



**LMU**  
School of Film  
and Television

A photograph of three graduates in blue gowns sitting at a table. The graduate in the foreground on the right is a young woman with dark hair, smiling broadly and looking towards the right. She is holding a pen in her right hand. The other two graduates are slightly out of focus behind her, also looking towards the right. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor setting like a classroom or a meeting room.

**MFA  
Screenwriting  
Graduates 2024**

# A Letter from the Dean

## 2024 MFA Screenwriting Graduates LMU School of Film and Television

Dear Distinguished Industry Professionals,

This directory is LMU's way of presenting our best and brightest graduates to representatives in the entertainment industry who encourage and nurture emerging talent. In today's rapidly evolving industry, we are confident that our MFA students are the best prepared, most talented, and hardest working from any of the top 10 film schools.

LMU's rigorous screenwriting programs train individuals to explore their creativity and hone their voices in a collaborative environment. Led by an award-winning faculty, who continue to work in the entertainment industry as writers themselves, LMU's students are unique artists who understand what it takes to thrive as a professional writer in the entertainment business.

Obtaining representation is a primary goal of our graduates. They present themselves here with the hope of launching and advancing their screenwriting careers. We are appreciative of you taking the time to get to know them and their work. This is intended as an introduction. We are confident many of our writers will spark your curiosity, and we encourage you to reach out to them directly to explore a relationship that can grow to be a fruitful and meaningful one.

Be prepared to be entertained, enlightened, moved, and challenged.

With gratitude for your time and energy,



### **Joanne Moore, J.D.**

Producer  
Dean, LMU School of Film & Television  
Loyola Marymount University

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

310 338 5800  
sftvdean@lmu.edu



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# Writing and Producing for Television Graduates



## A Letter from the Director



### **2024 MFA Writing and Producing for Television Graduates LMU School of Film and Television**

As Graduate Director of SFTV's MFA Screenwriting Program in Writing & Producing for Television, I'm honored to work with our administration, staff, and faculty to ensure that the WPTV graduate cohort has the support they need as they go through our program. The first class I taught at LMU was the second cohort of the WPTV program. I've worked closely with each cohort since. Watching them grow through the years, culminating in the First Pitch event to become working professionals, has brought me incredible joy. I work to make sure each MFA student is on track to fulfill their creative and career goals, giving them the mentoring and the skills they need to succeed in writers' rooms and in the film and television industry at large. With over twenty years of experience in television, on over twenty-five shows, I bring real world, past experience to ground their future aspirations. Our three-year program gives each writer/producer the time to hone their craft and develop their contacts, so they can leave here ready and able to work.

*Michael F. X. Daley*

#### **Michael F.X. Daley**

Graduate Director, Writing and Producing for Television  
Associate Clinical Professor



# Chris Allan

he/him

617.406.9513

chris@chris-a.media

[www.chris-a.media](http://www.chris-a.media)





A horror writer born on Halloween? It's not cliché if it's true. Having grown up in Boston, Chris attributes much of his fascination with the mysterious and the macabre to the area's grisly history—from the infamous Salem Witch Trials to the bloody beginnings of the American Revolution. He studied Film & Television at NYU and worked briefly as a producer at a sports marketing agency before pursuing his screenwriting dreams in Los Angeles. His high-concept stories span multiple genres and formats, but always explore the darker aspects of the human condition.

**The Serpent's Nest (Pilot, One-Hour Horror/Crime/Thriller)** Determined to provide for his ailing daughter, an ex-con is hired by a black-market antiquities dealer to steal a cursed artifact from the last survivors of a demonic cult.

**Time of Death (Feature, Supernatural Horror)** When she saves the life of a young girl, a grieving trauma surgeon unknowingly invokes the wrath of the supernatural forces that had already killed the girl once before.

**Life/Span (Pilot, One-Hour Sci-fi Drama)** A terminally ill geneticist discovers a way to delay his death by siphoning life force from others. But when he entrusts his breakthrough to a seemingly benevolent biotech firm, he realizes he has created a demand for a product that will require untold human sacrifice.

**Let Us Out (Feature, Horror/Thriller)** The daughter of a prolific but notoriously unstable artist begins to suspect that the supernatural phenomena surrounding her father's final painting hints at a far more sinister story behind his disappearance. Proof of concept available to watch at [vimeo.com/chrisallanletusout](https://vimeo.com/chrisallanletusout).



# Luc Becher

he/him

650.353.8030

lucbecher1@gmail.com

Instagram: @lucbecher

[www.linkedin.com/in/lucbecher/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lucbecher/)



Many people wonder if Luc Becher was created in a lab. From living with a beehive in his childhood bedroom to accidentally inviting a convicted murderer to sleep over, you just never know what this guy is gonna say next. Throughout his life, Luc has thrived in absurd situations just like these, and the only people he was ever able to relate to were the offbeat families he knew from TV. So, he began writing comedic characters who fall into similar chaotic lives. Luc may never live an ordinary life, but luckily, that has fueled his passion for comedy writing, drawing inspiration from his unpredictable past.

**All My Exes (Pilot, Half-Hour Multi-Camera Romantic Comedy)** Following years of resentful no contact, two best friends rekindle their friendships with each of their high school exes after discovering their paths have converged as neighbors living in a Manhattan high rise.

**Astrology Boys (Pilot, Half-Hour Teen Sci-Fi Comedy)** Two teenage sisters seduce a group of nerdy high school boys in an attempt to sacrifice them to ward off a deadly curse unleashed by a mysterious crystal.

**Cephalopolis (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Adult Comedy)** All tentacles on deck as every member in this octopus family works together to stay afloat in a world where cephalopods have taken over the land and humans have long gone extinct.

**Good Families (Pilot, One-Hour Culinary Family Dramey)** The owners of two family-run rival restaurants compete for the title of Best Italian Cuisine as their feud wreaks havoc onto their kids, customers, and kitchens.



# Alli Blythe

she/her

310.503.3270

[alliblythe@gmail.com](mailto:alliblythe@gmail.com)



From a young age, Alli Blythe loved reading and writing sestinas and villanelles. However, the silent and solitary life of a poet and fiction writer had her strangely yearning for more Girl Scout trips and noisy music magazine meetings. So, she pivoted to becoming a hyphenate, learning the producing ropes and developing her writer-producer chops at LMU. Alli aims to write and produce film and television that incorporates literary elements and explores healthy models of friendships and family relationships.

**Something Wicked (Pilot, One-Hour YA Drama, inspired by Macbeth)**

What if Shakespeare's three witches were L.A. teens who had to balance high school crushes, a Battle of the Bands, matters of life and death, and AP Lit? When Hazel experiences her first vision and learns that fate is in her hands, she wrestles between loyalty to her sisters and her desire to change a terrifying future.

**Middlemarch (Pilot, One-Hour Drama, based on George Eliot's Middlemarch)** In a rapidly developing 1950's Pittsburgh, young college graduate Mary Garth pushes her way into a local government job aspiring to make a difference and ends up combatting a corrupt web of interests steering the progress of the Pittsburgh Renaissance.

**Hope You Drown (Feature, Horror)**

In her effort to overcome the trauma of a recent sexual assault, a college sophomore insists on joining her friends on a summer trip on a lake. When monstrous doppelgangers rise from the depths, her best friend decides the best way to help her is to force her to switch places with her doppelganger, leaving her to fight against being replaced and left behind.

**Great Big Quiet Pacific (Feature, YA Family Drama)** Two recently suspended high school seniors steal a motorcycle and race to Oregon, outrunning family, friends, and school administrators. Hellbent on delivering their manuscript to their favorite adventure writer, the teens undergo a life-changing journey and discover the real identity of their idol.



# Marquise Brinkley

he/him

718.415.5267

[marquisebrinkley@gmail.com](mailto:marquisebrinkley@gmail.com)



Since youth, Marquise has been plagued by “What if” questions. What if he lost his memory? Or could exact revenge on his arch nemesis? These were the types of questions that kept him up at night. Now, Marquise uses the “What ifs” that pop into his mind to propel his storytelling. With a B.S. in psychology and a passion for understanding human behavior, Marquise strives to create thought-provoking stories filled with complicated, vulnerable characters. His work explores themes of identity, friendship, dysfunctional families, and trauma. And with every “What if,” Marquise invites readers to explore familiar worlds filled with new perspectives in order to challenge societal norms and spark conversations.

**It Takes a Village (Pilot, One-Hour Family Drama)** After the death of their father, three young half-siblings and their three mothers, who couldn’t be more different, reluctantly come

together under one roof, where they gradually learn to rely on one another and have each other's backs.

