

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK!

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SPOTLIGHT!



Recent RTVF grad **Irene M Jiang** has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to Morocco. Irene discussed her project:

"Raised in a software-dominated suburb of Seattle by Chinese immigrant parents, I was drawn to my two fields of study partially because of how distant they were from my own experience, but also because both allowed me to challenge myself in completely different ways. The first intersection of my passion for film and my MENA studies compelled me to pursue my current artistic path. While studying abroad in Morocco, I lived with and made a short documentary on Theatre Nomade, a traveling circus based in Casablanca. This short film became the seeds of my Fulbright project, a feature-length documentary that will explore Theatre Nomade's tightly-knit community of artists and how these individuals forge identities shaped by their craft and in relation to their environment. After Fulbright, I intend to grow my audience and continue to create entertaining and thought-provoking films that will inspire dialogue about difficult or unexplored topics and alter the landscape of media representation."

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Department of Radio/Television/Film

Clayton Brown and NU alumna **Monica Ross** have a presentation at Museum of Contemporary Art on November 4th talking about their film *We Believe In Dinosaurs*, part of [Chicago Humanities Festival](#), discussing their film on Saturday, November 4 at 1:00pm. More news for Clayton Brown: the Fall 2016 meeting of the University Research Grants Committee at The Graduate School has awarded a Faculty Research Grant in the amount of \$5000 to Brown to advance work on his project. Professor Brown's project is a feature screenplay called *The Darkening Sun* about a small-town female portrait photographer in the late 1800s who decides to make a dangerous 1000-mile trek across the frontier to take a photograph of the 1869 solar eclipse. She ends up traveling with an ex-slave who is looking for land to settle. The grant will be to shoot the first scene in order to raise funds, attract collaborators, and so on. Congratulations to Clayton Brown!

Stephen Cone is featured in a [NEWCITY](#) profile by Ray Pride. Cone discusses his body of work and his newest film *Princess Cyd* that premieres at this fall's [53rd Chicago International Film Festival](#), running October 12 - 26.

Stephen Cone, **Spencer Parsons**, and **Dave Tolchinsky** are quoted in the NEWCITY article "[Hollywood By the Lake?](#)" regarding the boom in filming activity around Chicago.

Zayd Dohrn's play *Mudrackers* is now available from [Samuel French](#).

Kyle Henry's film [Rogers Park](#) premiered Thursday, October 19th as part of this fall's [53rd Chicago International Film Festival](#). The film was made with the support of a School of Communications Grant and included the help of many NU RTVF alumni, including Madison Ginsberg (Class of 2015) and Grace Hahn (Class of 2016).

Stephan Moore organized a concert in New York City at the Issue Project Room show, part of the New York Electronic Arts Festival organized by Harvestworks. It received a nice write-up from [PopMatters](#). He also attended Empac's Spatial Audio Summer Workshop this summer which was

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

covered by [The New York Times](#).

Brett Neveu has been promoted from lecturer to senior lecturer.

Eric Patrick was a guest lecturer at the [Gene Siskel Center](#) on October 3rd, discussing the Quay Brothers' film *Institute Benjamin*.

Congrats to **Miriam Petty**, who received the Galbut Outstanding Faculty Award at the Honors Convocation during Spring quarter. She has also been promoted to associate professor with tenure.

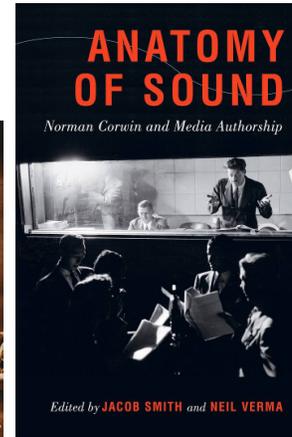
Ozge Samanci has been promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Jacob Smith and **Neil Verma** have won the Kraszna-Krausz 2017 Best Moving Image Book Award for their book *Anatomy of Sound: Norman Corwin and Media*, (University of California Press). Note that *Anatomy of Sound* is a book about radio - not moving images. This is the first time the £5,000 award has been given for a book about radio; a unique accomplishment! **Miriam Petty's** *Stealing the Show: African American Performers and Audiences in 1930s Hollywood* (University of California Press) - which won the Best SCMS First Book award - was shortlisted for this award. **Jacob Smith** was also promoted to full professor.

EL MAR LA MAR, a documentary co-directed by **JP Sniadecki**, received a shout out in a [New York Times article](#) examining films inspired by Trump's proposal to build a wall on the US-Mexico border. *EL MAR LA MAR* screens this fall at the Camden International Film Festival, the New York Film Festival, and plays at Block Cinema on November 9th, and is showing at the Chicago International Film Festival on October 24 and 25, and had its UK premiere at the British Film Institute's London Film Festival and will have its LA premiere at the AFI Film Festival in November.

Ines Sommer's documentary *Count Me In* was included in the Chicago Park District's [2017 CHICAGO ONSCREEN LOCAL FILM SHOWCASE](#).

David Tolchinsky and **Ozge Samanci** took part in this summer's [Northwestern University Summer Writer's Conference](#). The event was a three-day institute on writing fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.



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Debra Tolchinsky is part of this year's [Chicago Humanities Festival](#) discussing her in process documentary, *True Memories and Other Falsehoods*, which explores how memories are formed, implanted, and/or contaminated, especially in the context of the criminal justice system. She will be joined by founder and artistic director of Facets Multimedia Milos Stehlik.



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The **MA in Sound Arts and Industries** held its first convocation ceremony on August 23, 2017 for its graduating students, completing the program's inaugural year. **Jon Tatoes** (School of Communication Class of 1989), Co-founder and Managing Director of Sound Devices LLC, delivered the keynote address.

Annea Lockwood gave the artist talk "Wild Energies" sponsored by the MA in Sound Arts and Industries on May 11, 2017 at the Northwestern Soundstage to discuss her site-dependent installations *A Sound Map of the Danube* and a recent collaboration with Bob Bielecki, Wild Energy. Lockwood is a world-renowned sound artist and composer, as well as a sound-art pioneer known for her explorations of the rich world of natural acoustic sounds and environments.

Steve Pardo, Senior Sound Designer and Lead Composer at Harmonix Music Systems, discussed sound design and music systems for digital games and shared insights about the future of the industry as part of the MA in Sound Arts and Industries Speaker Series on May 18, 2017 in the Northwestern Soundstage. Students later had the opportunity to try out virtual reality games after the presentation.



MSAI inaugural graduation class at convocation



Coming to Block Cinema: NU Docs/ New Docs

A film series surveying the contemporary field of professional documentary with makers present for Q&A. Co-presented by Northwestern's MFA in Documentary Media program.

QUEST

Jonathan Olshefski – Thursday, October 5th – 7 PM

The NU Docs series started with a fantastic screening of *Quest*. Filmed over the course of eight years, filmmaker Jonathan Olshefski chronicles the daily struggles and successes of the Rainey's, an African-American family living in Philadelphia. Adjunct instructor and the film's editor **Lindsay Utz** was also in person for a post-screening Q&A..

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO

Academy Award nominee **Raoul Peck** in attendance – Monday, October 16th – 6:30 PM, 93 minutes. In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project, "Remember This House." The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. At the time of Baldwin's death in 1987, he left behind only 30 completed pages of this manuscript. Filmmaker **Raoul Peck** envisions the book James Baldwin never finished. Peck is the School of Communication's 2018 Hoffman Visiting Artist for Documentary Media, funded by a generous gift from Jane Steiner Hoffman and Michael Hoffman. Additional support from Dwight A. McBride, James Baldwin Scholar and former Northwestern TGS Dean/Associate Provost.

EL MAR LA MAR

Joshua Bonnetta & **JP Sniadecki** – Thursday, November 9th – 7 PM

A portrait of the Sonoran Desert along the United States border with Mexico. Professor JP Sniadecki will be in person to take questions after the screening.

