

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

SPOTLIGHT!

FACULTY

Thomas Bradshaw is honored as this year's Emerging American Playwright in the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Awards. For more than 90 years, PEN America has been working with the international PEN community to ensure people everywhere have the freedom to create literature, convey information and ideas, express their views and to make it possible for everyone to access the views, ideas and literatures of others. PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater honorees are writers working indisputably at the highest level of achievement. The awards were developed to reflect Laura Pels's dedication to supporting excellence in American theater as well as PEN's commitment to recognizing and rewarding the playwright's literary accomplishment.

His plays include *Intimacy* and *Burning* (The New Group), *Job and Dawn* (The Flea Theater), *The Bereaved* (Crowded Fire, Partial Comfort and the State Theater of Bielefeld in Germany), *Southern Promises* (PS122) and many more. His play *Fulfillment* played both the The Flea Theater in New York and American Theater Company in Chicago in 2016. Mr. Bradshaw has been featured as one of Time Out New York's 10 playwrights to watch. He has received fellowships from the Lark Play Development Center, Soho Rep (Streslin Fellow) and New York Theater Workshop, and he was the recipient of a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship, the 2012 Award from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts and the Prince Charitable Trust's Prince Award. Mr. Bradshaw was the Playwright in Residence at the Soho Theatre in London in February 2009. His plays are published by TCG, Samuel French, PAJ and Dramatic Publishing. Mr. Bradshaw received his MFA from Mac Wellman's playwriting program.



SCREEN CULTURES PHD

Ian Hartman is a PhD Candidate in the Screen Cultures Program. His dissertation, *Exotic Extensions: Technology, Anti-Modernism, and American Cyber-Utopianism*, tracks the interlocking trajectories of exoticism and techno-utopianism in America from the 1940s to the present. Considering the histories of cybernetics, anthropology, popular social movements, and the artistic avant-garde, the project shows how optimism about information technologies took shape around the 20th century's shifting discourses on race, ethnicity, and cultural difference. Ian has presented his work at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, the Game History Annual Symposium, The Society for the History of Technology, and Historical Materialism.



In addition to his doctoral research, Ian works as a graduate fellow at the Game Changer Chicago Design Lab at the University of Chicago, where he helps research and develop games for sexual and reproductive health and social justice. In 2014, he helped organize Interplay, a graduate student game studies conference hosted at Northwestern and the University of Chicago, which featured both research and design work from academics and artists across the country. Ian was recently awarded a Franke graduate fellowship at Northwestern's Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, where he will be in residence during the 2016-17 academic year.

Northwestern

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Department of Radio/Television/Film

MFA IN DOCUMENTARY MEDIA

Sandeep Pamulapati was born in India and brought up in Qatar. He completed his undergraduate degree at Northwestern University's Qatar campus, where he was part of the third cohort on a brand new campus. Coincidentally, he is now part of the third ever Documentary Media class here at Northwestern. After graduation, he worked as an editor at a production company in Doha, Qatar. There he was responsible for films related to Qatar's FIFA 2022 World Cup. These films were specially screened for foreign dignitaries and members of various Royal families.

During his first quarter as a graduate student, Sandeep made a short documentary where an Indian astrologer digs into his past, and tells him something about his future. His interests are to try and bridge the gap between cinema and the still infantile "immersive" technology. He's currently in the developmental stage of his documentary that, through a personal story, addresses the oft-abused labor laws in Qatar.

He once played John McCain in a student- rendition of *Die Hard*.

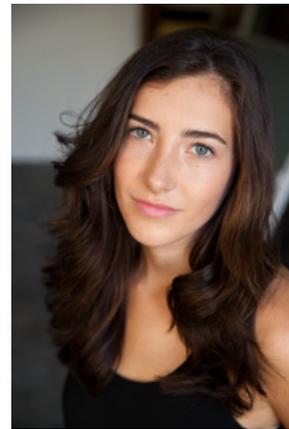


MFA IN WRITING FOR SCREEN + STAGE

Hope Rehak is a second-year MFA candidate, stand-up comic, and Chicago native. Hope received an undergraduate scholarship from the Posse Foundation to attend Oberlin College, where she studied Creative Writing and Theatre. After studying and working at the Danish Institute of Study Abroad in Copenhagen, Hope returned to Chicago and worked at Northwestern's Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth. As a graduate student, Hope has continued to perform stand-up and write comedy. Hope was the creator, co-writer, Executive Producer, and showrunner of the 2017 RTVF sitcom, *Spellbound*, a year-long project that involved fellow second-years **Tyler Zencka** (as co-writer and co-Executive Producer) and **Oona O'Leary** (as Art Director) She also recently received a 2017 Araca Project award to produce her one-act play, *Ruins*, in New York in September. She was also the co-writer on fellow second-year **Kate Royal's** webseries *In Real Life*, which has its premiere at the Chicago Cultural Center later this month through the platform OpenTV.

RTVF UNDERGRADUATE

Georgia Bernstein is a Chicago-based director and filmmaker. A senior at Northwestern University, she has created two short films, a sitcom, and a web series, including an official selection in the 13th Annual CineYouth Festival and a Northwestern University Media Arts Grant. She has authored two full-length plays, which were both finalists in the Agnes Nixon Playwriting Festival. And when the Russians aren't kidnapping her on TNT's action series *Agent X*, she's a producer, an intern, and a comedian.