**Left for Dead (Pilot, One-Hour Murder-Mystery Drama)** After being attacked and left for dead, a college junior suffering from amnesia returns to school in an attempt to piece together who wanted him gone.

**Nemeses (Pilot, One-Hour Procedural)** A team of emotionally troubled outcasts work as vengeance-for-hire for those too meek to seek retribution for themselves.

**Sprung (Feature, Romantic Comedy)** Convinced that her best friend is in love with her - and even more terrified of losing him - an impulsive teen with a truckload of emotional baggage concocts a plan to shift his romantic desire onto someone else, only to later realize she has feelings for him.



# DeeDee Casimir

she/her

516.782.6555

[ddcasimir@gmail.com](mailto:ddcasimir@gmail.com)





Like Einstein, DeeDee Casimir was moderately mute until she was five years old. Then one day she just started talking and—judging from her boat load of high school demerit slips—never stopped. Born to Haitian immigrants and the youngest of seven children, DeeDee grew up in a home with constant noise. A proud New Yorker, DeeDee’s chaotic environment serves as a character in her work; whether it’s the Caribbean enclave of Flatbush, the quaintness of the Long Island suburbs, or the late-night streets of Manhattan. Having pivoted from fashion to film, DeeDee maintains a strong stylistic eye that she applies in the aesthetic of her writing and directing. With a love for comedy, DeeDee writes stories of Black women living in between two worlds who don’t mind getting a little dirty and reject the notion of respectability politics.

### **52 Dates (Feature, Romantic Comedy)**

Desperate to prove she’s happily in love for her childhood frenemy’s wedding, high fashion publicist Willow Hill enrolls as a beta tester in a dating social experiment that assigns her to a date a week for a year with the guarantee that she will find the love of her life.

### **Growing Up Casimir (Pilot, Half-Hour Mockumentary Comedy)**

A codependent Haitian family of four sisters live and work under their father’s roof as full-time stay-at-home children.

### **Nanny Confidential (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy)**

When an art school dropout gets a job as a caretaker for one of Manhattan’s wealthiest families, she must navigate the politics and power of New York City nannies.



# Camille Chambers

she/her

210.254.2668

[chamberscamille15@gmail.com](mailto:chamberscamille15@gmail.com)



Born and raised in the Dirty South, Camille Chambers spent most of her youth listening to the hood chronicles on her grandma's porch. Later, those tales became the canvas for her imagination as she would passionately and wrongly share them with anyone who would listen. As a writer-producer, this is her chance to get those stories right, or wrong in the right way. Camille tells uplifting, authentic, and unheard-of stories by exploring underrepresented communities and the unique, one-of-a-kind people within them that you wouldn't believe unless you were there.

**Rigsby (Pilot, One-Hour Family Dramedy)** A hot-headed middle school girl grapples with her father's unexpected death while her family and inner-city neighborhood struggle to reconcile his reputation as the pillar of the community when some less-than-savory details start to emerge.

**CPS (Pilot, One-Hour Procedural Drama)** All rules are off the table when it comes to Tiffany, a former foster kid who joins a team of overworked and underfunded caseworkers to fix the broken Child Protective Services system that raised her.

**Not for Sale (Feature, Family Drama)** After leaving an Italian culinary school just shy of the program's end, a carefree young adult gains a sense of ambition when it's up to her to save her neighborhood and childhood home from the well-connected investor hell-bent on gentrification.



# Evan Combs

he/him

818.384.0689

[evancombs@gmail.com](mailto:evancombs@gmail.com)



Born in Los Angeles, raised in Tokyo, Evan spent much of his early life feeling stuck between two worlds. So it felt natural, as a lover of all things artsy-fartsy, to major in Business Management. But, after earning a 0.5 GPA and a “kindly-fuck-off” letter from the Dean, he figured it was time to confront that feeling. Evan threw himself into every easily-escapable job he could find – barista, content writer, camp counselor, ride operator. He even bartended Philip Baker Hall’s funeral reception (RIP). With each new experience, that feeling of stuck became a feeling of freedom. Evan writes comedy and fantasy stories because they allow for a similar freedom. He specializes in stories tackling the absurdity of failing into opportunity and the boldness of venturing into the unknown.

**Soulm8s (Pilot, Half-Hour Satire-Comedy)** Two immature exes sign up for the same reality dating show to win fame, fortune, and the chance to prove to America who the problem was in the relationship.

**Out From the Boxcar Window (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Adventure-Fantasy)** A 10-year-old boy, tired of all the change in his life, falls asleep on the train home from school and wakes to find an earthquake has ravaged the city, stirring a dangerous spirit world that has captured his little sister.

**The Fantastic Fiction of Flannery Brown (Pilot, One-Hour Fantasy Drama)** A shy, righteous teenage girl, with the ability to bring characters from her fantasy-fan-fiction to life, permanently unleashes those characters into her high school when she uses them to dismantle the school’s toxic social structure.

**Face to Face (Feature, Dramedy)** A young aspiring writer fights to reclaim her reputation and tell her side of the story after her recently-ended romance with a much older man is corrupted by a mysterious author, who turns it into the most viral New Yorker story of all time.

**The Coolest Guy in School (Comedy, Sci-fi/Fantasy, MFA Thesis short film)** A misguided 17-year-old boy replays his first day of school in an AI-simulation to find the blueprint for lifting his social status from loser-nobody to the coolest guy in school.



# Sarah Frasco

she/her

973.997.8325

sarahjfrasco@gmail.com

[sarahfrasco.com](http://sarahfrasco.com)



Sarah has always understood the value of a good story. Like a medieval jester, Sarah uses her wit and hilarious approach to life as a way to entertain those around her. Whether she's being cyber bullied by her high school principal, coping with her parents' late-in-life divorce, or being coerced into stealing a plant from a hotel lobby by her former boss, Sarah's response to adversity is laughter. A New Jersey native, Sarah attended school in DC before moving to Chicago, where she spent six years performing, writing, and producing live comedy. Her original musical, *Lucky*, inspired by the American Girl book, *The Care & Keeping of You*, was featured in the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival and awarded Most Promising Musical. Sarah's writing delves into the complex realities of family, adulthood, and anxiety, approaching each topic with a wicked sense of humor and a commitment to portraying messy women on screen. In addition to writing for TV, Sarah's greatest ambition is to open her own disco called "Panic! At the Frasco."

**Children of Divorce (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy)** After selling a pilot based on her dysfunctional family, a guilt-ridden writer must choose between ambition and familial loyalty.

**Teacher's Pet (Pilot, One-Hour Drama)** An uninspired and repressed teacher at the prestigious and patriarchal Mitchell Academy joins a manipulative student in her quest to take down the school.

**Mafia Princess (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Comedy)** After her Nonna's passing, a yuppie publishing agent is made the unwilling boss of her family's organized crime syndicate, forcing her to reconnect with her estranged and headstrong Mafioso father.

**By the Wrath of God (Feature, Period Comedy)** Imprisoned by her husband, the temperamental King Henry II, Eleanor of Aquitaine seeks revenge when she is summoned to court for the Christmas season.



# Morgan Hampton

he/him

415.760.6217

moebhampton@gmail.com

Twitter/X: @moellennial

Instagram: @moellennial





Morgan can't stop bleeding. He's okay, he just has hemophilia. Growing up, he was constantly told what he couldn't do. But inspired by endless hours of television, and too many comics to count, Morgan found purpose in the power of storytelling. Morgan is now a professional comic book and TV writer who tells stories about people driven by their disadvantages in comedic, surreal, and whimsical settings.

*Member of the inaugural class of the Milestone Initiative Talent Development Program at Warner Bros. Discovery Access (2022)*

*Writer for Cyborg at DC Comics (2023)*

*Writer for Sons of Star Trek at IDW Publishing (2024)*

### **Parallel (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy)**

Using an app that allows you to swap minds with an alternate version of yourself, a perpetual simp desperate for connection is stranded in a parallel dystopian world, forcing him to find an alternate way home.

### **Journeyman (Pilot, One-Hour**

**Dramedy)** A strong-willed athlete with hemophilia battles his body, his pride, and his mother as he makes one final push to turn his professional hoop dreams into a reality.

### **Loss Prevention (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy)**

A depressed security guard at the nation's leading department store fights to keep his creative ambitions alive and avoid burnout while navigating irritating coworkers, offbeat crooks, and kooky Karens.

### **Squawk-Man (Pilot, Half-Hour Dramedy)**

A grown yet sheltered hemophiliac on the run from his helicopter mom travels the country with his irresponsible babysitter helping those in need en route to repairing his relationship with his father.