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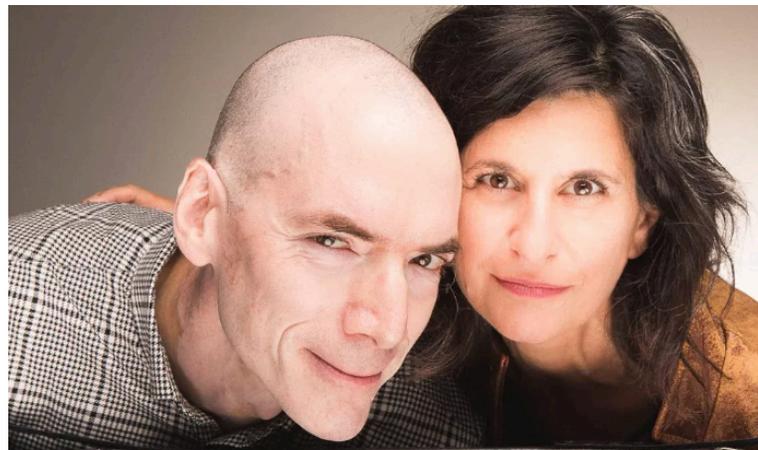
Department of Radio/Television/Film

Professor **Thomas Bradshaw** was featured on the cover of the Sunday Arts Section of the *San Francisco Chronicle* on October 1, 2017. The full article can be found online at <http://www.sfchronicle.com/performance/article/Founding-father-and-pillar-of-hypocrisy-at-12233070.php#photo-14118208>.

Newcity Film interviewed Assistant Professor **Aymar Jean Christian** about his platform Open TV (beta), the launchpad of the webseries "Brown Girls". Open TV (beta) also hosts alumna **Kate Royal's** webseries, "In Real Life." The article mentioning both Christian and Royal can be found at <https://newcityfilm.com/2017/09/27/film-leader-of-the-moment-aymar-jean-christian/>.

Newcity Film also released their latest list of Chicago's FILM 50. NU and RTVF is again well represented with Professor **Dave Tolchinsky** and Professor **Debra Tolchinsky** checking in at #7 on the list. NU alum and Music Box co-director **Brian Andreotti** (MA 1992) is #12 on the list and NU alum and Siskel Film Center Director of Public Programs **Amy Beste** (PhD 2012) checks in at #30. <https://newcityfilm.com/.../film-50-2017-chicagos-screen-gems/>

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



David Tolchinsky and Debra Tolchinsky/Photo: Joe Mazza, Brave Lux



Priyankar Patra, Class of 2018, interned at the Television Academy Foundation this summer. As part of the internship, he attend the 69th Primetime Emmy Awards on September 17th. Priyankar says of his internship, "Just walking around in the Warner Bros. lot, seeing people turning vision into reality, reminded me why I fell in love with the film industry in the first place."

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

SCREEN CULTURES

On September 29 and 30, the Screen Cultures Graduate Student Association hosted Backward Glances, their media and historiography graduate student conference, at the John Evans Center. This year's theme is Mediating Resistance, and the Screen Cultures Graduate Student Association is happy to welcome Professors **Mary Celeste Kearney** of the University of Notre Dame and **Kara Keeling** of the University of Southern California as keynote speakers. Visit the website <https://backwardglancesconference.wordpress.com/schedule/> for more information.

The 2017-2018 Screen Cultures Visiting Speaker Series features workshops and talks by Herman Gray (University of California, Santa Cruz), Nicole Starosielski (New York University) and Alex Galloway (New York University).

Reem Hilu successfully defended her dissertation, "The Family Circuit: Gender, Games, and Domestic Computing Culture, 1945-1990." She also received a post-doctoral fellowship at McGill University in Montreal, and was offered at tenure-track assistant professorship at Washington University in St. Louis. Hilu also published her article, "Girl Talk and Girl Tech: Computer Talking Dolls and the Sounds of Girls' Play" in *The Velvet Light Trap*.

BACKWARD GLANCES
MEDIATING RESISTANCE
MEDIA AND HISTORIOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RADIO/TV/FILM, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
SEPTEMBER 29 & 30
JOHN EVANS ALUMNI CENTER
1800 SHERIDAN RD, EVANSTON, IL 60208
PANELS ARE FROM 9:30AM-5:15PM
IN OUR TUMULTUOUS POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF "FAKE NEWS" AND REALITY TV PRESIDENTS, THE URGENCY OF CRITICALLY ENGAGED MEDIA SCHOLARSHIP HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER. AT A TIME IN WHICH MANY ARE EXPERIENCING A SENSE OF TRAUMATIC UPHEAVAL, SUCH WORK HAS THE POTENTIAL NOT ONLY TO ENLIGHTEN THE WORKINGS OF MEDIA IN OUR PRESENT MOMENT, BUT TO TRACE THE HISTORY OF MEDIA'S RELATIONSHIP TO MOVEMENTS OF RESISTANCE, REBELLION, AND RADICAL CHANGE.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
DR. MARY CELESTE KEARNEY, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, FRIDAY 5:00-6:00PM
DR. KARA KEELING, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY 3:30A-5:00PM
THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP:
ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES
SCREEN CULTURES PH.D. PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES, HISTORY, AND PUBLIC CULTURE
THE CENTER FOR SCREEN CULTURES
GENDER & SEXUALITIES STUDIES PROGRAM
SEMMLITZ PROJECT AT NORTHWESTERN (SPAN)
RUFFERT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
BACKWARDGLANCESCONFERENCE.WORDPRESS.COM

THE SCREEN CULTURES PROGRAM AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS:
Herman Gray
Reading Peabody: Transparency, Opacity, and the Black (Subject)ion of 20th Century American Television
October 20, 2017
3:30pm
Helmreich Auditorium
Annie May Swift Hall
In this presentation, Herman Gray uses a selection of images from the Peabody Archive at the University of Georgia to examine the relationship of broadcast television, the social science discourse of race relations, and black generated programming from the 1950s and 60s to explore the conditions of possibility for knowing blacks as rights bearing subjects of liberal democracy.
2017-18
Screen Cultures
Visiting Speaker Series
All tickets are open to the public. For more information, email screencult@northwestern.edu.
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Congratulations to Screen Cultures PhD student **Hannah Spaulding** whose essay "Recording Intimacy, Reviewing Spectacle: The Emergence of Video in the American Home" is accepted for publication in *Television & New Media*, forthcoming 2017.

Screen Cultures PhD student **Simran Bhalla** has curated a program that came to [Block Cinema](#) September 21 and 22. [Ministry of Light: Experimental State-Sponsored Films from India](#) presented a selection of Films Division's sharpest verité and wildest avant-garde shorts, as well as Shyam Benegal's state-supported masterpiece of alternative cinema, *Nishant*. See an interview with Bhalla [online here](#).

Whitney Pow's article "Reaching Toward Home: Software Interface as Queer Orientation in the Video Game Curtain." will be published in the Spring 2018 issue of *Velvet Light Trap*. Pow has also been named the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN) Graduate Student Fellow for 2017-18.

Screen Cultures Graduate Student, **Cara Dickason**, and PhD Candidate, **Illana Emmett**, attended The Summer Institute Cologne this past summer. Summer Institute Cologne is a joint project of University of Cologne and Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. <http://sic.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/>

Congratulations to recent Screen Cultures Graduate, **Pam Krayenbuhl**, who is now Assistant Professor in Residence at Northwestern University - Qatar, where she serves on the Communication faculty and teaches courses in the "Media Industries and Technology" major.

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

STUDENT GROUPS

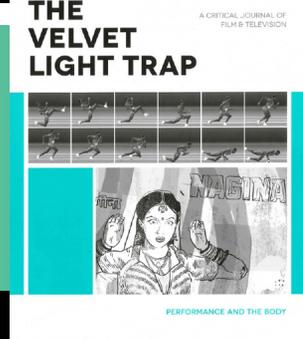
Applause for a Cause premiered their feature film in the spring and donated \$1,025, from a combination of ticket sales and budget surplus, to their nonprofit beneficiary, Apna Ghar, which provides resources to victims of domestic violence.

In the fall, **Multicultural Filmmakers Collective** will host an ice cream social (open to all students) to connect the incoming RTVF minority freshmen to minority upperclassmen and vice versa. They also plan to host a foreign film screening. They're also in the beginning stages of bringing in Chicago native, **Lena Waithe** (*Master of None*, *Dear White People* (film), *Bones*) as a 2018 Winter or Spring speaker. They look forward to working with the RTVF department in the fall to fundraiser for this event.

Northwestern University Women Filmmakers Alliance's 2017-2018 grant recipient is *The Man From Springfield*, written/directed by Erin Gregory & produced by Dasha Gorin, to be shot in the winter. They'll be reaching out to MAG recipients in the fall to offer script help and answer questions they may have about production.

Studio 22 hosted Jordan Horowitz over quarter spring quarter and held their annual premiere, featuring a line-up of 6 student shorts.