SPOTLIGHT!

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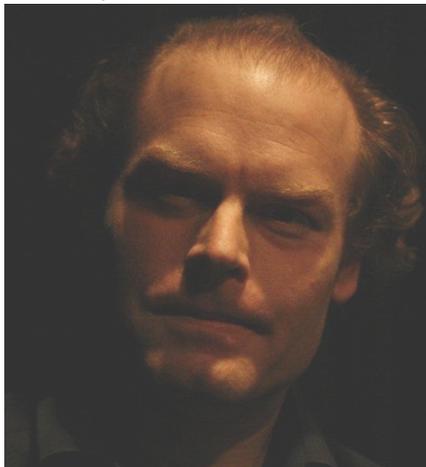
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SPOTLIGHT!

MA IN SOUND ARTS AND INDUSTRIES

Brad Robin's fifteen-minute piece, *Steam*, was accepted for a summer performance at the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival (NYCEMF) at the Abrons Art Center on June 19-25, 2017, and at National Sawdust on July 14-16, 2017. Of particular interest to Robin as a composer is the history of acousmatic music: "music" to be played in such a way such as the listener is not in direct contact with the originating sound source. His path of research resulted in a book review of major publications covering the thinking of major figures, composers and theorists associated with acousmatic music. As a result of this research, Robin decided his final project for his Introduction to Sound Studies course should be a musical composition incorporating topics covered in the course, including sound walks, reduced listening, and the effects of repetition. What emerged was *Steam* – a fifteen-minute piece derived from many of the sound samples curated during Robin's first quarter at Northwestern while simultaneously working with professors **Calum Walter** and **Stephan Moore**. In addition to NYCEMF, Robin played a preview performance on March 3rd at Northwestern's Louis Hall, along with other pieces he has composed, both acoustic and electroacoustic.



STAFF

Dawn Washington joins RTVF after 6 years in Northwestern's Office of Human Resources. Prior to her service at NU, she held a 10-year career as a media professional, writer, and journalist. She worked in production and administration for multiple Chicago television stations and networks, including WMAQ NBC-5 and Weigel Broadcasting. Under the editorial leadership of Roland Martin, she was a reporter and contributing writer for the historic Chicago Defender. Her other publications have been featured on rednow.com, NBC-5 Streetteam, and most recently, Caramel Lattes & Stilettos. Dawn received her Masters of Arts in Communications Media & Cinema Studies from DePaul University. She graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she received her Bachelor of Science in Journalism.

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Excerpts from *Creature Companion*, the feature in progress, directed by former RTVF faculty member **Melika Bass**, and produced by **David Tolchinsky** and Block Museum Associate Director of Exhibitions Dan Silverstein screened on April 6th at the Gene Siskel Center, as part of SAIC's Conversations at the Edge series.

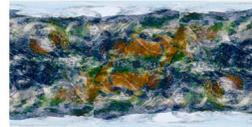
Stephen Cone directed the video for **Trey Pearson's** new music video "Silver Horizon" with the help of RTVF alum: Producer **Grace Hahn**, Shot by **Jason Chui**, featuring **Julian Sanchez** and handful of students on crew - **Katie Adler**, **Thomas Molash**, **Megan Ballew**, and alum **David Brown**.

[The New York Times](#) gives a glowing review of **Zayd Dornh's** latest play *The Profane*. He was also featured at the Guggenheim Museum as part of their performing-arts series "Works & Process." On Feb. 27th, he gave a talk and performance with **Aasif Mandvi** (*The Daily Show*, *Disgraced*).

Emad Tayefeh was a speaker on Resettlement Realities. Resettlement Realities, a program presented in tandem with **ART WORKS Projects'** current photography and multimedia exhibition Sanctuary/Sustenance, sought to develop a better understanding of the complex and multidimensional resettlement processes, both globally and in the United States. The discussion provided a forum for dialogue which included refugees who had experienced resettlement and the host communities who welcomed them, as well as those who devoted their time and resources to Chicago's refugee populations.

On April 10th, **Erik Gernand**, a Charles Deering McCormick University Distinguished Lecturer and a Senior Lecturer in RTVF led a University Teaching Roundtable (UTR), which is sponsored by the Provost, hosted by the Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, and led by University Teaching Award winners.

Laura Kipnis' book *Unwanted Advances*, about "feminism, relationship statecraft and the shadow world of Title IX investigations" was reviewed in [The New York Times](#).



Toowoomba Looproom:
Music of Transmission Damage
Stephan Moore



Stephan Moore had a solo exhibition in Australia at artist space RAYGUN Projects. The piece was titled *Toowoomba Looproom: Music of Transmission Damage*. As Moore explains: "This piece speaks to how the systems we have created to transmit information emulate human attention, "multi-tasking", and have the potential to destroy the messages they convey through their inattention/split attention."

Hamid Naficy and **Dave Tolchinsky** were invited to travel to Doha, Qatar on April 28, 2017 to participate in the NU-Q graduation ceremonies, as well as the dedication of NU's new building.