# Tia Kaiulani Kanaeholo

she/her

415.786.1942

tiakaiulani@gmail.com

Instagram: @tiakaiulanikanaeholo

[imdb.me/tiakaiulanikanaeholo](https://www.imdb.me/tiakaiulanikanaeholo)



Tia had two pathways before her: assimilate or rebel. She chose the latter, living as a chaotic art student, free-spirited party girl, and corporate beauty clone. After girl-bossing too close to the sun, Tia pivoted to acting, where she quickly found that the roles available for her as a mixed-race Asian American woman only reduced her to a stereotype. In the spirit of rebellion, she created her own space as a multi-hyphenate actor, writer, and producer. In her work, Tia blends genre to illuminate the complexities of headstrong characters navigating spaces not meant for them, all while confronting and deconstructing their cultural identities. Just like she does every day.

**Ancestral: The Lovers (Pilot, One-Hour Horror Anthology Series)**

After a devastating loss, an interracial couple finds solace at an exclusive Hawaiian fertility retreat with promises of a fertile future. But after a drug-induced fertility ceremony calls on their ancestors, a different plan emerges, causing a rift in their picture-perfect marriage.

**Gatekeep (Pilot, Half-Hour Dark Comedy)** A by-the-book new hire lands her dream job working for her

hero, a powerful lifestyle SHE-EO, but soon finds the job blurs the boundary between boss and employee, forcing her to abandon her morals in favor of a spot at the top of the corporate food chain.

**Candy Queens (Pilot, Half-Hour Crime Comedy)** After a night of debauchery and a dick appointment that ends in murder, four equally chaotic recent grads find themselves in business with a big-time drug ring. When shit hits the fan, their new college degrees, candy edible business, and scrappy street smarts might just make them the most powerful drug dealers in Los Angeles.

**unprofessional (Pilot, Half-Hour Dramedy)** An overworked and underpaid, alcoholic thinks she is perfectly balancing her career, relationships, and sobriety, but the temptation of LA's "cocaine on Saturday, green juice on Monday" hustle culture might be her Achilles' heel.

**Ornamental Oriental (MFA Thesis Sci-Fi Short Film)** For one easy payment and eight hours of your time, we can erase the damaging effects of colonialism, white supremacy, and the trauma connected to it. Just open your mind and trust our revolutionary program.



# Kelsey Langat

she/her

978.328.2943

kelseylangat@gmail.com



Growing up, Kelsey watched a lot of TV and movies to the point where she would regurgitate lines from *The Lion King* and *Finding Nemo*. While her mom was busy with her autistic brother, Kelsey drowned herself in media, which stirred up her imagination leading her to write short stories. Even though she was lonely in middle school, writing was her solace. As she grew older, she discovered her preference for shows with complex lore, shows like *One Piece*, so she aspired to do the same with her writing. She likes to write fantastical pieces with a particular desire to modernize mythology. Her true passion lies in world building, carefully creating lively universes. She likes to create different versions of herself within her characters. Each character she creates not only adds to the enjoyment, but plays a crucial role, seamlessly fitting in whatever unique universe she throws them into.

**Celestial (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Sci-Fi/Fantasy)** After being framed for murder, a young prince seeks out help from a notorious space pirate to save his home planet from his treacherous uncle & prevent an intergalactic war.

**Matawanakee (Pilot, One-Hour Horror Drama)** A teenage boy must confront his demons head on when the same evil force that traumatized him as a kid comes back to finish the job.

**Fury (Pilot, One-Hour Fantasy Horror)** When the balance between Olympus and the mortal realm is thrown off, the Furies are sent to figure out who is behind the chaos.

**Out of Service (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy)** Three baristas try to strum up business at their local coffee shop while navigating through the sea of stupidity that is their customer base, to figure out who is behind the chaos.



# Nicole Lloyd

she/her

626.529.4641

[nicollelloyd06@gmail.com](mailto:nicollelloyd06@gmail.com)



Truly her mother's daughter, Nicole was destined for a life of drama. From summers in Europe to breaking her dad out of prison, Nicole experienced a lot before the age of six. She continued to seek new adventures by moving to Oregon for school and later working at a funeral home. Between her mortician job, all-black outfits, and usual resting bitch face, Nicole is often mistaken for Wednesday Addams, the highest of compliments. Heavily inspired by her all-girls school upbringing and her mother's crazy friends (the Latin Housewives of Pasadena), Nicole centers all her stories around female friendships and the horrors of girlhood.

**Las Chismosas (Pilot, One-Hour Drama, Murder Mystery, Telenovela)**

After allegedly witnessing a crime during their weekly Wine Wednesday book club, a group of boisterous middle-aged Latinas take it upon themselves to investigate their tight-knit Catholic suburb and their nosy neighbor who they believe murdered her husband.

**Mother of Mercy (Pilot, One-Hour Teen Horror Drama)** A group of students navigate the everyday horrors of an all-girls Catholic school while fighting for their lives against a cult of killer nuns.

**Forest Hills (Pilot, Half-hour Dramedy)** After her deceitful husband's death, an uppity stay-at-home mom has no other choice but to move in with her narcissistic mother, who quickly puts her to work at the family business: a funeral home.

**With Grace (Feature, Thriller)** After her estranged best friend disappears, a young lawyer returns home to defend the missing woman's husband against murder charges. But when a dirty secret comes to light, they start to believe each other is responsible for the disappearance.



# Melanie Ojwang

she/they

301.821.7388

[ojwang.melanie@gmail.com](mailto:ojwang.melanie@gmail.com)





As the child of Kenyan immigrants born in Texas and raised in Maryland, Melanie was doomed to struggle with two things: enunciating and confidently answering “where are you from?” Searching for balance among competing cultural expectations, she, and her lopsided identity, found relief in stories. Eventually, creating her own tales became the key to making sense of the world. Melanie’s writing aims to make audiences feel compelled but a little uneasy, like being in a Walmart at 2am or hearing her pronounce “oil.” Utilizing a dark comedic tone, her character-driven stories focus on outcasts, black sheep and those who are the middle child at heart.

**Cackling Hags (Pilot, Half-Hour Supernatural Comedy)** Exiled to the human realm, three impulsive witch sisters struggle to adjust but are tempted to break the rules that bind them, unknowingly helping a vengeful observer disrupting life on both sides.

**Ripe (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy)**

When a recent widow and her single friends purchase a house in hopes of battling loneliness and the rising cost of living, their clashing ideas of life in their prime creates a homelife that’s more chaotic than peaceful.

**Freedom’s Ring (Pilot, Half-Hour Workplace Comedy)**

A burnt-out supervisor and an eager new hire use unconventional methods to counteract the well-intentioned but incompetent people that run their immigration centered non-profit.

**Forked Tongue (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy/10-minute produced short)**

After moving back in with her overbearing mom, a recently unemployed 20-something starts creating juicy audio erotica under a male pseudonym and struggles to keep her identity and her hobby a secret when her fanbase explodes.



## Joi Pierre

she/her

281.608.3361

[jpierre968@gmail.com](mailto:jpierre968@gmail.com)



It's not her fault; Joi Pierre was raised by a village of black southern women in Houston, Texas. Her name was given with the intention of spreading light into the world and, for many years, she did so as a professional performer. However, she felt that the female characters she portrayed were shallow and inactive, with stories that were trivial to the human experience. So Joi decided to do something about it on her own. She began writing stories about powerful women who take what belongs to them. Even if it gets a little bloody.

**O'shea (Pilot, One-Hour Period Action Drama)** During the height of Prohibition, a determined Texas woman takes charge of the family grocery store following her husband's arrest for murder. But when faced with his criminal debts, she dives into the savage world of bootlegging to secure her family's survival.

**Hot Girl (Pilot, Half-Hour Dramedy)**

After gaining notoriety for having stiff hips during a twerking contest, an audacious woman enlists her cousins to help transform her into an influencer, but their pursuit leads them into the world of dangerous scams and schemes.

**Mitochondrial (Pilot, One-Hour Sci-fi Action Drama)**

In the near future, a pharmaceutical rep starts working at an organ extraction bureau as a repo woman in order to pump her mother's name up the kidney transplant list — but soon, she risks losing herself in the thrill of it all.



# Kara Powell

she/her

443.791.5455

[powell.kara98@gmail.com](mailto:powell.kara98@gmail.com)

Instagram: [@karaaa.powell](https://www.instagram.com/karaaa.powell)



From an early age, Kara has watched a great deal of television, and she could often be found watching shows in library study carrels. It earned her the superlative “Class Netflixer” her senior year of high school. Kara’s love of television came from a need to better understand human interactions, particularly when it comes to the crazy things people will do for relationships (and more specifically, love and sex). This has become a common thread in her writing along with exploring themes of coming of age and finding your place in the world.

