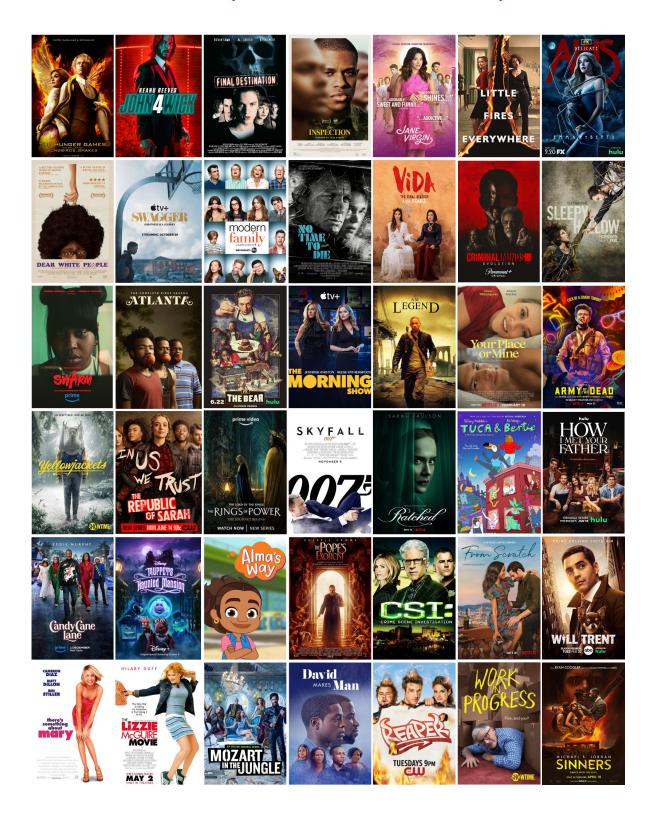


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### 2025 MFA Writing for the Screen Graduates LMU School of Film and Television

A Letter from the Director

At the start of my very first screenwriting class, my late lifelong 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.

This year, we are incredibly proud that our MFA program has been invited to be one of the exclusive global partners to recommend top feature writers for Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences prestigious Nicholl Screenwriting Fellowship.

Our MFA 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.

#### Weiko Lin

Graduate Director, Writing for the Screen Associate Professor











# Writing for the Screen Graduates



# Jon Allison

he/him 757.372.2388 jonallison@trundlebedfilms.com Jon wants to make you laugh so maybe you'll loosen the hell up and actually feel things for once. Fish-outof-water characters come naturally to Jon because he was one, being raised in Christian purity culture in Virginia. And he still is one, being a young dad of two in a city of single people avoiding their families. Jon was recently Line Producer for season six of Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction, where he wrote scripts for Jonathan Frakes on set. He did not bring up how he broke his lifelong curse of blue balls to spawn a happy family because there just wasn't time.

Modern Pilgrim (Feature, Romantic Comedy) Freshly engaged and on his way to finally having sex, a Christian virgin travels to the Big Apple to evangelize to an atheist charity director. When an unholy romance blossoms, he must decide whether to fulfill his marriage sex destiny back home or pull out.

#### The Biggest Sleep (Feature, Comedy)

Convinced his crazy toddlers are preventing him from becoming a Hollywood screenwriter, a dad finally gets his wish: he wakes up in a world where children hibernate in the winter and parents go wild.

Do Not Update (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy, Sci-Fi) While his perfect roommates get updated with special abilities, an oddball android is sent to Obsolescence Camp, where he discovers he has a human father. Now, he must escape and pretend he's a new model so he can find his daddy.

Blue Lily Forever (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy) Desperate to quit his dishonest job selling timeshares, Greg Jergens finds himself stuck at a blue-collar Orlando resort, where he juggles his eccentric and mildly criminal sales staff while being a role model for his teenage daughter.

Sympathy For Mr. Boy (Feature, Comedy) An exasperated dad bets with his family that he can straighten out his deadbeat friend, only to watch in horror as his teenagers and sex-deprived wife are seduced by their new bohemian houseguest. Will he keep his family or lose his sanity?



### **Charter Aswad**

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Born and raised 25 miles south of Nashville, Charter grew up creek stomping and fishing in the tributaries of the Tennessee River. He began writing fiction and poetry in middle school inspired by his upbringing in the deep south, but it was his passion for standup comedy that drew him to Los Angeles to pursue an MFA in screenwriting. Named after Old Charter Kentucky Bourbon, it's only fitting that Charter's middle name is Buffet, after his parent's favorite singer/ songwriter Jimmy Buffett. He would have preferred if they managed to spell it correctly on his birth certificate instead of "Buffet" as in the Golden Corral Buffet, but when life gives you lemons—you make people laugh. Whether traversing the frontier of the American West or I-75 on Thanksgiving weekend, Charter's characters will make you laugh on their way to making you cry as he sends them across a tightrope into their destinies.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West Extravaganza (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy) When it becomes all too apparent that his wife is having an affair with the competition, Buffalo Bill takes his traveling Wild West Extravaganza across the Atlantic to perform for the royal families of Europe and maybe even find a new wife!

Knights on the Plain (Pilot, One-Hour Drama) After Cheyenne warriors kidnap his wife on the Great Plains, a white civil war veteran and military deserter becomes a fugitive in the custody of the United States Army's first all-black cavalry, until he's deputized to serve alongside in the war against the Plains Indians while his wife fights for her life to survive among them.

Keep Him Out of Huntsville (Feature, Drama) After a detective's wife commits suicide, he seeks revenge on her childhood tormentor but must choose between justice or peace when a young woman is sentenced for the murder instead of him.

Punter (Feature, Drama) When the winningest active football coach in the NCAA receives an offer to become the highest paid coach in the National Football League, he sees an opportunity to win back his estranged wife and son's affections, if he can survive the gauntlet thrown down by the billionaire crime-lord who finances his college football team.



### **Brendan Barrow**

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After flunking out of his college neuroscience program and running for his life from his former dream career, Politics, Brendan decided to pursue something more stable and less disheartening: Hollywood. Born in Minneapolis and probably a little too Minnesota-Nice for his own good, Brendan roamed the planet, living everywhere from Washington DC to San Francisco, and Hong Kong (during the 2019 Revolution) before settling down in LA. He's made a career working behind hotel front desks, soaking up stories and experiencing the best and worst of humanity. Writing across genres, Brendan focuses on damaged and misunderstood people who take an often dark and twisted path to find meaning.

Project Zina (Feature, Sci-Fi/Romantic Comedy) Decades in the future, a lonely young man is convinced by a powerful tech company to begin the first human trials of his AI romantic companion program. But when he falls for one of the test subjects, he must choose between artificial romance or true love.

Six Feet Down Under (Short Play, Comedy) When two inept influencer hitmen are sent to kill the Prime Minister of Australia, they jeopardize their mission after they disagree on how to promote their kill on social media.

The Grand Minnehaha (Feature, Romantic Comedy) Just before Valentine's Day, three lovelorn Minneapolis hotel staff make fateful mistakes as they set fire to their relationships and possibly the hotel itself.



### **Emma Benten**

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[For full effect, read the following in a David Attenborough voice.] The elusive Emma Benten is an energetic and humorous creature. Originally from the mean streets of the Upper West Side, the Emma often makes her home in Snuggies and piles of weighted blankets. She often can be found performing intense face lifts on Monster High dolls or curled up with an in-progress Final Draft document. When it comes to her diet, she subsists on gluten-free snacks and large-concept ideas, with healthy doses of fantasy. Oh dear, she's spotted our camera crews! Join us next time, when we learn about how she plans to use her twisted humor to become an apex screenwriter.

The Cayne Instinct (Feature, Spy Rom Com) A hyper-competitive assassin-in-training, intent on killing the king of an island nation, falls for her target's sheltered daughter and must choose between the mission and true love.

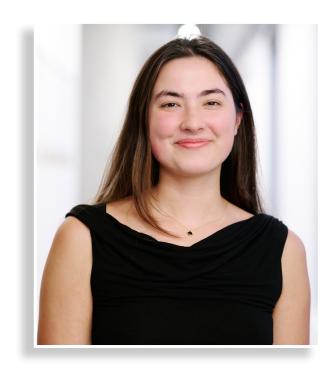
Escaping Luckyland (Feature, Action Buddy Comedy) After a mishap at a beloved Orlando theme park goes viral, an embittered security guard and his perky trainee must work together to protect the park from the angry mob of Karens seeking to tear him limb from limb.

