

**2016 MFA Screenwriting Graduates**  
**Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television**

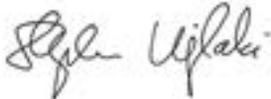
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As Dean of the School of Film and Television at LMU, I am proud to present the 2016 MFA Screenwriting directory, featuring our newest MFA Feature Film Screenwriting and Writing and Producing for Television graduates. In the following pages you will find fresh, innovative and poignant stories that have sprung forth from the imaginations of our graduates, some of them already festival and competition winners and honorees.

These talented individuals are about to embark on very exciting careers, and I am confident that LMU has provided them with a unique advantage to succeed in a very challenging industry. Each writer has gone through a rigorous process of developing and perfecting his or her voice and points of view. The Jesuit philosophy of "educating the whole person" has provided these graduates with a comprehensive, interdisciplinary education that celebrates academic and creative freedom, while inspiring the pursuit of knowledge for a purpose greater than oneself.

I am honored to introduce you to these young professionals and encourage you to get in touch with them directly. Thank you for your time and support for our emerging storytellers.

Best regards,



Stephen Ujlaki



**FEATURE FILM SCREENWRITING GRADUATES  
IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE**

Joe England  
Elliott Estrada  
Aaron Lancaster  
Ryan Massey  
Jonathan Medici  
Nicholas Pangilinan  
Evan Romansky  
Cheri Shannon  
Jake Sheets

# JOE ENGLAND



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Joe England's writing style can best be described as a mullet haircut: "business in the front and party in the back." With a background in marketing and entrepreneurialism, he enjoys the challenge of finding fun and compelling stories within commercial concepts. Dubbed "Extreme Joe" in high school, he's never been one to shy away from thrill inducing adventures. Some highlights include: running with the bulls, swimming with sharks, finding Area 51, and the most dangerous of all... using grammar incorrectly with his grandmother. He speaks English and Spanish fluently and is currently working on Italian with the hopes of, after selling his third screenplay, buying a vacation home in the Southern Alps because that's his favorite place in the world. And, the only thing in the universe he likes just a bit more than writing is going on adventures near and far with his three-year-old son and exceptionally rad wife.

#### LOGLINES

**Legendary (Sports Comedy, Feature):** A shamed eSports superstar gets back in the action coaching a team of international misfits in the world's most popular video game competition.

**Halloweenies (Comedy, Feature):** A fed up fifth grader convinces his friends to help him "take back Halloween" from the bullies and their hazing tradition that's threatening to ruin his favorite holiday.

**Bonneville (Family Adventure, Feature):** In 1950s racist Detroit, a boy sets out to accomplish his deceased dad's dream of breaking a land speed record on the Bonneville Salt Flats with the help of an inventive black man.

**DaMore (Sitcom):** A modern spin on *Romeo and Juliet* with a Las Vegas Mafia twist, only this time it's not love at first sight.

**The Scientific Method (Comedy, 10-Minute Play):** Two socially inept scientists use the scientific method in an attempt to get a date.

# ELLIOTT ESTRADA



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Before Elliott knew that he wanted to spend the rest of his days writing, he thought he had his entire life figured out: he was going to attend the Air Force Academy, become a fighter pilot and make "Highway to the Danger Zone" his theme song. Elliott was preparing to enter the world of the military, but it was the world of science fiction, superheroes, fantasy and the supernatural that were calling to him and inspired him to pursue his true passion instead. His love for storytelling started at a young age, as he buried himself in comic books, but wasn't fully realized until he saw one of his favorite television series hacked into a feature length disaster. Hoping to one day give the series the film adaptation it deserves, Elliott is eager to carve his path in the industry and take the first steps of his writing career.

#### LOGLINES

**Restart (Sci-Fi Thriller, Feature):** A high school senior is trapped reliving the day of a school shooting over and over again, and must find a way to save his girlfriend's life with the help of his estranged friend, the only person who believes his bizarre story.

**Fearless (Action Thriller, Feature):** A retired female MMA fighter turned coach descends into Rio de Janeiro's criminal underworld to find her identical twin sister, who has been abducted into a human trafficking ring.

**Hell Run (Supernatural Thriller, Feature):** A struggling magician must find a way to save the soul of the woman he loves after he makes a deal with the Devil for magical powers.

**Imperium (Sci-Fi Drama, Pilot):** Two orphan siblings join a secret government division that uses genetic experimentation to create super-human soldiers, pitting them all against each other in a survival of the fittest training program.

# AARON LANCASTER



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Aaron Amal Lancaster knows people who know people. He has worn many hats and gone on many adventures, studying Mandarin in China, serving as president of an anime club, and even doing a brief stint interning at the US Department of State. Eventually, Aaron realized that he should pursue a field that blended his passions: writing and entertainment. When it came to what to write about, he had no hesitation. Although he had enjoyed science fiction and fantasy from an early age, Aaron had begun to notice something. For the most part, none of the characters in these stories looked like him. When he did see faces on screen that looked like his, they usually acted or spoke differently. Aaron resolved to give speculative fiction the makeover it needed. Race, religion, sexuality, gender – everything is fair game. If sci-fi and fantasy audiences haven't seen it before, he is going to write it.