**Odd One Out (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy, LGBTQIA+)** When a sexually confused college student loses her virginity to her crush and doesn’t like it, she goes on a quest of self-discovery, hoping she’s not the only one out there who thinks sex isn’t all it’s cracked up to be.

**Groupie (Pilot, One-Hour Drama)**

Having been recently laid off, an empty-nester mother forms a fast bond with an anxious K-pop idol she inadvertently helps through a panic attack, giving her a new opportunity to learn about herself outside of work as she accompanies the idol and his group on the rest of their American tour.

**Vibrant (Feature, Dark Comedy)**

In a last-ditch attempt to not go broke and stay in LA, a stubborn writer takes a job as an assistant to a larger-than-life wellness influencer, not anticipating the job will lead her to the story of a lifetime.

**Brighton Country Day (Pilot, One-**

**Hour Teen Dramedy)** After her mother marries a prominent senator, a teenage girl’s life is turned upside down as she learns to navigate the new and very foreign social dynamics of private school, while also trying not to clash with her headstrong stepsister.



# Stephen Tantoco

he/him

424.419.8708

stephentantoco@gmail.com

Instagram: @stephenjflores

[www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-john-tantoco](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-john-tantoco)



Stephen grew up between two worlds: the one he lived in, the chaotic metropolis of Manila, and the one he made for himself, inspired by the western media he watched growing up. This duality made him feel like who he was clashed with those around him. That is until he realized that he could make sense of his conflicting world by telling stories and making people laugh. So he turned to comedy writing, getting his start as a sketch comedy Youtuber. He has since expanded his work to multiple mediums while also championing Filipino and LGBT stories.

**Invisible (Pilot, Half-Hour Family Comedy)** After his mother gets transferred to Los Angeles for work, a confused and insecure 14-year-old Filipino kid from Manila must navigate his new life in LA and adapt to a culture that's both familiar and foreign, all while trying to figure out who he is.

**Natural History (Pilot, Half-Hour Workplace Comedy)** When the Orlando Museum of Natural History faces potential closure due to dwindling donors and visitor numbers,

a dedicated, but sometimes misguided, museum curator and her team must do what they can to save their museum.

**Wish World (Pilot, Half-Hour Workplace Comedy)** The staff of a beleaguered theme park must find a way to achieve the brash new president's goal of increased attendance, or risk losing their jobs.

**The Adventures of Little Jar (Pilot, Kids Animated Comedy)** When a family of anthropomorphic jars moves into a new cupboard, the eldest child of the family, with the help of his new friends, learns valuable lessons and learns to accept himself for who he is, chips and all.

**Are We All Gonna Die?! (MFA Thesis Comedy Web Series)** Two former friends turned sworn enemies get inadvertently stuck together during the end of the world and must find a way to survive the apocalypse and each other as they struggle to confront an escalating series of disasters, as well as their own personal demons.



# Kara Mia Williams

she/her

310.905.2291

[thekaramiawilliams@gmail.com](mailto:thekaramiawilliams@gmail.com)

Instagram: [@karamiawrites](https://www.instagram.com/karamiawrites)





Born to fly, Kara sought a way to soar in the competitive world of elite gymnastics. This native Seattleite competed on every continent except Antarctica. Her career journey included stops in the Halo video game franchise, a casino, and on Wall Street. A queer creative and closet optimist, Kara explores identity, chosen family, and the power of hope through a multicultural lens. She specializes in humanizing complex women and queer protagonists, inspired by her global experiences and obsession with history. Baking, books, and showing off her adorable kitties, Mulder and Scully, are Kara's love language.

*Recipient: LMU Graduate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Research and Creative Projects Scholarship, Honorable Mention*

**Champions United (Pilot, One-Hour Family Drama)** Three generations of complex women challenge systemic abuse in the dangerous world of elite gymnastics. As their family bonds buckle under the sport's demands, a power-obsessed CEO and an old-school coach wield Olympic dreams as a weapon.

**Scions (Pilot, One-Hour Urban Fantasy, LGBTQIA+)** Power collides when two women, a former addict and

a former unhoused teen, determined to live their best human lives, must embrace the deadly duality of the Fae Courts before a cunning half-demon with a God complex unleashes Hell on Earth.

**Alpha (Pilot, One-Hour Dystopian Procedural, LGBTQIA+)** A premier squad of women super soldiers fights for democracy in a world hostile to women and the queer community. The newest Alpha? The first trans woman in the program and the embodiment of everything the vicious leader of the Senate Intelligence Committee hopes to eradicate.

**Under the Boards (Pilot, One-Hour Horror, LGBTQIA+)** An environmental lawyer reluctantly returns to the reservation to tackle a water rights case, but her grandmother's sudden illness leads her to discover her family's bloody history (starting with the Diné Witch Purge of 1878) that threatens to consume the skin she walks in.

**Soul Club (Feature, Dark Comedy)** When an introverted teen struggling to escape from poverty dies and lands in high school purgatory, she must navigate relationships with peers of disparate social needs and time periods to thwart a bitter educator striving to obliterate them from memory.



# **Writing for the Screen Graduates**



## A Letter from the Director



### 2024 MFA Writing for the Screen Graduates LMU School of Film and Television

At the start of my very first screenwriting class, my late life-long mentor Lew Hunter laid out on the table over a hundred traditional and contemporary figurines of storytellers collected from all around the world. It was a breathtaking community of wordsmiths in front of our very eyes. That is what you will discover here. LMU MFA Screenwriters are a community of diverse writers trained by one of the top programs in the world for writing feature-length movies.

These storytellers have created emotional, intimate, as well as spectacular narratives to connect with humanity, threading a vast array of cultures and diaspora. In honing the craft of screenwriting and nurturing the creative soul from the bare core of their hearts, the stories you see here are ones they must and need to tell in their original voices formed by lived experiences. You won't be disappointed by the caliber of undeniable talent here.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Weiko Lin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

### **Weiko Lin**

Graduate Director, Writing for the Screen  
Associate Professor



# Calvin Bruhns

he/him

530.598.9804

calvinbruhns@gmail.com



Ever feel like you don't know your ass from your elbow? Then you might connect with the struggle Calvin infuses into his material: finding direction in life. Having clawed his way out of the lonely lumber mills and welding shops of rural California, and sidestepping the medical field he originally pursued from fear of genetic cancer, Calvin now grapples with his own inevitable mortality through other means: cinematic stories of the body rather than pages of an anatomy textbook. Utilizing horror to convey the havoc our bodies wreak on themselves, sci-fi to inspect how technology can't always save us, and dark comedy to keep his sanity in check, Calvin explores ways in which direction is found through overcoming our bodily fears.

### **Hide (Feature, Horror, Sci-Fi)**

An alien from an emotionless species hides from her own kind on Earth by stealing the skin of a young woman, but when the alien starts to feel that woman's emotions, she finds that human impersonation is more than skin deep.

**The Living Room (Feature, Dark Comedy, Romance)** Dumped for being too "vanilla," a straight-laced loser tries to win back his kinky ex by footstooling in the fetish-world of human furniture.

**Wake Up! (Pilot, One-Hour, Horror Comedy, Sci-Fi)** After a conspiracy theory fixation ruins his life, a freeloader ditches his obsession and finds work at the local mattress store. When a genuine conspiracy bursts through the seams, he struggles to ignore the greatest validation he's ever stumbled upon: his boss is an alien who sells people-eating beds.



## Keith Currivean, Jr.

he/him

979.587.2416

[kcurrivean@gmail.com](mailto:kcurrivean@gmail.com)





The home wasn't a safe space growing up. But as the eldest of 7 kids, Keith found a soft spot in his heart for those who can't look out for themselves. Today, Keith's slow-burn horror harkens back to his childhood days — the good and the bad — featuring protagonists on the edge of adulthood, grappling with their demons and fighting with reckless abandon to achieve their dreams. Because we all deserve a brighter tomorrow, no matter where our journeys begin.

**The Tale of Bunny, the Lamb (Feature, Horror/Drama)** When a lamb on a violent sheep farm sees a young boy beaten by the farm's caretakers, he decides to kill the abusers one by one. But as the body count rises, he acquires a taste for human blood and becomes the violence he once sought to end.

**Thy New Possessor (Feature, Horror/Coming of Age)** When a conflicted Christian teenager in rural Pennsylvania inadvertently makes contact with a Pagan deity, he must reevaluate his beliefs and provide a worthy sacrifice, no matter the cost.

