

THE COHORT BIOs

TAKE THE LEAD™



TAKETHELEADWOMEN.COM

50 Women Can

Change the World
in Media and
Entertainment

THE COHORT



Aisling Chin-Yee

Aisling Chin-Yee is an award winning producer, writer, and director based in Montreal, Canada. Working closely with writers and directors with unique, unapologetic visions in both feature films and documentaries from around the world. She began her production career as an associate producer at the National Film Board of Canada in 2006, joined Prospector Films as producer and director in 2010. Aisling founded Fluent Films in early 2016. She co-created, alongside actor Mia Kirshner, #AfterMeToo, a symposium, series and report that analyzes the issue of sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry.

She produced the short films, *Three Mothers* (2008), *The Color of Beauty* (2010) *Sorry, Rabbi* (2011). In 2013 she produced the award winning feature film, *Rhymes for Young Ghouls*, which was a TIFF Top 10 film, and won Best Director at the Vancouver International Film Festival, as well as the award-winning feature documentary *Last Woman Standing* that same year. 2014 marked her year as writer and director with the short film, *Sound Asleep* that Canada brought to the Cannes Film Market and premiered at Lucerne International Film Festival. In 2015, she directed the multi-award winning documentary *Synesthesia* and produced the gritty urban drama, *The Saver* that released in Spring 2016. Aisling produced the US series and feature, *Lost Generation*, with LA based company New Form Digital starring Katie Findlay (*How to Get Away with Murder*, *Man Seeking Woman*), Callum Worthy, and Melissa O'Neil, that hit VOD platforms autumn 2016 across North America. With Prospector Films, she produced the documentary *Inside these Walls* which released on CBC October 2016. Aisling is also in development on several feature documentaries, including *Trolling* with the National Film Board and POV Docs.

Her feature drama *The Day Between* will be shot in 2018, and is executive produced by Jean-Marc Vallée, with the financial support of Telefilm Canada and The Harold Greenberg Fund. As a writer/director, she is in early stages of writing with support of Telefilm for the films, *This is Glory* and *Kevin*. Aisling is passionate about developing strong women creators, and is producing the works of award winning director, Lorraine Price and the celebrated author, Catherine Leroux. Aisling also co-created with actor Mia Kirshner (*The L Word*, *Exotica*) the #AfterMeToo Symposium an in-depth analysis of sexual harassment in the entertainment industry, in partnership with the Globe and Mail and Fluent Films.

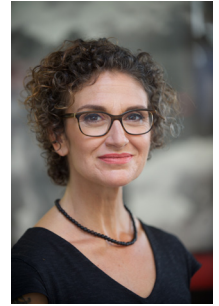
Aisling often participates on international film and industry juries, like Fantasia, FIN: The International Atlantic Film Festival, and The Toronto International Film Festival's Pitch This! Competitions. She is also a Berlinale Talent Alumni, a Rotterdam Producer's Network Alumni, a Tribeca Film Institute Alumni, and currently part of the prestigious Academy Women Director Mentorship Program.

Her obsession with strong female characters and creators coupled with her physically active lifestyle, Aisling spearheaded the creation of the mobile app *Go Fit Yourself!* that released alongside the film *Last Woman Standing*.

Outspoken, driven, and passionate about storytelling with an unapologetic voice. Fluent Films is committed to make entertainment by and about women, to represent and work with diverse voices and perspectives, and to tell amazing stories. In 2016 *Now Magazine* features her opinions during the Toronto International Film Festival.

THE COHORT

Alex Cohen



Alex Cohen is the local host of "Morning Edition" on leading NPR member station KPCC.

Prior to that, she was co-host of the station's daily news magazine show "Take Two" and she anchored the afternoon and evening news.

Before joining Southern California Public Radio, Alex was a host and reporter for NPR's "Day to Day." She's also served as a host and reporter for various NPR news programs as well as American Public Media's "Marketplace" and "Weekend America." Her on-air career began in Los Angeles as the Southern California Bureau Chief for KQED FM in San Francisco. She has won several journalism awards including the LA Press Club's Best Radio Anchor prize.