#### LOGLINES

**Yasuke (Historical Epic, Feature):** Based on true events. An African slave becomes the first black samurai.

**Neo Terra (Pilot):** In the distant future, where an authoritarian government pursues select humans who have developed psionic abilities, a supernaturally powered vigilante stumbles across a girl whose newly awakened powers hold the key to a revolution.

**Keeper (Pilot):** A tough Bronx policewoman encounters an immortal man claiming to be the Biblical character Cain and gets caught up in his fight to prevent the apocalypse.

**Daddy's Girl (Superhero Feature):** The eldest daughter in a family of black superheroes has never wanted her powers, but when a mysterious new villain robs heroes of their abilities, it's up to her and her siblings to save the day.

**The First Huntress (Fantasy Feature):** When an attack wipes out every young man in a village of giant-slayers, a brave girl seeks out a retired hunter to train her to protect their home.

# RYAN MASSEY



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"Storytelling is good medicine." Ryan is the definition of the American Melting Pot. Take Seminole Native American and European mutt, throw them into a bowl – voila! You get Ryan: highly energetic, extremely creative, with a true spirit that spans time. His family taught him the art of storytelling is akin to the power of medicine. As a youngster he was shown that there is meaning in everything. Today, those lessons are inscribed as tattoos on his skin that represent his heritage and his life. People who know him best have described Ryan as a children's movie where animals talk, worlds are bright and colorful, and no matter how bad things seem, there's always sunshine just around the corner. That's why Ryan loves to bring that positivity, energy and shading to the stories he creates.

#### LOGLINES

**Mari (Animation, Feature):** An orphan girl, a dishonored warrior and a fairy battle through the spirit world to save the orphan's grandmother held captive by the corrupting Darkness that threatens to destroy everything.

**Resolutions (Drama, Play):** Part one of a cycle of 10-minute plays that question the traditional notion of life, death and everything in-between through the lens of Seminole spirituality.

**Fractured (Drama, Feature):** A seven-year-old survivor of a school shooting regresses into an imaginary world of superheroes to try to make sense of what he's seen, only to have fantasy and reality battle each other for survival.

**Angels Fall (Drama, Pilot):** Post apocalyptic LA, a genetically-modified man uncovers a government conspiracy after a monster attack destroys a portion of the last human city, killing his lover. Searching for clues leads him to question who or what is the real monster: the beasts outside, the modified people who eventually turn into them or the government who creates them to defend humanity.

# JONATHAN MEDICI



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Jonathan's writing career started while lying in bed, with his leg in a cast. Unable to find a movie he hadn't seen on cable, he picked up his laptop to start writing his own. Trapped in a bed for six weeks, he changed his life with the words "Fade In." He hasn't stopped writing since: full days, weekends, nights that turn into mornings. Jonathan writes with a single purpose: to entertain as many people as possible, understanding this is a privilege, something he respects more than anything.

#### LOGLINES

**Make Time (Sci-Fi):** In a criminalized city where a few special men called "tempests" can create rifts in time, the most talented tempest tries to escape until he discovers he has a child, even more powerful than him, who is coveted by the city's master.

**Earic (Sci-Fi Epic Based on a Graphic Novel):** In a universe without illness, a father must do everything in his power to save his son, the first sick child born in centuries, amidst an inter-planetary civil war.

**Doodle (Animated):** When the animator of an imaginary world is abducted before he can complete his latest character, the unfinished boy must go on a journey to save his creator so he can be completed before an evil wizard destroys the world.

**Gurgitator (Comedy):** When the world's greatest competitive eater is threatened by a young phenom, he takes this young gurgitator under his wing to destroy him emotionally before he can take his title.

**God's Will (TV Drama/Thriller, Pilot):** A small group of religious leaders hire mercenaries to act as their archangels to cleanse their corrupt city. The newest recruit, however, is a man they can't control.

**Frozen Earth (TV Sci-Fi-Drama, Pilot) (Co-Written with Evan Romansky):** Set in the next Ice Age, a climatologist is tasked with fending off the annihilation of Earth's last remaining society. Clouding his efforts is a manipulative government official and an escalating war between social classes in a fight for survival and power in 2075 North America.

# NICHOLAS PANGILINAN



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Nick keeps two quotes at the top of every page while he's writing. One is words of wisdom from his brother: "Never settle. The worst thing an artist can do is say, 'good enough.'" And the other is Faulkner: "Kill your darlings." As a first generation American, he's been exposed to different cultures through 12 different exchange students that lived with his family. Nick still follows his brother's advice as he spotlights social and global issues in his drama scripts and passion project, his already popular YouTube Channel where Nick serves as Development Manager and Head Writer.

