

MFA Screenwriting Graduates 2020

Loyola Marymount University
School of Film and Television



A Letter from the Dean

MFA Screenwriting Graduates 2020 Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television



I'm pleased to present our 2020 MFA Screenwriting Directory, featuring the work of this year's talented graduates from our Writing for the Screen and Writing and Producing for Television programs.

I'm particularly proud of these students because of the resilience they've shown during the unprecedented circumstances created by Covid-19. Despite major disruptions to their classes and assignments in their final semester, they adapted to new circumstances with grace, completed their thesis projects, and supported each other as a community. Their can-do attitude inspires me and convinces me even further that they've got the skills, talent, and tenacity they need to succeed in our fast-changing industry.

The directory includes loglines for the screenplays and pilots these graduates have written and polished in anticipation of our annual First Pitch event, which will be rescheduled at a later date. Also included are their bios and contact information. Our 2020 cohort is a diverse group from all over the world, and their projects encompass a wide variety of formats and genres—all informed by their unique perspectives and points of view. I hope you'll use this directory to learn more about an extraordinary group of new voices who are ready to embark on their careers.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our First Pitch event when we're able to gather again in person. In the meantime, stay safe and be well!

Warmest wishes,



Peggy Rajski
Dean, LMU School of Film and Television

1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045
sftv.lmu.edu

310.338.5800
sftvdean@lmu.edu

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Writing for the Screen Graduates



1



Brandon Autry

803.730.2615
bautry12171@gmail.com
@Brandon_Autry

Like most latchkey kids, Brandon considered himself an adult early on in his life. Growing up, his babysitter was an overheated television and his parent's eclectic DVD collection. Tarantino, Spike Lee, Kevin Smith... he would act out their greatest hits for anyone who would humor him. That ultimately led him to his first job in the industry at 16, a recurring role on a sitcom, BET's *Reed Between the Lines*, then studying Film and TV Production at NYU—a welcome change after his first real job, bagging groceries the wrong way at the local Piggly Wiggly. Brought up mixed race, attention deficient, and on the broke end of middle class in the predominantly white suburbs of South Carolina, Brandon gravitates to writing dysfunctional outsiders, struggling to overcome their deep-rooted insecurities.

First to Last (Feature, Road Trip/Comedy) An uptight, recent Yale graduate gets a dose of life-changing health news that uproots his rigid plan for his future and steers him towards a cross-country road trip to Burning Man with his freewheeling grandmother.

The Callaways (One-Hour, Drama) During the Great Depression, a black ranch-hand and his white adoptive sister resort to robbing their small Texas town's bank to save their family's land, catapulting them to becoming outlaws on the run across the Dust Bowl.

Pre-Mature (Feature, Romantic Comedy) After a drunken one-night stand, an aimless 19-year-old and a recently divorced dentist find themselves connected by an unexpected pregnancy that shakes up their home lives and the trajectory of their futures.

Faking It (Half-Hour, Comedy) A middle-aged, ex-child star turned Hollywood failure struggles to hold on to his second chance at success after he becomes the acting coach of an overnight, teenage social media sensation thrust into the leading role of the fall's hottest pilot.

Camp After Dark (Short-Form, Dark Comedy) In a *Pee Wee's Playhouse meets Larry Sanders Show*, a 40-year-old, lifelong summer camper is inducted as the host of his camp's weekly talk show after the campmaster/previous host disappears under mysterious circumstances. With increasingly strange guests and musical acts, this is a show within a show about the new host's uphill battle in proving that he's the rightful heir to the Mess Hall/Studio, even if it costs him his sanity.

2



Derek Lee Buss

510.755.9780
bussderek@gmail.com



When Derek confessed to his father he intended to pursue a career in screenwriting, Dad asked, “Could you put me in one of your movies some day?” No protest. Not even a twitch of apprehension in his bushy brows. The son of a Filipino immigrant school janitor, Derek initially felt like his dream was meant for someone else. And yet, with his father’s belief in him, he continued to dream of his name wide across a screen, with car chases, explosions and wild action to follow. But a month after Derek moved to L.A., his father passed away. Suddenly, writing grand shoot ‘em ups didn’t feel right. Derek knew that family—for all the joy, anger, or heartbreak they bring—was what he needed to write about. Now, just as he asked, Dad’s in everything he writes.

Lucky Boy (Feature, Drama) An overbearing Chinese mother discovers a troublesome boy lost among the slots and smoke of a local casino. Her relationship with her own adult son broken, she goes all in to ensure this boy finds his mom again.

Lolo (Feature, Drama) In a rash plan to provide for his daughter in the Philippines, a kindhearted father enters the U.S. illegally and finds work as caregiver to an irascible old man. But with each passing money wire home, “providing” looks a whole lot more like running away.

Stolen Valor (Drama Pilot) With the case of a missing teen girl haunting his small town, a booze-addled, divorced former sailor sets pride aside to work for the town’s brazen young sheriff—his own son.

3



William Connor Devlin

817.980.8380
william.c.devlin@gmail.com
📷 @wconnordevlin2



After being unceremoniously delivered by the stork, William Connor Devlin—whom you can just call Connor—never felt like he belonged anywhere. He was born in Mississippi but doesn't have an accent. He's an American but spent his formative years in Europe. He had a conservative Christian upbringing but still became a bisexual liberal who swears like a sailor. All these contradictions made it difficult for him to decide upon a path in life. There was a summer in Costa Rica trying to save the turtles, and another as a semi-successful stage actor. But when Connor finally accepted that he was meant to be a writer, he discovered he could come up with his own worlds where he finally belonged, with plenty of space for others who felt the same way.

Exquisite Corpse (Feature, Horror) When a struggling painter is commissioned to create a mural for a mysterious collector, she unwittingly summons something inhuman with her art and must find a way to somehow return those vicious monsters to the canvas and save her own life.

The Neon Prince (Feature, Sci-Fi/Action) An intergalactic prince finds an unlikely set of allies from planet Earth as he embarks on a perilous journey throughout the most colorful corners of space to search for a way to stop a civil war on his home planet.