Brett Neveu received a Jeff Award nomination in the Equity mid-sized production category, for his play, *Pilgrim's Progress*, produced at A Red Orchid.

Eric Patrick was featured in Northwestern Research magazine concerning his work with Ellen Wartella to teach preadolescents about human reproduction.

Variety Magazine showed Northwestern University's RTVF Department love this past issue, interviewing and highlighting **JP Sniadecki** and **Zayd Dornh** in the article "[WHERE THE FAR EAST MEETS WEST](#): Educational exchanges at leading film institutions create bridges to close cultural gaps between students in China and the United States." Variety Magazine also counts Northwestern as [one of 20 schools on the move](#).

VARIETY



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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Department of Radio/Television/Film

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

J.P. Sniadecki, an RTVF assistant professor and acclaimed documentary filmmaker, is among the [2017 recipients of the Guggenheim Fellowship](#). Sniadecki is the [sixth Guggenheim](#) fellow in the department. *EL MAR LA MAR*, by Sniadecki and Joshua Bonnetta, just received two awards at the [Berlin International Film Festival](#) (Berlinale): [The Caligari Prize](#) (for artistic innovation, top prize in the Berlinale Forum), which also includes distribution in Germany, organized by Arsenal and the Ecumenical Prize - "Special Mention."

On February 2nd, RTVF Department Chair/MFA in Writing for the Screen+Stage Director **Dave Tolchinsky** and MFA in Documentary Media Director **Debra Tolchinsky** gave an invited talk at the Prague Film School, "When Worlds Collide: Hybrid Practices in Fiction and Non-Fiction Filmmaking" and screened Debra Tolchinsky's feature documentary *Fast Talk* (directed/produced by Debra; co-produced by Dave).

Faculty members **Debra Tolchinsky** and **Ines Sommer** and adjunct/MFA in Writing for Screen+Stage alumna **Maria Finitzo** co-founded the Chicago chapter of [Film Fatales](#), an international organization based in New York/Los Angeles advocating for female directors.

Debra Tolchinsky was selected as one of the [Kaplan Institute's 2017-2018 fellows](#) for her project: *True Memories and Other Falsehoods, A Documentary Feature Film*

The Coming of Age, a short film written and produced by **Dave Tolchinsky**; directed by David Bradburn, is a Silver Award recipient in the 2017 Los Angeles Film Review Independent Film Awards. The film was also accepted by [Digital Box Office](#) and is available on that platform.



John Simon
Guggenheim
Memorial Foundation

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

On February 23, award-winning filmmaker **Jennifer Reeder** visited campus for a screening and Q&A session with RTVF students. The event was covered by [SOC](#). Reed constructs personal films about relationships, trauma and coping, especially within communities of young women. Her work is innovative and borrows from a range of forms including after school specials, amateur music videos and magical realism; and have been shown around the world, including at Sundance and Berlin Film Festival, The Venice Biennale and her new feature Signature Move will premiere at this year's SXSW. Learn more at her [website](#).

In January the [Theater Department](#) and RTVF hosted a talk and Q&A with Korean-American playwright **Young Jean Lee** and moderated by **Thomas Bradshaw**. The two discussed her method of writing: with the involvement of the cast; by deciding upon the worst play in the world she could possibly write and challenging herself to write it.

Sam Raimi (*Evil Dead*, *Drag Me To Hell*, *Spider-Man*) spoke to students May 3 as the [2016-2017 Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Visiting Artist](#). The discussion was moderated by RTVF Associate Professor **Spencer Parsons**. Raimi also facilitated a master class earlier that day, offering insight into story development and filmmaking for MFA in Writing for Screen+Stage students.

Former NU Lecturer **Geoff Tarson** was offered a tenure track position at Hofstra University in New York.

Basketball becomes a family affair in [Chicago Tribune](#) article on RTVF major and Wildcat's player **Charlie Hall** and parents: **Brad Hall** and **Julia Louis-Dreyfus**.

RTVF has launched its own [podcast series](#)! Check out the [first episode](#): an interview with MFA Writing for Screen+Stage alumna **Jenny Hagel** (Class of '09) and current MFA Writing candidate **Kate Royal** (class of '17).



ROHINA MALIK, SPRING 2018 KAPLAN ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

In partnership with RTVF, Rohina Malik will be the spring 2018 Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Artist in Residence. Thanks to Rebecca Gilman for identifying Malik and thanks to Zayd Dohrn for applying on behalf of RTF/Malik. As part of the residency, she will teach some sort of RTF playwriting class. We're excited to host her and for the RTF (and greater university) community to get to know her work. Rohina Malik is a critically acclaimed Chicago playwright and solo performance artist. She was born and raised in London, England, of South Asian heritage. Her one-woman play *Unveiled* was developed and had its world premiere at the 16th Street Theater, where it received critical acclaim. Rohina's play *The Mecca TaleS* was produced by Chicago Dramatists in 2015 and nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Play. Her play, *Yasmina's Necklace*, had its world premiere at the 16th Street Theater in January 2016, directed by Ann Filmer, and was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Play. She is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists, an Artistic Associate at the 16th Street Theater, an Artistic Associate at Voyage Theater Company in NYC and an Artistic affiliate at the American Blues theater. Malik's plays have been produced at the 16th Street Theater, Victory Gardens Theater, Crossroads Theater, Chicago Dramatists, Next Theater, Brava Theater, Voyage Theater Company, Silk Road Rising, Theater Project Baltimore and Mustard Seed Theater. *Unveiled* was presented in two South African Theater festivals: The Grahamstown Arts Festival and the 969 Festival in Johannesburg. Rohina is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild of America.