#### LOGLINES

**Goliath (Action Adventure, Feature):** The sword and sandal origin of the Biblical giant who rises from foot soldier to champion and ultimately sacrifices himself to save his people and betray his cruel king.

**The Gashouse Gang (Drama, Feature):** Based on the true story of Paul and Dizzy Dean who led a ragtag, never-say-die baseball team to inspire the country out of the Great Depression by winning the 1934 World Series.

**My Best Friend, Cancer (Dramedy, Pilot):** Cancer appears to a shy man as a hallucination of an invasive roommate who forces him to live fearlessly with what little time they have left.

**The Devil's Salesman (Drama, Feature):** After making a damnable wager, Lucifer's top contractor will suffer in the worst level of hell for all of eternity if he cannot convince an innocent man to sell his soul in four days.

**The Dropping Apple (Dramedy, 10-Minute Play):** While trying to escape dates through a tiny bathroom window, a grown son confronts his man-child father to finally own up to his mistakes in life.

# EVAN ROMANSKY



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At the age of eight, Evan turned a one-page essay into a 22-page story that was deemed a "masterpiece" by his teacher. Granted, the teacher was his mom, but Evan realized at that point that writing had to be a part of his everyday life. It would take on different forms, from copywriting at a candy wrapping company to a degree in broadcast journalism. But it wasn't until 2009, when Evan, feeling creatively stunted, stumbled across the screenplay for *No Country For Old Men* and starting reading. Two hours later, he knew he had found his career. A 2015 Academy Nicholl Quarterfinalist, Evan has adapted his dark and gritty writing style to reflect the current state of society with the belief that strong characters are at the center of any interesting story. And although he won't be following in his mother's footsteps as a teacher, he's embraced the fact that as a writer, he'll have homework for the rest of his life.

#### LOGLINES

**Detroitus (Feature):** Tricked into killing his best friend's wife, a petty criminal must find the men who set him up before his friend, a Detroit Internal Affairs investigator, discovers the murderer.

**Ratched (Drama, Pilot):** A prequel to *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, the series explores how Nurse Mildred Ratched's stint at the perilous Yontaukett State Mental Hospital transforms her from an eager army nurse into author Ken Kesey's infamous villain.

**Bone (Feature, 2015 Academy Nicholl Quarterfinalist):** In the volatile wasteland known as The Box, a bullheaded 13-year-old hunts down the psychopath who stole his father's share of a botched robbery while being pursued by a conniving district marshal.

**Nineteen (Sci-Fi-Procedural, Pilot):** In the crime-free utopian society of Calderon, a former homicide detective tasks herself with stopping a serial killer who plans to target a victim every 19 hours.

**Frozen Earth (Sci-Fi-Drama, Pilot) (Co-Written with Jonathan Medici):** Set in the next Ice Age, a climatologist is tasked with fending off the annihilation of Earth's last remaining society. Clouding his efforts is a manipulative government official and an escalating war between social classes in a fight for survival and power in 2075 North America.

# CHERI SHANNON



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Cheri Shannon hails from Baltimore, Maryland, the home to such movies as *Hairspray*, *Liberty Heights*, and most notably, *Sleepless in Seattle*. As a child, Cheri found herself captivated by storytelling and make-believe, with her mother at the helm, showering her with books ranging from Judy Blume to Edgar Allen Poe. Cheri often says, "Writing is my one true love because it doesn't judge me. It listens without having criticisms." Having once been mentored by the late screenwriter Stewart Stern, she understands that for a writer, each story is an extension of their own character nugget. Cheri writes for both feature film and television, specializing in character driven dramas. Although, she plans to write a comedy someday, as a throwback to the 1980's sitcoms.

#### LOGLINES

**Bloody Sunday (Feature):** When a white ex-military police officer is accused of killing an unarmed black teen, the case to prove self-defense threatens to reveal his PTSD while igniting an already racially divided community.

**Fading Away (Feature):** In the racially divided 1960s, an affluent black Martha's Vineyard family struggle to rediscover their love in a broken marriage, while dealing with a daughter dying from breast cancer.

**Sipple (Feature):** A teenage girl is blackmailed by the FBI to help take down her drug lord ex-boyfriend.

**Collegetown (Pilot):** A group of college freshmen, all representative of the seven deadly sins, finds themselves struggling to gain some normalcy in a world ridden with sex, drugs and alcohol, otherwise known as "Campus Life."

**Mother May I (Pilot):** A single adoptive mother tries to find balance between working and caring for three daughters with emotional and physical disabilities, while maintaining her own identity.

**Brianna and the Travelling Circus (Web Series):** Who says that a circus family isn't the best family? Just ask Brianna, who's now 10 and ready to climb monkey bars, eat cafeteria food, but mostly make friends who aren't four-legged.



# JAKE SHEETS

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As a writer with a producer's mind, Jake daydreams on paper by drawing from his world travels to create global stories. He unites extraordinary situations with very real people to become a storyteller without borders, drawing on real life, like the time his direct ancestor fled persecution in Germany to arrive in America with the founder of Pennsylvania in 1682. Jake likes to think they were good friends, or else that would have been one uncomfortable voyage. After all, half of daydreaming is injecting life into previously unknown stories.