The Beyond (One-Hour, Horror/Mystery) A retired cop and a wannabe journalist uncover the secrets of a quiet, enigmatic town in Maine—where the zealous church members try to resurrect their god, a monstrous sea beast.

Northern Lights (Feature, Sci-Fi/Family Adventure) A family struggling with the loss of a loved one must defend their home from an alien invasion on Christmas Eve.

4



Kalvin Etienne

347-359-7519
kalvinietienne@gmail.com



Social taboos and interracial dynamics are Calvin Etienne's wheelhouse. With a background in Philosophy and Psychology, he has often observed how many times people have not said the words that need to be said, especially in terms of racial issues. He also is an actor, who has seen the power that spoken words have on an audience. By combining all of these elements, he hopes to open dialogue to the most uncomfortable subjects society chronically avoids but must face.

A Boy Named Jane (Feature, Indie/Drama) A masculine, but female-named African-American male is caught between his white lover and his stringent Caribbean family legacy.

The Kiss of Truth (Feature, Drama) A high-class white woman presses her luck when she pursues an interracial relationship outside her marriage to a high-ranking white police chief.

High Octave (Feature, Drama/Action)

In a world where violence is executed through soundwaves and musical instruments, an African-American warrior seeks revenge on the white woman who killed his brother and is hell-bent on destroying New York City.

La Mascheratura (Short Play, Comedy) With magic realism, a couple must figure out if they should embody a more "masculine" essence or a more "feminine" essence in order to save their relationship.



Ian Charles Garner

201.259.6997
icpg.12@gmail.com
@sweatpantspapi



Ian Charles Garner is profoundly complicated, and perhaps the Chuck Palahniuk books he had no business reading as a child are partly to blame. Being gay and biracial, he was the black sheep of his Irish-Catholic family, but he was raised in New Jersey in a house filled with unbridled love, unwavering acceptance, and “Jagged Little Pill” by Alanis Morissette on repeat. For far longer than he’d care to admit, he believed that Bruce Lee was his biological uncle... and if you’re one of the many Ian has swindled into following him on Twitter, you’re already familiar with all of his absurd stories. Ian funnels his love of storytelling into screenwriting where he gets to “Fade Out” with stories about characters just as complicated as he.

The Beatification of Miss August (One-Hour Limited Series, Biographical Drama) In the late '70s, a naïve ingénue from suburban Canada is courted by a charming hustler and seduced by the lavish world of the Playboy Mansion. As her star quickly rises, hurt feelings lead to her tragic demise.

Ruthless! (Feature, Sports/Psychological Thriller) When an overly ambitious gymnast is involved in the accidental death of her rival teammate, she struggles to keep her secret from being unearthed and her sanity intact—all while trying to actualize her Olympic dream.

The Crimson Letter (Feature, Historical Drama) Inspired by true events, an untimely suicide and an incriminating letter implicates a group of gay Harvard students living in secrecy in 1920 as they fight to prevent their lives from being upended by a school-sanctioned court determined to expose them.

Hercules (Play, Family Drama) A precocious teen escapes to an imaginary world built on Greek mythology to avoid his own harsh reality. But when he inadvertently reveals a traumatic secret to his parents, his two worlds collide for better... and for worse.

6



Laura Germano

530.356.3497
laurafgermano@gmail.com
@chocodawnridge

Ever since Laura vied for the role of Miss Hannigan in her elementary school production of *Annie*, she's had a passion for unruly women. And while she didn't earn the iconic role (it was fixed!), her fascination with morally ambiguous, obsessively ambitious, and off-kilter female characters was born. Growing up in a small, conservative town to a large, Italian-Catholic family, Laura's attraction to the dark and absurd wasn't always met with uproarious approbation; but Laura's upbringing inspired her love of subcultures, the many ways they both shape and hinder us, and the complex women who are born from (and wreak havoc upon) them. Laura is the recipient of the 2019 Henry Bromell Fellowship.

Hissy Fit (One-Hour, Period Drama)

In the early 1990s, an all-female punk band rises through the ranks of the misogynistic, Pacific Northwest music scene after the death of their bandmate spurs them to publicly take down the man they believe is responsible. *Semi-Finalist for the WIF/Black List Episodic Lab*

Orphans of Bucharest (Feature, Crime Thriller)

When a self-interested American journalist discovers a community of tunnel people living beneath the streets of Bucharest, she muscles her way into their underground world to get the story, despite the fearsome drug kingpin determined to thwart her.

Superior Creatures (Feature, Coming-of-Age Drama)

Three years after her sister's death, an eccentric young woman believes she is still alive—living as a mermaid in the town lake. Now she must prove her sister's existence before lakeside construction destroys the sacred habitat.

Starlet (Feature, Drama/Psychological Horror)

Eileen, a repressed church secretary, undergoes a dramatic awakening when a Hollywood production crew rolls into town, toting glamorous actress Lacey Dubois. As Eileen and Lacey's lives toxically intertwine, Eileen becomes enraptured with delusions of stardom.

7



Chaz Hawkins

615.491.1317
chazhawkins@yahoo.com
@chazmohawkins



Growing up in an abusive household, with a manic father who dealt drugs for the Sinaloa Drug Cartel, drove Chaz deep into his own nightmares to escape reality. Now Chaz develops tortured outsiders to inhabit the darkest corners of his mind and fight the chains that tether them to their isolation. Toughened in the process, his heroes harness their pain to overcome harrowing obstacles and rejoin worlds that have left them behind. Because, as we all know, heroes get remembered, but monsters and demons never die.

The Sauce (Feature, Horror/Dark Comedy) To save his family barbershop, a naïve, black man takes a job at a wildly popular white-owned beauty parlor and discovers that kidnapped black men are the secret to its exploding wealth.

Plimoth (Feature, Historical Horror) After vampire Pilgrims kidnap a Native-American princess, the rogue Tisquantum must emerge from exile to save her and her people from the vicious Pilgrim horde invading the New World.

Cheshire (One-Hour, Crime Thriller) A recovering heroin addict returns home and inherits her murdered father's secret club, the Cheshire, a linchpin in Reno's drug world.

Page Turner Screenplays Semi-Finalist

Skyrim (One-Hour, Based on the Video Game) After avoiding execution, renowned mass murderer Erik Vidar must clear his name. But with dragons returning to Skyrim, the Gods have called upon him to serve a higher purpose: Dragon Slayer.