As her roller derby alter-ego, Axles of Evil, Cohen made a cameo appearance and served as the trainer and choreographer for the Drew Barrymore derby film "Whip It." She is also the co-author of the book "Down and Derby: The Insider's Guide to Roller Derby."

THE COHORT

Alicia Ontiveros



Alicia is a proficient storyteller with more than 10 years of experience crafting original content across a variety of mediums including web, television, and print. As an award-winning Senior Producer for *Q Creative* she has extensive experience producing live events and media for Fortune 500 clients around the globe. She is also finishing a feature-length screenplay, and in post-production for a documentary film about the long-term effects of the BP oil spill on Gulf Coast fishing communities. Alicia holds a BSJ in Broadcast Journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and enjoys bringing the rigor of a curious journalist to every project she undertakes.

THE COHORT

Allison Erlikhman

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, Allison Erlikhman returned to her native Los Angeles, and started her career in the mailroom at Paradigm Talent Agency. From Paradigm, she went on to work at Michael De Luca Productions and Columbia Pictures, where she worked on a number of films including Moneyball, Zero Dark Thirty, This Is The End, and The Equalizer. She joined the development and production team at Disney in 2015, and she is currently working on a slate including The Nutcracker, Aladdin, Maleficent 2, and The Little Mermaid.



THE COHORT

Amie Williams

Amie founded her own film/video production company, GLOBALGIRLMEDIA PRODUCTIONS (formerly Bal Maiden Films) in 1991, at the dawn of the digital revolution, when the entire landscape of filmmaking was shifting. A renowned American feminist/activist filmmaker and journalist, she is known for her global documentary films focused on women, youth movements and democracy building. Her work has been broadcast on PBS, Al Jazeera, BBC, Current TV and CBC Canada. Her feature documentary films include UNCOMMON GROUND, FALLON, NV: DEADLY OASIS, STRIPPED AND TEASED, ONE DAY LONGER, NO SWEAT, and most recently, WE ARE WISCONSIN, a film about the citizen uprising against anti-worker legislation. Her films have won awards, such as the International Documentary Association Award, Top Ten Audience Award at Hot Docs, a National Endowment for the Arts Media Grant, the SONY/Streisand Award for emerging female filmmakers, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation International Peace Grant. In 2010 she was selected to tour the world by the America Film Institute /U.S. State Department, partnering with other filmmakers in the inaugural 20/20 Cultural Exchange Program (now run by the Sundance Institute and State Department).

Through her film work, Amie was asked to blog for Huffington Post, and has written as a freelance journalist, most recently for Moveon.org and TruthDig. She also gave a Tedx TALK on women in media in Barcelona in 2015: Amie has worked as a freelance producer/director for Al Jazeera English and produced short documentaries, PSA's, and political ads for a variety of clients, organizations, NGO's, in partnership with SG&A Communications.

In 2010, Amie co-founded the non-profit, GLOBALGIRL MEDIA, which develops the voice and media literacy of young women by teaching them to create and share digital journalism designed to improve scholastic achievement, ignite community activism and spark social change. Currently, she is the Executive Director, overseeing projects in South Africa, Morocco, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Tunisia and Oakland, California.

She has consulted for Film Independent (FIND), Latino Public Broadcasting, and Co-founded and Artistically Directed the first international film festival in Las Vegas, CINEVEGAS in 1998. She lived and worked in Kenya in the late 1980's teaching and consulting for the Ford Foundation and CARE International as a media specialist. She presently teaches as an adjunct professor part-time at San Francisco State, School of Cinema.

Amie graduated from Yale University (B.A., English and Theater, 1985); and U.C.L.A (MFA, Film, 1992).