Like Michelangelo said, "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free." Jake sees the beauty in the smallest moments of the world, and sculpts them into a global story.

#### LOGLINES

**House On Fire (Feature):** In World War II Sicily, an American Army officer leads a group of soldiers to work with the Mafia to capture a strategic coastal town in preparation for the Allied Invasion.

**Guerrilla (Feature):** In mountainous Afghanistan, an Army intelligence sergeant and an Afghan sheepherder shoot their way to the source of the Taliban's weapon supplier – a murderous group of American contractors.

**Florence (Feature):** A well-known American painter suffering from artist's block in Florence, Italy is led back into the Renaissance to study under Leonardo Da Vinci, only to learn he had what he needed all along.

**The Crux (TV Drama):** A mountain climber haunted by his dead best friend gets roped into leading a group of PTSD veterans in the mountains by his psychologist ex-girlfriend.

**The Knights of Illuminati (Sitcom):** From the secret society that brought you the French Revolution, a group of friends in 18th century Bavaria conspire against an unjust Catholic Church, conniving Free Masons, and, worst of all, their parents.

**WRITING AND PRODUCING FOR TELEVISION GRADUATES  
IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE**

Nicholas Adams  
Micaela Canedo  
Riley Ettinger  
David Falcone  
Caroline Gecker  
Terrence J. Grant  
Isis Grills  
Stephanie Hall  
John Pickhaver  
Emmanuel Saint-Ange  
Michael Salomon  
Jonathan Talbert  
Tom Young

# NICHOLAS ADAMS



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In his writing, as in his life, Nicholas is drawn to people with just the right amount of "absurd." People who aren't always what they seem, or maybe just have more layers than we can fathom. As a liberal Mormon who loves mixed martial arts and ballroom dancing, Nicholas knows a thing or two about layers, and his writing is just as dynamic as his personality. Whether he's working on a goofy workplace comedy about pirates or a post-apocalyptic tale about immigration, Nicholas always manages to populate his worlds with nothing but contradictory and complicated characters. Just like the world we're living in now.

#### LOGLINES

**Ashes (Drama, Pilot):** When a massive volcanic eruption starts a chain reaction that sends the world into a new ice age, Mexico closes its border to millions of American refugees. Amongst the post-apocalyptic chaos, one ex-Navy Seal must find his family and sneak them across the border before its too late.

**Off the Grid (Drama, Pilot):** When a small-town waitress is kidnapped by a mysterious conspiracy theorist on the run from the police, the entire town is thrown into an uproar trying to save her.

**Submarine Time Machine (Comedy, Pilot):** Patrick's first breakthrough as a scientist came when he managed to send himself and an entire submarine back in time. Unfortunately, with an insane captain and crew, getting home isn't going to be easy. Especially when you throw pirates into the mix.

**"Mavis Beacon," Blindspot (Spec):** The FBI's entire network is frozen by a mysterious super hacker known only as Mavis Beacon. Now, Jane and Weller only have a few hours to discover the true identity of the hacker and stop him before he tears down the digital fabric of our entire society.

# MICAELA CANEDO



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On the dreary days of her childhood in Seattle, Micaela would curl up with a mug of hot chocolate and be swept away as her mother read aloud from the adventures of girl sleuth extraordinaire, Nancy Drew. That was until the day Micaela wanted the answer to one outstanding mystery – why did Nancy’s boyfriend get to go to college but Nancy didn’t? Needless to say, Mom switched her to Jane Austen after that.

Since the “Dreaded Drew Debacle,” Micaela has thrown all of her passion and determination into creating stories that champion empowered female characters who aren’t afraid to push boundaries and break rules. That way, when the next generation of girls watches her shows, they’ll be reminded of life’s possibilities, not its limitations. Because Micaela believes the only mystery a girl should have to answer is how she will change the world. That, and where she wants to go to college.

#### LOGLINES

**The Red Pearl Society (One-Hour Period Drama):** Four Victorian era schoolgirls trade etiquette for intrigue when their investigation into the death of a young maid finds them hot on the trail of a murderer hiding within the glittering world of high society.

**Ever After (One-Hour Teen Romance):** It’s a bumpy road along the way to Happily Ever After when a sensible working class girl and a spoiled party-boy prince discover they are each other’s True Love in this fairytale romance with a 21st century twist.

**“Descent of Man,” Orphan Black (Spec):** When the Dyad Institute kidnaps the only known biological child of a Castor Clone, Sarah and Mark race against the clock to rescue the boy before he becomes just another lab rat in Dyad’s grand genetic experiment.

**Cereal (One-Hour Dramedy, Co-Written with David Falcone):** Fed up with being a perpetual human doormat, a teenage girl with a flare for the dramatic decides to take control of her unfulfilling life by trying (failing) to be a serial killer.