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RETURNING ADJUNCTS/NEW FACES

Tim Horsburgh is Kartemquin's Director of Communications and Distribution. Since 2009, he has driven marketing, public relations and social media for Kartemquin and all their films. In March 2014 he began overseeing Kartemquin's distribution. He is also responsible for assessing and managing potential new Kartemquin documentary projects. Tim was born in India, but raised in England. He holds a Masters in Humanities and Cultural Studies from the London Consortium (2005), and a BA in History from University College London (2003).



Alex Ingilizian has been with Experimental Sound Studio since 2007, shortly after he received a BA in Sound from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. A seasoned engineer, he has over 10 years of experience in both live and recorded sound. In addition to managing the upkeep of the studio's soft- and hardware and engineering most of our recording sessions, he co-curates the SummerSonic series, and runs location sound and does post-production mixing for many independent film and video projects. Ingilizian is a technical wiz, exhibiting prodigious skill in sound design, circuit bending, programming, and as an educator. He is an active musician and improviser around Chicago, playing in bands such as Dhalgren and El is a Sound of Joy.

Lily Mooney is a writer, performer and teacher in Chicago. Since 2012, she has been an ensemble member of The Neo-Futurists. Between 2013 and 2016, she wrote and produced over 100 plays for the long-running late-night show Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind; now, she writes, performs, and directs as a cast member of the company's latest ongoing experiment, The Infinite Wrench. Alongside Artistic Director Kurt Chiang, she co-creates and produces The Arrow, a quarterly storytelling show that collides prose, plays, and improvisation to create singular, irreproducible performances. She has studied and performed improv and sketch comedy at The Annoyance Theatre in Chicago, as well as in New York and Boston. She holds an MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage from Northwestern.



Dee Ryan is an improviser and writer who is an alumna of The Second City, The Annoyance Theater, and ImprovOlympic. She studied under Del Close and came up doing improvisation with UCB's Matt Walsh, Amy Poehler and Ian Roberts. She worked at Second City with Adam McKay, Tina Fey, Rachel Dratch and many others. Dee has written for Disney Animated Features, Pistor Productions, and Eyeboogie. She can be seen on television in The Office as Steve Carell's improv partner in the episode "E-mail Surveillance" directed by Paul Feig. Last summer, she had the joy of teaching and directing in Beijing, China. Dee hosts and curates the monthly storytelling show "Louder Than a Mom" at Martyrs. You can see Dee improvise in two shows at The Chicago Improv Festival on March 31st 9 PM and 10 PM at Theater 773.



Kris Swanberg began her film career at Southern Illinois University where she studied documentary film production. Using naturalistic techniques and often working with non-actors, Swanberg went on to focus her career in narrative film. Her first feature, IT WAS GREAT, BUT I WAS READY TO COME HOME played in competition at the SXSW Film Festival in 2009, followed by her next feature, EMPIRE BUILDER (2012) and short film BABY MARY (2014). Swanberg's third feature, UNEXPECTED, premiered in competition at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival.

Barbara Wallace has written over twenty television pilots with writing partner, Thomas R. Wolfe. Five pilot scripts have been produced, and one (Welcome to New York) was picked up by CBS where it aired for a season. Formerly a Second City Main Stage actress, she has also worked in the theatre as a director and playwright. She has previously taught media writing at Northwestern University in the Department of Radio/Television/Film and improvisational acting at The Second City.

Northwestern

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Department of Radio/Television/Film



SCMS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Society for Cinema & Media Studies, **SCMS**, is the world's largest organization devoted to the scholarly study of Film and Media. SCMS held its national conference in Chicago March 22 to 26 and RTVF's Screen Cultures were in high attendance.

Scott Curtis chaired and presented on a panel about this history of film theory.

Miriam Petty chaired a panel about Beyoncé's *Lemonade*. She was a panelist for the special event *Living Thinkers: An Autobiography of Black Women in the Ivory Tower*, and won the Society's best first book award for *Stealing the Show: African American Performers and Audiences in 1930s Hollywood* (University of California Press, 2016).

Ariel Rogers co-chaired and presented on a panel about media historiography and organized a special anthology screening of Chicago-produced short films at Essanay Studios.

Jeffrey Sconce co-chaired and presented on a panel about narrative world building in screen media.

Lynn Spigel presented on a panel about Design & Architecture in cinema and television studies.

Jacob Smith chaired and presented on a panel about eco-criticism across media.

Neil Verma served as respondent for a panel about temporalities of recorded sound.

Affiliate Faculty **Aymar Jean Christian** participated in a workshop and **James Hodge** presented on a panel.



Screen Cultures PhD students **Marisela Chavez, Ilana Emmett, Leigh Goldstein, Catherine Harrington, Ian Hartman, Evelyn Kreutzer, Laura LaPlaca, Whitney Pow, Karly-Lynne Scott, Ashley R. Smith, and Hannah Spaulding** all presented papers.