Starline Post (Feature, Sci-Fi) In the year 2150, a grieving mailwoman uncovers a VR device that reunites her with her presumed-dead fiancé and thwarts a scheme to trap the people of the solar system in a simulated world.

2025 LMU MFA Screenwriting Competition Feature Drama Screenplay Award Winner

Magical Cowgirl (Pilot, Animated Half-Hour Comedy) In this spaghetti western Sailor Moon, a meek young woman transforms into the magical sheriff of her sleepy desert town and fights a resident evil sorceress with the help of a mysterious talking horse.

Stage Mismanagement (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy, Mockumentary) In an elite Hamptons private high school, an overambitious stage manager bargains with her failed soap star-turned-drama teacher to revive the flagging theater department. She pulls out all the stops on the promise he will write glowing recommendation letters to her top choice elite theater colleges.



## **Noémie Boucher**

she/her 424.356.2261 noemie.boucher28@gmail.com Noémie (pronounced No-Amy) is a French Canadian from Vancouver. Before moving to LA, she worked on a farm and at the Parliament of Canada (you can guess which one involved shovelling more horse crap.) As a hyperactive kid with a huge imagination, Noémie often found herself exiled to the hallway at school for writing stories instead of doing her homework. Now with a fullyformed frontal lobe, Noémie loves writing stories that focus on complex characters, and the flawed and funny ways they navigate the world.

Cherry Drive (Feature, Coming of Age, Comedy) When a scrappy 6th grader learns her house is being foreclosed, she rallies her friends for one last wild adventure to save her home.

2024 LMU MFA Screenwriting Competition Comedy Feature Screenplay Award Winner

Final Draft Big Break Screenwriting Competition - Quarterfinalist Austin Film Festival - Second Rounder It Might Even Horrify You (Feature, Gothic Fairytale) In a mysterious Bavarian town, a scientist is taken captive by a monster of his own making, prompting his timid wife to brave the sinister dark wood in a desperate bid to rescue him and uncover the unsettling truth about their town and her role in it.

Girl Dad (Pilot, Comedy) A tough beat cop navigates the life of being a single father to a precocious 8-year-old girl.

Nashville Film Festival – Comedy Pilot Quarterfinalist

Rhonda Escolanda: Canine Professional (Pilot, Comedy) When an eccentric dog trainer's TV show faces cancellation, she's forced to work with a beloved new-age canine guru to save her career.



# **Chris Cunningham**

he/him 630.338.7869 chriscunninghamwriter@gmail.com

Chris' dad walked out on him at age two and everything he's done since has been a desperate attempt to prove to Steve that he's cool. A degree in musical theater was likely the final nail in that coffin, but the choreographed fight rages on. Growing up poor, without a positive male influence, and six years late to puberty, Chris developed a hard edge that inched him dangerously close to incel territory. But thanks to a caring, supportive mother and a family history of cardiomyopathy, his heart remained large through it all. This combo of edge and heart is present in everything he writes. His comedy intelligently tap dances on the line, attributed to the tap dancing lessons his mom signed him up for (which you could've vetoed if you were there, Steve), and while his characters are often absurd and assholish, they each come from a place easily relatable to everyday folks. He'd be remiss if he neglected to ask you not to send this to his dad, as Chris doesn't want to jeopardize his muchanticipated return.

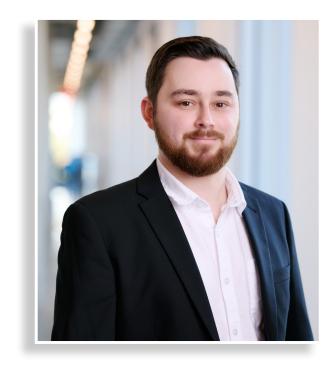
Bananas Foster (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy) After a public fuck-up nearly tanks his career, a desperate comedian resorts to conning his college improv group into reuniting in the hopes of catapulting him, er, them to comedic relevance.

The Adolph Farris Show! (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy) A well-meanin' Pentagon employee finds his inquisitive daughter hidin' in his movin' truck, and gee golly, lack of custody be darned, he's goin' to be the best single daddy around.

St. Drogo's Finest: (Pilot, Half-Hour Mockumentary) Seeking their admiration, a cheerful campus security chief protects rabid students from themselves, illegal parking spots, and his off-center team of underlings, all while juggling the bureaucracy of a private University.

#### Come to Jesus (Feature, Comedy)

On the verge of losing a Bible college scholarship to the coolest Christian this side of the promised land, an anxious teen agrees to help his lust-filled best friend get laid in exchange for dethroning the false prophet and guiding him to his preordained spot in the pulpit.



### **Andrew Emmerson**

he/him 856.226.1729 aemmerson1@gmail.com

Raised on a farm in rural Australia, Andrew has been writing since the age of eight, when he wrote a series of hand-written stories titled, "Snake of Doom". He promises he's improved since then. As the youngest of four, growing up during the worst drought in Australian history, Andrew knows what it's like to struggle, both physically and mentally (thank you, anxiety and insecurities). To avoid therapy, Andrew uses his writing to face these difficulties with a humorous tone, focusing on characters that struggle with - and strive to overcome - anxiety and low self-worth. Amidst this, he also enjoys writing about unconventional found-family dynamics with an element of the unique or unusual, such as being set on a farm, or in the lair of the Snake of Doom.

Recipient of the American Australian Association's 2024 Arts Fund Grant

Ad Lib (Pilot, One-Hour, Comedy-Drama) In 1953, after being blacklisted from Broadway for being gay, a musical producer joins forces with the savvy owner of a struggling Burlesque nightclub, to create a new musical that will blow the socks (and knickers) off the entire industry.

# My Journey to Find a Friend in 100 Days (Pilot, One-Hour, Dark-Comedy Drama)

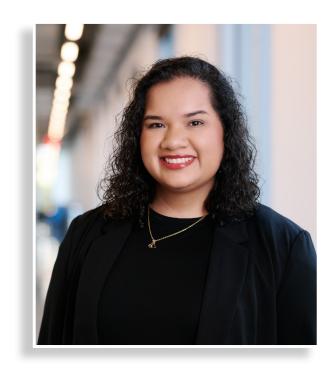
Lindsay, suffering from depression and severe social anxiety, decides to give herself 100 days to find a friend, and if she fails, she will kill herself.

Semi-finalist - 2024 Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards

Second-Rounder - 2024 Austin Film Festival & 2025 ISA Fast Track Fellowship Screenwriting Career Mentorship - Sydney Lift-Off Film Festival

A Hero's Journey (Pilot, Half-Hour, Animated Comedy, Fantasy) When a rebellious Princess is sent to a tower against her will to await true love's kiss, she's shocked to find the previous Princess hasn't left. Together they go on a quest to take back the kingdom from tryhard bandits, man-baby Princes and an overbearing King.

Repossessed (Feature, Supernatural Comedy) When an anxious schoolgirl is accidentally exorcized of the demon who's been protecting her since childhood, she and her friends go on a journey to track down their lost demon friend before supernatural forces get to her first.



## Andrea G. Gonzalez

she/her 925.628.6009 aggwrites@gmail.com Andrea G. Gonzalez is a first-gen college student born and raised in the East Bay Area. Growing up, her Mexican immigrant father used reading time as an opportunity for the two of them to learn English. This fostered Andrea's love for reading and storytelling, which initially manifested as a career in teaching high school English. After four years of teaching, Andrea took a chance on pursuing her writing dreams. She is passionate about creating diverse stories that focus on Latine experiences that transcend stereotypes, exploring the topics of self-identity, culture, mental health, and family.

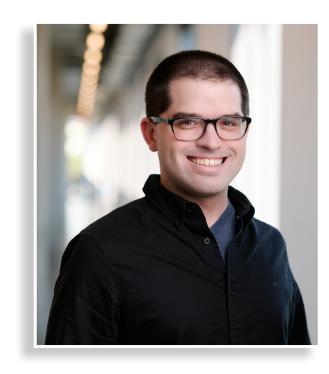
Isla Muerta: Search for Eztli (Feature, Action/Adventure) An academically driven archaeology major joins an expedition to an unexplored Mexican island in search of a lost tomb, where he uncovers a spiritual connection to the land with secrets from his past that could jeopardize his mission and his entire future.

Rockera (Pilot, One-Hour Drama) After her parents die in a tragic accident, a teenage classical music prodigy decides to process her grief by joining her estranged cousin's punk band, redefining her passion for music as she strives to win the battle of the bands.