8



Jessica D. Johnson

310.844.8150
jdomijohnson@gmail.com
jaydomi.com
📷 @jaydomi_nation



A native of urban Los Angeles, raised in a large Black, Catholic family with Southern roots, Jessica always found writing as the best outlet to laugh and to cry. Her storytelling is socially conscious, reflecting personal development and the essence of growing up in the struggle. She yearns to see the flurry of personalities that influenced her upbringing projected on the big screen in meaningful ways: The hardships of determined people of color, of substance abusers, of the LGBTQ+ community, and of urban youth—the people usually counted out, but who overcome adversity through uniquely personal journeys of enlightenment, identity, and purpose. Jessica’s life has been heavily influenced by little people who make a big impact, and that truth drives her craft.

Grad Night (Feature, Coming of Age Dramedy) An urban dramedy in the vein of *American Graffiti*, *Grad Night* is about three graduating seniors in South Central Los Angeles trying to pull off the most epic senior prank of all time, but it backfires into lessons that go far beyond high school.

Khiry (Feature, Coming of Age Drama) A heartfelt exploration of toxic masculinity within the Black community. After the gang-related murder of his brother, a timid teen music prodigy seeks revenge only to find himself torn between his bright potential and his street obligation.

Sober Living (One Hour, Dramedy) A recovering alcoholic heading a sober living home strives to be the man his family needs. He and a houseful of spirited addicts cope through crazy situations and the fight for sobriety by building familial bonds with each other and fixing the ones they’ve broken.



Allison Kowalczyk

860.462.7302
allison.kowalczyk@outlook.com
@ofanivoryheart



After being told at a young age that her mother's love was conditional, Allison sought to understand the ways that humans struggle to obtain love within themselves, in their communities, and through others. This exploration created her hyper-realistic, dark, gritty, and unforgiving style that pulls no punches; it's no holds barred. Now she continues to explore all walks of life and worlds different from her own, through characters searching and often finding their long-desired unconditional love in places they'd least expect.

False Idols (Feature, Sci-Fi/Drama)

In post-apocalyptic Hong Kong where human teeth are currency, a benumbed doctor must track down a genetic miracle child to save humanity and free himself from a tyrannical government.

Phantom Pain (Feature, Crime Drama)

When a newly released convicted gunrunner tries to fit back into the lives of his long-time girlfriend and their daughter, he must face the ghosts of his past in order to be worthy of his freedom.

By Way of Baraboo (Feature, Drama)

When their pious mother passes away, the estranged Harris siblings must return to their hometown of Baraboo, Wisconsin to settle their mother's will and to hoodwink the townspeople so they can receive their inheritance.

Casual Violence (One-Hour Crime Thriller)

After his brother's sudden disappearance, criminal enforcer Normandy Pine sets out to find him, only to discover the murder of a former employer's wife in the small town of Carrabelle, Florida.

10



Patrick J. Lehe

765.490.2378
plehe12@gmail.com
patricklehe.com
@pjlehe



There are certain things in this world that just don't mix; Boomers and TikTok... Trump and Pelosi. If Gays and Catholics are at the top of your list, then so is Patrick J. Lehe! As a writer, all of Patrick's stories are inspired by the duality of his faith and his sexuality and the identity he discovered in between. Growing up, Patrick was insecure and actively remained voiceless. After a lifetime of identity crises, it was therapy, spiritual guidance and a gnarly breakup that helped Patrick shape his true identity as a writer. Now he uses his voice to inspire non-conformity. Patrick explores the dark side of the human condition through adventurous and outlandish stories, all to let others know that they're not alone in the fight against a culture that strives to define them.

Our Father (Feature, Drama) After his lifelong acting mentor commits suicide, a young, closeted gay man returns to his Midwestern hometown where he must convince his strict, religious father to let him take over their Catholic school's dying theatre program. *Semifinalist - Screencraft Screenwriting Fellowship 2019*

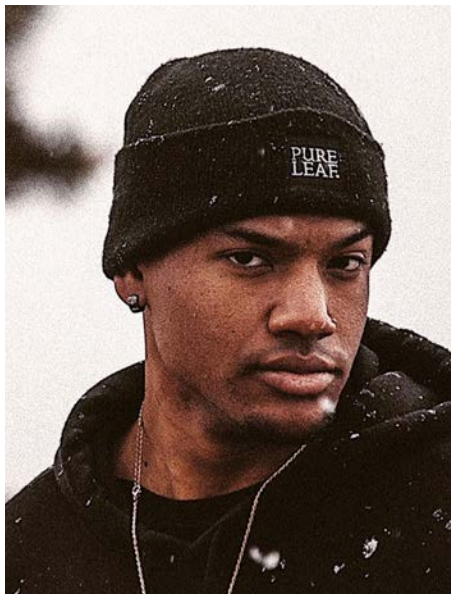
Shit Show (Feature, Black Comedy)

When an overzealous Christian girl attends a massive music festival, she must stop the headlining girl band, secretly a coven of witches, from opening a portal to Hell during their final encore.

Call of the Crosswatchers (One-Hour, Drama)

In present-day Chicago, a gay, sex-obsessed influencer discovers that he is a Crosswatcher, a reincarnated saint who must lead non-believers to God before the Dark Triad can possess their souls. Now he must remain celibate to maintain his unique gifts.

11



Malachi Moore

973.738.6013
prophet1121@gmail.com
📷 @prophet1121



Raised in the synthetic suburbs of Middle America, Malachi sought purpose. It terrified him that everywhere he searched, whether in pop culture or religion, there were no archetypes whose journeys reflected his own or interpreted the profound sadness that conquered his mother. Circumstances propelled him into the conventional world of football, where he quickly learned the dangers of conforming to a culture of toxic masculinity. And although college as a Division One athlete was arduous, Malachi learned discipline and perseverance, built his artistic foundation on Renaissance literature, and found himself in the process. Now Malachi explores the African-American male psyche, focusing on themes of self-love, loss, isolation, transcendence, and mortality.