**Safer in the Dark (Pilot, One-Hour, Horror/Thriller)** A closeted podcaster and his wife are back in their rural hometown to investigate the disappearance of a young boy. But as the memories of his own missing brother resurface, he must confront the lies he's told his wife — all while uncovering what the Church has done with the missing boys.

**Fields of Red (Feature, Period/Drama)** 1865, West Virginia. A starving farmer with one leg turns his land into a morphine machine for the Civil war, hoping to win the hand of a Wartime Nurse — his true love. But as the business grows and the war ends, he must give up his addiction to the money, or expand to the recreational market and endanger the lives of those he loves, darkening our nation's fate amidst its first opioid epidemic.



# Davis Grant

he/him

940.536.9855

[carltondavisgrant@gmail.com](mailto:carltondavisgrant@gmail.com)



Growing up on a rabbit farm in rural Texas, Davis wondered if there was more to life than prank calling from the local phone booth or pelting his friends with golf balls. Davis found his safe haven at the cinema where he developed a taste for crime (movies), and it wasn't long before he started writing them. His writing philosophy, whether it's a comedy sketch or a feature crime thriller, is to step on the audience's throat, because nobody pays to be underwhelmed. Please hire him, so he doesn't have to return to the bunnies and golf balls.

**Accommodations (Feature, Thriller)**

After faking his death and stealing a new identity, a formerly homeless man discovers his real name on an apartment lease and uncovers a city-wide housing conspiracy, putting him in the crosshairs of a violent crime syndicate.

**Liquidation (Feature, Comedy)**

A landlord, desperate to sell his building for millions of dollars, will stop at nothing to evict his tenants...including...murder.

**Crossfire (Pilot, Half-Hour Procedural Comedy)**

In this parody of 1940s noir, rogue Detective Johnny Paine must team up with his new by-the-book partner, Jean Taylor, to bring down the notorious gangster Dutch Angle, with the help of such stoolies as Gumbumps and Tommy Gunn.

**Thicker Than Blood (Pilot, One-Hour Crime Drama)**

After his brother is murdered under mysterious circumstances, a straight-laced college math prodigy is pressured by his controlling mother into avenging his brother's death by joining the gang that murdered him.



# Aaron Hluch

he/him

330.968.8345

[aaron.hluch@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.hluch@gmail.com)



Aaron is inspired by the outlandish, so when he sits down to write, it's to pump out something absurd, macabre, or both. He puts his characters through grueling gauntlets of bizarre, brutal, and even biblical forces — and sometimes they're funny! Ultimately, he believes the most preposterous situations are the ones that show you who you really are. Thanks, love you, drive safe.

**NecronomiCops (Feature, Action Comedy)** 1987 AD. When a Satanic cult threatens to usher in Armageddon, the LAPD's top supercop manchild and his crotchety grandma of a partner must punch, kick, and shoot their way through their toughest case yet: protecting a feral 9-year-old girl who just so happens to be the Antichrist.

**Frankenstein: Beast of Prey (Feature, Psychological Thriller)** At the end of the 18th century, an obsessed Victor Frankenstein hunts his own monstrous creation across countries and continents in a hellbent mission to avenge the murder of his loved ones.

**The Scoop Deck (Pilot, Half-Hour Workplace Comedy)** A disgraced admiral seeks to earn back his stripes and raise troop morale by captaining a 300-foot-long ice cream barge through the Pacific Theater of World War II, as long as he can dodge the torpedoes and fighter planes of the Imperial Japanese Navy. Inspired by true events.

**Foot-a-Night (Pilot, One-Hour Supernatural Thriller)** When her daughter goes missing, a recovering addict enlists the help of the town pariah in a relentless hunt to find her... and discovers that the mysterious folklore of the Appalachian Mountains is more than just stories.



# Will Lebowitz

he/him

201.625.2569

willebowitz@gmail.com



Will is a recovering dyslexic™ (and New Jersey native) and the oldest of two boys (s)mothered by a Big Fat Jewish Family of doctors and teachers. Before his recovery, Will avoided reading like the plague and spent most of his time watching TV and movies. During Christmases, over steady diets of Chinese food, Will's parents made sure to culture him properly on John Hughes classics, Mel Brooks, and pulpy 80s and 90s action flicks. It may surprise you, as it certainly did him, that after nearly twenty years on this little rock hurtling through space, Will found himself in a reading-and-writing-centric undergraduate degree at Quinnipiac (don't worry trying to pronounce it; no one knows how to anyway) University, before moving out west to pursue his Hollywood dream.

**Smoke & Sons (Feature, Western)**

A kindhearted sharpshooter and his father, a greedy Wild West showman, conspire to rob Flagstaff's first movie palace. But when the son falls for the owner's daughter, more than just the heist goes awry.

**Abi Normal (Feature, Fantasy, Mystery)** In Booville, a town divided between monsters and humans, an affluent werewolf is murdered, and Abi Normal, a sleep-deprived, seemingly human P.I., is hired to solve the crime. When she learns that the victim has ties to the fairy pogroms which killed her family, Abi must risk exposing her true identity to catch the killer.

*Filmmatic Sci-Fi/Fantasy Awards  
(Season 1) Quarterfinalist*

**In Stereo (Pilot, Half-Hour Workplace Comedy)**

After getting kicked out of Berklee School of Music, a broke guitarist resorts to doing the one thing she swore never to do: teach guitar lessons to snooty kids at a New Haven record store struggling to keep the lights on.

**Life or Death (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy)**

Trapped at a desolate off-season summer camp, a dozen D-list celebs and influencers contend for a piece of 500K...as long as the resident serial killer doesn't murder them first.



# Kaitlyn Liu

she/her

507.469.4956

kaitlynliu31@gmail.com





From having three colonoscopies before twenty-seven (I'm fine, thanks) to getting slugged in the head with a baseball bat, Kaitlyn's lived a life and a half. Hailing from Minnesota and Wyoming, she's inspired by true events and mixes in her life experiences to create stories teetering on the comedy-drama line, often with female protagonists in high-tension situations.

**Blades (Pilot, Half-Hour Dramedy)**

When a brash figure skating champion is found guilty of doping, she is banned from the sport and sent back to her dead-end hometown, where she realizes her only way back into the sport she loves is through coaching a young, talented skater with severe performance anxiety. Uffda.

*Second-rounder at Austin Film Festival  
2023*

**Squirt! (Pilot, Half-Hour Dramedy)**

When a 28-year-old woman has her first orgasm, she discovers her squirting abilities and dives into porn to explore her sexuality, but is quickly exploited by the industry, especially when her squirt contains healing properties.

**Ascend (Pilot, One-Hour Action-Drama)**

With only a shoestring budget, the fate of the Vietnam War lies on the newly established Navy Fighter Weapons School, which would later become TOP GUN. Based on a true story.

**Shower Time (Ten-minute Play, Comedy)** When two bros fight over shower time, they suspect an intruder is hiding in their bathroom waiting to kill them.



# Simon Luedtke

he/him

385.232.0687

[simont.luedtke@gmail.com](mailto:simont.luedtke@gmail.com)

[simonluedtke.com](http://simonluedtke.com)



Simon's mother used to say, "There's only one problem with moving to a new place and trying to reinvent yourself -- you take yourself with you." A serial vagabond and Potawatomi artist, Simon writes about uprooted characters in horror and comedy: Natives without homes, murders without killers, romance without love, all while exploring what it means for a person to truly change. Simon is a recipient of Netflix's Native American Writer Accelerator Grant.

**Mko (Feature, Historical Horror)**

Seeking vengeance for his mother's murder, a young Native man becomes corrupted by a pelt that turns him into a bear at night.

**Ignoramus (Feature, Dark Comedy)**

When their poultry empire is jeopardized by the disappearance of their TikTok-star son, only one person can solve the detestable Bertram family's case— their brilliant twelve-year-old daughter.

**Freaky Franny (Pilot, Half-Hour, Adult Animated Comedy)**

In a land crawling with vampires and werewolves, terror reigns supreme. Even though Dr. Fran Kenstein yearns for glory as a mad scientist, all her macabre machinations keep turning out to be cute, cuddly, and infuriatingly kind.

**When We're 30 (Pilot, Half-Hour, Dark Comedy)**

After high school, sweethearts June and Teddy agreed to reunite if they're single at 30. When June returns to town twelve years later, engaged, Teddy realizes he can win her back... if he just kills every man she's ever dated.