Luna Eterna (Pilot, Half-Hour Action, Animated) An artistically inclined girl travels through a portal into a faerie world at war in search of her missing parents, where she discovers a secret fae lineage and magical art abilities while evading fantastical creatures and dangers.

Teenage Basket Case (Feature, Dramedy) After receiving a brain tumor diagnosis, an outcast fangirl rebels against her mother, with the help of the hallucinated lead singer of her favorite punk band as she tries to get tickets to see them live.

Novenario (Feature, Drama) 1966, Central Valley, California. When bad working conditions in the fields send a Mexican migrant worker to his death, his teenage daughter must confront her grief, or risk her desire for vengeance becoming the catalyst that sets her community's livelihood ablaze.



Jerry W. Gray

he/him 262.707.8060 jerrywilliamgray@gmail.com www.jerry-gray.com

From creating unforgettable nightmares as a Universal Studios scare-actor to unveiling "The backside of water!" as a Disney Jungle Cruise skipper, Jerry's journey led him to writing screenplays with massive commercial appeal. A pulse-pounding horror film, a wickedly funny mob tale, and a tender animated-hybrid adventure all demonstrate Jerry's mastery of the craft, as well as his keen instinct for what the public wants. Jerry's boundless passion for Hollywood's Golden Age infuses every frame of his action-packed, genre-defying stories. His signature "niche noir" flair blends visually striking playgrounds with complex protagonists who maintain carefully crafted public personas while privately wrestling rejection, deep-seated fears, unfulfilled ambitions, and wounded pride. Jerry aims to build a multifaceted career that includes both screenwriting and acting.

#### Jailbirds (Feature, Gangster-Comedy)

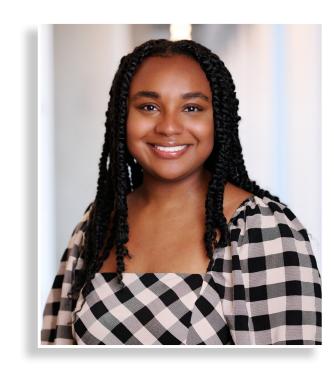
Chicago, 1926. When her husband is framed for murder, a gangster moll must rally her dopey gang she once rejected to break him out of prison.

Hollywood Horrors (Feature, Action-Horror/Thriller) A movie-obsessed detective with a Hollywood hero complex must fend off a horde of classic movie monsters who burst out of a 1950s drive-in screen and terrorize the City of Angels.

Cigar Ashes (Feature, Live-Action/ Animated Comedy) When a major film studio's fiercely phobic night janitor and his best friends, the studio's iconic cartoon characters, discover the CEO's plans to demolish their home, they pull out all the stops to save it.

# Cracked Case (One-Act Stage Play, Fairytale Crime-Noir Comedy)

Following Humpty Dumpty's infamous topple off his wall, a private detective in a fable town investigates the legend's egg puddle.



# **Trinity Jones**

she/her trinityj18@gmail.com

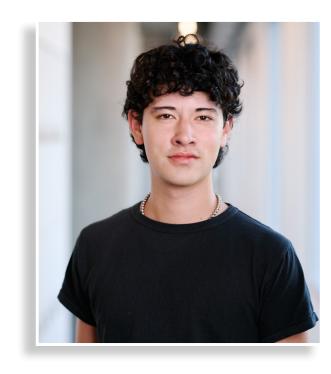
Growing up in very white and very straight Iowa, Trinity, who's Black and Queer, obviously never struggled with coming to terms with who she was. In attempt to figure herself out, she pursued different interests training for college basketball (she couldn't ball), starting a band (she couldn't sing), trying to become a nun (she's not Catholic) — until she finally landed on writing. She discovered her love for writing comedies, especially those about Queer Black women coming of age, because it allowed her to laugh rather than cry about her own experiences. Now in L.A., Trinity's finally found herself as a person and a writer, though sometimes, she wishes she'd become a nun.

Queen! (Feature, Comedy) When a Black homecoming hopeful in Iowa accidentally outs herself as a lesbian, she strikes a deal with The Cool Gays to be remade into their twisted image to secure the crown.

2025 LMU MFA Screenwriting Competition Comedy Feature Screenplay Award Winner The Lady Cornstalks (Pilot, Half-Hour, Comedy) When budget cuts loom, a heartbroken high school teacher rallies an offbeat group of girls into a basketball team to pursue a championship that could save the school – and more importantly, win back his girlfriend.

Ace (Pilot, Half-Hour, Comedy) An overly optimistic college freshman finally succeeds at losing her virginity, but when the encounter leaves her feeling indifferent about sex, she goes on a mission to sleep with the hottest girl on campus to assure her love of the act and fit in with her peers.

The Nice Knight (Pilot, Half Hour, Animated) In a fantastical kingdom where knights are bound to vanquish mythical creatures, a knight-in-training realizes she's better suited to be their protector rather than their conqueror.



### Sam Lee

he/him 405.414.5175 samueljlee21@gmail.com A born attention-seeker, Sam realized early on that the best way to command a room was by telling a good story, something he picked up from his dad, a former comedian known for his obnoxiously loud yet well-crafted tales. Growing up in Oklahoma, no one looked past the fact that he was half-Korean, and his outspokenness wasn't what people expected from the 'Asian kid.' His characters reflect a similar struggle to defy the roles and expectations others place on them, while navigating dramatic transformations that are enlightening, provocative, and humorous.

Heir (Feature, Thriller) A college student on scholarship is kidnapped for ransom after being mistaken for his extremely wealthy roommate. Forced to help his captors catch the actual target, he eventually finds a way to claim the life he's always wanted.

Ricers (Feature, Coming-of-Age, Comedy) A brash high schooler with an obnoxiously loud and tacky car dreams of being recognized as a legitimate street racer and will do anything to prove it.

Drum and Bass (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy) A struggling but talented LA musician realizes the only way to make it in the city he loves is by doing the thing he hates the most... DJing.



# **Mari Lindsey**

they/them 770.241.6517 mari4lindsey@gmail.com

Born on a stormy Halloween night, Mari grew up with prolific sleep paralysis hallucinations as if some spell was cast on them in the womb. Mari learned how to channel their overexcited and sometimes frightening imagination into storytelling to help calm their mind at night. As the only Black kid in their neighborhood in southern Maryland, Mari often resorted to playing alone in the woods behind their house. They spun tales, dripping with fantasy and science fiction elements, out loud by their favorite creek to all the plants and woodland creatures like a real bog witch. Mari now shares their stories over soup from a warm cauldron with others to offer comfort in shared fear.

#### Bizzero E Fea (Feature, Dark Comedy)

As the plague sweeps toward medieval Siena, Italy, an aspiring priest and closeted transgender woman must convince citizens that the plague is the result of their poor hygiene rather than the agenda of women with cats, homosexuals, and Satan.

Whale Fall (Pilot, Half-Hour Fantasy, Animation) A teen girl, dreading the approaching responsibilities of adulthood, sets out on a journey with a stuffy sprite and squirrely fisherman to find the magical serpent that has guarded her village from the wrath of nature for hundreds of years.

Pteros (Feature, Dystopian Science Fiction) Humans must merge bodies with another person or succumb to a flesh withering disease. An antisocial nurse steals the healthy blood of a coma patient to keep himself alive without undergoing the psychological burden of merging... until his patient wakes up.



### Isaiah Meza

he/him 619.721.7155 isaiah.meza@gmail.com Isaiah grew up with a cartoonist father who imbued in him all the burning passion for animation, yet none of the drawing skill. Bearing absurd familial shame, he made it his life's goal to write as well as his dad draws. After spending three years in Tokyo studying animation and traditional playwriting (Noh and Kabuki), Isaiah now utilizes his experience to write unique animated concepts that involve dual protagonists navigating international and otherworldly locales. Isaiah specializes in mystery, adventure, comedy, and family genres set in worlds where the strange is normal and the normal is strange. Tell Isaiah to draw a decent circle and you'll get a tear-stained paper, but ask for a script, and you'll get heartfelt characters and imaginative concepts.

#### Yokai P.I. (Pilot, Half-Hour Animation)

After the disappearance of their father in a mysterious Japanese town, two American sisters work for the mischievous ancient cat-spirit responsible, in order to find him. "Scooby-Doo meets Spirited Away."

On the Page (Feature, Animated/Live-Action) When two grieving animators have the chance to get back their long-lost daughter, they dive into the dangerous world of classic animation and must relearn how to be fun in order to survive and bring her home. "Finding Nemo meets Who Framed Roger Rabbit?"