Numerous Screen Cultures alumni were in attendance: **Stephen Babish** chaired and presented on a panel about unruly comedy. **Daniel Bashara** presented on a panel about animation. **Amy Beste** presented on a panel about alternative film studios. **Alexandra Bevan** presented on a panel about surveillance culture. **Robert Cavanaugh** presented on a panel about digital sports media. **Catherine Clepper** presented on a panel about synesthesia and hallucination. **Beth Corzo-Duchart** presented on a panel about stardom and identity. **Cary Elza** chaired and presented on a panel about screen cultures and curation. **Alla Gadassik** presented on a panel about animation and framing. **Hollis Griffin** presented on a panel about queer television. **David Gurney** chaired and presented on a panel about gendered tropes in media. **Meenasarani Linde Murugan** presented on a panel about media and difference in postwar America. **Elizabeth Nathanon** presented on a panel about documentary, celebrity, and stardom. **Andrew Owens** presented on a panel about queerness and production. **Philip Scepanski** presented on a panel about adaptation and intertextuality. **Molly Schneider** chaired and presented on a panel about commercial sponsorship in broadcast history. **Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece** presented on a panel about media attention and governance. **Alexander Thimons** presented on a panel about post-network television spectatorship. **Meredith Ward** chaired and presented on a panel about film sound.



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SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Department of Radio/Television/Film

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

MFA IN DOCUMENTARY MEDIA

The MFA in Documentary Media Class of 2018 Q1 films premiered on January 27th for a packed house screening. The Class of 2018 followed up with their Winter Quarter screening on April 5th in AMS Auditorium.

MFA in Documentary Media brought filmmaker Kirsten Johnson and her film [Cameraperson](#) to NU's [Block Cinema](#) on May 5th. Johnson also instructed a private Masterclass for the Documentary Media cohorts on Thursday, May 4th. Johnson is the School of Communication's 2017 Hoffman Visiting Artist for Documentary Media, a short-term filmmaker residency funded by a generous gift from Jane Steiner Hoffman and Michael Hoffman.

The MFA in Documentary Media traveled to Columbia, Missouri for the 2017 [True False Film Festival](#). Students and faculty attended several of the top documentaries currently playing at festivals. In particular, the film *Quest* took home the True Life Fund Award. *Quest* was edited by adjunct instructor **Lindsay Utz** with post-production assistance by **Timothy Fryett** (Class of 2017).

Congrats to **Ashley S. Brandon** and her film, *Where We've Been*, on being selected to the [Cleveland International Film Festival](#).

MFA in Documentary Media hosted a panel on April 18th examining the future of public funding for media arts. The night was organized by Professor **Kyle Henry** and included panelists [Gordon Quinn](#), co-founder of [Kartemquin Films](#), filmmaker **Maria Finitzo**, and theater director Professor **Henry Godinez**.



PHD IN SCREEN CULTURES

Reem Hilu has been offered a tenure track assistant professor position at Washington University in St. Louis AND a post-doctoral fellowship at McGill University in Montreal.

Zachary Campbell has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor at Whitman College in scenic Walla Walla, Washington for the upcoming academic year.



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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

MA IN SOUND ARTS AND INDUSTRIES

On May 5th, MA in Sound Arts and Industries program will visit sound equipment giant [Shure, Inc.](#) allowing them access to the facilities, equipment, and history of Shure products as well as giving them a chance to network and engage with the company culture.

On February 3rd, **Jeff Kolar** gave an artist talk sponsored by the MA in Sound Arts and Industries at the Northwestern Soundstage. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of [Radius](#), an experimental radio broadcast platform established in 2010. His solo and collaborative projects, installations, and public performances often investigate the mundane sonic nuances of everyday electronic devices.

On February 16th, the MA in Sound Arts and Industries welcomed [Third Coast International Audio Festival](#) Executive Director and Co-Founder **Johanna Zorn** as part of the program Speaker Series. Zorn curated audio samples while discussing radio documentary in the podcasting era.

On March 3rd, students attended an experiential workshop on circuit bending at [Experimental Sound Studio](#). The students transformed sound-making toys into musical instruments while exploring eclectic performance and installation concepts. The workshop was also featured in the program's [January 26, 2017 blog post](#).

On March 20th, the MA in Sound Arts and Industries welcomed new assistant director **Elizabeth Mathis**.

On the [Northwestern Sound blog](#), Sound Arts and Industries professors **Neil Verma** and **Bill Healy** dissect "S-Town" and discuss what the show means for podcasts.

MASAI students are beta testing [Detour](#), a location-based audio tour software created by 2003 Northwestern graduate, **Andrew Mason**. Mason is also the founder of [Groupon](#).



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MFA IN WRITING FOR SCREEN + STAGE

Catherine Davidson's (Class of '17) short film *Crossed*, A "Romeo & Juliet"-like tale between a young interracial couple in Chicago, began filming May 5th. Don and Imani live in the same city but come from vastly different worlds. Despite their extremist backgrounds, the two find love and understanding through music and their shared desire to escape their violent worlds. Her work also appeared at the *Black Lives, Black Words* showcase on February 27. *Black Lives, Black Words* will be releasing a bound anthology of all pieces featured in their theatrical productions.