Fellowship of the Misery (Feature, Sports/Drama) A young football player struggles with his own conscience in exposing a powerhouse football program after discovering the cover-up of a former player's suicide.

In the Name of... (Feature, Drama/Supernatural) A Faust rendition; an aspiring photographer struggles with the inspiration behind his work after memories alluding to a haunting sacrifice begin to surface.

Escapement (Feature, Drama)

A passive introvert finds himself committed to a psychiatric ward after a rescue mission is misconstrued as a crime of passion.

Guilt Trip (One-Hour, Psychological Drama) Suppressed memories of a struggling photographer's past begin to haunt him after a mysterious caller asks, "What is your confession?"

Out of the Box (4-Minute Animated Short) Manifested from the psyche of a young man's nightmare, an allegory of the black experience in America, reflecting feelings of apprehension and isolation in an all-white world. *Winner of the Changing Face International Film Festival & Florence Film Awards*

Savage (15-Minute Short/Drama) A violent, temperamental convict is given the opportunity to train a dog with similar issues, only to suffer the consequences of bonding with a new-found friend.

12



Shareef J. Phillips

912.320.2385
phillipsshareef@gmail.com
📷 @sir_important

A normal baby's first words are usually, "Ma-ma" or "Da-Da." Shareef's first words were "TV, Ba-Ba." Since he first entered this world, all he could do is eat, breathe and sleep STORY. At the age of six, his grandmother had become so fed up with him being glued to the TV every day, she bought him a video camera to create his own stories. To this day his narratives spotlight those niche communities of silenced minorities and humanize them in such a way that these people feel they are seen and heard, too. As a person that has always felt unheard, Shareef uses his work to speak loud. He creates bold, innovative, dynamic storylines with unique characters that each have something to say, UNAPOLOGETICALLY, through their actions, through their words, through their love.

The Day the Clouds Stood Still (Feature, Drama) After an insecure, small-town journalist is sent to write a profile of her childhood idol, a reclusive but renowned author, she learns that in order to break the story she'll have to risk exposing him, unearthing her own family secrets in the process.

The King's Yard (One-Hour Drama) A troubled transgender teen is falsely accused of murder and thrown into a male-only juvenile detention facility where she discovers a clique of those fighting against the same injustices as herself.

I Choose US (One-Hour Drama) A local hero and LGBT activist assumes the role of an assassin, after he becomes the center of a hate crime.

Sweet Sorrow (Feature, Drama) As he tries to avenge the death of his brother, a closeted teen unwittingly falls in love with his brother's killer.

13



Alex Randazzo

716.359.3237
alexrandazzo17@gmail.com



The year was 1994. A bitter cold descended. The snow reached the rooftops. A baby emerged in the dead of winter, a.k.a. May in Buffalo, New York: Alex Randazzo, son of Stacey and Randy (yep, Randy) Randazzo. Like so many others, the cold took his father... to Florida. Alex spent most of his time with his mom, stepdad, and sister in Buffalo but would spend a few weeks every year in sunny Sarasota. His childhood was filled with “interesting” holiday dinners—three for each side of the family—along with a whole lot of airplane rides and a few close calls with alligators. But because of this, he learned that family is what you make of it, and it certainly gave him plenty to write about.

How to Raise Your Antichrist (Feature, Fantasy Comedy) On the eve of Armageddon, the Demon of Apathy must deliver the Antichrist, 10-year old Becky, to Satan, while dealing with opportunistic Satanists, murderous archangels sent by God, and, to her surprise, her own growing concern for the girl.

Programming Pains (Feature, Sci-Fi Dramedy) A tech-obsessed woman, one half of a married couple unable to conceive, designs two android children to create the perfect family, which is threatened when the oldest android—in his teen angst—joins an Artificial Intelligence Rights activist group.

Bury Me When I’m Dead (Feature, Western/Thriller) In an 1890s railroad town, a deputy set on glory and earning the sheriff star, joins up with a young girl to uncover the whereabouts of her missing mother, all while overcoming his own past misdeeds.

Snaggletooth (Half-Hour, Animated Comedy) A misfit, teenaged half-yeti and his human mother move to a town inhabited solely by monsters. He must navigate high school and find his own tribe as he faces the worst monsters of all—teenaged vampires, werewolves, and mummies.

14



Megan Faye Raveneau

718.594.0426
fayerave@gmail.com

At the ripe age of six, Megan declared to her mother that Joshua—her imaginary friend—was the ghost of a young Canadian fisherman, drowned by his brother. Her mom asked why she'd want to be friends with a ghost. And logically she answered, "Why not? He's nicer than most living people." That same spirit lives on in Megan's writing. She explores what it means to be a monster, then asks you to enjoy all the fun and terror along the way—until we realize that, in truth, we are all monsters, and that's just part of being human.

A Friend of Robyn (Feature, Horror)

An arrogant, but brilliant pediatric psychiatrist accidentally exorcises a demon from a young girl during an experimental procedure—only to discover she wants her demon back.

The Lioness of Brittany (Limited Series, Historical Fiction)

Amidst the Hundred Years War, a noblewoman forsakes her country and takes to a life of piracy to avenge her wrongfully beheaded husband and protect their young children. Based on the real-life endeavors of Jeanne de Clisson.

Delinquent Divinity (Half-Hour Comedy, Dark Fantasy) A poorly-adjusted young woman, barely able to handle her own life, finds herself forced into mediating the issues of the Greek gods after she's given the powers of a goddess.

The Penumbra (One-Hour Drama, Dark Fantasy/Sci-Fi Fantasy)

When a portal to a shadow world suddenly opens in his hometown, a struggling music teacher is drafted into helping the crumbling dimension when his own inactions cause the death of one of their leaders.



Writing and Producing for Television Graduates

1



Lucille Brillhart

925.223.7163
lucille.brillhart@gmail.com

Lucille Brillhart may be 5'1", but internally she channels Jason Momoa—until she has to reach for something on the top shelf. She was raised in the Silicon Valley, the product of three generations of engineers. As a scrappy kid, she secretly read adult comic books, fired off arrows in her backyard, and patched up a 1965 Mustang. Defying expectations, she got her BFA in Film at Tisch. She credits *Kill Bill Vol. 1* for changing her perspective on what a female protagonist could—and should—be. Lucille's driven to write unconventional female characters and weaves together dark dramas with comedic elements.