Bourbon Street Pet Division (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy, Animation) When a newbie detective jumps into the absurdist world of pet crime, she's partnered with a jaded veteran to sniff out cases and keep their underfunded precinct afloat. "Brooklyn Nine-Nine meets Ace Ventura."

#### Fraternal (Pilot, One-Hour Drama)

Mexico 1933, when their beloved father figure is framed for the murder of the Duke and Duchess of Spain, twin teenage sleuths must outsmart police to clear his name before he is executed. "A Series of Unfortunate Events meets Tin-Tin."



### **Leland Nelson**

he/him 919.813.8524 lelandmnelson@gmail.com Leland was raised in The South of good ole North Cackalacky. Bullied for his black skin, childhood obesity and psoriasis by confederate flagwaving peers, he grew up feeling like he had no voice. Believing there's no better way to acknowledge societal ignorance than by making it funny, he strives to write satirical stories to help marginalized groups feel seen and for oppressing groups to reflect on the hurt they cause. His absurd and big-world style is largely influenced by his love for manga like One Piece and JoJo's Bizarre Adventure, which has given him limitless ideas on how to put his readers in someone else's shoes. Especially if it's the black man's Jordans, because who doesn't want to be black nowadays after all?... Right?

#### Da Juice (Feature, Horror Satire)

A man dealing with a mid-race crisis chugs Blacker The Berry Juice to make him look stereotypically black for a job opportunity, but when his new skin starts to peel off, is he willing to sacrifice his black brethren for more than enough melanin?

#### **Conky Pie (Feature, Thriller Satire)**

A talented black soul food chef with ambitions of opening a Michelin-star restaurant finally makes his big break after creating his famous "Conky Pie," but will he be able to maintain his stardom after they realize it's made with more than a little bit of sole?

Racially Motivated (Feature, Satirical Dark Comedy) When a black cop with a self-diagnosed allergy to white people falls victim to a hate crime and wakes up in a new world where white people were slaves and black people rule, his plans to reap revenge on behalf of black history slam to a halt when he meets a white social activist that challenges his beliefs.

Man Man vs. Dum Dum (Pilot, Quarter-Hour Animated Dark Comedy) After being gifted with powers to save the world, an underchallenged teen creates the perfect nemesis, but when that archrival comes in the form of a super-powered baby, he must learn to balance fatherhood with fighting the new demonic supervillain spawn.



# Anna Oguoma-Richards

404.786.7091 annaorichs@gmail.com

Anna Oguoma-Richards is a name and a life defined by movement—across cultures, continents, and disciplines. She is a self-proclaimed Tamia and Brandy expert, ice cream enthusiast, and frequent flyer. Anna's love for the world sparks a desire to move, taste, listen, and connect—finding newness in every plate, every conversation, every face. British by way of Nigeria, her worldview continued to expand with her eventual move to the U.S.—a life speckled with the delicate lyricism and wonder that bloomed from existing in the in-between. Her love for novels introduced her to the world of stories with a passion for storytelling coming soon after, yet, still, she yearned for narratives that mirrored her own experiences and a world that reflected the multicultural tapestry of her life. Today, she writes with a voice shaped by displacement and devotion. She explores narratives rooted in faith and the moral crossroads that force us to confront our identity and choices, community, and the lasting impact of cultural and societal questions we all face.

#### Godspeed (Feature, Romance Drama)

When an Air Force fighter pilot returns home on leave, she unexpectedly reunites with her first love, compelling her to choose between her ambitions and the heart she buried.

#### Time Sensitive (One Act Play, Drama) A

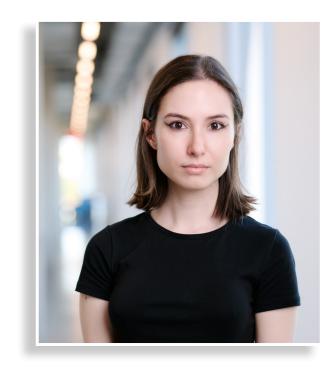
graduating college student is stunned by the unexpected arrival of her estranged father—who stayed behind years ago to support their immigration to America and must confront whether the sacrifice is enough to bridge a lifetime of absence.

Crisis of Conscience (Pilot, One Hour Legal Drama) Burdened by guilt after a deadly apartment fire claims the lives of children in her care, an immigrant law student must decide whether to stay silent or risk everything to uncover the truth.

# Àdùn Tó Sòro: Yoruba transl. "The Taste that Fights" (Pilot, One Hour Drama)

When an aspiring Nigerian cook earns admission into a British culinary school, she's forced to confront the Eurocentric standards of success—and sets out to prove that her cuisine belongs at the top of the semester leaderboard.

Bread of Life (Feature, Drama) Told all their lives that London was the city paved with gold, a young immigrant couple must deal with the sobering truth that they are second-class citizens and must fight to hold onto the love that carried them across the sea.



L.V. Peñalba

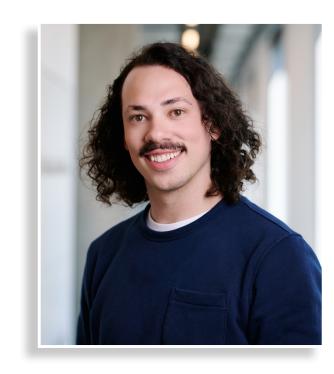
she/they lvpenalba@gmail.com

Ever been to a family dinner where a relative asks you if you're dating someone, and if you say no, they give you this thinly-veiled look of pity? Laura has always wondered why we equate being single to being alone why so much of our society and our media is built around the belief that being in a romantic relationship and finding the one is the only way to be truly known and cared for. Laura aims to challenge some of these preconceived ideas by showcasing the importance of platonic bonds and different forms of love through stories that bring more visibility to queer characters, especially those on the aromantic and asexual spectrums, as well as expand the conversation around mental health. The self-deprecating demons in her head have made her somewhat funny, so she'd love to work on someone's comfort show, whether it's comedy, drama, or fantasy/sci-fi (especially if it involves time travel!)

Shapes of Love (Feature, Drama, LGBTQIA+) When Sasha's first album goes viral, her fans become obsessed with discovering who the muse behind her love songs is. Pressured by her record label to hide she's on the aro-ace spectrum, she agrees to fake a relationship with her estranged best friend.

We're Not Dead Yet (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy) Cece, an introverted people-pleaser, returns to college only to find her new roommate is a full-of-life (and slightly full of herself) spirit who died two years ago. Together, they must uncover the mystery behind her death to help her cross over, all while Cece confronts her own struggles with mental health.

Ghosts Down Below (Pilot, One-Hour Fantasy, Animated) In a post-apocalyptic world overrun by giant, insect-like machines, a loyal and overprotective vigilante known as Ghost must form an uneasy alliance with her enemies—the elite hunters that want her dead, in order to save the last standing human settlement from the bionic threat.



### **Ethan Peterson**

he/him 720.600.9807 ethanpetersonwriter@gmail.com

Known on the streets as The Human IMDb, Ethan is a big nerd (and slightly above-average guitar player) who wants to know everything possible about his niche and often historical interests. He loves research and will pore through centuries-old diaries and the most obscure archival databases imaginable just for fun. Then, with the help of some black coffee and creativity, he'll find a way to spin all that random info into delightfully dark and humorous screenplays. Ethan's work may take place across eras and genres, but his tragicomic tone and love for the oddball background characters of history ensure you'll always know it's his.

#### Friday Man (Feature, Crime Comedy)

When his gambling debts get him in serious trouble, an old-school (and closeted) Vegas mobster is painfully forced to adapt to the ways of the modern criminal.

Franz the Executioner (Pilot, Half-Hour Dramedy) The life and times of a stern but lovable executioner and torturer as he dispenses gruesome justice and works tirelessly to improve his family's social standing in 16th century Germany.

Son of Stalin (Feature, Historical Drama) Left to rot by his father in a Nazi prison camp, Joseph Stalin's black-sheep son makes a treacherous deal with the Germans to save his wife and daughter from a Soviet gulag.

In the Clear (Pilot, One-Hour Dramedy) After playing a role in the perfect corporate heist that leaves them set for life, a milquetoast suburban couple just can't walk away when they become addicted to the thrills of white-collar crime.



# **Brian Releford**

he/him 213.569.4671 wingedwriter25@gmail.com

Having a kid in the middle of grad school is a terrible idea, but that's typical Brian, always taking the hard road. Recovering from emergency surgery wasn't hard enough; he had to learn kung fu before the stitches were out. He couldn't just go back to school at 33 years old, when he had been chosen for the Time Warner Screenwriting Fellowship; he then had to matriculate to Columbia University to study film and anthropology. He was doing all this while working 30 hours a week as a bartender. Now, armed only with an outdated version of Final Draft, he's in for his toughest test yet: facing a challenging career as a Hollywood screenwriter.