Undergraduate RTVF Student Association has organized a focus group of undergrads to help create a new MAG FAQ that will also function as a RTVF producing guidebook.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Two out of the six summer internships at Kartemquin went to RTVF students this year! **Kai Blakely** is one of our MFA Documentary Media grads along with **Lakshmi Karuparth**, who just graduated.

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Krevoy Screenwriting Prize

Thanks to Brad and Susie Krevoy, who underwrote this generous screenwriting fund.

Undergraduate Recipients

1st Place: **Irene Jiang**, *Torchlight* (Hr. Long Pilot, fantasy with a sociopolitical edge)

2nd Place: **Daniel Carlon**, *Tabula Rasa* (Hr. Long Pilot, sci-fi action/political) & **Nastasya Popov**, *Bohemia* (Hr. Long Pilot, urban drama with a mix of arts/politics/modern themes)

Selection Committee: **Bill Bleich** and **Brett Neveu** (chairs); **Zina Camblin**; and **Stephen Cone**

Graduate Recipients

1st Place: **Liza Summers**, *Eugenia Morris' Amazing Technicolor Y2K* (coming of age comedy feature screenplay)

2nd Place: **Oona O'Leary**, *Exposure* (horror feature screenplay) & **Molly Pease**, *Can I Finish* (dramedy feature screenplay)

Selection Committee: **Thomas Bradshaw** (chair); **Zayd Dohrn**; **Rebecca Gilman**; and **Dave Tolchinsky**

Joann Torretta Award

Camille Casmier, *Mississippi River Princess*.

The [Joann Torretta Award](#) is given to a student who shows exceptional promise in filmmaking. It is administered through the yearlong Senior Directing sequence application process.

Joann, who passed away in July 2017, was a fearless innovator who barreled through barriers to pursue her visions.

She remembered her Northwestern years fondly and vividly, and her family is overjoyed to know that this award gives talented students the ability to bring life and form, sound and vision to their creativity.

Media Arts Grant winners

Angel Joshua Martinez, *The Yards*
Sarayah Wright, *Acts of Remembering*
Sylvana Caruso, *Flower For Ian*
Megan Ballew, *Not an Option*
Tyler Gould, *Two Quarters*
Lauren Loesberg, *Feet*
Thomas Molash, *Laughing Death Society*

Summer Undergraduate Research Grant winners

John Daniels (School of Communication, RTVF; Computer Science (currently declaring)) "Crafting Virtual Reality Narrative Film." Faculty Sponsor: **Erik Gernand**, RTVF.

Arthur Gilchrist (School of Communication, RTVF) "New Musical Tabletop Roleplaying Game." Faculty Sponsor: Richard Ashley, Music Studies.

Alexander Herz (School of Communication, RTVF) "The Golem Today: "Der Golem" Revisited." Faculty Sponsor: Ingrid Zeller, German.

Max Kliman (School of Communication, RTVF) "Crafting Virtual Reality Narrative Film." Faculty Sponsor: **Erik Gernand**, RTVF.

Anna Reishus (School of Communication, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, RTVF and Art Theory and Practice) "Manifestations of Masculinity." Faculty Sponsor: **Ozge Samanci**, RTVF.

Eli Sugerman (School of Communication, RTVF & Creative Writing) "Embodied Users (A Short Film)." Faculty Sponsor: **JP Sniadecki**, RTVF.

Dominique Teoh (School of Communication, Radio/Television/Film) "The Others." Faculty Sponsor: Haydon Cherry, Department of History.

Jessica Zeidman (School of Communication, RTVF; Theatre (Minor)) "Dramatizing the WWII Refugee Experience." Faculty Sponsor: **Rebecca Gilman**, RTVF.

Check out the full list [online](#).

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NEW FACES!

FACULTY

Danielle Beverly joins the department as an assistant professor and core faculty member of the Documentary Media Program. She is an Independent Documentary Filmmaker who typically works as a one person crew, recording picture and audio alone, in the field.

Beverly's most recent documentary *Old South* debuted in March 2015, and had its national broadcast in February 2016 on The World Channel/PBS. It was the season 4 opener of the "America ReFramed" documentary series, airing during African American History Month. It also enjoyed a year long film festival and college tour. In Summer 2015 it screened in community gardens across NY State and the American South on "The Healing Spaces Tour", funded by Wave Farm & NYSCA. In 2016 it received The Award of Merit for Documentary from The University Film & Video Association. Beverly is currently in post-production on the feature documentary *Dusty Groove: The Sound of Transition*.

Beverly began her career at Chicago's PBS affiliate, and has directed and produced content for PBS and cable since 1999. Beverly was Field Producer for the longitudinal documentary *REBIRTH* over its ten-year production (Sundance World Premiere 2011; Showtime broadcast; George Foster Peabody Award; screened at The White House, US Department of State film tour; permanent exhibition at National September 11 Memorial & Museum).

Beverly's first documentary feature *Learning to Swallow* (2005) followed a charismatic artist with bipolar disorder, as she struggles to rebuild her life, after a suicide attempt destroys her digestive system. The film premiered in competition at Silverdocs (2005), screened internationally, and traveled to rural communities on The Southern Circuit. In March 2015 it was broadcast on America ReFramed, and had a national rebroadcast in July 2017.



Her filmmaking, photography and digital media work have received funding from The Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media, New York State Council for the Arts (NYSCA), The Puffin Foundation, The Chicago Cultural and Tourism Fund, The Center for Peacemaking, and The Diederich College Initiative on Communication Ethics, Values and Social Justice. In 2012, Beverly was awarded a Mary L. Nohl Artists Fellowship for Established Artists. In 2014, Beverly was awarded a BAVC National MediaMaker Fellowship.

Beverly also freelances as a documentary cameraperson, working solo or as a two person crew. Projects include Marco Williams' *Lonnie Holley: The Truth of the Dirt*; and the social issue documentary *As Goes Janesville* (Independent Lens, national EMMY nomination).

She is currently an Assistant Professor at Northwestern University in Qatar, teaching documentary and fiction filmmaking.

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NEW FACES!

Jay Bonansinga is the New York Times bestselling author of twenty-four books, including the wildly popular WALKING DEAD novels, as well as the award-winning non-fiction work THE SINKING OF THE EASTLAND: AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN TRAGEDY. Jay's work has been adapted to the screen and stage, and published in seventeen languages. The Chicago Tribune has called him, "One of the most imaginative writers of thrillers." He lives in Evanston with his wife, the photographer Jill Norton, and his two sons.

Jon Chambers is an artist and educator based in Chicago. He received an MFA in New Media Art from the University of Illinois at Chicago and teaches media literacy, media art histories, net art, new media art (software + hardware) and video at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University. He has shown work nationally and internationally, in screening venues, galleries and online including The Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago, Athens Digital Arts Festival in Athens, Greece, The Chicago Artist Coalition in Chicago, The Wrong- New Digital Art Biennale on the Internet, Gallery 400 in Chicago, #Programa La Plaza in Madrid, Spain, UICA in Grand Rapids MI, and Powrplnt in NYC. He has attended residencies at The Media Archaeology Lab in Boulder Colorado, HATCH Residency in Chicago, and ACRE in Steuben Wisconsin.

Kat Falls is the author of the novels, Dark Life and its sequel, Rip Tide, which take middle school-aged readers on a science fiction adventure under the sea. The series has been translated into 17 foreign languages; was nominated for children's literature awards in ten states; and is in development for film at Disney. Kat was the recipient of the ABC New Voices pick for outstanding debuts of 2010; the Friends of American Writers' Juvenile Literary Award 2011; and appeared on The Today Show when Al Roker featured Dark Life on "Al's Book Club for Kids." Her most recent novel, Inhuman, a dystopian romance for teens, received glowing reviews from Publishers Weekly, the School Library Journal, and VOYA; a starred review from Kirkus;



ADJUNCTS



and made the Tome It List for "clean" teen reads. Kat attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as an undergrad, and received an MFA from Northwestern University in screenwriting.

Sarah Geis is an independent audio producer, editor, and a former artistic director of the Third Coast International Audio Festival. She began her career traveling the country with the StoryCorps oral history project, and has spent the past decade evangelizing on behalf of narrative audio around the globe. Recent work has aired on WBEZ, BBC Radio 4, and the podcast Love + Radio.