# RILEY ETTINGER



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As a straight white male from a Midwest suburb, Riley is amongst the least interesting demographic in the world. But what he lacks in diversity, he makes up for in self-awareness and a willingness to call the world on its crap. A millennial in every sense of the word, Riley loves to complain about how social media is ruining our society while refreshing his Twitter feed. One day, he hopes to be the male Lena Dunham or the white Aziz Ansari.

#### LOGLINES

**The Thread (Half-Hour Pilot):** Let's be real, no one has time to just hang out with friends in a coffee shop. Fortunately, there's a better way to keep up with our friends – group text messages affectionately called The Thread.

**Napa (Half-Hour Pilot):** A cocky, charismatic Master Sommelier's celebrity status is challenged by a flashy, avant-garde Young Woman dead set on stealing his spotlight.

**Unfiltered (Half-Hour Pilot):** Instagram is full of shit. Let us pull back the filter to show you the real stories behind the pictures we post.

**Alphabet Inc. (Animated Digital Series):** Mark Twain once said the problem with the English language is our "drunken, foolish alphabet." Little did he know how drunk and foolish the animated, personified letters in charge at the corporate offices of Alphabet Inc. would be.

**"Kimmy Learns About Politics," Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt (Half-Hour Spec):** Kimmy finds herself in the middle of a love triangle between a Republican and a Democrat who both insist she must choose one of them. Meanwhile, in an effort to broaden their appeal, the Progressive Republican Party asks Titus to be the face of their national ad campaign.

# DAVID FALCONE



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When David was in sixth grade, he began writing ridiculously dark short stories for his English class – like the kind where he had his main character bring a running chainsaw to the beach to scare people away so she could have the beach all to herself. Shockingly, his teacher didn't send him to a therapist. He actually loved David's stories and would read them to the class, which probably explains the disturbed looks he started getting in the halls from the other sixth graders. This newfound infamy inspired David to start writing short stories and screenplays in his spare time.

David hopes his dark, absurdist style of comedy will not only make people laugh, but also make them think about the world in unique ways – even if it is just to wonder how a girl could smuggle a chainsaw onto a crowded beach or what the repercussions must have been for turning it on. If David inspires even one person to bring a chainsaw to a beach, then he knows it will have all been worth it.

#### LOGLINES

**The Bitches of Salem (Half-Hour Comedy):** A trio of socialite witches must hide their true identities from the Salem townspeople to avoid being burned at the stake – or worse, losing their elite social status.

**Imposter Mom (Half-Hour Animated Comedy):** After discovering his mother has been replaced by an alien imposter, a nerdy high school boy must work for the aliens who captured her to get her back.

**Cereal (Hour-Long Dramedy, Co-Written with Micaela Canedo):** When a human doormat of a girl tries and fails to become a serial killer, she unknowingly tangles herself up in the return of the infamous serial killer that plagued her town 30 years ago.

**"VEEPthroat," VEEP (Spec):** When a video of Selina choking on melted cheese goes viral, she attempts to take control of the joke by appearing on a late night television show.

# CAROLINE GECKER



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Caroline Gecker is, in the words of her first boyfriend, "a real handful," and in the words of her second, "it's complicated." Their breakup led him to enter an Indian game show in hopes that she'd see it and rekindle their romance. It didn't work, but she has since found her true love: writing for television.

Fueled by years of small screen indoctrination at the hands of her well-intentioned parents, Caroline left her family's four Tivos behind to earn her MFA at LMU. While she may have lost the ability to drive in the rain, some elements of growing up on the East Coast have stuck, including living in a house filled with strong women. Her spirited and diverse family inspired her to write comedies with female leads whose personalities and accomplishments rival those of the badass Gecker clan.

Caroline lives as close as you can get to LAX without being on the tarmac, but she tells friends she's "Marina del Rey adjacent." She hopes to one day become her mother, and based on her newly developed taste for red wine, she is well on her way.

#### LOGLINES

**The Fix (Half-Hour Pilot):** When naive substance abuse counselor Anna is hired to keep a White House hopeful's pill-popping wife sober on the campaign trail, she quickly realizes the aspiring First Family's dysfunction is above her pay grade.

**Fatigued (Produced Web Series):** After earning her place in a male-dominated Army, Drill Sergeant Jolene Peterson finally meets her match when she's placed in charge of an all-female boot camp.

**America's Most Eligible (Half-Hour Pilot):** An aspiring TV writer becomes the reluctant showrunner of a once popular reality dating series and must keep the increasingly absurd show afloat for one last season.

**Full Ride (Hour-Long Pilot):** Charged with bringing a prestigious university's athletics program back from the dead, a young female athletics director clashes with the morally corrupt NCAA boys' club.

**"The 1-2," Brooklyn 9-9 (Half-Hour Spec):** Peralta and Boyle discover an eerily similar, but far superior, version of the 9-9.