Return Of the Gangster (Feature, Action Crime Drama) Inglewood, CA, 2025. A kung-fu master, determined to maintain a peaceful existence, must return to his violent ways when the mayor and his thugs threaten his newfound family.

Home Again (Pilot, Half-Hour, Multi-Cam Sitcom) After ruining a promising acting career in L.A., a young man and his wife return to New York City to start over. But will their sinking marriage stay afloat?

The Candy Bar (Feature, Musical Drama) A drug-addicted singer-songwriter at New York City's hottest jazz club replaces opioids with love, but things turn deadly when he's forced to face demons of his past, putting his future in jeopardy. 2

2024 Austin Film Festival 2nd Rounder

Tiger Style (Feature, Action/ Adventure) An animal behaviorist must overcome her insecurities to protect her murdered husband's consciousness, now residing in a tiger, from a malevolent scientist determined to steal his nanotechnology.



# Fenton E. Queens

they/them 385.977.9107 fenton.e.queens@gmail.com Fenton E. Queens is a trans nonbinary writer from the red, religious state of Utah. An amateur Beatles historian and child of multiple divorces, they love the messiness of life and use their stories to pull apart complex relationship dynamics. Finding comfort in discomfort, Fenton's films tackle socially taboo topics, including internalized homophobia in the LGBTQ community, sexual assault, trans-identity, and abortion.

Gay Panic (Feature, Legal Drama) An ambitious, newly minted lawyer finds themselves in moral quicksand when their first murder case is built off a homophobic legal practice— and the closeted client is their former lover.

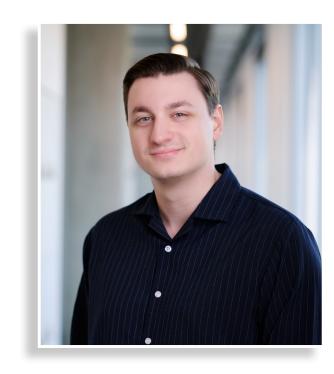
Cyclic (Feature, Drama) A performance artist descending from a long line of abused women travels back in time to confront their assailants, risking her timeline and unborn child in the process.

Humanitas New Voices Semifinalist 2024

Female Film Festival Screenplay Contest Winner 2025

The River (Pilot, One-Hour Crime Drama, inspired by real events) Set in 1972 Australia where homosexuality is illegal, a homophobic cop and openminded New Scotland Yard officer must team up to solve the case of the dead gay men washing up from the river.

The Tattooist (Feature, Horror-Comedy) When a blood-fearing, outcast lesbian is trapped with her high school frenemies in an abandoned mall, they must work together to outsmart a bloodsucking, humanoid monster with tattoo gun hands.



# **Matthew Troy**

he/him 860.841.9530 matttroy2.0@gmail.com The youngest child of three, while Matthew's parents were busy putting out the fires of his older siblings, Matthew was left to his own... That's not to say he was neglected, he still got three meals a day. But it was mostly up to himself to keep busy, out of trouble. On the outside, what must've seemed a banal childhood was, on the inside, one filled with grand calamity. Matt spent his days dreaming up heroes, villains, and worlds that faced the darkest, depraved conflicts a kid could imagine... What can he say except he thought he was being cool and edgy.

Then, when Matt turned thirteen, he read Game of Thrones. Probably not the best age, but it shocked his core. It showed him that darkness doesn't matter unless a human character is there to endure it. Matty's stories still deal with unforgiving worlds and fantastical genres but through flawed underdogs, who prove our human resilience, or self-destruction. This is where he's at his best, at peace; when giving ordinary characters uncanny, agonizing struggles. The only thing that's truly hurt him to write, is this bio.

#### The Dark Room (Feature, Horror)

When his best friend disappears after visiting the dark web, Daniel follows the breadcrumb trail to The Dark Room; a supernatural website that turns his social isolation into a living, breathing hell.

Hyzer (Pilot, One-Hour Action/ Cyberpunk) A soldier turned fugitive hopes to raise enough funds to smuggle him and his girlfriend beyond the city's walls. But after his love disappears, he is forced to partner with his ex-handler and return as the killer codenamed "Hyzer".

Under The Ice (Feature, Horror) A marine biologist with plans to sabotage an oil drilling operation must fight for survival against a species of telepathic squids when they trap her and the contentious crew under the ice.

The Plague Hunter (Pilot, One-Hour Fantasy/Post-Apocalypse) As the empire crumbles under a mysterious epidemic, a solemn-yet-noble knight must battle the infected 'Rotters' with his misfit squad of plague hunters, and keep safe an orphaned girl looking for a new home.



Soléi P. Wright

she/her 510.917.2369 soleipwright@gmail.com



Through Shattered Glass (Feature, Psychological Thriller) After being asked to identify the headless body of his younger brother, a troubled psychologist returns to the experimental prison where his brother was incarcerated, hell-bent on uncovering the truth, even if it means losing his sanity.

Black Thumbs (Feature, Drama) A lonely, lovelorn butcher must care for a sadistic drug dealer's daughter to repay his father's debt.

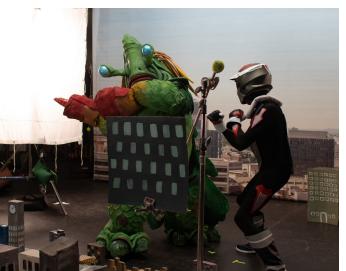
Coin (Half-Hour Pilot, Dark Comedy)
When a high-strung Black geneticist
accidentally creates the maniacal Mr.
Hyde to his emotionally repressed Jekyll,
he must stop the murder investigation set
in motion by his vengeful alter-ego.

We're Shifting, Can't You See? (Plays, Multi-Genre) Three colorful one-act plays that explore perception through the complexities of relationships, self-image, and material value, offering diverse perspectives on how we see ourselves and the world around us.











# Writing and Producing for Television Graduates



#### A Letter from the Director

### 2025 MFA Writing and Producing for Television Graduates LMU School of Film and Television

In my third year as Graduate Director of LMU's M.F.A. Screenwriting Program in Writing & Producing for Television, I continue to be amazed at the work our cohorts are generating.

Looking back on the thirteen cohorts of the young WPTV program, I'm proud to say that at least one student from each of the first ten cohorts has been staffed as a writer on a television show. With many other alumni selling freelance scripts, and the majority of the others working in the business, our success rate is pretty impressive.

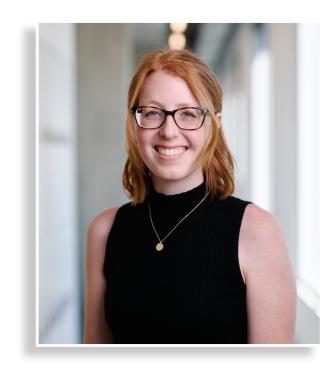
This year I visited the sets of our Third-Year thesis productions, and I was amazed at how calm my students were executive producing (and some also directing) their projects. While producing a short is a scary prospect in Year One, we prepare them so well that they are able to make more and more incredible films each year.

In this ever-changing business I've also discovered that many of our success stories feel that their experience in this program has prepared them to be television producers as well as writers. Many of them work in streaming and are not getting the "on set" training I had as a television writer. They use their producing experience at LMU to give them the confidence to ask for that Supervising Producer title. I know we've prepared them to be the prolific showrunners they are all meant to become!

Please enjoy their loglines and ask to read the ones that interest you. You will be amazed at the work they've done!

#### Michael F.X. Daley

Graduate Director, Writing and Producing for Television Clinical Associate Professor



# Hannah Butler

she/her 563.321.7726 hbutler.official@gmail.com



Growing up sheltered in a quasicult in Iowa, Hannah only had two options: develop an overactive imagination or die from sheer boredom. You can guess which option she went with. Hannah tried her hand at plenty of odd jobs through the years (school mascot, corn detasseler, storm chaser) before admitting none of them made her heart sing like writing did. Therapy isn't cheap, so Hannah processes her (mis) adventures by writing stories featuring delightfully messy characters in high-concept worlds. Off the page, you can find Hannah embracing her new SoCal lifestyle by learning to surf, with varying levels of success.

#### Crosshairs (Pilot, One-Hour Drama)

After getting tangled in her boyfriend's mafia schemes, a wannabe actress takes on the role of government informant in hopes of protecting her family.