Mickie Maher's plays have appeared Off-Broadway and around the world, and have been supported by grants from the NEA, the Rockefeller MAP fund, and Creative Capital. They include There is a Happiness That Morning Is; Song About Himself; An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening; The Hunchback Variations; The Strangerer; Spirits to Enforce; Cyrano (translator) The Cabinet; Lady Madeline; The Pine; and An Actor Prepares (an adaptation of Stanislavsky's seminal book). He is a cofounder of Chicago's Theater Oobleck, and has taught playwriting and related subjects at the University of Chicago, Columbia College, and Northwestern University. He currently is writing the book and lyrics for a new musical about basketball commissioned by the Catastrophic Theatre of Houston and Daryl Morey, the General Manager of the Houston Rockets.

Geoff Rice is an 18-year veteran of the Chicago theatre, sketch, and teaching-artist world. His artistic home is with Barrel of Monkeys, a company that improvises and adapts CPS students' short stories for the stage. His work as an actor has been seen at most of Chicago's leading stages as well as numerous top regional theatres. Geoff is a graduate of Northwestern's School of Speech ('99) and holds a Musical Theatre Certificate. Go Cats.

Also welcome:
Ben Aspray
Alex Inglizian
Aaron Renier

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Department of Radio/Television/Film

NEW FACES! SCREEN CULTURES PHD STUDENTS

Madison Brown is primarily interested in the politics of the personal, domestic media, and histories of gendered taste cultures. Her masters thesis used an autoethnographic approach to examine the theoretical stakes of watching one's own home videos in the home. Her current research centres on women's entertainment, especially early Harlequin Romance novels and their cinematic adaptations as made-for-television movies on women's interest channels. Madison holds a dual BA in English and Cinema Studies, and an MA in Cinema Studies from the University of Toronto.



Kelly Coyne studies twentieth and twenty-first century literature and film, and she is particularly interested in trauma, gender and sexuality, and psychoanalytic theory. Her MA thesis explored the uncanny in work by Chantal Akerman and Sylvia Plath, and she has presented on these artists, as well as on the Gothic genre and Lena Dunham's cinematic work. She holds an MA in English from Georgetown University and a dual BA in English and psychology from Bates College. Previously, she worked in publishing and journalism, and she contributes writing to print and online publications.



Golden Owens's research examines representations of race and gender in contemporary television. She is particularly interested in analyzing these representations and exploring the ways in which contemporary portrayals of race and gender transmit specific messages about women and people of color to television audiences. She received her B.A. in English from Bowdoin College.

Julia Peres Guimarães holds an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, an M.A. in International Relations from the Pontifical Catholic University in Rio, Brazil, and a BSc in International Relations & History from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Julia's research investigates how cinematic texts address the fictional reproduction of patterns of normalcy, standards of deviant behavior and the medicalization/institutionalization or punishment of individuals. Her objective is to unsettle understandings of mental illnesses and their conceptual implications to the legitimization of notions of "normality" associated with local/global citizenship, and to explore the philosophical boundaries pushed by extended levels of consciousness experienced within manic episodes. Her additional research interests include feminist media, critical theory, affect studies and photography. www.juliaguimaraes.com



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CLASS OF 2019

NEW FACES! MFA IN DOCUMENTARY MEDIA STUDENTS

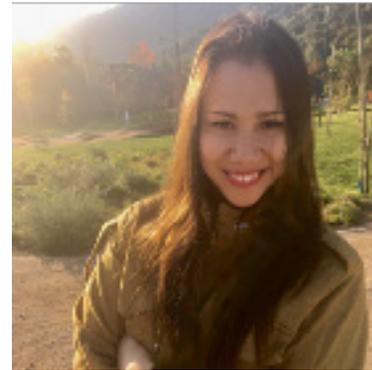
Jennifer Boles received her BA from the University of Colorado at Denver and her PhD in history at Indiana University-Bloomington. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow and instructor of Latin American film studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She came to documentary through the process of archival research and ethnography, finding it more intuitive than academic writing and better suited to historical nuance and the politics of storytelling. At Northwestern, she seeks the support, courage, and inspiration to find her voice as a filmmaker. She is currently working on an archival-based coming of age film about an eight-millimeter film movement in Mexico City in the 1970s and a short essay film about a Cuban novelist and collage artist in New York.



Benjamin Buxton has lived throughout the United States. Moving several times between Georgia, North Dakota and Hawaii, he considers Utah his home. Fluent in Spanish he has spent years of his life in Mexico and South America. He has worked professionally in film since he was 17 and has been based in Los Angeles since 2015. He has balanced his time between film and humanitarian work. Through the Northwestern film program he hopes to develop his style of documentary film in a way that creates engaging spaces of dialogue and visual experimentation.



Agustín Donoso is from Santiago, Chile. He discovered his passion for documentary when he studied Journalism at Universidad de los Andes. While studying journalism, Donoso traveled to Ushuaia, Argentina to shoot a short documentary about the beaver invasion in the area. He has continued to work on a number of documentaries for television and directed and produced four multimedia projects. As an academic he has participated in a number of international congresses, and has published articles in scientific magazines. His mother language is Spanish and he is also fluent in English. While at Northwestern, Donoso hopes to learn how to blend entertainment with education so that his films reach and help more Chileans.



Camila Guarda is a Chilean journalist who received her Bachelor's degree at Universidad del Desarrollo in Santiago. Fluent in both Spanish and English, she has worked at the two biggest television stations in her country, where her role as an international journalist had her covering breaking news in Latin America. Among various stories, she went to Argentina to cover the people's reaction to Pope Francis being elected, she was in Brazil in the midst of the social protests of 2014, covered the World Cup, and the Argentinian and Brazilian general elections. She was then appointed as a Special Reports Editor for the prime-time news broadcast at Channel 13. At Northwestern, she hopes to develop her voice as a documentarian in order to highlight extraordinary stories and elicit change within a global context.



Will Klein is a filmmaker from Columbus, Ohio. He received a BFA from the SUNY Purchase College Film Conservatory in 2013. His films include Motions 1-4, an experiment in movement, and Scent, a documentary that follows a heroin addict in the suburban Midwest. He has spent the last several years helping to combat the influx of opiate addiction in Central Ohio. One of his current interests is exploring the shifting role of truth and reality in contemporary society. His influences include Albert Camus, David Lynch, Lou Reed, and the Maysles Brothers.



Jung Ah Kim was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea and spent her middle school years at the International School of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. She went to Sogang University, earning undergraduate degrees in Chemical Engineering and Philosophy. As she grew more interested in art and theory, she pursued a graduate degree in Aesthetics in Seoul National University and received an MA by writing a thesis on Leibniz's Theory on Sensible Knowledge. Her recent work, a documentary called 'Gundudugi' was screened at the 17th Seoul Independent Documentary Film Festival. Currently Kim's audiovisual essay on Bong Junho's film world is on exhibition in Seoul. While in the program, she seeks to improve her technical skills while exploring various aesthetic forms.

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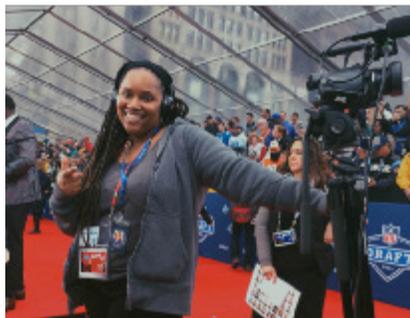
Born and raised in New York City, **Naeema Jamilah Torres** was led to filmmaking through her passion for creative writing as a teenager. She obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in film production from the City College of New York, and pursued a career in content distribution working for home entertainment companies such as Cinedigm and HBO. In addition to freelance media work, Naeema currently volunteers with the Foster Care Film & Community Engagement Project, working on the educational licensing and distribution of their award-winning documentary series. Naeema is interested in pursuing documentary filmmaking to direct and produce stories exploring underrepresented topics in the mainstream.



Natasha Nair is 21 years old and was born and raised in Mumbai. She pursued her Bachelors Degree in Mass Media from K.C. College, Mumbai, starting her journey of cinema and the artistic world of filmmaking. This is when she fell in love with the human aspect of filmmaking and wished to pursue the genre of documentary. She went on to be a part of a team shooting a film for rural farmers, kids born with Down's Syndrome and the veterans of the armed forces. She has won various awards for her cinematography and direction for short films and received over 60000 views on YouTube for her documentary 'Nirastra'. Currently, she is assisting in several short films, weddings and events.