THE COHORT

Amy Fox

Amy Fox is an acclaimed screenwriter, playwright and educator, and a passionate advocate for elevating women's voices in the arts and the workplace. Most recently she wrote the screenplay for *Equity*, the female-driven Wall Street film which premiered at Sundance 2016 and was released by Sony Pictures Classics. Amy's previous feature screenplay, for the Merchant Ivory film *Heights*, starring Glenn Close and Elizabeth Banks, also premiered at Sundance (2005) and was released by SPC. Fox has received one previous Sloan grant through the Ensemble Studio Theater. Fox's plays have been produced by theaters in New York, including the Ensemble Studio Theater and Clubbed Thumb, and have been seen in London, Tehran, San Francisco, Austin, and St. Paul. Her work has been recognized by The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, The Kilroys, and Women's Image Network. Amy teaches screenwriting at NYU's Graduate Film Program. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and two children. She is originally from Boulder, Colorado.



THE COHORT

AMY KERSTEN

Amy is an entertainment creative. She holds an MFA in acting and her work includes directing, writing, editing and producing. She began developing indie web series in 2009 and has since produced four shows, a narrative short film and the 50 Video launch of *Lady Parts Justice*, created and run by Daily Show creator Lizz Winstead. Amy works part-time as a freelance editor guiding new female producers and directors through their first projects. Her work has been featured on the Huffington Post, MSNBC, Upworthy, Glamor.com, WhoHaHa and Hello Giggles. Since moving to LA in 2016, Amy has worked on three studio features in various roles: *Sandy Wexler* (Netflix) *The Week Of* (Netflix) and *The Spy Who Dumped Me* (Lionsgate).



THE COHORT

ANA FLORES



Ana Flores is founder and CEO of #WeAllGrow Latina Network, the first and largest community of Latina digital influencers, hyperlocal events and annual Summit that boldly propels growth through brand partnerships and community development. Ana has been recognized by the prestigious Holmes Report among their 2015 Innovator 25 and was named as one of People en Español's "Las 25 Mujeres Más Poderosas" of 2017. In 2016 she was invited to speak on two occasions at the White House, including the United State of Women Summit on gender diversity and women empowerment issues. She's on NALIP's Diverse Women in Media Initiative Advisory Committee, Common Sense Media's Latino Advisory Council and currently sits on the Barbie Global Advisory Council. Born in Houston, Texas, raised in El Salvador and a graduate of the University of Florida, Ana is now settled in Los Angeles, where she lives with her daughter.

THE COHORT

Asha Dahya

Asha Dahya is a journalist, writer and content creator with 15 years of both broadcast and digital media experience. She has worked for MTV, Nickelodeon, Disney, Fox, ABC, MSN, CW, and The Food Network. She holds a BA with a double major in Film and Journalism. Asha is also the creator of a women's news media blog called GirlTalkHQ.com. She is particularly passionate about religion, reproductive rights, sexuality and the representation of women in media.



THE COHORT

BETH OSISEK



Beth Osisek is an award-winning journalist and filmmaker who is driven by a belief in the power of an individual's story to impact change. Beth cut her teeth during the overthrow of the Soviet Union as a producer living in Moscow. She has worked for ABC News and the The Christian Science Monitor and has reported on stories ranging from human trafficking to celebrity profiles. Her experience runs from breaking news to documentary features. Her recent credits include the award winning CNN Films "We Will Rise" with Michelle Obama, the PBS documentary "MAKERS: Women Who Make History" and the feature documentary "Girl Rising" which is the story of nine inspiring girls from nine countries highlighting the impact educating a girl in a developing nation can have on the girl, her community and her country. She is also the co-executive producer for the docuseries "Truth and Power." Her goal in every project is to amplify a story to create a buzz too loud to ignore

THE COHORT

CAROLINE EDWARDS

Caroline Edwards is a producer and creative executive who, using her expertise in entertainment, works to employ the full influencing power of the entertainment industry towards political activism. Before the presidential election of 2016, Caroline worked on projects for SKY, Discovery Channel, Warner Bros television, Endemol Shine studios, and Time Inc. In 2016, energized by the first major party nomination of a woman and recognizing the critical stakes at play, Caroline left her burgeoning career in Hollywood to work for the Clinton campaign in Virginia, where she served as a regional Get Out the Vote director in a crucial swing state. Following the election, Caroline returned to Los Angeles but remained dedicated to the equality and progressive values that had originally moved her to act.