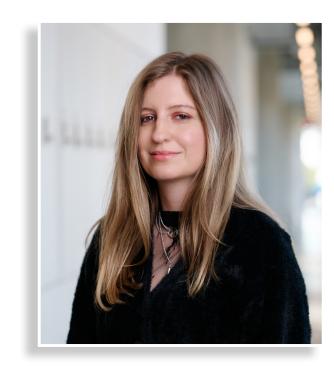
Second Round Selection, 2023 Austin Film Festival

Chasing Checkered (Pilot, One-Hour Drama) Sparks fly in the competitive world of stock car racing when a high-spirited rookie butts heads with the arrogant son of a racing legend in this modern adaptation of Pride and Prejudice.

Veritan's Gate (Pilot, Half-Hour Children's Animation) When a young knight with everything to prove stumbles upon a palace conspiracy, she assembles a motley crew of rebels and royals to uncover the truth.

#### Halcyon (Pilot, One-Hour Drama)

In a world where CIA Project MK-Ultra was successful, an ex-Air Force pilot and his estranged granddaughter find themselves as pawns of a shadowy genetic engineering program.



# Camilla Collingsworth

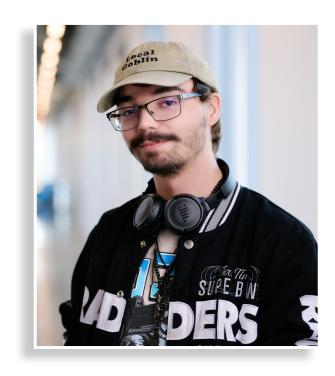
she/they 202.255.2035 camilla.collingsworth@gmail.com Camilla Collingsworth was raised in a television free household for the first fourteen years of her life, but with the help of an internet connection, a streaming website of dubious legality, and a few episodes of Pretty Little Liars, it quickly became her favorite medium. Her storytelling explores unspoken tensions, deep existential angst, and strange instances of homoeroticism, often using macabre imagery and monstrous entities as an entry point. When she isn't writing, she can be found making depressing music or finding liminal spaces to photograph.

Saint Marvek (Pilot, One-Hour Horror) A grieving 4x100 relay team who believes they are being haunted by their recently deceased anchor discover they are being hunted by a violent and vengeful supernatural entity. (Proof of concept available.) The Virile (Feature, Horror) A weekend of partying on a small island off the coast of Maine devolves into chaos as a group of friends realize they've been marked for sacrifice by the island's long-term residents.

Something Horrible Happened Here (Pilot, One-Hour YA Mystery/Thriller) Forced to relocate to a town that recently suffered a massive tragedy, a teenage girl with budding psychic powers finds herself responsible for catching a serial killer on the loose.

And Suffering Began (Pilot, Half-Hour Dramedy) In 2004, a gruesome but obscure death-metal band contemplates rebranding as a Christian group in order to get a record deal.

The Ark (Pilot, One-Hour Sci-Fi/Horror) On a massive spacecraft, a passenger's curiosity about a mysterious stowaway leads him to a terrifying revelation: vampires are running the ship.



# Brett Da Silveira Cornwell

he/him 925.998.1962 bcornwell2018@gmail.com MissileRangeLLC@gmail.com (Production Company)

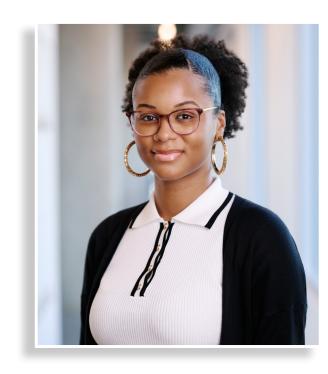
Born under a full moon on Friday the 13th, many would say that Brett was always bound to write horror - and they'd be correct! Fueled by an adolescence marked by setbacks caused by a birth defect, Brett spent much of his early life inside, soaking in every creature feature and history textbook he could get his hands on, leading to a fondness for freaks, defects, and the unwanted. Brett places an extra emphasis on how history and societal development has led to these preconceived notions on what is and isn't acceptable - and why we let these elements scare and amaze us. As a result, Brett's work is concentrated on the romance in terror, the horror lurking within our past, and the restrained paranoia lurking behind day-to-day life.

Hollow Beasts (Feature, Horror/ Historical Fiction) When the Devil emerges in the deserts of New Mexico, it is up to a disgraced Harlem Hellfighter, a skeptical Native paleontologist, and an innocent Mexican prisoner to exorcise the sands from an extinct evil. A Foolish Club (Pilot, One-Hour Historical Business Drama) A group of jaded businessmen come together to challenge the NFL's Goliath with their very own David: the American Football League, a dramatic shake-up with Super Bowl-level consequences.

Downfall (Pilot, One-Hour Historical Medical Procedural/War Epic) It's 1947 and World War II is still raging. A kidnapped American doctor struggling with his Hippocratic oath is forced to save the life of the top Admiral of the crumbling Japanese Empire, endlessly prolonging the war.

Bloody Barcelona (Pilot, One-Hour Historical Crime Drama) As Civil War rages through Spain, a desperate gang of radicals-turned-smugglers rise through the ranks of Barcelona's criminal empire after their last gig unearths an unconscious woman and her cursed painting instead of the gold they were promised.

2024 LMU MFA Screenwriting Competition Drama Pilot Winner



# Alexandria Ferguson

she/her 314.601.2609 alexandria.ferguson20@gmail.com

Bold enough to enter Reading Rainbow's "Young Writers and Illustrators" contest at just five years old, Alexandria had no idea that her love for storytelling would take so many twists and turns. She strayed from her path during her undergraduate studies, majoring in physical therapy and journalism. However, it did not take long for her to reconnect with her five-year-old self as a television and film major. After a brief stint in a graduate film program in St. Louis, she moved to Los Angeles and climbed the ladder from production assistant to production coordinator. Once at LMU, she cemented her dream of becoming a television writer and producer. Always a PBS Kid at heart, she has developed into a grounded storyteller, and her talents truly shine when conveying the complexities of human connections.

The Diamond (Pilot, One-Hour Period Drama) In 1943, a 16-year-old aspiring Negro League player, Ruth Benson, struggles with daily life alongside her parents, three years after her baseball prodigy brother, CJ, died in World War II.

Three Steps Forward (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy) When 24-year-old Patra's failed situationship disrupts their living arrangements, she and her best friend, Claude, must secure a new roommate before rent is due. Their only option? The landlord's sister, who is more than twice their age.

#### Val's Diner (Pilot, Half-Hour Sitcom)

Faced with the impending closure of their beloved neighborhood diner, 65-year-old Phylicia Davis must persuade her two estranged friends to put aside their differences over a "stolen" chili recipe and come together to save and run it.



# Andrés González-Vega

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Raised in the vibrant streets of San Juan, Andrés draws strength from his rich Caribbean heritage, influenced by a Dominican father and a Puerto Rican mother. With a steaming Cafecito and a touch of dyslexia, his Boricua pride shines brightly and bursts onto the page whenever he creates a Latinx protagonist dynamic, determined, and deeply passionate. Andrés loves to blend comedy and drama, a delightful mix that mirrors his personality. Through his narratives, he aims to uplift and empower, inspiring individuals to embrace their unique identities with pride — and if that means enjoying delicious fried plantains, rice, beans, and mouthwatering lechon, then so be it! Hand me my bongos!

#### My Little Astronaut (Feature, Drama)

A single Latina mother competes in an augmented reality contest to secure a costly medical trial for her sick child battling cancer, leading to tough moral choices.

The Secret Protector (Pilot, One-Hour Dramedy) FBI's youngest-ever field agent, the quirky and openly gay Miguel Cortez, goes undercover to protect a charming jock at a rural Virginia high school from a ruthless local mafia — but he never anticipated falling in love with him.

#### Fierce! (Pilot, One-Hour Dramedy)

An undocumented Latino dreams of becoming the Best Drag Queen in Miami Beach while facing economic challenges, living with his conservative sister, and juggling a hyper-masculine construction job.

Aliens in Paradise (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Dramedy) When a fearless Afro-Latina teenager discovers twin aliens hiding deep within El Yunque Rainforest, she must race against the clock to outsmart the FBI, help her extraterrestrial friends escape, and guide them back home.

Blocked (Pilot, Half-Hour Workplace Dramedy) Mateo, a hopeful romantic navigating online dating, is unexpectedly blocked by a handsome man who soon becomes his captivating coworker at a Fulfillment Center, where their undeniable chemistry unravels hidden secrets and sparks workplace rivalries.