Jessica Scott is an east-coaster at heart, but has resided in Chicago for more than a decade. She earned her first bachelors degree from Hampton University with a degree in Psychology and become a social worker for ten years, where she counseled and treated youth and adults suffering from addiction. Jessica earned her second undergraduate degree in journalism and radio from Columbia College Chicago, where she garnered her first Emmy-nomination as a producer. Jessica stumbled into video while working as the



multimedia-editor at the award-winning Columbia Chronicle, but it wasn't until she was asked to produce her first short for class that she fell in love with documentaries. Jessica hopes to make documentaries that will provoke thought, change people's minds, and encourage people to make a difference in other people's lives. She is eager to learn all she can at Northwestern and hopes to use her lens to inspire others.



Molly Wagener is an artist from the Chicago area. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art History and Photography where she focused on the intersection of media and politics. After graduating, Molly worked as the Deputy Press Secretary of Digital Media in the Office of the Governor of Illinois, creating and editing video content for the governor's social media. Molly is interested in the ways in which visual media influences and shapes the political sphere. At Northwestern she hopes to expand her knowledge of film production and learn how storytelling and cinematography can create powerful discourse.

Jiayu Yang, born and raised in Guilin, a southern city of China, just finished her undergraduate study of International Chinese Language Teaching in Beijing Language and Culture University. Being a member of Miao community and having a father as an entomologist, she wants to make documentaries about her own upbringing culture and the untold stories in rural China. Jiayu sees documentary as a sacred field of art, as well as a strong way to express, reveal and enlighten with the power of truth. In addition to that, she's interested in all forms of moving image. Challenging the boundary between fiction feature film and documentary is also her goal.



Ziyi Yang is a playwright, clown, and dancer, and loves road trips, Chinese poetry, and her hometown Nanjing. She earned her BA in Writing for Performance at Brown University, is dedicated to folklore and oral history, and will present her one-woman show BROKE LITTER: WOOSH! at Providence Fringe Festival this July. Ziyi is also a huge believer of healing and compassion. She is a visual person and obsessed with verbatim performance, dreams, the passage of time, hundred-year eggs, and the fourth dimension.



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Robert Apetagon is a Cree First Nations writer who was raised in Northern Manitoba Canada. He spent a semester at New York University and his freshman year at the University of Miami before finally settling down in Toronto where he earned his Honors BFA in Screenwriting from York University. He has specialized mainly in feature-length genre work. His senior thesis screenplay, *Hunter*, won the YorkU President's Creative Writing Prize while his other features, *Wonder Rabbit* and *Scream Queen*, have placed in several national competitions. Outside of writing, he enjoys political and pop culture satire, topical stand-up comedy and podcasts, all while consistently failing to keep up with new movies.



Dolores Díaz is a Mexican-American playwright and television writer from Laredo, Texas. She recently completed a television pilot, *Border Grammar*, adapted from an earlier work by the same name. Her latest play, *Los Tequileros*, received a workshop production by Teatro Vivo in August 2015 and a Chicago Dramatists reading in June 2016. *A Truthful Christmas* and *Uncomfortable Positions*, premiered at The Vortex in October 2014 as part of the 14-48 Projects in Austin, Texas. Her play, *Border Grammar* was produced by Teatro Chicano de Laredo in 2010. Dolores has served as Producer for Teatro Vivo's annual Austin Latino New Play Festival for the last three years.



Nikkita Duke is a Nigerian writer of diverse genres with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Buckingham, UK. Her poetry has earned her a commendation from the Poetry Society UK (*Black Snow*, 2009), publication by United Press and to the final round of War of Words slam competition (Season 5, 2015). Her short story *Edidiong* was shortlisted for the DWL Short Story Competition and her play *Affiong's First Novel* won 2nd place in the Beeta Playwriting Competition (2016). In Nigeria, she has worked with the James Ene Henshaw Foundation (2015), the Ministry of Petroleum Resources (2016) and the news site NAIJ.com. Nikkita's hobbies include reading, watching films, dancing and singing.



Liam Fitzgerald is a writer/director/producer originally from Gainesville, Florida. He graduated from the University of Miami, where he received a BFA in Musical Theatre performance. He has done absolutely nothing with that degree, and has spent the past four years in Chicago, writing and working as a Production Manager and TD for various theaters around the city. His play *Bad Date* will be premiering this summer as a part of Stage Left's Leap Fest and will be a part of Camp Fire Theatre Festival this fall.



Exal Iraheta was conceived in Chiapas, Mexico, produced in Houston, TX, and distributed to Chicago, IL. After earning his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) in Film, Video and New Media, he went on to work with Chicago-based organizations as Videographer and Editor. He is fascinated by hybrid genres of screenwriting (Horror and Coming of Age, Fantasy and Crime Drama) and watches anything written by Tina Fey, Michael Schur, and Greg Daniels. For the last four years Exal has served as the Manager of Student Media and Training, for SAIC, where he has trained students in photo/video production, writing, and life survival skills. His words have been uttered before audiences at iO Chicago, Annoyance Theatre, and High Concept Labs.

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Jake Polonus is from Springfield, Missouri. He graduated from Missouri State University with a B.S. in Political Science. For the past two years, he has worked in security for a bank. He has written multiple screenplays, ranging from a World War II epic to a coming of age story. His screenplay, *The Abnormals*, was a semi-finalist in the Missouri Stories Scriptwriting Fellowship. He's a sports enthusiast who enjoys playing golf, but most of his time is spent daydreaming about characters. He is currently writing a novel.



Sheikh Taha Munir was born and raised in Pakistan. He graduated in 2014 with a degree in Liberal Arts, majoring in English Literature and received a distinction in his thesis. In 2017, he received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue his postgraduate degree. His recent work for Chayn Global, an organization which helps victims of abuse, received widespread acclaim and was featured on ABC News, *The Independent*, UN website, among others. Currently, he is working as a Creative Manager in an advertising agency.



Taylor Rankin grew up in Long Island, New York. She graduated from Oberlin College with a BA in Cinema Studies and English. She has worked with various media organizations in NYC, most recently as a program associate with the National Black Programming Consortium in Harlem. She has been a production assistant on several video projects, as well as a writer's assistant to an independent filmmaker. Taylor has also had the pleasure of working in student registration at Gotham Writer's Workshop.



Aalisha Sheth was born and raised in Bombay and has a degree in Literary, Cultural Studies and Theatre from FLAME School of Liberal Education, Pune. She has served as a catalyst on several cutting edge creative media projects within the film, theatre, television, independent music and publishing industries in India. Aalisha likes to construct narratives that are heavily rooted within the quaint sociocultural milieus of her homeland. Through her writing, she aspires to authentically represent the complex, inner worlds of women of Indian origin. She is currently developing a



seven-part webseries chronicling the endearingly obnoxious lives of twenty-something millennials in Mumbai. She is also a core member of the performing arts collective *accelerated intimacy*, which creates work within the space of live art, immersive theatre and one on one performance.

Ben Verschoor is a New York City-based writer originally from Idaho. At the College of Idaho he majored in History and Theatre while doing improv and sketch comedy. In New York he has assisted with *id Theater's NYC Sit In!* reading series and waited tables at the busiest restaurant in Times Square. His play *Internet Hate Machines* was a 2015 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Finalist, and his monologue "When in Rome" can be found in *Smith & Kraus's* collection *222 More Comedy Monologues*. Along with writing he enjoys going to the movies, riding his bike, and direct-action politics.



Konner Wilson got her B.F.A. in Creative Writing at the University of Maine at Farmington, a liberal arts school in a small town in Maine. She grew up in an even smaller town in Maine, and is happy to finally be going somewhere that doesn't have stoplights that blink yellow after 11pm. She loves to write about things she doesn't understand. Konner has directed several plays and her work has been part of many theatrical festivals at the University.



Shuping Yang was born and raised in Kunming, China. She recently graduated from University of Maryland (UMD) with a double degree in Theatre and Psychology and a minor in German Studies. She wrote *Goldfish*, which was showcased at the Kennedy Center's 15th Annual New Play festival and produced at *Cafritz Theatre* at UMD. Recently she developed *Martyr* through *American Dramatist Guild's New Play Workshop*. She also wrote and produced short films at the UMD Film Festival. Besides writing, Shuping loves cooking, painting and traveling.