Kristen Field's (Class of '18) play was selected for this year's Theater Masters National MFA Playwrights Festival. The festival begins with a development process in Aspen, Colorado, in January and culminates in April for a professional Equity Showcase production of their plays in New York City.

Rachel Greenhoe (Class of '17) is a Los Angeles CineFest semi-finalist for her script *In The Woods*.

Kate Royal's (Class of '17) full-length play *Queen for a Day* is the inaugural work in a new partnership between The MFA Writing in Screen + Stage and Chicago's [Steep Theater](#), allowing a second year MFA candidate the ability to workshop with the theater company during the spring term. Her webseries [In Real Life](#) had its premier showing at the Chicago Cultural Center May 14 as part of OpenTV's Beta Launch. *In Real Life* offers a series of snapshots into the messy, intimate lives of four best friends: Charlie, Oscar, Erin, and Cleo. When Charlie comes out as bisexual only to be greeted with a lackluster response from the other three, each must confront their own standard of identity and friendship. Through these five character vignettes, *In Real Life* sheds a light on how modern LGBT+ young people - in all their fumbling millennial glory - lift up, put down, disappoint, and try to support each other.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

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MFA IN WRITING FOR SCREEN + STAGE CONTINUED

The inaugural MFA Writer-Director Collaboration Festival, on May 26th and 27th, is a workshop production of four new plays by Class of 2017 students **Rachel Greenhoe**, **Molly Pease**, **Liza Summers**, and **Tyler Zencka** in collaboration with MFA directors. A reception will follow the 7 PM performance on May 26 at Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Dr. Tickets are available via [Eventbrite](#).

Class of 2017 candidates **Oona O'Leary**, **Molly Pease** with director **Rachel Greenhoe**, and **Hope Rehak** are participants of this year's Araca Project. They will participate in a week long production intensive and will have a full production of their individual plays at the off-Broadway venue The John Cullum Theater in the American Theatre for Actors. The Araca Project is an initiative of The Araca Group (producers of *Urinetown*, *Wicked*, *A View From the Bridge*) to foster students from Syracuse University, University of Michigan, Florida State University, Yale University, and Northwestern University to recognize the power of the entrepreneurial spirit in shaping one's artistic future.

MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage and EPICS presented this year's **Writers Panel**, featuring major players in late night TV comedy. **Jill Leiderman**, an Executive Producer on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*; **Rob Cohen** a Writer/Director who has worked on *The Big Bang Theory*, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Simpsons*; **Jen Spyra** (MFA Writing for the Screen + Stage Class of '12), a Writer & Performer on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*; and **Jenny Hagel** (MFA Writing for the Screen + Stage Class of '09) a Writer & Performer on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, as well as *Impractical Jokers*, and *Ladylike*. It was moderated by RTVF Chair and MFA Writing for Screen + Stage Director **Dave Tolchinsky**. The panel discussion was covered by [Northwestern News](#), [The Daily Northwestern](#) and [SOC](#).

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



MFA in Writing for Screen and Stage and EPICS Presents:

WRITERS PANEL

Late Night Comedy & Beyond

Friday, May 12th

Workshop with Rob Cohen 1:30-2:30PM

Writers Panel 3:00-4:30PM

Annie May Swift – Helmerich Auditorium

Jill Leiderman



Executive Producer,
Jimmy Kimmel Live!

Rob Cohen



Writer,
The Big Bang Theory,
SNL,
The Simpsons

Jen Spyra



Writer & Performer,
The Late Show with
Stephen Colbert

Jenny Hagel



Writer & Performer,
Late Night with
Seth Meyers

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SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Department of Radio/Television/Film

RTVF UNDERGRADUATES

The Media Arts Grant (or [MAG](#)) is a funding system administered through the Department of Radio/Television/Film to support student-driven filmmaking experiences. Congratulations to the following grant recipients:

MAG AWARDS

Dominique Teoh: **The Cave**

Tess Cohen: **Arty**

Ryan Lammers: **August Hotel**

Karen Collins: **Through Her Eyes**

Cemre Paksoy: **Snugglr: a web series**

Georgia Bernstein: **The title is: (this page intentionally left blank.)**

Troy Lewis: **Black Light Dream**

Liam Feroli, Mari Uchida: **Call Me Mom**

FIRST YEAR

George Ayoub: **Busload**

Maddie Hong: **Cigarettes and Chocolate Milk**

Georgia Bernstein and **Tess Cohen's** (Class of '17) (*this page intentionally left blank.*) MAG film is premiering at CineYouth, a prestigious festival that's part of the Chicago International Film Festival.

Elizabeth Rachel Frieder (Class of '17) won the London Independent Film Awards for Best Comedy/Dramedy Short Student award in April for *Inside The Woods*, Directed by Chelsea Jacobson ('18).