# **Anthony Huben**

he/him 920.740.7793 anthonyjhuben@gmail.com

Maybe it wasn't such a good idea for Anthony to live in a van during his first year of graduate school, especially after it burst into flames three weeks into the first semester. However, this was just fuel for his craft and a sign that he is going to be the hottest new thing in Hollywood. Drawing from his own lived experiences — including but not limited to pharmacy technician, journalist, and computer programmer — Anthony is committed to crafting stories that center on characters enduring hardships, struggling to mend broken relationships, and finding new purpose in their lives.

Down The Rabbit Hole (Pilot, One-Hour Drama) After a series of strange coincidences, a down-on-her-luck mother, who has a history of poor decision-making, attempts to prove herself by destroying the woman she blames for ruining her life. (Proof of concept available.)

Crumb (Pilot, Limited Series/Biopic) Based on the tragic life of controversial cartoonist Robert Crumb as he inadvertently sparks the underground comic book movement while allowing his unstable marriage to fall apart.

Turning Amish (Pilot, Half-Hour Comedy) Desperate for a kidney transplant, a young woman journeys to find her estranged Amish mother. Her OnlyFans model friend tags along, unexpectedly finding spiritual rebirth and a new identity in the Amish community.

Ride To Nowhere (Feature, Horror Comedy) When a teenager loses his head (literally) on a rickety coaster, the cash-strapped owner's daughter at Mystic Coast amusement park turns tragedy into marketing gold—unknowingly feeding souls to the hungry entity below.



# Drew Jacob

he/him 361.815.6890 drewjacob9@gmail.com Drew Jacob is a recovering Texan, former community theater superstar and, most importantly for our purposes here, television writer. The tone of his comedy often rubs elbows with farce, which is apropos given his recurring themes of all things Americana, from big loud spectacle to mundane suburban sprawl. His lampooning of these characteristics comes equally from sincere love and sincere lamentation.

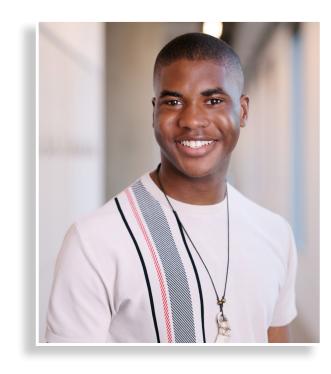
Kevin vs. Jamie: Loser Leaves
Veterans Memorial High School
(Pilot, Half-Hour Mockumentary)
After their messy BFF-Breakup, two
teenage boys send shockwaves through
their suburb, school, and social circle
when they agree to settle things with a
Loser Leaves Town boxing match.

Franks (Feature, Sports Comedy) A second-generation athlete with a weak stomach steps out of his blowhard father's shadow by attempting to surpass him in their shared profession, the most popular sport in America, Professional Hotdog Eating.

2024 Austin Film Festival - Second Rounder

San Isidore (Pilot, One-Hour Historical Dramedy) A disbarred lawyer's fresh start as mayor of a fledgling 19th century Texas township is jeopardized when his constituents conclude that their deadly drought can be ended only by ritual human sacrifice.

The A-Men! (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Comedy) Three of Utah's best and brightest are hand-selected to form The A-Men, an elite proselytizing squad within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Special Intelligence Division.



### **Desmond Lane**

803.447.9805 desmondlanewriter@gmail.com Bouncing across the country as a military brat, Desmond Lane learned early that home isn't a place—it's the stories we carry. Constant change shaped his imagination, turning every new city into a stage, every stranger into a character, and every experience into a scene waiting to be written. His work explores the complexities of human existence through the empathetic lens of Black and queer identity, finding humor and heart in life's deepest questions.

From the nine circles of Hell to high-fashion runways to raunchy retirement homes, his storytelling knows no bounds. He weaves rich, character-driven narratives that balance emotional depth with sharp, unexpected humor, believing that even the heaviest truths shine brighter with a little laughter. With experience across television, film, and digital media, Desmond has helped develop projects in writers' rooms, crafted scripts for industry leaders, and collaborated across creative disciplines. No matter the medium, his mission remains the same: to tell stories that feel like home—wherever that may be.

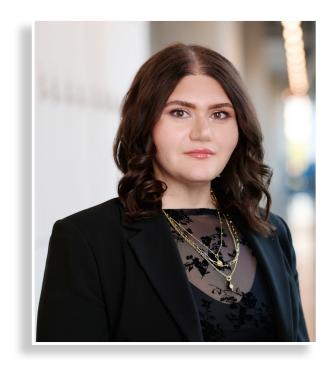
Continued Living (Pilot, One-Hour Dramedy) A documentary film crew enters the whimsical lives of seniors and staff at an assisted living facility.

Icon (Pilot, One-Hour Drama) Twenty-something models navigate the world of high fashion in Manhattan.

Kingpins (Pilot, Half-Hour Crime-Comedy) A truth-and-justice intern for the District Attorney is employed by LA's biggest crime boss when his estranged best friend asks for help.

Living, Hell (Feature, Fantasy, Action/ Adventure Comedy, Based on Dante's Inferno) After the disappearance of his mentor, a damned soul ventures through the underworld and dares the unthinkable... to escape Hell.

The Mystical Mythical Winston Wickens (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Comedy) After ruthless humiliation, a teen prodigy vows vengeance on his mystical classmates by becoming the world's greatest sorcerer.



# Megan Laurel

she/her 562.221.6433 meganlaurel0@gmail.com Being a Girl Scout for 12 years taught Megan that she doesn't like camping all that much, but more importantly, that you should leave the world better than how you found it. She planned to get her PhD in communications to do media effects research. At least that was until her trajectory changed once she got diagnosed with two chronic illnesses, after a 14-year journey. She's driven to tell stories about the chronic illness community and women who face unforeseen challenges, where they have to rise to the occasion. Due to her work telling stories about disability, she was awarded the Cosgrove Family Endowment, so she could continue writing films that make a difference. In her free time, she enjoys cheering for her favorite NHL team and exploring the world.

Spoonie Support Group (Pilot, One-Hour Dramedy) A driven Ph.D. student with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome navigates the complexities of her illness and grad school with the help of her support group.

The Expansion Team (Pilot, One-Hour Dramedy) A controlling minor league hockey coach gets her dream job as the first female head coach in the NHL, but deals with her estranged brother wreaking havoc among the team, all while juggling the personal struggles in her life.

Strangled With Barbed Wire (Feature, Drama) A seemingly perfect girl and the mysterious new boy have an unlikely encounter that leads to a ten-year-long friendship. Through the ups and downs of young adulthood, he falls in love with her, as she struggles to find an answer for her chronic pain.

#### Left of Jude (Pilot, One-Hour Drama)

Two daughters of Senators from opposite sides of the aisle fall in love and have to navigate the divisive politics of the country and their families.



# Taylor Chayil McMullan

she/they 424.509.9982 chayiltaylor@gmail.com

Fun facts about Taylor: huge Mark Wiens fan, one of three members in the Genealogy club, exactly thirtythree first cousins, dabbled in the Scholastic Trivia club, attended three private arts colleges, played volleyball for six years, one season of basketball, she was a cheerleader and poms girl, "final boss" cat lady. In first grade, Taylor used her Nokia flip phone to shoot zombie movies starring her little brother, and an occasional tedious claymation. She exchanged her beloved Chicago LakeShore views to follow her Hollywood dreams. During undergrad at ArtCenter, Taylor directed and produced a film a week while living in Pasadena. She has since been hired on the film crew of Survivor. Her favorite grad school memory was a long summer of picketing for the WGA alongside her peers and professors. With seven years of screenwriting under her belt, Taylor is on track to becoming a showrunner worth her weight in gold.

Blood Pact (Pilot, Procedural, Crime-Action Drama) When a trio of women become vigilantes fighting against sexual violence and human trafficking, they must risk their lives during each victim rescue as they work to unveil a hierarchical chain of command.

#### Rising Chief (Pilot, Historical Drama)

In 1813, a boy rises from the ashes of genocide to become Floridian war hero Chief Osceola. He leads the Seminoles, a fierce rebel tribe composed of Native warriors and Africans escaping slavery, in the fight for freedom and sovereignty against the U.S Army, led by General Andrew Jackson.