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Sam Andolsen grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Columbia College, graduating in 2013 with a BA in arts, entertainment, and media management with a focus on Live Music. Sam is currently employed full-time as the Production Manager of Lincoln Hall and Schubas Tavern. She has been going to shows since she was a teenager and was inspired by her passion for live music to pursue it as my career. Sam is participating in the Sound Arts and Industries program with the hopes of supplementing her technical knowledge to become a greater asset to the venues she is employed by, and also to expand her skillset and professional horizons.



Michelle Brello was born and raised in New Jersey, attending Fairfield University for her undergraduate degree in information systems. Following school, she was a Data Analyst for a media company in NYC. Relating to the Sound Arts and Industries program, her interest lies in the universal language that sound is and the stories that are able to be told through sound. She hopes to leave this program with a true understanding of how people perceive sound with the hopes of using it to help people in many different aspects of life through film scoring.



A.J. Cerami is from New Jersey and earned his bachelor's degree in audio production from American University in 2012. He has completed extensive studies in design, music, and audio in various disciplines, with a professional background in online marketing, e-commerce, and in web, product and user experience design. He also launched AND1 Basketball's first E-Commerce business. In Sound Arts and Industries, A.J. hopes to collaborate with fellow sound artists and professors on projects that use the power of music and sound to alleviate pain and to enhance the listening experience of those privileged enough to hear it. He also would like to apply his user-research and design-thinking mentality to bring the power of sound to virtual and augmented reality devices.



Raised in Chicago's southeast side neighborhood Calumet Heights, **Jonathan Chambers** is an emcee, record producer, artist manager, and entrepreneur. He uses classical piano training and production skills to blend genres and create unique analog and digital works of art. Jonathan holds a Master of Science in entertainment business from Full Sail University (2016), a Bachelors of Arts in general studies from Chicago State University and a Certificate in conflict resolution. As an NU student, Jonathan would like to gain professional skills in sound design, create podcasts, documentaries, and improve his audio production skills. During the past year since graduating, he has managed a local recording artist and organized talent for Look Back to Move Forward, a collaborative project displayed at Margaret Burroughs Beach Park.



Sam Clapp is originally from Indianapolis, and in 2012 graduated from Washington University with a degree in English (and many hours logged behind the board at student radio station KWUR). While working in educational publishing and living in St. Louis, he spent several years touring motley basements and bars with bands, producing albums, and writing music journalism. Sam is excited to join the Sound Arts and Industries program's sonic community, and plans to spend the year deepening his understanding of audio production, improvisation and composition, and aural narrative.



Julia Ferguson recently graduated from Hamilton College with a BA in comparative literature. She focused on theatre and French, through which she discovered sound design and bilingual expression. Her interest in sound stems from its interdisciplinary platform and the multi-media dimensions available to documentary arts. She interned with North Country Public Radio's Adirondack Bureau and PBS's POV, edited an independent podcast, volunteered with UnionDocs, and participated in workshops hosted by Transom and AIR's Full Spectrum. She currently lives in Seattle and gathers field recordings in her free time.

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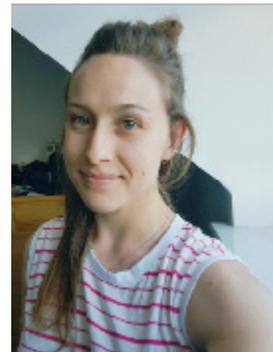
Jason Foley is from Boca Raton, Florida. He graduated from Skidmore College with a BA in English literature in 2013, and since then has worked for the gift rep agency Southeast Marketing as a digital marketing strategist. In his free time, he loves reading, running, researching, and competitive video games, often traveling to various fighting game tournaments to compete and commentate. Through the Sound Arts and Industries program, he hopes to take his expertise in the English language and his love of storytelling, and combine them through sound.



Malika Gumpangkum is from Tampa, FL and is one of two proud children of Thai immigrants. In 2014, she graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in English literature, studying drama, film and modern/post-modern literature. While she focused on becoming a movie critic, she landed an internship with NPR in Washington, D.C. with the Arts and Entertainment desk, where she apprenticed in broadcast journalism and learned audio production and editing from the ground up. She worked for the next 2.5 years as a producer on the Arts and Entertainment Desk and NPR's Weekend Edition producing conversations about news, politics, new books, movies and TV shows. Through the Sound Arts and Industries, she hopes to fine-tune her understanding of engineering sound and develop an artistic portfolio.



Annabelle Howell is originally from the United Kingdom. Before the move to Northwestern, she had been working as a graduate assistant in an international school in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She has a musical background, plays the piano and cello, and studied Music and French for her undergraduate degree. Her interests in Sound Arts and Industries lie in music and sound for visual media (film/tv/videogames). More recently, Annabelle has also been nurturing an interest in soundscape ecology and bioacoustics.



Lauren Kriel grew up in Springfield, IL, but most recently lived in Asheville, NC where she attended Warren Wilson College. After graduating with a degree in theatre/English in 2009, Lauren



continued living in the Asheville area working in the fields of theatre education and production, gardening, and ice cream. From 2012-2016, during the holidays Lauren participated in a small touring production of Live from WVL Radio Theatre: It's a Wonderful Life, in which, for 2 years, she did production work, and for 3 years she acted and performed live sound effects. She also is a contra dance caller. Keeping a common thread of storytelling from her theatre background, Lauren is interested in radio and podcast production. Additionally, having grown up largely TV-less, she enjoys and would like to see how audiobooks are recorded and try her hand at voice acting.



Conor Lannan is from Charleston, WV and holds a BA in music education from Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Conor spent a large part of his undergraduate career furthering his musical education, both in the classroom and on clarinet. He had the honor to perform both locally and abroad this past year in Rome, Italy. While Conor has enjoyed playing clarinet throughout his musical career, his real passion lies within audio technology and a desire to shape and enhance different forms of media through music and audio adaptation. He hopes to expand his knowledge of music and technology through the MA in Sound Arts and Industries program at Northwestern University this fall.



Yuxuan Liu (also known as Joy) is a motivated and aspiring multimedia freelance filmmaker with a background in China and study experience in the U.S. She graduated from the School of Communication of Boston University with a B.S. in film and TV, and worked as the director and producer of the only bilingual show "Amber" at the campus media network, BUTV10. Her experience in media production inspired her interest in learning the technique of sound design. In her spare time, she enjoys music, traveling, and reading.



Avery Makel is originally from Nellysford, VA, where he grew up playing soccer and snowboarding competitively. He has a Bachelor of Science in physics from Roanoke College. In his free time, Avery enjoys fishing, hiking, and swimming. Avery is interested in exploring psychoacoustics, acoustic engineering and sound design at Northwestern. He hopes to gain enough exposure to these disciplines pursue a career in one.

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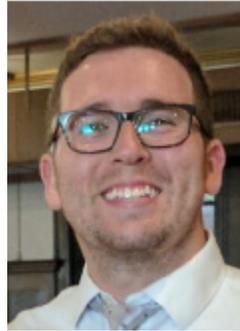
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Brendan Monte is excited to be a part of the MA in Sound Arts and Industries program. He is the co-founder of Level 11 Theatre, a Chicago-based theatre company. In addition, he stage-manages and sound designs shows around the city. Brendan is a native of Rocky River, Ohio and holds a bachelor's degree in theatre and arts management from Miami (OH) University.



Brianna Odom was born in Illinois and raised in the metro area of Atlanta, Ga. She studied French, Korean, Japanese, and Sign Language at Emory University and had the opportunity to study abroad in Korea several summers ago. She has a bachelor's degree in East Asian studies and mathematics from Emory and is finishing up a master's degree in Robotic Engineering from Northwestern. Brianna's current goal is to expand her knowledge of music and sound to possibly go into a career of music technology or audio engineering. She considers herself a free spirited individual who is just trying to find that true passion in life career-wise.



Chris Opon is from Homer Glen, Illinois and graduated from DePaul University with a degree in communications, focusing on media and cinema studies. He has had an interest in sound and music for as long as he can remember, almost constantly creating music and experimenting with different sounds, and he started a band as a hobby with his friends. He looks forward to gaining more insight into sound and its applications through the diverse selection of opportunities available in the program.