*Developed at the 2023 Native American Media Alliance TV Writers Lab*



# Christopher O. Lukens

he/him

415.961.6394

[christopher.o.lukens@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.o.lukens@gmail.com)



You can hear Christopher coming a mile away with his booming laugh, boisterous East Coast personality, and the rumble of his motorcycle. After years of slinging cocktails in Oakland, he returned to writing, dead set on crafting pulse-pounding, socially-charged scripts. His calling card is gritty, edge-of-your-seat thrillers laced with biting social commentary. At their heart, his stories are about deeply flawed people forced to reckon with our modern dystopia as they confront systemic evils and face their inner demons. Christopher's quest is to make his mark through writing, directing, and acting.

**Speak Easy (Feature, Neo-Noir Thriller)** He was an alcoholic TV star until he was accused of a heinous crime. Now he's a sober bottom-rung private eye scouring the gutters for a paycheck. When his daughter goes missing, the trail leads right back to the same corrupt Hollywood system that destroyed his life.

**Groomer (Feature, Thriller)** After his wife's recent affair, an insecure husband thinks he's found the perfect male role model when his ultra-macho brother-in-law moves in, only to discover he's a psychotic transphobe whose obsession with him spirals out of control.

*ScreenCraft Drama Semi-Finalist 2023*

*ISA Fast Track Second-Rounder 2023  
(Currently in Pre-Production as Writer/  
Director)*

**Mirrors (Pilot, One-Hour Sci-Fi Thriller)** In a future where Americans live in a forced augmented reality, an ex-hacker turned hard-boiled federal agent infiltrates a hacker group, only to discover one of them is an exact doppelganger of his dead wife.

*Script Pipeline TV Semifinalist 2023,  
ScreenCraft Pilot Quarterfinalist 2023*

**Trapped (Feature, Action Thriller)** A gutter-drunk ex-con with lethal fists arrives in a walled-off Texas town looking to collect a debt from his ex-cellmate, only to uncover a shocking conspiracy that a ruthless beer manufacturer will do anything to keep under wraps.

*Humanitas College Drama Semifinalist  
2023*

**Tell No One (Pilot, One-Hour Sci-Fi Thriller)** In a future where childbirth limits are ruthlessly enforced, a by-the-books illegal child data investigator gives birth to surprise twins, making her and her ambitious lawyer husband into the very criminals she hunts.

*ISA Fast Track Second-Rounder 2024  
ScreenCraft True Story & Public  
Domain Quarterfinalist 2024*



## Joseph Mueller

he/him

360.599.6969

joseph.c.mueller@outlook.com

[www.linkedin.com/in/joseph-mueller-5b200a178/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joseph-mueller-5b200a178/)



Growing up in Washington state, Joseph was more anxious than the other kids on the block, and used humor to cope with his fears. He was eventually diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, which makes sense; he was always afraid he'd die if he didn't have exactly three pencils on his desk. Joseph realized he never saw anyone in movies who acted like him, and wanted to change that by highlighting the struggles of mental illness to make audiences laugh and scream. Whether it's dark comedy or gritty horror, he excels in writing lonely characters who must overcome their trauma by helping others.

**The Caretaker (Feature, Action, Comedy)** After a job goes awry, a suicidal hitwoman must protect a teen with Down syndrome from a ruthless gangster. If she's not careful, she just might become the loving parent she always wished she had.

**A Pickle for the Knowing Ones (Pilot, Half-Hour, Period, Comedy)**

Desperate to be revered, illiterate businessman Timothy Dexter follows every delusional whim he has as he fails upward to become "the first Lord in the younited States of A mercary." Inspired by actual events.

**Fear Itself (Feature, Horror)** A man with OCD seeks redemption as he's haunted by a violent ghost trying to possess his body... and the more frightened he becomes, the closer the spirit gets to taking complete control.

**Clear Waters (Feature, Crime/Noir)**

While investigating the gruesome death of a marine biologist, a by-the-book biracial detective and a jaded Tribal officer uncover a conspiracy surrounding a sea cucumber poaching ring on the reservation. Inspired by actual events.



# Lauren Nguyen

she/her

860.212.7944

nguylaur1@gmail.com

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





Lauren has always wanted to make people cry (in a good way, obviously). As the only child to immigrant parents she carried the weight of words and language starting at a very young age. Back then, she used her words to lead her parents through doctor's visits. Now, she uses her words to write about nuanced familial relationships and moments in life that make or break people's existence. Lauren wishes to bring comfort by allowing people to live their emotions through characters besides themselves. She finds meaning in the small, seemingly insignificant memories that people carry for a lifetime; a stranger's comforting smile during a moment of hardship, the warm sun after a day of staring at a cold computer screen, a steaming meal on a lonely night after work. Lauren yearns to tell stories of life's most delicate moments through drama, horror, romance, comedy (people can cry from laughing too hard too, you know), and everything in between.

### **Double Happiness (Comedy, Feature)**

After her grown son's untimely death, a grieving mother seeks out a bride to die for so she can give him the perfect Chinese ghost wedding.

### **Square or Round? (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy Pilot)**

When a young nurse learns her mother is selling their family nail salon, she decides to abandon her degree to follow her passion for nails, a career that her immigrant mother has always considered lowbrow.

### **Bitter Beans (Pilot, Half-Hour Animation Pilot)**

A woman with a fiery hatred for romance runs a cafe that keeps anyone in love from entry, creating a safe haven for her own broken heart.

### **Whispers Among Trees (Horror Feature)**

After her son falls ill, an incompetent mother battles for her son's life with the forest spirit that granted her the child years prior.

### **Vuong (Pilot, One-Hour Drama)**

After the last king of an ancient Vietnamese dynasty is poisoned, three young men contend for the throne; his affable closeted first son, his domineering second son, and his most trusted general.



# John Norton

he/him

914.475.0092

[john.norton@gmail.com](mailto:john.norton@gmail.com)



Ever since watching his first launch from Cape Canaveral, John has been inspired by ordinary people doing what many consider to be impossible. Enamored with both the poetry of space and the science that got us there, this award-winning playwright takes pride in telling stories that explore humanity and celebrate intelligence. The son of an engineer and a musician, John constructs intricately layered thrillers and magnetic dramas, filled with fast-talking characters sparring with symphonies of kinetic dialogue.

**The Larson Episode (Feature, Drama/Biopic)** After exploiting a flaw in the 1980s edition of Press Your Luck, perennial loser Michael Larson becomes the biggest winner in game show history, only to find himself battling the CBS legal team as well as his personal demons to avoid losing everything for good.

*Winner, 2023 ScreenCraft Drama Competition  
Top 1% on Coverfly*

**Dead Cat Bounce (Feature, Political Thriller)** With millions riding on the outcome of an election, an amoral political fixer concocts a scheme with his gambling-addict brother to infiltrate a campaign and sabotage it from within.

**The Last Martyr (Feature, Thriller)** Convinced a child showing signs of the stigmata is actually being abused at his Catholic school, an atheistic FBI agent is forced to enlist the aid of a sinister figure from his own tortured past in order to discover the truth.

**Signature (Pilot, One-Hour Crime Procedural)** World-renowned handwriting analyst Brooke Chambers knows if you hate your father or cheat on your spouse, all from how you slant your commas. Now, she's law enforcement's secret weapon to cracking their most inscrutable cases, whether they like it or not.

**Triggered (One-Act Play)** A conflicted marketing director must convince the brash CEO of a major firearms manufacturer to pull their controversial ad campaign the morning after the deadliest mass shooting in American history.

*Winner, Kennedy Center John Cauble Award (Best One-Act Play)  
2021 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Award*



# Nana Okamoto

she/her

859.446.0779

nanaokamoto23@gmail.com

[www.linkedin.com/in/nana-okamoto-b6905013b/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nana-okamoto-b6905013b/)



Four countries, twelve cities, fifteen homes. Nana moved around a lot, perhaps even too many times. Caught in a constant identity crisis, she often feels too Japanese in the US and too Americanized in Japan. Naturally, Nana writes fish-out-of-water characters forced to navigate unfamiliar worlds in search of a place to belong. She pens multicultural narratives in the hope that readers will simultaneously find both comfort and discomfort in her stories. One day, when she is a cute little grandma, Nana plans to open a tea shop and tell patrons all about her days as a screenwriter.

**Keep You Safe (Feature, Social Thriller)** Yui, a bright-eyed Japanese woman, moves to America and thinks she finds her Prince Charming in a small Iowa town. She falls in love and into a trap, staged by his white nationalist family who use her as a pawn in their terrorist plan.

**Kikoku (Feature, Children's Animated Fantasy)** After their parents' divorce, two Japanese sisters move from New York to Kyoto with their mother. But when the little sister runs away, the angry teenage sister must venture into a forest enchanted with spirits to find her.