Coping Mechanisms (One-Hour, Dramedy) In an economically unstable world, a group of friends lean heavily on substances and each other to make it through the most tumultuous period of life: their twenties.

Fearless (One-Hour, Sci-Fi) Close to finding a medical solution to negate fear, a psychiatrist will do anything to get her drug on the market—even if it means putting her own family's lives in jeopardy.

Red Label (One-Act Play, Drama) A sexual assault survivor is forced to confront his past trauma when he and a family friend seek refuge during a screening of the Brett Kavanaugh TV hearings. *Produced for the New Works Festival, an original student-run one-act festival at LMU.*

Family Business (One-Hour, Period Drama) Two sisters use their political and financial powers in an unholy alliance with a real estate mogul to transform Atlantic City into the gambling capital of the East Coast.

Hometown Champs (One-Act Play, Comedy) A closeted lesbian returns to the boondocks for her best friend's wedding and discovers that the only person who doesn't accept her sexuality is her mother. *The only student-written piece selected for Crosswords 2019, a one-act festival established by Gloria Calderon Kellett '97.*

2



Katie Elizabeth Brown

512.743.2917
kate.liz.brown10193@gmail.com
📷 @katieb10193



Raised in a pilgrimage across Texas, Katie dreamed of little more than coffee shops, quick-witted friends, and a constantly stimulated imagination. Through sheer force of will, she obtained all three on the East Side of Austin where her characters were invented in the image of artists and musicians, novelists and poets. It is in the “Live Music Capital of the World” where she learned to write stories of comforting homes, well-earned romance, and the constant threat of losing everything that makes you feel safe. Backed by a soundtrack of LCD Soundsystem and R.E.M., Katie speaks and writes at a dizzying WPM, as taught to her by her heroes in Lorelai Gilmore and Joshua Lyman. With ambitious ensembles at the heart of her narratives, Katie’s stories focus on fallible people trying their best.

Smile at Me (One-Hour, Dramedy) In the wake of a career-ending outburst at a Michelin-starred restaurant, a brilliant chef turns to the chintzy realm of food vlogging in order to regain her footing in the competitive New York culinary scene.

Conquer (One-Hour, YA Fantasy) In a world where the Americas were never colonized, the teenage Queen Consort of Russia and a ballsy young warrior in “the West” become the only two people in the world able to prevent a World War.

Reverie (Half-Hour, Rom-Com) An early 20-something with pesky social anxiety and a 40-something barista with “High Fidelity” syndrome crash into an unending trap of falling in and out of something close to love.

Everything Now (One-Hour, YA) Freshly 18, a child star escapes to a charming small town in New England, where she befriends the empathetic wannabes who see her as their way out. The nightmares of her past, however, refuse to back down and her abuser returns to her life, relentless.

3



Cassandra Adele Burge

951.809.7269
cassandraburge7@gmail.com
@cassadele

Cassandra has spent most of her life adapting to ever-changing, harsh environments—whether it was the constant moves of her impoverished childhood or becoming the parent to her addict-mother and younger brothers. Now she creates strong, deeply complicated, and mostly, queer women who have turbulent relationships with their mothers, as she did. Her scripts explore trauma, sexual identity, addiction, and mental health issues, and Cassandra is eager to illuminate how young women can emerge all the stronger for confronting them.

Wisdom to Know the Difference (One-Hour Drama) She’s only 16 years old but Charlie’s already spent most of her life taking care of everyone else, especially her addict mother. But then a kiss from her childhood best friend forces her to face what she wants for the first time, until her mother comes home from rehab early to ruin things.

A Better Life (One-Hour Drama) An L.A. Times journalist, still staving off abandonment and intimacy issues, despite her loving, adoptive family and perfect-for-her girlfriend, covers a story at a border detention center and ends up fostering an abandoned Mexican boy, changing her perspective on family forever.

When Adventure Finds You (Feature, Romantic Comedy) A very sheltered and cautious young magazine writer reluctantly travels to Hawaii to cover a fun-loving champion swimmer and becomes more adventurous than she could have ever imagined.

How to Get a Girlfriend (Half-Hour, Comedy) When a college volleyball scholarship frees her from her repressive small town, a young woman has the chance to live the L.A. life she’s always wanted with the help of the “Queer Queens.”

Found Family (Produced Short, Drama) A closeted young woman, who has watched her mother fail to assert herself with her domineering father, falls in love with Alex, who gives her the courage to finally accept herself and speak up.

4



Laura McCampbell Copan

757-719-3984
lauracopan@gmail.com



Since moving to Los Angeles, Laura McCampbell Copan has made it a point to collect unique experiences. So she marched with Greta Thunberg. And she likes to think that the power of Rachel Bloom's boobs transferred to her when they hugged. Perhaps most notably, a friendly extraterrestrial left a mark on her car in the desert, and she has the photos to prove it. Also a poet and lyricist, Laura uses her scripts to find the humor in heavy contexts such as global warming, the eventual inevitable shrinking of the universe, and even high school. She is excited to attend the Rocaberti Writers' Retreat at the Marouatte Castle in France next year where she will develop *Coexist* with Kelly Edwards, Head of Talent Development & Programming for HBO.

Coexist (Half-Hour Limited Series, Fantasy Dramedy) Two exes, a self-help guru demigod and the creator of all world religions, must unite to prevent the universe from collapsing. Meanwhile, an irresponsible goddess, a lusty gnome, a shy ant, and a deadpan college student prepare for Armageddon.

Tango of Imaginary Friends (Web Series, Comedy) Can three 16-year-old girls—one Christian, one Satanist, and one agnostic—befriend each other instead of solely relying on their own quirky imaginary friends for companionship?

Sludge (Half-Hour, Animated Dark Comedy) A nervous polar bear, a staunchly single penguin, a chain-smoking stingray, a sociopathic octopus, and an immortal jellyfish combat the daily tortures of ocean pollution.

Hey Angel (One-Act Play, Fantasy Comedy) An eccentric beach bum switches lives with her type-A guardian angel to escape the tedium of life, only to find that empathy, not escapism, creates a meaningful existence.