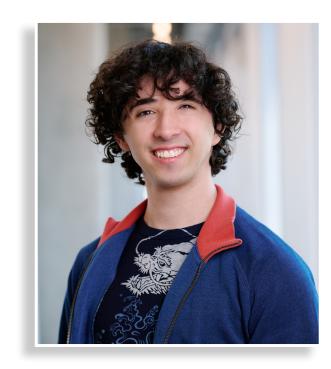
2024 LMU MFA Screenwriting Competition Social Justice Award Winner

Electus (Pilot, Sci-Fi Drama) With global birth rates nearing extinction, there exists a holistic sanctuary where women reproduce asexually by parthenogenesis and only reproduce female children. The balance is thrown off in this feminine utopia once a boy is born.

#### Something Special (Pilot, Dramedy)

A Black woman with no filter receives a late autism diagnosis, sparking flashes of hilarious and traumatic childhood memories reminding her—she hasn't changed and must use her past experiences to navigate relationships, career and independence.

# Martini Shot (Feature, Dramedy) Five scrappy film students plan to steal a ton of production equipment from their university to jumpstart their careers after graduation.



# Jorge Luis de Posada Mendez

he/him 305.301.2562 jorgeposadax4@gmail.com

When Jorge was four years old, adulthood seemed like a cynical sea of gray waiting to drown his colorful tomorrows. Horrified by this cruel prophecy, he swore to never give up his boundless imagination... and to never drink alcohol because it's "so gross and for old people." With age, and hopefully wisdom, his hyperactive tenacity became an obsession with finding joy in every situation, especially the worst ones. "Thirteen open-head surgeries? Imagine how tragic his childhood was!" To that he'd say, "They put a steel plate in my head, and I became a human battering ram." Every recovery period was another chance to reflect and learn to live again. First words, then steps, and eventually independence. Thirteen plus rebirths included, Jorge's lives are full of good fortune. His writing reflects his perspective: full of fantastical, beaten-down worlds brightened by larger-thanlife characters fighting to make a difference. He keeps his promise by infusing his stories with the colorful child-like whimsy that's stuck through every life he's ever lived. So far.

Azure Eclipse (Pilot, One-Hour Animated Fantasy/Action) With their mystical island home in an ecological crisis caused by a fascist corporation, Gorb and Chiure must stop them before they foolishly awaken the island's last line of defense: the fabled nightmares of the Azure Eclipse.

Master Debaters (Pilot, Half-Hour, Animated Comedy) Two pathetic, pseudo-intellectual mortal-enemies (and roommates) waste every day arguing over life's least important questions in the most bizarre, reality-shattering ways possible.

The Echoes Of Volna (Pilot, One-Hour Fantasy/Horror/Mystery) Sent to resubjugate a colony, Volna's twin princes experience the cause for societal unrest first hand: magical curses weaponized as tools of oppression. Clashing on whether to exterminate the curses or not, they're caught on opposite ends of a revolution seeking not only independence but retribution.

Dreamscape (Feature, Surreal, Sci-Fi) A struggling therapist steals a high-tech VR helmet that "fixes" people by creating personalized utopias, unintentionally enslaving himself and his patients to the hedonistic "Dreamscape."



# Olivia Piraino

she/they 949.584.3702 oliviarpiraino@gmail.com

Until junior high, Olivia Piraino's best friend was her school's 80-yearold librarian. Together, they spent countless lunch periods spinning otherworldly tales that fostered Olivia's budding sense of wonder and whimsy. Now, her work blends sci-fi and fantasy with other genres to create emotionally impactful stories about spirited women, queer romance, and self-discovery. In everything she writes, you can catch a glimpse of yourself in the mirror she's holding up to the audience. She would like to thank unrequited yearning, Greek mythology, and Adderall for making her the woman she is today.

The Relict (Pilot, One-Hour Sci-Fi Action) When an anthropologist's research results in the abduction of her daughter, she'll stop at nothing to get her back — including unearthing her suppressed assassin roots.

2025 Emerging Screenwriters Semifinalist Hormonal (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Sex Comedy) 14-year-old Hazel dives labia-first into her freshman year of high school, with all of its plateaus and climaxes, in this boner-fide cumming of age story.

Rubicon (Pilot, One-Hour Sci-Fi Dramedy) The hubris of two overachieving high school rivals results in a temporal incident that leaves them stranded in a post-apocalyptic wasteland. With a mad scientist on their tail and one of Saturn's moons hurtling toward Earth, the girls must put aside their differences to find a way home.

#### Gwen (Feature, Romantic Dramedy)

In this modern-day reimagining of Jane Austen's Emma, a socialite's matchmaking skills bite her in the ass when she falls in love with the girl she's supposed to be finding a boyfriend for.

Broken Record (Short Film, Sci-Fi Horror) A young woman finds herself trapped in an endless void with an unexpected adversary: a Record Player hellbent on extracting a confession to a murder she doesn't remember committing. (Viewing link available.)

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# **Moth Reis**

she/her 828.989.5095 reis6412@gmail.com Moth Reis has known she's a writer for longer than she's known she's a woman. She grew up in the mountain town of Asheville, NC, back when it was more hippy than hipster. She began her professional journey as a social worker due to a deep desire to help people. That desire still fuels her, as she seeks to craft stories that give voice to underrepresented populations.

Moth is excited to tell deeply personal stories that speak to larger social issues, especially in a time where transgender women such as herself are facing so much societal trauma. She writes darkly comedic scripts about people who often fall through the cracks, having fallen down a few herself. Moth thrives while spinning stories that weave silly puns, trauma recovery, and memorable characters into one complex and impactful narrative.

#### **Committed (Pilot, One-Hour Dramedy)**

When fate intervenes, a lovable loser rethinks his decision to end his life and finds himself in the only psych ward taking his crappy insurance. (Proof of concept available.)

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

When a waste-of-space former poet is almost kicked out of his sister's house, he has to bond with his loner nephew in order to stay.

2025 LMU MFA Screenwriting Competition Comedy Pilot Winner

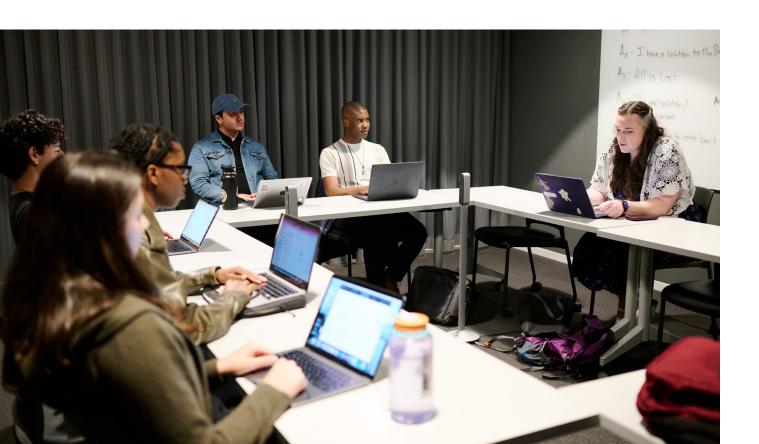
So It Shall Be (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Dramedy) A high-ranking female executive discovers that she's the Antichrist and seeks to change her destiny before she has to destroy the utopic world she worked so hard to build.

Commission To Mars (Pilot, Half-Hour Animated Comedy) After getting passed up for a promotion (again!), a well-meaning realtor learns that he's been complicit in gentrification and decides to start his own real estate company—on Mars.

### 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, Professor, Chair

Stacy Spruill, Associate Chair, Clinical Assistant Professor

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

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

**Associate Professor** 

Marilyn Beker, Professor Emeritus

Stephen V. Duncan, Professor Emeritus

Yolanda Buggs, Instructor

Ernie Bustamante, Assistant Professor

David Clawson, Associate Professor

Stacee Comage, Instructor

Jeffrey Davis, Professor

Michelle Amor Gillie, Clinical Assistant Professor

Karol Hoeffner, Associate Professor

Mary Kuryla, Clinical Assistant Professor

Patricia K. Meyer, Assistant Professor

Marc Pitre, Clinical Associate Professor

Mark Evan Schwartz, Associate Professor

John Strauss, Associate Professor

Tom Szollosi, Clinical Assistant Professor

Camille Tucker, Clinical Assistant Professor

Stephen Ujlaki, Professor

Liz Werner, Assistant Professor

Justin Trevor Winters, Instructor

Lauren Wolkstein, Clinical Assistant Professor











### **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)

Tony Bui (Sundance Grand Jury Prize Winner for Three Seasons)

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)

Vinnie Ferris (The Hunting Party) Jenniffer Gómez (Vida, The Bite)

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

Chaz Hawkins (Fallout)

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

Jennifer Howell (Lopez Vs. Lopez)

Michael Jelenic (Director: *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*)
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)