# TERRENCE J. GRANT



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From the Windy City to the City of Angels, Terrence Grant's path to screenwriting heroism has been quite interesting, to say the least. He got his start simply by videotaping and voice commenting on his best friend's football games. In high school, he committed to a few years of acting and improvisation. While studying sociology at Morehouse College, he was bit by a radioactive writing bug. With great talent came great responsibility to hone his craft, so he entered the Writing and Producing for Television program at LMU.

Since then Terrence has produced numerous short films and special projects, including an award-winning short that was accepted into three Oscar and BAFTA qualifying film festivals and premiered on HBO. He joined a society of Cinematic heroes gifted in the art of storytelling, becoming the society's Vice President. Now, with his feet soaked in leadership and producing experience, he looks to bring his own writing to life. The Short, Dark and Mysterious Inc. Productions is now open for business.

#### LOGLINES

**Half-God (One-Hour Drama):** A high school golden boy gets his world turned upside down when he discovers he is the son of Zeus, tasked with stopping the Goddess of Chaos.

**Tristan NEWBORN (One-Hour Drama):** A mentally unstable vigilante uses his genetic anomaly to uncover his past, only to discover that he and six others are tied to a secret organization that wants them all dead.

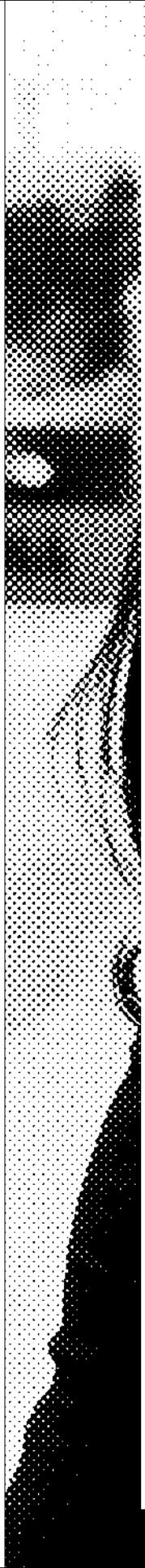
**Civil Guardian (Feature):** During the Civil Rights era, an African American with powers beyond this world takes up the mantle of a superhero, unaware that his new crusade will cause his father's past to catch up to them both.

**Trench: Anom's Ascension (Video Game):** A boy trained in the deadly arts grows up to become a crime lord hell-bent on avenging the deaths of his parents while he is relentlessly pursued by the FBI.

# ISIS GRILLS



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Isis Grills finds no greater pleasure in life than making others laugh, most often at her own expense. She wore the crown of class clown proudly through primary school, getting herself caught in her share of fiascos, like the time her friends egged her on into miming suggestive moans, until the school secretary came over and gave her a good scolding. She continues to make a fool of herself, *shamelessly*—both as an everyday woman and an aspiring TV writer.

One of Isis' proudest moments was when a Julliard trained actor invested in a 10-minute play she'd written and executive produced it for the web. She loved exercising her manlier voices to create this play, starring two male leads.

While interning at Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Films, she imagined all the wonderful things she would say when she and Oprah crossed paths. In Isis' free time, she continues to bring everyone to their knees in laughter with her antics.

#### LOGLINES

**Kid Comeback (Half-Hour Comedy):** Desperate to reclaim his former glory, a disgraced middleweight boxing champ agrees to star in his own reality show at the urging of an equally down-on-his-luck TV producer.

**Stinger (Hour Dramedy):** Fresh off her prison stint, a shamed journalist has nowhere to turn but to the one option she never thought she would: tabloid journalism.

**Jamal and Me (Comedy, Web Series):** A clueless actress in need of a personal and professional reinvention decides to adopt an African American child.

**Fatigued (Comedy, Web Series):** A tough-as-nails drill sergeant oversees an experimental boot camp that is exclusive to female recruits who have different motivations for leaving civilian life behind.

**Throwing Stones (Hour Drama):** An embittered social worker relocates to Chicago to care for her estranged father who's in desperate need of her bone marrow.

**Lez-Be-Honest Mom (10-Minute Play):** A mother learns her daughter is a lesbian in the middle of confronting her for stashing marijuana.

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Stephanie Hall is used to falling on her face. Ten years as a competitive gymnast taught her that it's how many times you get back up that matters. Since third grade Stephanie dreamed of becoming a scientist, but suffering through the monotonous lab work at Duquesne University convinced her that she'd rather write the forensic scientists on television who inspired her in the first place. To fill the void before embarking on this new dream at LMU, Stephanie spent (and continues to spend) way too many hours a week critiquing and blogging about the adventures of her favorite characters. Stephanie aims to create television that inspires women and shows them persevering no matter what life throws at them.

#### LOGLINES

**The Base (Hour Sci-Fi Drama):** A young woman hell-bent on protecting others from the organization that experimented on her, infiltrates this academy of teenage soldiers to dismantle a plan to enslave the post-apocalyptic world.