Now back with ICM as the Creative Director of their Politics department, Caroline works with top creatives, activism organizations, and politicians to effect policy change and bolster advocacy and engagement throughout Hollywood. She also serves on the Creative Council for EMILY's List, helping the organization achieve their goal in electing pro-choice, Democratic women. Additionally, Caroline is the founder and head organizer of The Next Collective, a group comprised of young women in Hollywood who strive to stay involved and informed on issues pertinent to them.



THE COHORT

CARRIE LYNN CERTA

Ms. Certa is an established Line Producer in Television, New Media and Feature Films. Most recently she was the lead producer on the comedy "Ghostmates" and the May/December Rom-Com "Attachments", starring Oscar Winning, Katherine Ross and "Difret", a feature film shot entirely in Ethiopia and Executive Produced by Angelina Jolie. Other titles include the horror film "Bit Parts", a political mockumentary "A New Tomorrow", comedies "Target Audience 9.1" and "What If People Died", and lastly the action thriller "Circadian Rhythm", which had her working alongside Seymour Cassel, Jonathan Banks, Rachel Miner and David Anders. In television, Ms. Certa has been on the producing team in several capacities on such shows as "Celebrity Wife Swap" (ABC), "The AOF Channel" (NBC), "How to Look Good Naked" (Lifetime), "The Kennedy Files" (Reelz Channel), "Celebrity Medical Nightmares" (E!), "Radical Hollywood Remedies" (E!) and "Cut in Half" (Nat Geo) to name a few. As President of Production at GLP, she developed several network scripted and non-scripted series, new media series and feature films. Before her tenure with GLP, Ms. Certa produced the popular web-series "Super Fan Builds", exclusively on Verizon's Go90! Ms. Certa is also a very active member of the Producers Guild of America as she single handedly doubled the PGA Master Class programming and created the PGA Pitch to W.I.N. event, which helps educate on the pitch process, provides one-on-one training and sets up pitch meetings with executives in all genres. In addition, she has worked as a Post Production Supervisor and on the producing teams for top-rated reality shows such as "America's Next Top Model" (CW), "Manhunt" (Bravo), and "Bridezillas" (WE).



THE COHORT

Charo Toledo



Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Award-winning bilingual writer/producer, Charo Toledo has nearly two decades of experience in the entertainment industry working on a variety of projects for film, television and theater. While pursuing her career as a writer, Toledo also worked for the DEA for five years as a linguist and intelligence analyst.

Presently, Charo Toledo just finished the first Latina talk show on wheels, the Kiki Mobile for FYI network. Earlier this year, Toledo produced the groundbreaking Univision show La Reina de la Canción, whose ratings beat Dancing with the Stars and The Voice on its premiere. Last year, she was the consulting producer for NBC Universo's El Vato, a scripted-drama, inspired by El Dasa's incredible real life story, following an aspiring singer, El Vato, as he navigates life in Los Angeles after landing a once-in-a-lifetime record deal. El Vato is a global hit and can now be seen on Netflix.

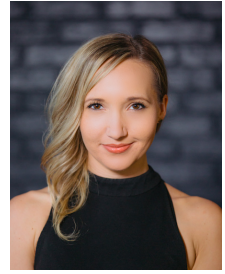
For the past two seasons, Toledo was a writer/producer of the highly acclaimed Hulu hit series, East Los High. Toledo received a 2016 Impact Award, a 2015 Sentinel Award, and five Emmy Award nominations for her work on the series.

Her film credits include co-writing/co-producing the romantic comedy, Pop Star, and the film East Side Story. This independent production was a festival favorite, receiving more than ten awards. In 2009, she received a GLAAD Award for her work on East Side Story.

