P.E. teacher at her former Catholic boarding school—but finds that the real way to earn big is by teaming up with her student to sell weed.

### PICKLED | FEATURE - SPORTS ROM-COM

When a volatile tennis star is kicked off the tennis circuit, she takes up pickleball to satisfy her desire to win a championship. But when the pickleball fans despise her aggressive ways, she fakes a romance with her doubles partner in order to seem more likable and maintain her last hope at an athletic career.

#### THE CHOP | FEATURE - FAMILY COMEDY

For Taka, a socially anxious New Zealander working as a ranger on a park exchange in a California state park, trees are people. When her favorite tree is being cut down to make space for a fast-food chain, Taka must pluck up the courage to stand up to her co-workers, the Park Council and Wienerschnitzel executives.

### **ERIC SCHABLA**



AFI Scholarship Recipient

#### 262.327.5232 | <u>schablaeric@gmail.com</u> | <u>ericschabla.com</u>

#### GLENN GROVE | ONE-HOUR - DRAMA

After her wealthy father's business goes belly-up, an obsessive equestrian champion loses everything. Forced to start over, she must reckon with her splintering family, an escalating addiction and the shame of working as a lowly stable hand in the cutthroat world she used to dominate.

#### THE FOAL | FEATURE - DRAMA

Depression-era Wisconsin. When their beloved plow horse suffers a crippling illness, a strong-willed female farmer must find a way to salvage her family's dwindling harvest and protect her naive older sister. Desperate, she seeks out a mysterious livestock breeder and reluctantly agrees to house him in exchange for his help—but will his deviant intentions destroy their family and reveal her secret shame? COVERFLY TOP 5%,

2023 ACADEMY NICHOLL FELLOWSHIP QUARTERFINALIST

#### THE SETTLEMENT | FEATURE - WESTERN

In the 1860s, a Lakota cavalry veteran and his feral white half-brother roam the drought-stricken high plains as conmen. But when the two discover a fledgling settlement and steal its water supply—accidentally killing the child of a prominent townswoman—the veteran is torn between attaining the home he's always wanted and his loyalty to the brother whose wildness threatens to destroy them.

#### VANYA AND THE PROFESSOR | FEATURE - DRAMEDY

On opening night of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," a cynical actor finds out that his contract won't be renewed, yet he will be forced to carry on in the daunting title role. But when he discovers that his venerated castmate and mentor shows early signs of dementia, the actor must decide how far he's willing to go and how many roles he can play to aid him—especially when it could mean reopening wounds from the recent death of his estranged father.

### **GREER SINCLAIR**



#### 310.740.3382 | greersinclair@gmail.com | greersinclair.com

#### JACK AND JULIE | ONE-HOUR - DRAMA ROMANCE

After a chance meeting at a downtown L.A. jazz club, a young, rebellious singer falls in love with an out-of-work actor—only she's iconic torch singer Julie London and he's television legend Jack Webb. The tempestuous relationship inspires London's record-breaking debut album and Webb's hit police show DRAGNET.

#### STUCKEY'S | HALF-HOUR - COMEDY

When a shallow and adrift twentysomething inherits an historical building in San Francisco, she must choose between obeying her status-driven, capitalistic mother by becoming a landlord, or siding with the eclectic tenants led by a bisexual arsonist radical who will do whatever it takes to save their neighborhood from gentrification.

#### THE SCARLET WOMAN | FEATURE – MYSTERY THRILLER

Near the end of World War II, spy Marjorie Cameron is assigned a covert mission to infiltrate a group of avant-garde scientists and occultists, but her allegiances shift when she falls in love with her target, the rocket scientist Jack Parsons. When she goes AWOL and Jack dies in a mysterious explosion, she discovers she may be more dangerous than she knew. Based on a true story.

Nominee, Sloan Student Prize

#### MINOTAUR | FEATURE - PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

In the grit and glitter of 1940s Hollywood, a struggling actress sets out to uncover her roommate's killer, only to discover a terrifying web of conspiracy—with herself at the center. A feminist retelling of the unsolved Black Dahlia murder.