Aminah Flowers

415.527.8474
aminahflowers@gmail.com



Growing up with a southern, Christian mother, a Muslim-Caribbean immigrant father, and five siblings, things were interesting at home. Being a part of such a big family, it's easy to get lost in the mix. Aminah actually preferred it that way. She found peace in writing short stories, even if her mother was the only one reading them. As she got older, Aminah's writing evolved into bodies of work that echoed her tumultuous home life. Needless to say, Aminah used this to her advantage. Her stories reflect her pain, her curiosity, and her need to be heard. Her stories are bold, her characters are unapologetic, and her themes have purpose.

The Plug (Half-Hour, Dramedy)

Poppy is the local Plug on campus. Sold out tickets to the Lakers game? Adderall for those long nights? You name it, she can get it. However, when she ventures into the underbelly of the L.A. designer drug scene, she realizes that the riches of her new career come with unforeseen consequences.

Notorious B.U.G. (Half-Hour, Animated Comedy) Zeke, a common housefly, pursues his dream to be a rap superstar with the help of his best friends, Rollo and Moose. However, the trio must quickly learn to deal with all of the leeches and shit storms that come along with fame.

6ix (One-Hour, Sci-Fi) In a dystopian future, a striated class system limits lower classes to GMO foods; however, a young farmer rebels against the government by growing and selling organic produce on the black market. When her illegal activities put her on the radar, she uncovers a government conspiracy for population control.

6



Seewai Hui

505.264.8131
s.seewai.hui@gmail.com



Growing up half-Chinese and half-white, Seewai could never find where she belonged. She was never Asian enough. Never white enough. Never enough. To escape the painful confusion of growing up, she lost herself in TV's sci-fi and fantasy worlds—where anyone could belong. They lifted her up and saved her. Now she creates her own exciting multi-cultural worlds and populates them with diverse characters who fight issues in our society that often go unaddressed. She may not be able to save the world like her characters do, but she hopes her shows can inspire at least one or two lost teens.

Identified (One-Hour, Sci-Fi Dramedy) A single mother returns home to eastern Oregon to search for her missing mother and to save the family UFO center and ranch, only to find herself caught in the middle of an intergalactic crisis when aliens, George and Ringo, crash land on the property.

The Goddesses (One-Hour, Fantasy)

When three Chinese-American sisters discover that their mother is a goddess and their father ran a secret order of Chinese scholars, they decide to take up their parents' mission of saving the world from the prophecy of an impending flood.

Listen Closely (One-Hour, Drama)

Recently jobless and fleeing from an abusive relationship, a tormented young woman returns home and teams up with a local private investigator to launch a podcast in an effort to solve the case of a missing black girl no one seems to care about.



Erica Sinclair Lee

661.437.9612
 ericasinclairproductions@gmail.com
 ericasinclairlee.com
 @merbae_1

For every 12 white students, there was one black student; meaning in a school of 300, there were 25 black students. In the country town of Bakersfield, you can imagine the treatment they faced. Erica Sinclair was one of them. She had dark skin and a gap in her teeth, and puberty hit way too early. Abuse and depression distorted her young perspective. Somewhere along the way, she became comfortable in the uncomfortable. Erica Sinclair is a writer-director dedicated to portraying honest characters with intricate back stories and visceral emotions, usually highlighting female, minority, and disabled leads. An unusually visual writer, she implants you in the world, whether it be a psychiatric facility or a magical dimension.

A Safe Space (One-Hour, Psychological Drama) After a failed suicide attempt, a young adult navigates her new norm as an involuntary patient at a Los Angeles psychiatric facility; with her trauma boiling over, she leans on staff and fellow patients in a desperate attempt to escape.

Candescent (One-Hour, Fantasy) Spanning decades and dimensions, twin brothers discover they belong to a magical Ethiopian family and must fight to save humanity from the horrors of an immortal, fascist queen and her army.

Naileem (One-Hour, Psychological Thriller) When an African-American college co-ed partners with an unhinged FBI agent to catch the world's worst criminals, they soon find out that the most sadistic killer lives inside her.

The Bus (Feature, Drama) After the death of her wife, an Afro-Latina woman abandons her home to take shelter in a VW bus parked in a storage unit as she desperately hunts down the man who raped her.

8



Flynn MacDonnell

310.433.3889
flynnmacdonell@gmail.com



Flynn's first sentence was, "Get me out of here." She had trapped herself in a closet and was worried big things were happening without her. This is also how she felt when it came time for college. Her dad was sick, victim of a tainted blood transfusion, so it would make sense to stay home. However, cut from the same cloth, her dad urged her to move to Toronto to study bioethics. There she thought she'd learn the answers to life's big questions. But after years of studying medical ethics, she was unconvinced she had chosen the right medium. Instead, she found freedom in writing without a policy agenda, able to focus on how people feel, even if it doesn't draw a clean conclusion. Though L.A. is now home, Flynn remains tethered to character-driven stories of Canada, medicine, and family.

Manners (One-Hour, YA) When April is inducted into Episkopon, an all-female secret society, she finds herself complicit in an act of violence, and tethered to the society's revolutionary agenda.

Oak Ridge (One-Hour, Conspiracy Thriller) In 1968, patients at a maximum-security mental health facility are subjected to a doctor's extreme LSD trials striving to build model citizens out of what he deems society's "throwaway people." Based on the true testimony of Oak Ridge patients.

The Juniors (One-Hour, Sports Drama) When Finley, a fifteen-year-old hockey prodigy, is drafted early into the Canadian pre-professional league, he must carry his family on his back while navigating high school, hockey and, newfound celebrity.

Keanu Reeves is Dead (Half-Hour, Ensemble Comedy) When Keanu Reeves is presumed dead in small-town Canada, Skye is plucked from New York and sent to Antigonish to cover the investigation. There he must earn the trust of an eclectic group of locals and uncover the mystery, or lack thereof.