**F-1 Visa (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy)** Four students from Japan, India, Kenya, and Vietnam travel far from home to a strange new world: a Midwestern liberal arts college. Together, they confront casual ethnocentrism, bland food, and the occasional sexile from a roommate. But at least they can bitch about it to each other.

**Within (Feature, Psychological Thriller)** When an elderly, emotionally unstable housewife is convinced that her new neighbor is attacking her with electromagnetic waves, she schemes to get rid of him, despite her husband who is more interested in appearances than her mental health.



# Marisa Martinez Rodenbaugh

she/her

817.734.9428

marisa.rodenbaugh@gmail.com



Abandonment, betrayal, and an occasional desire to kill. These are the family dynamics Marisa constructs on the page. As a child, she enjoyed incredibly violent, high-octane action movies. The only problem? There weren't enough women in them. This is why Marisa passionately writes female-driven narratives, purposefully placing women in traditionally male spaces to subvert expectations.

**Between Heaven and Hell (Feature, Western)** 1874. A determined Arapaho woman races across the Plains to save her younger brother from a cavalry led by an elite tracker: their presumed-dead eldest brother.

**Origins (Feature, Sci-Fi)** After being shot by her sister and left to die on Earth's scorched surface, a hardened survivor fights her way underground to take revenge and claim her royal title.

**Roughstock (Pilot, One-Hour Drama)** After failing to uphold her family's rodeo legacy, a fallen star trains an underdog to compete against her mother's new champion.

**Animales (Pilot, One-Hour Sci-Fi Drama)** As undocumented people disappear in a border town in Texas, a headstrong woman harnesses her newfound shape-shifting abilities to find her missing cousin.



# Louisa Danger Rorschach

she/her

917.830.3015

[Louisa@RorschachCreative.com](mailto:Louisa@RorschachCreative.com)





1989 was a helluva year. Florida executed Ted Bundy; the World Wide Web was proposed; Germany tore down the Berlin Wall; and in New York City, Louisa Danger Rorschach came screaming into the world weighing 9 lbs 7 oz. Something of the zeitgeist must've crossed the placenta because Louisa grew up innately concerned with the universal themes of justice, connection, independence, and metamorphosis. Moving through careers in the arts and education before landing on screenwriting, her work has always been socially conscious and interested in how private revolutions of the heart and mind bleed outward to change the physical world. Louisa's scripts began as subtly norm-challenging romcoms, but as her writing process developed, she found her strength in deeply symbolic and topical social thrillers layered with meaning. Now more *Do The Right Thing* than *When Harry Met Sally*—hello again, 1989—her character-driven narratives feature richly diverse protagonists responding to cataclysmic events, where the only way to survive is to transform.

### **Be With Her (Feature, Social Thriller)**

Childhood best friends Tyler and Kyleen begin college promising to be each other's "keeper" on the path to righteousness, but when a budding romance with an alpha jock threatens to lead Kyleen astray, Tyler seeks guidance from the online Manosphere. Adopting the misogyny of his new pro-masculine community, Tyler is determined to keep Kyleen on the straight and narrow... by any means necessary.

### **24 Hours from Tulsa (Feature, Supernatural, Thriller)**

Four veterans reunite for a Mardi Gras bachelor party expecting to wake up with hangovers, not a coven of soul-sucking succubi. As they run for their lives across state lines, the most terrifying monsters they encounter are within themselves.

### **Day Pass (Feature, Comedy, Thriller)**

When an overworked Mexican hotel maid wins a day pass to the most luxurious resort in town, she's eager for a taste of the high life. What she gets: an overdose of Mormons, mescaline, and mega-yacht sex trafficking.

### **Flesh (Feature, Horror)**

Two Silicon Valley co-founders fight for sole-ownership of their creation: the biotech of ethical cannibalism.

*IP optioned, concept in development*



## Keya Vance

she/her

714.240.0233

[keyavance@gmail.com](mailto:keyavance@gmail.com)



Pursuing a math degree was “safe,” but receiving an MFA in screenwriting was a (terrifying) true calling for Keya. A tumultuous upbringing in San Bernardino, California propelled her into storytelling where she explores why people do what they do. Keya’s stories reflect the healing and destructive power of relationships. She investigates the challenging crossroads of trauma and recovery, always with a flicker of faith in humanity. Her ability to carefully hold and peel back the layers of complex Black characters has led Keya to affirming opportunities such as the Torch Literary Arts Creative Writing Fellowship and the Women of Color Filmmakers Pitch Contest Finalist Award. Believe it or not, she also has a wicked sense of humor.

**Levee (Feature, Drama)** Fueled by his father’s abusive neglect, an arrogant star high school linebacker, hellbent on a college football scholarship must choose between caring for his dying father and following his dream.

**A Dream Deferred (Feature, Drama)** An artist whose future was sidelined by addiction must shoulder the burden of her hospitalized son while also trying to adhere to the restrictions of her probation. This proves difficult when everywhere she goes, she’s haunted by the one who changed everything for her.

**First Fruits (Feature, Horror)** A devout Christian, haunted by his father’s suicide, is recruited to reform troubled teens at a remote mountain estate. But as he uncovers the sinister mission of this camp, he loses his grasp of faith and reality with horrific consequences.

**Legacy (Pilot, One-Hour Dramey)** An overwhelmed social worker’s life is further thrust into chaos when she discovers an inheritance from the father she never met. She must juggle chasing after group home runaways, avoiding the DVD man selling porn, and her dysfunctional siblings who contest the will.



# Scotty Villhard

they/them

314.526.9204

[scott.villhard@gmail.com](mailto:scott.villhard@gmail.com)



By the pricking of my thumbs, some Midwesterner this way comes. A genderqueer punk from St. Louis, Missouri, Scotty Villhard has always been drawn to stories of outsiders — those entering a strange new world, or othered by their own. Flyover country's premier purveyor of the wyrd, Scotty gets their kicks exploring the strange and surreal, the grim and the gothic, the odd and unusual underbelly of America's heartland. They find the world is best viewed at an angle that's slightly askew, and craft indelible worlds both real and unreal, brimming with irresistible secrets and unforgettable characters. And, always, a little hope.

**Boat Dad (Feature, Dark Comedy)**

A divorced dad returns home to reconnect with his estranged teenage daughter, but there's one problem: she's a serial killer who feeds tourists to the local lake monster.

**Hopkin Falls (Pilot, One-Hour, Supernatural Mystery)** When a desperate circus ringleader discovers a physics-defying house in 19th century

Wisconsin, he turns it into a tourist attraction against the warnings of his superstitious transgender partner. But his greed threatens to unearth old secrets and dark forces from the strange town.

**Lost Exit (Feature, Horror)** After an ominous roadside attraction cuts her trip short, an anxiety-ridden social worker finds herself trapped in a purgatorial Midwestern nightmare and must hitchhike home across an otherworldly landscape that preys on her traumatic past.

**Show Me State (Feature, Crime Thriller)** An Americana-obsessed hit man must track down a burned-out Missouri lesbian with a thumb drive of corporate crimes before his sadistic rival gets to her first.

**The Other Side (Pilot, Half-Hour, Animated Young Adult Series)** The stubborn young owner of a haunted diner and her spectral cook deal with the hijinks of their supernatural clientele while struggling to stay afloat.



## Nathan Weinreich

he/him

248.459.1122

[thewriterweinreich@gmail.com](mailto:thewriterweinreich@gmail.com)

[writers.coverfly.com/profile/writer-d725d8e01-54904](https://writers.coverfly.com/profile/writer-d725d8e01-54904)



Raised in two of the most dangerous cities in the US (Detroit and Memphis), Nathan quickly acquired a taste for tales of lives broken by societal decay, permeated by American nostalgia. His stories feature stark tonal contrasts of light-hearted comedy and grim realism, depicting tender moments in rich and brutal worlds. When he's not exploring inventive structure and multi-POV narratives, Nathan loves to share a nice scotch with his fiancée, jam to music from eras past, and study trivia for his (hopeful) future stint on Jeopardy. If you're looking for switchback narratives and period turns of phrase from the mouths of eccentric characters, Nathan's got you covered.

**They Seem Nice (Feature, Road Trip/Crime Spree)** After killing his mother and stealing her winning lotto ticket, a short-tempered music freak teams up with a free-spirited teenage runaway in a trek across 1970s Southern California to cash it, narrowly evading the quirky detective hell-bent on stopping them.

*Coverfly Top 1%  
Top 50, 11th Annual Launch Pad Feature Competition Semifinalist, 2024 BlueCat Screenplay Competition*

**Rabbit Ears (Feature, High School Crime Drama)** In a small, suburban town circa 1988, things are not as the 24-hour news cycle would have you believe when two high school girls – one an awkward outcast, the other a popular princess – are caught up in a crime of passion: the murder of their beloved English teacher.