Most recently, Toledo completed the one-hour drama pilot Ghost on the Line inspired by her experiences at the DEA. She has written dozens of episodes for numerous television series including the ABC long-running daytime series One Life to Live and Port Charles, and the Telemundo series, Mas Vale Tarde, Viva Vegas and Solo en America. Additionally, she has produced Camino a la Corona/ Miss Universe and the 2011 Latin Billboard Awards, Minuto Para Ganar for MundoFox and Noches con Platanito for Liberman Broadcasting; as well as writing and performing her critically acclaimed semi-autobiographical play, The Princess Within.

THE COHORT

Christie Marchese



Christie Marchese is the founder and CEO of Picture Motion, where she leads a team of impact producers, marketing strategists and public interest communication specialists in developing grassroots marketing and social action campaigns for films. Working with filmmakers, distributors, brands and NGOs with stories that have the potential to inspire action, Picture Motion educates and inspires audiences to think critically, take action and drive lasting change. Recent projects include Michael Moore's *Where to Invade Next*, Katie Couric's *Fed Up* and *Under the Gun*, Shonda Rhimes and Norman Lear's *America Divided*, Dick's Sporting Goods' *Keepers of the Game*, Whole Foods Markets' *At the Fork*, Discovery's *Racing Extinction*, The Weinstein Co's *BULLY* and *Fruitvale Station*, and JR's *Ellis*.

Prior to launching Picture Motion, Christie served as Director of Social Action at Righteous Pictures and led Digital Strategy for the social action team at Participant Media, managing initiatives for *Waiting for "Superman"*, *Food Inc*, and *The Cove* among others. Before moving to a career in impact film, Christie ran digital strategy for Norman Lear's nonprofit, *Declare Yourself*, and spent time at Human Rights Watch and the International Rescue Committee. Christie is known as an expert in utilizing film and storytelling to mobilize change, and has presented her work at film festivals and conferences around the world, including Sundance, SXSW and TIFF, and for both governments and activists in Peru and Pakistan . She has also served as a contributing writer for Mashable and The Huffington Post.

This expertise and experience earned her the title Business Insider's 30 Most Creative People in Advertising Under 30 in 2014, and has been profiled on IndieWire and NPR. She sits on the Documentary Board at the Paley Center for Media and the advisory board for Filmmakers Without Borders. Christie currently serves as an Expert in Residence for the IFP Media Center and on The Leadership Council for the Media for Social Impact Summit at the United Nations. She holds a BA from SDSU, in both International Security and Conflict Resolution (ISCOR) and Comparative Religions, with a concentration in Arabic and the Middle East.

THE COHORT

Diane Robertson



Diane Robertson is a New York City native who relocated to Los Angeles in 2006. She is a Vice President in the Law Department at CBS Television Studios and is responsible for production and legal affairs matters for the late night talk show "The Late Late Show with James Corden." Prior to her current role, she handled CBS's scripted and reality television programming, negotiating and drafting a variety of agreements and handling day-to-day production issues. Before joining CBS, Diane was production counsel for Warner Horizon Television and responsible for legal affairs related to unscripted/reality television programming. Before that, she worked for ABC News Productions in New York City where she handled transactions in connection with documentary news programming for cable television. Diane began her legal career as a Trademark Associate at a mid-sized Intellectual Property law firm. She earned her J.D. from New York Law School and B.A. in Business Journalism from Bernard M. Baruch College in New York City.

Diane is passionate about enhancing possibilities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds with an emphasis on women and girls. For two decades, she has spent her free time volunteering with various non-profit organizations. Currently, she serves on the boards of Los Angeles CARES Mentoring Movement and John M. Langston Bar Association. She is a prior member of the Leadership Council of Posse Foundation's Los Angeles Chapter. Diane is a graduate of the African American Board Leadership Institute and Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute Alumni Association. She completed her 500-hour yoga teacher training at YogaWorks and has taught free yoga classes to the residents at the Downtown Women's Center near L.A.'s Skid Row. Diane loves her Leimert Park neighborhood of South Los Angeles where she is an active stakeholder.