J. Thomas Mayfield

817.874.2259
info@jthomasmayfield.com
jthomasmayfield.com



J. Thomas Mayfield is a writer, comedian, and actor. With undergraduate degrees in theatre and modern dance, his journey to becoming a TV writer took many odd turns that included musical theatre in Dallas, modern dance in Prague, children’s theatre in Charlotte, a magic show in Baltimore, a dance education residency in Nagaoka, Japan, and a small nation-wide tour with his hilarious and heartwarming one-man show *Everybody Lied to Me*. He is a certified nerd and would gladly show you his comic book collection and Star Wars Legos. In high school he had a Pez dispenser collection and was vice president of his high school thespian troupe, and for whatever reason he thinks it’s important you know that, too.

The Legend of Elumndor (One-Hour, Fantasy/Adventure) As a kid, Aiden was supposed to be the Chosen One and save a magical world called Elumndor. But to a 10-year-old, wizards are scary. Now 20 years later, Aiden lives in New York City, and the evil he was supposed to defeat in Elumndor has found him here.

Dead Club (Half-Hour, Animated/Comedy) Rolland and his friends are outcasts. Scene Kids. Goth Heads. Losers. Who now have to protect the living realm from continuous existential threats (because they kinda-sorta opened a portal to the Underworld). And they still have to make it home for curfew.

Smooth Sailing (Half-Hour, Comedy) It’s *Party Down* on a boat with the heart of *Parks and Rec*, complete with a jaded divorcee, an over-sexed grandma, a posh AF gay bartender, a bright-eyed and innocent new hire, and more. For them, working on an event/party boat is anything but smooth sailing.

Douglas and His Friends Witness a Murder (Feature, Crime Comedy) Douglas is an idiot. So are his friends. And they witness a murder. Well, maybe; it was dark and across the street. But now they’re caught up in something bigger and far more dangerous than they could ever imagine (well, maybe).

10



Gina K. Miller

727.667.2678
officiallygkm@gmail.com



As a Floridian, Gina K. Miller spent her early years riding alligators to school, fist-fighting hurricanes, and eating Publix subs for every meal. She's lived in a haunted hotel, got stuck in several elevators, and grew up in the Scientology capital of the world, which explains her fascination with cults. She writes screenplays, novels, and plays of most every genre and enjoys tackling themes such as learning to let go, coming to terms with the uncontrollable, and how to shoulder all of the things we carry with us.

The Multiplex (Half-Hour, Comedy)
After burning all her bridges, a college drop-out returns to her old workplace—a four-screen arthouse movie theater in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Battle of the Books (Web Series, Comedy)
A high school student assembles a ragtag team of misfits to compete in the regional competitive book club, Battle of the Books.

Famous Players (One-Hour Drama, True Crime)
In the midst of the corruption and scandals of 1922 Hollywood, director William Desmond Taylor's murder points fingers to the three closest women to him—two renowned starlets and his only daughter.

Baggage Claim (One-Act Play)
At the peak of a tropical vacation, two best friends are forced to reconcile the toxicity of their relationship after the loss of their luggage.



Sydney Painter

510.495.9988
 sydney.painter@gmail.com
 @sydneypainter



Sydney Painter thought it was bullshit when her theater professors would say, “If you can imagine yourself doing anything else, there’s the door.” But three cities, two heartbreaks, and a dripping fistful of ridiculous hustles later, she’s accepted that she truly is unfit for any lifestyle other than Artiste. After college and a charming interlude in a foreign country, she apprenticed at legendary new play incubator Magic Theatre in San Francisco, dramaturging for some of this century’s most innovative writers. A humorist by birth and a storyteller by training, Sydney will dredge human behavior without judgment and bring humor and compassion to dark, absurd corners. Also, there’s usually always some gender politics and queer theory.

Cavalier (One-Hour, Historical Drama) When a law-breaking, gender-bending swordswoman in 17th-century France learns her father is dead, she and her friends must return home to Paris, where she’s forced to spar with the past she’s spent her life running from.

Baby Queens (Half-Hour, YA) Three odd-kids-out start some gender trouble at their suburban middle school when they persuade their favorite teacher to help them start a drag club.

Untitled Housewives Slasher Project (One-Hour, Horror/Satire) These six driven, eccentric women have what it takes to survive the cutthroat world of lifestyle programming, but on this season’s undermotivated girls’ trip, throats actually start getting cut—and nobody dressed for that.

Whores (One-Hour Drama) An aspiring comedian pursues gig-economy sex work to bankroll her dreams and discovers that these two skills have more crossover than she anticipated, but probably not more than she can handle... right?

Robot for President (Half-Hour, Animated) What if a robot ran for President?

12



Grace Albers Smith

573.619.7535
gracesbsmith@gmail.com
📷 @grace_sofa



Grace grew up five miles from the middle of nowhere. Her best memories are of holidays, after huge meals sitting around with her big, loud, Irish-Catholic family, telling stories. The time Uncle Karl kept an opossum as a pet; when Grandpa Glenn punched the horse; when Dad crashed three cars in one day. Because of these hilarious tales, Grace was inspired to write her own. She packed up her (station) wagon and drove through the desert with a dog named Bernie to the wild west of California. She writes comedies with mostly queer, usually midwestern women, dealing with mental health, self-love, and grief. You know, funny stuff.

Austen Girls (Half-Hour, Comedy/Adaptation) Based on the novels of Jane Austen, when naïve Catherine Morland is accepted into the prestigious Austen Academy for Girls, she finds herself completely unprepared for the high class world of loyalty, backstabbing, and goose-related theft.

For the Rest of My Life (Feature, Dramedy) When an elderly woman learns she has only weeks to live, she and her two best friends break out of their nursing home and go on a cross-country crime spree so she can see the ocean before she dies.

Step (Half-Hour, Animated Dark Comedy) In Grosbeck, the armpit of the bustling metropolis, Urbania, an 11-year-old orphan investigates the murder of a local barman, which introduces her to a world of corruption and crime no one could be prepared for.

Oriana(s) (One-Hour, Sci-Fi/Dramedy) After the mysterious disappearance of her mother, 12-year-old Ori accidentally opens up a portal to parallel dimensions and meets several adult versions of herself. Together, they have to figure out how to get them back to their worlds without tearing apart Ori's own.