*Quarterfinalist, WeScreenplay Feature Lab 2024  
Quarterfinalist, Stage 32 Feature Screenwriting Fellowship 2023/2024*

**Cutter's Caskets (Feature, Epic Anti-Western)** It's 1891, and the dangerous days of the Wild West are galloping to an end. But when two greedy, casket-making brothers descend into a violent feud, they drag an entire town into their selfish quarrel as both try to wring every last plug-nickel from the business of death.

*Semifinalist, Stage 32 Feature Screenwriting Fellowship 2023/2024  
Second Rounder, 11th Annual Launch Pad Feature Competition*

**A Waiter for the Godots (Short Play, Farce)** The Godots just want a nice nosh at a fancy restaurant. Unfortunately, their waiter won't give them one lick of attention – he just keeps them waiting... and waiting... and waiting...



# James Williams

he/him

210.658.2698

[jameskevinjunior@gmail.com](mailto:jameskevinjunior@gmail.com)

[www.linkedin.com/in/james-williams-jr-b146951bb/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-williams-jr-b146951bb/)





James grew up a black kid in Heidelberg, Germany, on a military base where his first introduction to horror and mystery was the animated TV series *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!* Following in his parent's footsteps, he served in the United States Air Force, continuing to expose himself to a diverse array of experiences, people, and places, which made him the storyteller he is today. Whether he's conjuring nightmares from his imagination or drawing from his own experiences, James's writing invites readers to confront their deepest fears and embrace the opportunity for growth in the unknown.

**The Venue (Feature, Horror)** When an aspiring interior designer embattled with insecurity about her dirt-poor upbringing becomes enamored with her fiancé's family estate—the wedding venue—she finds herself embroiled in the literal rot and decay festering within the dream location after visions of a ghost threaten her fairytale ending.

**The Body & the Blood (Pilot, One-Hour, Horror)** After being exercised from demonic possession, a brash high schooler looking to reclaim her queen-bee status must grapple with the turmoil left in her wake while unraveling the mystery behind her possession before the demon returns and finishes tearing her and her family apart.

**Savages (Feature, Horror)** Trapped in a remote mansion during a snowstorm, a college athlete and her group of friends must put bad blood aside to survive a pack of ravenous wolves that have broken inside.

**Verona (Pilot, One-Hour, Crime, Drama)** Verona twists the tale of *Romeo & Juliet*, picking up near the climax of their deaths and explores their demise as a homicide. The story follows a pragmatic lead detective tasked with solving the case alongside an idealistic new partner before the tension between the star-crossed lovers' tribes, a dynastic family of cops and a powerful crime family, boils over and sets the city ablaze.



# Kamiya Willoughby

she/her

614.327.3759

[kamiya.willoughby@gmail.com](mailto:kamiya.willoughby@gmail.com)



Kamiya has lived many lives, from Air Force mechanic to business owner; but her love of storytelling has remained constant. She deals mostly in drama, sometimes with a dash of comedy, and enjoys writing about relationships. A lover of people, she finds character in small moments with her loved ones and the personalities she passes on the street.

**Dottie (Feature, Dramedy)** An 80-year-old widow creates an OnlyFans page to save her home from her covetous children.

**When the Sun Rises (Feature, Drama)** A lonely, lovelorn butcher must care for a sadistic drug dealer's daughter to repay his father's debt.

**Expiration Date (Pilot, Half-Hour, Comedy)** A parolee is roped into her scheming coworkers' money-making plots while attempting to be a supportive wife and mother.

**Impact (Pilot, One-Hour, Drama)** When a previously homeless young woman lands her dream job, she must sacrifice her identity to move up the corporate ladder.

## 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 feature screenwriters) and Writing and Producing for Television (for 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.





## LMU Screenwriting Faculty

**Beth Serlin**, Chair, Professor

**Stacy Spruill**, Associate Chair, Assistant Clinical Professor

**Weiko Lin**, Graduate Director, Writing for the Screen, Associate Professor

**Michael F.X. Daley**, Graduate Director, Writing & Producing for Television, Associate Clinical Professor

**Marilyn Beker**, Professor Emeritus

**Stephen V. Duncan**, Professor Emeritus

**Yolanda Buggs**, Instructor

**Ernie Bustamante**, Assistant Professor

**David Clawson**, Assistant Professor

**Stacey Comage**, Instructor

**Jeffrey Davis**, Professor

**Michelle Amor Gillie**, Assistant Clinical Professor

**Karol Hoeffner**, Associate Professor

**Mary Kuryla**, Assistant Clinical Professor

**Patricia K. Meyer**, Associate Clinical Professor

**Marc Pitre**, Associate Clinical Professor

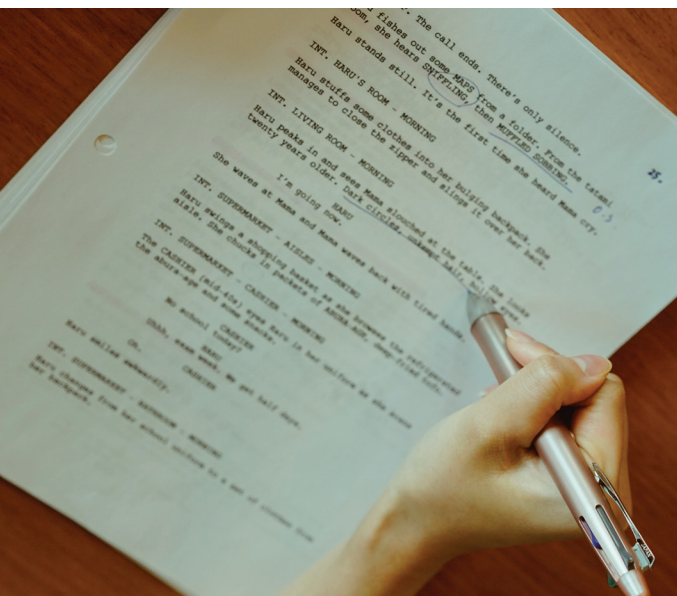
**Mark Evan Schwartz**, Associate Professor

**John Strauss**, Assistant Professor

**Tom Szollosi**, Assistant Clinical Professor

**Stephen Ujlaki**, Professor

**Justin Trevor Winters**, Instructor



## Notable LMU Screenwriting Alumni

**Nicholas Adams** (*The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*)

**Karen Joseph Adcock** (WGA-award winner for *The Bear*, writer on *Atlanta*, *Yellowjackets*,  
*How I Met Your Father*)

**Chikodili Agwuna** (*Tuca & Bertie*, *Criminal Minds*)

**Octavia Bray** (*Life with Leo*, *Raven's Home*)

**Melissa Blake** (*Sleepy Hollow*, *Ghost Whisperer*, *Heroes*, *Criminal Minds*, *The Wilds*)

**Taylor Blackburn** (*Grownish*)

**Effie Brown** (Producer: *Dear White People*, *Real Women Have Curves*. CEO of  
GameChanger Prods)

**Barbara Broccoli** (Producer: *No Time to Die*, *Spectre*)

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

**Jessica Mena Estevez** (*Vida*, *Work In Progress*, *The Republic of Sarah*)

**Jennifer Gómez** (*Vida*, *The Bite*)

**Shay Hatten** (*John Wick: Chapter 3, 4, 5*, *Army of the Dead*)

**Brian Helgeland** (Oscar Winner for *L.A. Confidential*, writer of *Mystic River*, *Legend*, *42*)

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

**Francis Lawrence** (Director: *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, *I Am Legend*)

**Catlan McClelland** (Co-Creator: *Grimsburg*)

**Rebecca Murga** (*Will Trent*, *Swagger*)

**Lauren Neustadter** (Producer: *The Morning Show*, *Little Fires Everywhere*)

**Evan Romansky** (Co-Creator: *Ratched*)

**Matthew Schlissel** (Co-Creator: *Grimsburg*)

**Ese Shaw** (*Jury Duty*)

**Emily Spivey** (*Modern Family*, *Bless the Harts*, *SNL*, *How I Met Your Father*)

**Camille Tucker** (*The Clark Sisters: First Ladies of Gospel*)

**Tom Young** (*The Wonder Years*)

**Kelly Younger** (*Candy Cane Lane*, *Muppets Haunted Mansion*)

**Chantelle Wells** (*Jane the Virgin*, *Yellowjackets*)

**James Wong** (*Final Destination*, *American Horror Story*, *Scream Queens*)



**LMU**

School of Film  
and Television