**Lexington (Hour Conspiracy Drama):** After a mysterious attack obliterates the town of Lexington, Virginia, a nurse with a newfound supernatural affliction flees for her life and searches for answers alongside other survivors and a vindictive FBI agent.

**"Toss Faith Pens," Blindspot (One-Hour Spec):** The FBI and Jane race to stop a former Prisoner of War from using suicide bombs to kill those who falsely accused her of being a traitor.

**The Wrong Milk (Dark Comedy, 10-Minute Play):** Fed up with incompetence, an unstable woman takes her barista hostage and revels in the build-up to his murder.

# JOHN PICKHAVER



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John Pickhaver is the former host of *Johnny Troubles*. You've probably never heard of it. Pickhaver was just nine years old and it was "produced" in an unfinished basement. Sixteen years would pass before he found more work on the talk show circuit. That's when the staff at *Late Night with Seth Meyers* took a chance on the cellar-dwelling talk show host and offered Pickhaver an internship in the writers' room.

Since then, Pickhaver has become a freelance contributor on *Saturday Night Live's* Weekend Update segment. Pickhaver writes jokes about topical and political humor in a desperate attempt to justify his undergraduate degree in political science. In addition to writing, Pickhaver enjoys performing. He does standup and Improv at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater.

Pickhaver is determined to lead a successful career in comedy – at least to the point where he can delete his LinkedIn account. Finally, John Pickhaver is very good-looking and LOVES writing about himself in the third person.

#### LOGLINES

**Snakes: A National Conversation (Co-Writer/Producer):**

A news report about the country's snake attack problem with an in-depth look at the National Reptile Association's proposal to increase the presence of snakes to ensure the safety of all citizens.

**D3 (Half-Hour Comedy):** A mockumentary about a Division III college track team and their one star runner's efforts to keep the team competitive, even if they spend more time running from campus police than they do around the track.

**Affluenza (Half-Hour Comedy):** Two lifelong products of "affluenza" are forced to live life outside of their trust fund bubble when their father forces them to volunteer to keep their bank accounts flowing.

**Wish List (Half-Hour Comedy):** After each experiencing a quarter-life crises, three friends believe the best way to start over is by opening their own local Make A Wish Foundation, no matter the wish.

**"The Gang Ruins the Philadelphia Marathon," It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (Half-Hour Spec):** The gang competes with one another to determine who the real athlete is by running the Philadelphia Marathon.

# EMMANUEL SAINT-ANGE



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Emmanuel has been creating content since 2011. Writing skits in China and producing stage plays in Atlanta, Los Angeles and Ghana has been the foundation of Emmanuel's brand: The Traveling Playwright. Adamant about creating work with a social message, Emmanuel inspires his audience to challenge crooked systems in their lives like the characters in his stories. From his early playwriting days, Emmanuel has transitioned into film and television. His films and videos have been honored at several festivals and showcased in Spain, Italy and Jamaica. Emmanuel plans to continue building an international audience with content that challenges the world to be what it can be, rather than what it is.

#### LOGLINES

**The Playoffs (Pilot Script and Proof of Concept):** A one-hour Machiavellian drama about Ephesians, the heir to a basketball franchise who inherits a miniscule piece of the failing team. To become managing owner of a championship dynasty, every move Ephesians makes must be strategic, or else he risks exchanging old friends for new enemies.

**The Merry Man (Hour-Long Pilot Script):** A sci-fi heist dramedy about five bandits who master the science to retrieve stolen treasures for their clients. The Merry Men work in the grey areas of morality to battle corruption in law and government. When Robin Hood meets Cops and Robbers, The Merry Men will discover there can never be honor among thieves.

**Psalms of Shepherds (Pilot):** Beyond the diluted legend of King David is the raw and gritty rise of a shepherd boy. After David slays Goliath, God names him the next King of Israel and now Saul will stop at nothing to have David's head on a platter.

**Wishful Thinking (TV Proof of Concept, Produced):** A hysterical coming-of-age sexcapade story of a hopeless romantic, a starving actor, a serial monogamist and God's gift to women. As our hopeless romantic looks to find "the one," he finds himself in deeper shit as he seeks some "wise" counsel from his friends.

**My Life Matters (Experimental Short, Produced):** Here's what happens when an urban artist tries to promote his poetry slam.

# MICHAEL SALOMON



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In writing and in life, Mike Salomon fancies himself an eclectic. A product of Acton, Massachusetts — the town that gave the world Big Bird, Steve Carrell and Revolutionary War hero, Isaac Davis — Mike strives to emulate those three different inspirations by creating witty and heartfelt entertainment while standing up to British tyranny. Having lived in six cities and worked jobs as diverse as drywaller, corporate educator and professional tap-dancer, Mike's unique range of experiences lets him jump into any story or world with fluency. This has led to success as an award-winning internationally-produced playwright with works that blend genres and offer new quirky and bizarre twists on classic ideas. With television as his ultimate passion, he hopes to shine in the writer's room, where his offbeat sensibilities create exciting, original and compelling TV (and keep that blasted King George III at bay).