Matt Test is a Chicago-based composer, writer, and interdisciplinary sound artist whose work has been featured everywhere from living rooms and community gardens to Steppenwolf Theatre and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. As an ensemble member with the Curious Theatre Branch, one of the city's oldest fringe companies, he has created and/or helped devise a number of experimental operas, new music theatre works, and soundscapes that play in the spaces between surrealist thought games and structural absurdity. Matt holds a BA in communication from UC San Diego and an MFA in creative writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Dan Tinkler has been working as a studio and live sound engineer in Chicago since 2010. He is currently a studio manager and engineer at Atlas Studios as well as a live sound engineer at The Green Mill jazz club. This is his first year managing the studio, but he continues to engineer projects as well. Dan's interest and background is focused around studio recording and mixing. He would like to expand his knowledge and learn more about areas of audio.

Pavan Vasdev is from Portland, Oregon. He is interested in psychoacoustics, and specifically in studying patterns of music consumption in different communities around the world. His background is in music production—he began my career in India as a composer for the Indian film industry, and more recently worked for Universal Music Group as a producer. Pavan is fascinated by the ubiquitous nature of pop music, and interested in the economic and cultural factors that comprise a hit song across cultures. He looks forward to studying that further, and hopes to take the research and experience gained at Northwestern back to the major label industry.



Erin Watt is a producer and aspiring podcast creator with a background in policy administration. She has a BA in sociology from Roosevelt University and carries an MPA in international public management from DePaul. She is currently a series producer of a web documentary named "Teaching While Black", which explores the personal stories of black educators as they struggle to enter and remain in Chicago's public schools. After completion of the MA in Sound Arts and Industries, Erin plans to create sound documentaries and podcasts with a focus on music and social justice. Erin also enjoys practicing her storytelling skills and writing comedy for her "Kates U" classes.



J. Kyle White-Sullivan served as technical director for New England Public Radio's (WFCR 88.5FM) broadcast of "Morning Edition", as well as digital producer for a number of their online productions and podcasts, including the College Connection, the Valley Voices Podcast and Live Art Magazine. He started out as a production intern while earning his degree in communication at UMass Amherst. Previously he served as both program director and news operations director for WMUA Amherst 91.1FM.



STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are happy to confirm that **Shannon Pritchard** and **Patrick Life** are official Business Administrators for the RTVF department; **Hope Rehak** is now the Financial Assistant for the RTVF department.



R. Patrick Life is the Business Administrator of Operations for Northwestern University's Radio-Television-Film Department. He recently produced his first feature-length documentary *Unbroken Glass* (2016) with Kartemquin Films. Patrick was the Outreach Coordinator for the award-winning documentary, *The Interrupters* (2011) and served as a Production Assistant and Post Production Assistant on the Steve James documentaries *Head Games* (2012) and *Life Itself* (2014). Patrick's film *Sportswriter* (2014) was produced in fulfillment to complete his Master's of Fine Arts at Columbia College Chicago and debuted at the 2014 Los Angeles All Sports Film Festival. Patrick spent two seasons as a Segment Producer for WTU-PBS's Regional Emmy Award winning, *Friday Zone* (2001-2003). He served multiple roles including cameraman and sound recordist on the Regional Emmy Award winning documentary, *Trouble No More: The Making of a John Mellencamp Album* (2003), was the Video Archive Researcher on *Tony and Janina's American Wedding* (2010). Patrick grew up in Merrillville, Indiana and is a Phi Beta Kappa scholar having graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Communications and Telecommunications.

Hope Rehak is a Chicago native and proud graduate of its public schools. She studied Creative Writing at Oberlin College on scholarship from the Posse Foundation and completed her MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage here at Northwestern in 2017. She worked full time at Northwestern's Law School during her first year as a graduate student, and in her second year won the RTVF sitcom production award with two classmates. Hope is excited to continue her involvement in the RTVF community as the new Financial Assistant.



Shannon Pritchard is the Business Administrator of Personnel and Financials for Northwestern University's Radio-Television-Film Department. A graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and Northwestern's own MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage program, Shannon has written and produced theatre in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Her plays have been developed by Jackalope Theatre, TimeLine, Chicago Dramatists and Something Marvelous Theatre. Her short plays have been performed at The Second City, A Red Orchid Theater, Chicago Dramatists, and Playwrights Horizons Theater School. Before working as the Program Assistant for the MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage, Shannon was a Writer's Assistant for The Onion and as an assistant PA for the CW series *Star-Crossed*.

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RTVF Undergraduate

Beth Cerabona's (Class of 2017) thesis film *The Stacks* is in an online festival called Mindscape Film Festival run by Conscious Good. She is eligible to attend the live event and compete for prizes if she receives enough votes. Vote for *The Stacks* and send the news along! Here is the link to watch the film: <https://www.consciousgood.com/the-stacks/>

Ashley Mills (Class of 2015) is currently directing her first feature-length film. *Unapologetic* captures young Black women organizing for Black political, economic, and social liberation over a calendar in Chicago. The film was developed in 2016 through Kartemquin's [Diverse Voices in Docs](#) program. Most recently, *Unapologetic* has been selected to participate in Tribeca Film Institute's TFI Network, a filmmaker/industry market hosted each year during the Tribeca Film Festival. Ashley has also been selected 2017 Firelight Media Documentary Lab Fellow. For more updates, follow their journey at unapologeticfilm.com.

Greg Porper (Class of 2012) has a half-hour pilot, titled *Bad Dads*, in this year's official selections for the Independent Pilot Competition of the [New York Television Festival \(NYTVF\)](#). Co-created with and starring Jamie Kaler it is one of 31 original comedy pilots nominated. Porper is an alum of the sitcom project and recently [produced and directed](#) the webseries [Let's Learn Japanese](#) with lifestyle vlogger Arden Rose.

Anthony Williams (Class of 2008) won the Clive Barker Presents Reel Fear horror contest, granting him and director Dany DelPurgatorio \$300,000 and mentorship from Clive Barker. Their winning proof of concept short is available [online](#).

Rachel Wolther (Class of 2007) has a half-hour pilot, titled *Sneakers*, in this year's official selections for the Independent Pilot Competition of the [New York Television Festival \(NYTVF\)](#). Co-created with Amy Zimmer it is one of 31 original comedy pilots nominated and stars actors from *Portlandia*, *Rough Night*, and *Don't Think Twice*.



Media, Technology, and Society

Congratulations to **Dan Bashara** (MA, Class of 2007) who has been given a book contract for his manuscript *Cartoon Vision: Postwar Animation and American Midcentury Modernism*, from the University of California Press. Dan's book examines the role of animation (especially UPA and its experimental, abstract style) in developing midcentury modernism alongside architecture and graphic design.

Documentary Media

Ashley Brandon's (Class of 2017) thesis film *MICKEY'S PETS* premiered on August 9th at the Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival. Ashley's first year film, *WHERE WE'VE BEEN* was an official selection of Cleveland International Film Festival. Ashley recently started as an Assistant Professor of Film, Television and Media Arts at Quinnipiac University in August, teaching Film Appreciation, Beginning Cinematography and Advanced Post-Production courses. Ashley continues to develop her TFI & ESPN funded film, *ON THE BIT*, and has had amazing one-on-one feedback sessions with Academy Award nominated filmmaker and mentor, Lucy Walker.

Carlos Cova's (Class of 2016) thesis documentary, *FRAGMENTS* will be playing the IWM Short Film Festival in London and and Denver's DocuWest Film Festival in September.

Hasan Demirtas's (Class of 2017) thesis film *CARRY MY VOICE* was an Official Selection of the Duhok International Film Festival in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Shuhan Fan's (Class of 2016) thesis documentary *1/80 OF ZHANG TIANYI* has continued a great festival run. To date, Fan's doc has played Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, American Documentary Film Festival, The 50th Annual WorldFest-Houston, NewFilmmakers NY, Roxbury International Film Festival, and New Orleans Film Festival.

Mina Kim Fitzpatrick's (Class of 2017) film *Run of Press* was awarded an additional \$250 Festival Inventive Grant to cover the cost of festival application fees. This is part of a broader effort to gain wider representation on the festival circuit for the excellent media work of RTVF students. *RUN OF PRESS* (previously nominated for ASC Vilmos Zsigmond Heritage Award) screened as part

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ALUMNI NEWS

of the 2017 ChicagoMade Shorts at Millennium Park Summer Film Series. Fitpatrick's thesis documentary *WANDERVOGEL* premieres at [San Sebastian International Film Festival's](#), part of the festival's Encuentro Internacional Estudiantes Cine (The International Film Students Meeting). The festival runs September 22nd through the 30th in San Sebastian, Spain.