WEB SERIES SHOWCASE
MONDAY MARCH 13TH, 8PM
AMS AUDITORIUM
FREE

STUDENT GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Northwestern | COMMUNICATION

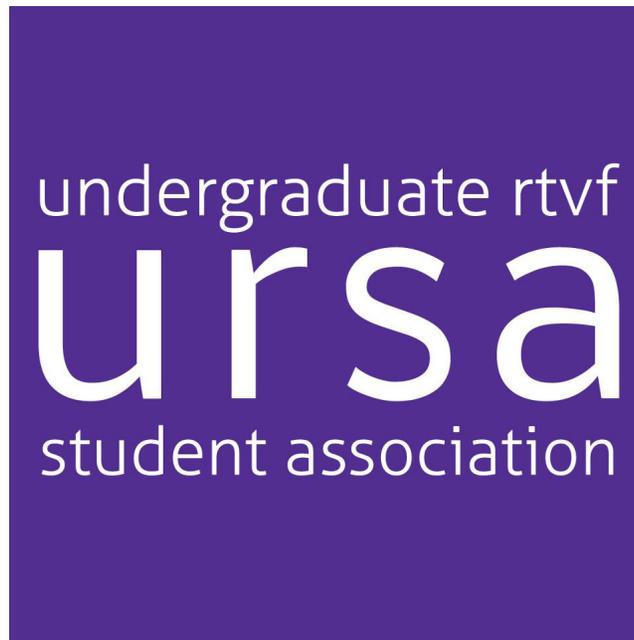
Department of Radio/Television/Film

URSA (the Undergraduate Radio/Television/Film Student Association) has grown since its formation in 2005. Founded for the purpose of extending the duties of RTVF student liaisons, URSA serves to make student concerns and ideas heard by the faculty, and unify the undergraduate community within the department.

Our main mission is to key in the faculty on student concerns regarding curriculum and provide outreach programs in order to build community within the RTVF student body. The board, comprised of students from each undergraduate class, aims to make itself available to students throughout the year regarding questions, comments, concerns and ideas for the department.

Each quarter, the Co-Chairs attend a RTVF faculty meeting and voice student opinions. In addition to this, the board hosts a student Town Hall Meeting approximately once a year, in order to gauge overall student concerns along with hosting numerous events including, Film Prom and Film Camp, throughout the academic year to build community within the undergraduate students.

Erin Manning served on the URSA board for four years, first as a Class of 2017 Representative followed by Co-Chair. She graduated from Northwestern in December 2016 with a degree in Radio/TV/Film and minors in Business Institutions and Legal Studies. She was also on the Studio 22 Executive Board as the Finance Chair for two years and has served as the Executive Co-Chair for the past year. Erin is currently a programming intern at ABC7 Chicago. Interested in emerging media platforms and technologies, she plans to work somewhere in the digital arena come graduation in June.



Studio 22 is a student-run production company that exists to provide extracurricular filmmaking opportunities not offered in production classes.

Studio 22 hosted a "Young Alumni Panel" on February 27th featuring **Max Saines '13**, **Allie Wasserman '14**, **Louie Hayes '13** and **Liz Moore '15**. The alums spoke about their first few years working in the entertainment industry and offered key advice to students in attendance.

Studio 22 also selected its new executive board.

A graphic titled "STUDIO 22 ANNOUNCEMENTS" with a dark green header and a light green body. The Studio 22 logo is in the top left. The main title "ANNOUNCEMENTS" is in large white letters. Below it, the text "THE STUDIO 22 EXECUTIVE BOARD 2017-2018" is centered. A list of board members follows, each with a title and names. At the bottom, a thank-you message and the Studio 22 logo are centered.

STUDIO 22 ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE STUDIO 22 EXECUTIVE BOARD
2017-2018**

Executive Chairs
Megan Ballew
Tyler Gould

Finance Chair
Sarah Evans

Industry Chairs
Madeleine Kelly
Liz Coin

Production Coordinator
Elliot Nick

Script Development Chairs
John Michael Currie
Katie Adler

Public Relations Chairs
Libby Hanley
Sydney Yockey

Community Engagement Chairs
Paula Miller
Erika Rodriguez

Thank you so much to everyone who interviewed. These decisions were not easy.

STUDIO 22

Northwestern | COMMUNICATION

Department of Radio/Television/Film

STUDENT GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

NUWFA: Northwestern University Women Filmmakers Alliance (NUWFA) is proud to welcome a new executive board for the 2017-2018 academic year. In the midst of transitions, we are also making preparations for our spring industry panel and working on the 2017 NUWFA grant, *Peluquería* by Abitha Ramachandran; logline: a Latina and a Muslim immigrant are forced to overcome their own prejudices and work together in order to save a failing hair salon.

Announcing...

NUWFA

2017-2018 Executive Board

Presidents
Maggie Astle
Camille Casmier

Board Manager
Maddie Hong

Programming
Devon Kerr
Lily Labovitz
Lucinda Mandel
Alana Rosenbloom

Industry
Eliza Levy
Malloy Moseley

Productions
Jody Bailet
Ivy Gao

Finance
Maya Pearson

Fundraising
Katie Adler
Nick Tiffany

Public Relations
Jess Zeidman

Thank you to everyone who petitioned!
Look out for more events and opportunities from NUWFA soon!

NSTV has filmed 22 sketches over the course of this school year and are planning on filming about 18 more throughout spring quarter. They showed five new sketches in February of this year at a winter comedy show featuring a variety of comedy groups on campus. In addition, they will have a premiere which will feature all of the sketches filmed and edited this year on Saturday May 27, 2017 in Ryan Auditorium on campus.