13



Michael Tuxhorn

719.338.1919
michaeltuxhorn@gmail.com



Born and raised in conservative Colorado Springs, Michael Tuxhorn developed his progressive worldview amidst culture clashes with a religious fundamentalist family. From walking away from car crashes, to fist-fighting Swastika-tattooed Nazis, or communing with wild bears, he has always found himself exploring the edges of human experience. Through working with an illegal German immigrant at a heroin-infested hotel, becoming a regular at a burrito shop that was a front for a cartel, and being an intern at an under-staffed public defender's office, Michael is driven to explore the human condition and what builds human connection. Across all genres and settings, he is intent on writing exciting and authentic stories that illuminate real life.

Re-Viled (Half-Hour, Children's Animation) When a nefarious scheme backfires and turns his teammates into children, the diabolical Doctor Decimator must decide if he is better as a super villain or a super dad.

Trigger Happy (One-Hour, Action) When her father is paralyzed stopping an assassination, Casey Smith seeks justice with the help of an eccentric hitman who guides her into the world of contract killing.

Obsolete (Feature, Sci-Fi Action) In a corporatized future, a scientist and her father, a decommissioned cyborg, fight to keep a frightening new discovery out of the clutches of a psychopathic CEO.

We Were Johnsons (One-Hour, Family Drama) After reuniting for their father's funeral, four estranged siblings discover that their mother harbored a shocking secret about their family history—they each have different dads.

14



Allison Waxman

516.660.1098

awaxman22@gmail.com

📷 @awaxman22



Allison was born with a particular set of qualities that only a New York Mets fan can have. The ability to process shocking amounts of heartbreak, to bleed blue and orange, and more importantly, to comprehend how amazing a second chance can really be. Allison was finally able to see the light—the bright, shining, fluorescent lights of countless doctor’s offices and emergency rooms, searching for her second chance, her answer to her illness. Fast forward to a gap year, a love/hate relationship with the judges on *Chopped* and, praise Moses, a diagnosis! Allison knew she had to pursue the one thing that kept her sane throughout this schlep. In everything she writes, Allison offers her characters second chances, even the ones who might not deserve it. It’s her version of Mets fan fiction.

Full Count (Half-Hour, Sports Comedy) A flakey psychologist becomes the therapist for a Triple-A baseball club, an emotionally compromised team she must whip into shape all while trying to earn back her reputation, professionally and personally.

Game On (One-Hour, Sports Drama)

After not receiving the respect she deserves, an overambitious female sports agent quits to start her own agency and deals with the repercussions of having her old company, including her charismatic husband, be her greatest competition.

The Big One (One-Hour, Supernatural Drama)

A broken man returns home to solve the mystery of a strange blue fog that killed his wife during a catastrophic earthquake, only to find his town has been converted into a tourist attraction, with a string of disappearances swept under the rubble.

15



Corey Dashaun Wooten

585.490.5164
coreydwooten@gmail.com
aaumurders.com



Corey Wooten was raised in Rochester, New York and, at a young age, he discovered a love of storytelling through film. He studied journalism and media at Ohio State University where he continued to gain hands-on experience in all aspects of media and content creation. In the fall of 2016, Corey raised over \$350,000 in funding and released his own mobile application called Livid Mobile. In addition to exploring the tech space, Corey has also been committed to urban education. After a stint teaching in both Atlanta and New York City, Corey aims to create shows that explore Black masculinity. His writing attempts to challenge the comforts of the reader while highlighting creepy patterns of modern life that can have unforeseen consequences in the future.

Something 'Bout Uptown (One-Hour, Sci-Fi/Horror) When all signs in a gruesome serial killer case in Harlem point to the urban legend Blacksaw, a group of teen horror-movie fanatics take it upon themselves to solve the case.
Finalist: Sundance Episodic Lab 2017

The AAU Murders (Podcast/Horror) Virginia meets Liam Cambridge, a handsome young coach who promises to take her son's basketball skills to the next level. But as Virginia falls deeper in love with him, her family disapproves, and they get entangled in a complex web of love, denial, abduction, and, ultimately, death.

Charter (One-Hour, Sci-Fi/Horror) Following a family tragedy, Julie is determined to start over with a teaching position in rural Louisiana, but her new life quickly descends into a nightmarish and violent, ritualistic exercise at the hands of a demonic cult hell-bent on righting the wrongs of the South.

Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television

Founded in 1911, Loyola Marymount University (LMU) is a premier Catholic university in Los Angeles rooted in the Jesuit and Marymount traditions. Movie-industry moguls helped establish LMU's Westchester campus, on the bluffs above West L.A., in the 1920s. By 1964 LMU was formally teaching a film and television curriculum, and in 2001 the School of Film and Television (SFTV) was established as a standalone school within LMU.

SFTV offers two intensive, three-year graduate screenwriting programs, conferring Master of Fine Arts degrees in Writing for the Screen (for aspiring screenwriters) and Writing and Producing for Television (for aspiring showrunners). Admission to these programs is highly selective. Both of them develop each student's artistry and unique voice, while also providing professional mentoring and networking opportunities that prepare students to successfully navigate the rapidly changing media and entertainment industry.



Notable LMU Screenwriting Alumni

Melissa Blake (*One Mississippi, Sleepy Hollow, Ghost Whisperer, Heroes, Criminal Minds*)

Gloria Calderon Kellett (*One Day at a Time, How I Met Your Mother*)

Shay Hatten (*John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum*)

Brian Helgeland (*Legend, 42, Mystic River, L.A. Confidential*)

Sarah Nicole Jones (*Legends of Tomorrow, Longmire, Waco*)

Emily Spivey (*Modern Family, Masterminds, Saturday Night Live*)

James Wong (*The X-Files, Scream Queens, American Horror Story*)

LMU Screenwriting Faculty

Karol Ann Hoeffner (Chair)

Patricia K. Meyer (Graduate Director)

Michelle Amor Gillie

Marilyn Beker

Paul Chitlik

David Clawson

Michael F.X. Daley

Jeffrey Davis

Stephen V. Duncan

Aurora Khoo

Mary Kuryla

Catlan McClelland

Marc Pitre

Mark Evan Schwartz

Beth Serlin

John J. Strauss

Tom Szollosi

Stephen Ujlaki



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