Iyabo Kwyana (Class of 2017) has joined the faculty of CalArts and her film *HOLY CHICKEN (THE OFFERING)* screened at Zanzibar International Film Festival this past summer.

Philippine Merolle's (Class of 2017) thesis documentary *AJ* tied for First Prize in the Best Short Documentary category at the Rhode Island International Film Festival. Merolle has taken an adjunct editor position on the feature doc, *WOMAN*, directed by Yann Arthus-Bertrand.

Sebastian Pinzon's (Class of 2017) thesis documentary *PALENQUE* had its World Premiere at Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland. The film will have its US premiere at the Camden International Film Festival in Maine in September and it will be playing at Festival dei Popoli and Valdivia Film festival in Chile in October.

João Queiroga's (Class of 2016) thesis film *OUR SKIN* was an official selection of Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival. The Toronto screening continued a successful film festival run for *OUR SKIN* including a US premiere at NewFest: The NYC LGBT Film Festival and a European premiere at Doclisboa'16 | Festas.

NU Filmmaker in Residence **Jessica Ynez Simmons's** (Class of 2016) thesis documentary, *EMERALD ICE* has continued a successful festival run winning Best Experimental Under 40 min at Big Muddy Film Festival, winner of the Pablo Koontz Award for Best Experimental Technique at the Humboldt Int'l Film Fest's. The film was a finalist for the ASC Vilmos Zsigmond Heritage Award, was nominated for Best Documentary Short and Best Cinematography and Cinematic Writing at



P O E T R Y



F O U N D A T I O N

the Black Bird Film Festival, and winner of the Best of Fest Student Award at the Vidlings & Tapeheads Film Festival. The film screened at the Chicago Underground Film Festival, and will screen at the Santa Cruz Film Festival and is shortlisted for Best Academic Film at Brazil's 2017 MOVECINEARTE Film Festival in September. [Poetry Foundation](#) picked up [Escape Into Life's](#) review of Emerald Ice. In June, Jessica Ynez Simmons and **Rafie Drencheva** film *PARTICLES* screened in Millennium Park, part of the Chicago Film Office's the 2017 ChicagoMade Shorts at Millennium Park Summer Film Series.

Writing for the Screen+Stage

As a 2017 playwright fellow with LA-based Moving Arts Theatre Company, **Nayna Agrawal's** (Class of 2015) play, *Catcall*, will premiere in October. Her play, *Slut*, will be staged throughout October in LA as part of the Fall Series with Broads' World Ensemble. She is a video game writer with JamCity.

Sarah Gubbins, (Class of 2008) writer for Amazon's *I Love Dick*, sat down together for Variety's [Night in the Writers Room](#) event with Jonathan Krisel, Joshua Michael Stern, Prentice Penny, Mike Royce, and Justin Spitzer.

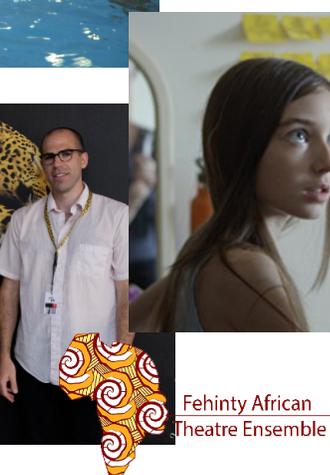
Marisha Mukerjee's (Class of 2011) pilot *Again*, a female-led detective series set in the capital New Delhi, will be featured on [Netfix](#).

[Fehinty African Theatre Ensemble](#) (FATE) is excited to mark its 10th season with the world premiere of *WRECKED*, written and directed by its 2016-2017 Artist-in-Residence, **Philister Sidigu** (Class of 2011).

Diane Wiebe (Class of 2009) accepted a part-time instructor position in Screenwriting and Directing for the Fall 2017 term at Wilfrid Laurier University, in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. She is also in postproduction on a short film, *Penny Foster*, which she directed (as Diane Carol Harder), written by America Palacios. They just finished a successful Kickstarter campaign, raising 116% of their goal, in order to finish it.

Hope Rehak & Liza Summers (Class of 2017), participated in The Arca Project in NYC at the American Theatre of Actors, a series of plays that will include shows written/produced by fellow Writing alumni **Molly Pease, Rachel Greenhoe, Oona O'Leary, and Roger Q. Mason**. Rehak wrote the opening play, and Summers starred in the lead role for five consecutive performances at the end of September."

Sofya Weitz (Class of 2015) is a semi-finalist for the Playwrights Realm Writing Fellowship for 2018, and is also a new member of EST's writer's group Youngblood.



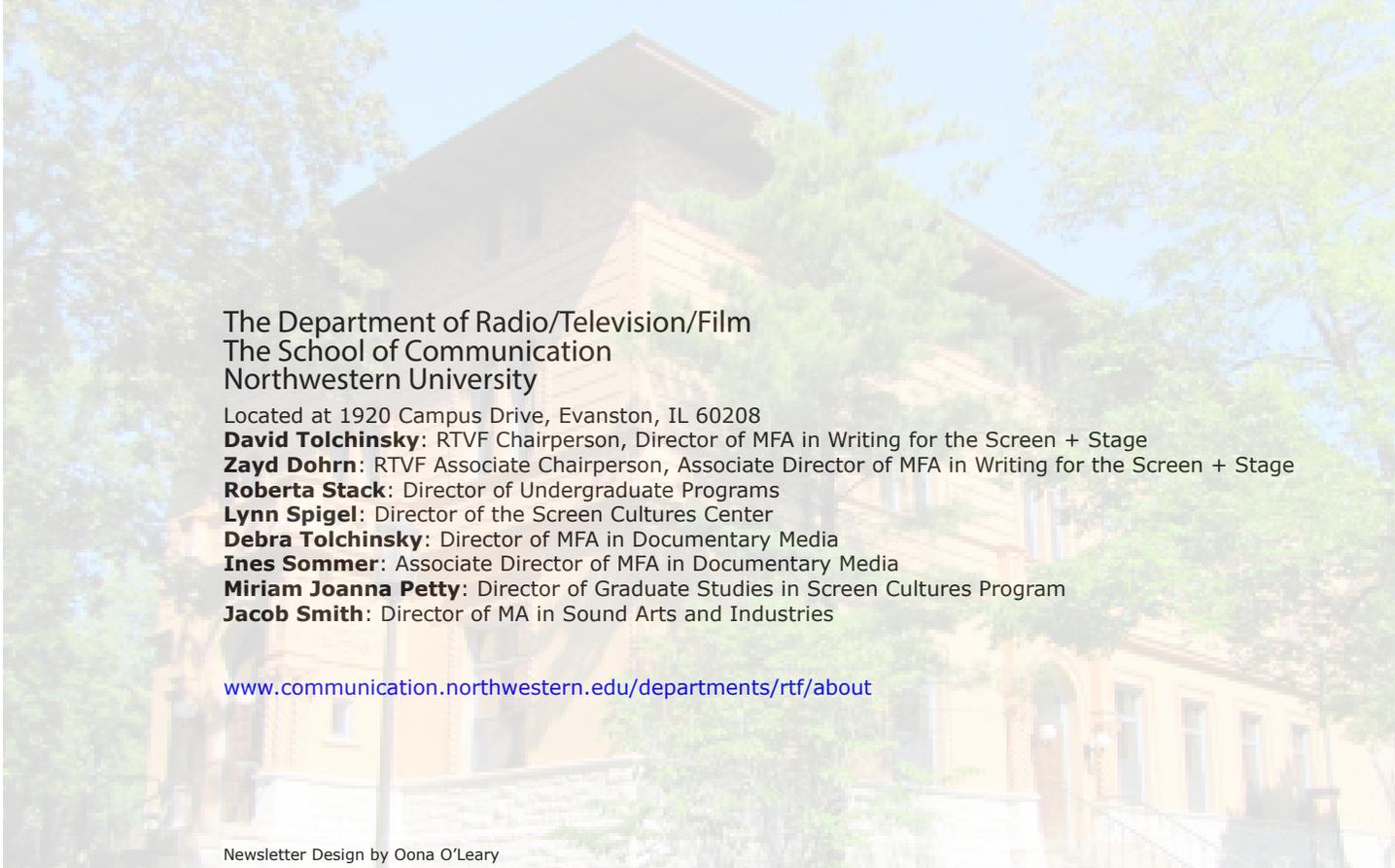
Fehinty African Theatre Ensemble



Northwestern

COMMUNICATION

DEPARTMENT OF RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM



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