Applause for a Cause is excited to announce the premier of our 2017 feature film, *The Helsings*: An emotionally distant mother, Nic, must overcome the effects of past abuse in order protect her daughter Carrie from a threat that may or may not exist.

Visit their [Facebook](#) page for more information on *The Helsings* and Applause for a Cause.

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The **Black Graduate Student Association** (BGSA) of Northwestern University presented its 20th Annual Graduate Research Conference on Saturday, April 15th at Conference Chicago at the University Center. This year's conference theme was titled Stand Together: A Summit to Unify Diversity in Higher Education and showcased the variety of research and united diverse populations involving graduate students of color.

For 20 years, BGSA has hosted diverse graduate students in STEM, humanities and social sciences across the Midwest and provided a safe space for students to present their research, network and celebrate their place in academia. On average, Northwestern BGSA proudly hosts 75 graduate students. In commemoration of their 20th anniversary, this year's conference featured a keynote address from Northwestern faculty, **Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes**, Associate Professor of African American Studies and Sociology and Director of Undergraduate Studies. Programming included a "State of the Unity" address from **Dr. Tyrone Forman**, Professor of African American Studies and Sociology and Associate Chancellor and Vice Provost for Diversity from University of Illinois at Chicago and an alumni panel discussing life post graduate education. Additionally, **Dr. Daniel Jean**, Executive Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program and Academic Development at Montclair State University, gave his esteemed "Swagger PhD" workshop during the luncheon. The conference provided numerous interactive opportunities made possible through personal/professional development and networking sessions.

As in previous years, the success of the BGSA Annual Graduate Research Conference is not only dependent upon the efforts of members, but also the financial support BGSA receives from Northwestern and outside sponsors, including the School of Communication RTVF department.



STUDENT GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Northwestern

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Department of Radio/Television/Film

ALUMNI NEWS

MFA IN WRITING FOR SCREEN + STAGE

Farhan Arshad (Class of '10) is a current staff writer on CBS's *Man With a Plan*.

Rachel DuBose's (Class of '14) play *NATCHEZ* will receive a workshop production in April 2017 as part of Mercy Street Theatre's BEACON SERIES, where DuBose is also a resident playwright.

I LOVE DICK, the new Amazon series created by Jill Solloway and alumna **Sarah Gubbins** (Class of '08), premiered on Amazon after being greenlit last spring. [Read Gubbins's interview with W magazine.](#)

Ellen Bond, Union Spy, by alumna **Jenni Lamb** (Class of '12), a seriocomedy inspired by the true story of Mary Bowser, will premiere at the [House Theatre](#) in March 2018.

Roger Q. Mason (Class of '16) was accepted into the 2017 Araca Project program.

REX, a new play by **Shannon Pritchard** (Class of '14), premiered at Stage 773 as part of [American Blues Theatre's Ripped: The Living Newspaper Festival](#).

Night In Alachua County, a disturbing new work by **Jennifer Rumberger** (Class of '13), will premiere at WildClaw Theatre in September 2017.

Dusty Wilson's (Class of '14) play *Luz Estrada*, a modern-day adaptation of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* set in the cartel wars of Northern Mexico, will receive its world premiere at [Mercy Street Theatre](#) in summer 2017.



THEHOUSE
THEATRE OF CHICAGO

WILDCLAW
THEATRE

MERCY STREET COMPANY
THEATRE

Northwestern

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Department of Radio/Television/Film

ALUMNI NEWS

RTVF UNDERGRADUATE

Kate Baldwin (Class of '97) received a Tony Nomination for *Hello, Dolly!*

Paul Kruse (Class of '08) accepted a spot as a fellow in the Michener Center for Writers at UT Austin.

Nikki Levy (CWMP Class of '99) is now Head of Scripted Material for Dreamworks/AwesomenessTV.

Greg Porper (Class of '12) created and sold a series, *Worst Birthday Ever*, to the CW. All ten episodes of Season 1, which he wrote, directed, and produced, are now available to watch on the [CW's digital site](#) and are also available on the free CW Seed app.

Amy Reed (Class of '13) is a writer and co-EP of the upcoming [Jim Parsons' Freeform sitcom](#). She is an alum of the sitcom sequence, and was the EP on the 2013 production *INDEPENDENT*.

Jackson Sinder (CWMP '12) is now a Staff Writer on Season Two of DirecTV's *ICE*.



Northwestern

COMMUNICATION

DEPARTMENT OF RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM

THE DEPARTMENT OF RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM
THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Located at 1920 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

David Tolchinsky: RTVF Chairperson, Director of MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage

Zayd Dohrn: RTVF Associate Chairperson, Associate Director of MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage

Roberta Stack: Director of Undergraduate Programs

Lynn Spigel: Director of the Screen Cultures Center

Debra Tolchinsky: Director of MFA in Documentary Media

Ines Sommer: Associate Director of MFA in Documentary Media

Miriam Joanna Petty: Director of Graduate Studies in Screen Cultures Program

Jacob Smith: Director of MA in Sound Arts and Industries

www.communication.northwestern.edu/departments/rtf/about

Newsletter Design by Oona O'Leary