### **MATTHEW SYRETT**



917.755.3413 | syrett@gmail.com | imdb

#### BEACHED | HALF-HOUR - DRAMEDY

After her banishment from Madison Avenue, a relentless ad executive reinvents herself in the overly quiet seaside suburbs of Atlantic City by launching a Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) pyramid scheme.

#### ICE GLEN | ONE-HOUR - HISTORIC DRAMA

Western Massachusetts, 1910: Yielding to her father's spiteful last wishes, a populist suffragette returns home, takes control of the family's currency paper empire, and confronts a lifetime of her father's business misdeeds.

#### MISTLETOE | FEATURE - ROMANTIC COMEDY

On the eve of her Christmas wedding, a bride discovers her groom's father dated her mother 30 years earlier...and he dumped her mother at the altar.

#### THE CURATOR | FEATURE - DRAMA

Hoping to salvage her faltering career, a museum curator commissions an installation from a buzz-worthy and mercurial artist, only to realize too late that he has sinister plans for the exhibit—and her.

### **LAUREN THOMAS**



#### 425.328.4461 | laurenkthomasfilm@gmail.com

#### ECHOES | ONE-HOUR - THRILLER

Seeking redemption, a recovering addict breaks parole to find her missing goddaughter in their isolated hometown. Once back, she must reconcile with the people she has harmed to uncover a horrific truth.

#### DREDGE | FEATURE - HORROR

A war-traumatized photojournalist seeks to heal himself by documenting rare vultures on a remote island. When a catastrophic storm strands him there, the horrors of his past come back to haunt him in the shape of a vengeful otherworldly figure. Now he must decide if the work he's given his life to is really worth dying for.

#### ALICE | FEATURE - TRUE CRIME

In 1968, Alice Crimmins is the most hated woman in America. After a three-year media circus scrutinizing her job, sexuality, and parenting, this promiscuous cocktail waitress from Queens must undergo a fiasco of a trial to beat the allegations that she murdered her two children. Based on the (somehow) true story.

#### **SCORCHED EARTH** | FEATURE - THRILLER

As a wildfire rages toward a cult compound, a pious teenage bride gives birth to the leader's first son. With the flames closing in, she must now decide whether to trust the promises of the corrupt religious community, or flee with her child from the only home she's ever known.

### **RAQUEL TRUJILLO**



La Caixa Foundation Fellowship Abroad Recipient

#### 323.760.2736 | raqueltrujillor8@gmail.com | raqueltrujillo.com

#### MUCHA MIERDA (BREAK A LEG) | HALF-HOUR - DRAMEDY

After emotionally blackmailing her narcissistic Spanish family to help her open a theater company as her last dying wish, a terminally ill insurance agent learns that she has actually been cured. To keep her beloved company running, she has no choice but to pretend that she's still going to die.

#### ABUELAS | FEATURE - COMEDY

After being forced to host her daughter's mother-in-law, an uptight and solitary widow gets roped into a paranoid amateur investigation when her bubbly, nosy guest suspects their neighbor committed murder. SCREENCRAFT COMEDY COMPETITION SEMIFINALIST 2024 HUMANITAS DAVID AND LYNN ANGELL COLLEGE COMEDY AWARD SEMIFINALIST 2024 Top 4% on Coverfly

#### **INHERITANCE** | FEATURE – PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

When her spiritual, charming sister is suspected of the murder of their estranged aunt, an ethical and protective lawyer must do everything in her power to prove her sister's innocence, only to uncover a generational curse that threatens their family's bloodline.

#### YELLOWJACKETS "TRUST ME, BABY" | SPEC TV EPISODE

In the wilderness, an advanced-pregnant Shauna starts suffering severe pains which concerns the girls, especially Lottie. In the present, Shauna investigates her daughter's suspicious new literature teacher while Taissa deals with a visit related to Nat's disappearance.

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE 2021 NORTH WESTERN AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90027 | AFI.EDU