#### LOGLINES

**NYPD Ghost Squad (Half-Hour Pilot):** In the Criminal Justice System, paranormal-based offenses are considered especially ridiculous. In New York City, the ragtag detectives who investigate these questionable cases are members of a not-so-elite team known as NYPD Ghost Squad. This is their story.

**Surveillancers (Half-Hour Pilot):** America's worst fears about government surveillance come to life in this workplace comedy about the irreverent agents tasked with keeping the country safe from cyber-crime.

**GOLDstein (Hour-Long Pilot, Winner: Best Overall Screenplay — Ivy Film Festival):** A nebbishy NYPD accountant is mistakenly made deputy of a podunk West Texas sheriff's department only to discover a vast criminal conspiracy lurking beneath the sleepy town.

**"Brooklyn 9-9," The Subway Sniffer (Half-Hour Spec, Winner: Best Half-Hour Spec, Final Draft Big Break Awards):** When Santiago shows up at the station with a new beau, Peralta becomes convinced the man is a certain wanted felon and sets out to prove his case.

**The Tragedy of King James the First (Play, Featured on Slate and the AV Club):** A Shakespearean reimagining of the story of LeBron James and The Decision.

# JONATHAN TALBERT



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Jonathan Talbert spent the first chapter of his career working as a post-producer on television series such as *Weeds*, *United States of Tara* and *Orange Is the New Black*. He gravitated toward these character-driven cable programs because of his affinity for stories about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

He creates distinct worlds with a rich verisimilitude, so authentic that you grow to care for his characters. Then he tests the motivations and humanity of his heroes by dropping them into the crucible of dramatized cinematic events.

Jonathan looks forward to turning the page to the next chapter of his career as a television writer-producer.

#### LOGLINES

**Cloud (Digital Series):** A man's phone is stolen from a Los Angeles bar and sold to a woman in China. They find themselves inextricably linked by the photos and messages shared across his still-active iCloud account, changing each other's lives forever.

**A Glass Darkly (Network Drama):** An undercover cop returns home from the cold to find out he never left. A doppelganger – his exact double – has been raising his children and sleeping with his wife. Now he must go undercover within his own family to save them from *himself*.

**Sleeper (Premium Cable Drama):** After falling in love with a civilian, a disillusioned spy vows to leave the CIA, but he must first face blowback from a Cold War op which endangers his new fiancé.

**Flacks (Basic Cable Drama):** In the wake of his mentor's death, a morally flexible spin-doctor at LA's top PR firm grows a conscience, which threatens to destroy both his business and family.

**The Skids (Premium Cable Comedy):** A "workplace" comedy set on the streets of downtown LA's Skid Row.

**Three Day Ride (Feature):** On Friday, Alan proposed to his girlfriend Becca. She said no. On Saturday, the (un)happy couple and her ex find themselves on the run from a homicidal maniac through the backwoods of the rural Midwest. Who knows what Sunday will bring?

# TOM YOUNG



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Tom Young spent his formative years in the heteronormative, semi-conservative suburb of Beaverton, Oregon, doomed for a life of withholding his emotions and living a lie. However, clandestine glimpses of the hot gardener on *Desperate Housewives* on the boob tube caused a stirring in his... heart, launching him into the tumultuous yet rewarding journey of embracing his homosexuality. Finally liberated to harness his true creative potential, he strives to portray honest and humorous LGBT characters and narratives in his work. He hopes to open a window into the many facets of gay culture to straight people while providing much-needed onscreen representation for gay viewers, whether they're out and proud or confused teenagers watching in secret. When he's not writing, Tom can be found in West Hollywood quoting *RuPaul's Drag Race* and wondering why boys don't text him back.

#### LOGLINES

**Sodom & Gomorrah (Half-Hour):** A modern, gay twist on *The Odd Couple*, Sam and Geoff become fast friends as they try to hack it in the gay-borhoods of Los Angeles, despite their differing expression of their homosexuality.

**House in Virginia (Half-Hour):** HIV isn't just an 80s issue in this modern comedy, exploring the humor and hardship of a gay millennial's life-changing but not life-ending positive diagnosis.

**Witless Protection (Half-Hour):** An upper-middle class family from New York City enters the Witness Protection program and is mistakenly placed in a doomsday cult.

**"Family Pride," VEEP (Half-Hour Spec):** Facing criticism as a bandwagon supporter of LGBT rights, Selina co-opts her non-flamboyant gay nephew to prove to the haters that she's always been the best damn ally since WWII.

**Apollo Projects (Half-Hour):** Living in the completely gentrified future of America, an intelligent yet sheltered college grad decides to forge her own path when she moves from her rich parents' McMansion into the space station low-income housing, a.k.a. "the Apollo Projects."

**War Paint (Hour-Long):** A young lounge singer in the underground gay scene of 1960s San Francisco travels abroad disguised as a female entertainer to find his boyfriend who's M.I.A. in the Vietnam War.