THE COHORT

Dorothee Sophie Royal



Dorothee Sophie Royal is a writer, artist, medicine maker, and mother. She is the founder of MoonTentCo and the host of MoonWise, a monthly podcast featuring conversations with women of power. She is passionate about reclaiming and reconnecting with the heart of the feminine. Born in Germany and raised in the U.S. and abroad, Dorothee has a deep love for the natural world and an appreciation for cross-cultural healing. After completing a degree at the University of Chicago, Dorothee found herself longing for a more holistic approach to life and went on to become a student of herbal medicine, nutrition and earth-honoring wisdom traditions. She is wildly grateful to her elders and teachers, her family and the mountains, rivers, trees and flowers that inspire her. Learn more: <http://www.moontent.co/about/>

THE COHORT

Dr. Nicole Amber Haggard



Dr. Nicole Amber Haggard teaches in the Film, Media, and Social Justice program at Mount Saint Mary's University. Through her project "Race Sex and Hollywood" Nicole has spent the past fourteen years studying and contextualizing the intersection of race and gender in American culture and the media's ability to impact society. In 2017 she founded the Center for Women in Hollywood, an organization dedicated to shifting the representation of women. Whether she is teaching, publishing, or leading women's circles, Dr. Haggard strives to bring out in her audience a deeper understanding of themselves, the greater purpose of their work, and their relationship to the world around them.

THE COHORT

Elisabeth Ness



Elisabeth Ness is an award-winning performer, producer, and creative entrepreneur who strives to make a positive impact on the world through entertainment onstage, onscreen, and in voice-over. The Yale alumna co-founded Good Porpoise Productions, which makes mini-documentaries for non-profits, as well as socially-conscious narrative fiction (including the dramatic short *En Route*). She created the hit web comedy *Redheads Anonymous*, for which she won 'Best Actress in a Sitcom' and 'Best Sitcom Screenplay' (Rome Web Awards), and received nominations for the 'Raindance Discovery Award' (London) and 'Best Actress Award' (Miami Web Fest). Her acting work has been called "especially funny" (NY Times), "razor-sharp" (Washington Post), and "hilarious" (Times Herald-Record, Catskill Chronicle, and her mom). TV: *Bull* (CBS), *Daredevil* (Marvel). Film: *Like Father* (Netflix, with Kelsey Grammer), *Cerise* (Cannes Select), *Tobi* (Tribeca), *Going Public* (SoHo International), *The Grid* (NYCUFF 'Best TV Pilot' Award). Stage: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Lincoln Center, Ars Nova, Atlantic Theater, Inwood Shakespeare, Signature Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, *Like You Like It* (Broadway Records original studio cast album). Elisabeth runs a monthly 'salon' for women entrepreneurs in the entertainment industry. www.elisabethness.com, www.redheadsanonymous.com, and www.goodporpoise.com

THE COHORT

Ellen Snortland



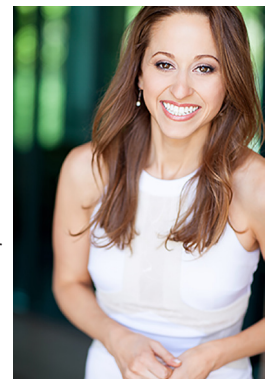
Ellen Snortland is lawyer, teacher, media, theater, first time author book coach and empowerment self-defense instructor. She is a regular opinion columnist for the Pasadena Weekly and a Huffington Post blogger. Ellen has been a speaker, U.N. Press Corps credentialed journalist and delegate for major United Nations World Conferences: the Women's conference in Beijing and Conference Against Racism in South Africa, and the Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. She was the president and co-president of the United Nations Association, Pasadena Chapter for years as well as being on the board.

Snortland got her BA in Theater and Film at UC Irvine and her J.D. at Loyola Law School in LA. She has participated with Landmark Worldwide educational programs since 1973. Ellen is the playwright and performer of a one woman show, "Now That She's Gone," which premiered at the New York Fringe Festival. An instructor and on the board of the 501 (c) 3 IMPACT Personal Safety of Los Angeles, Snortland is the author of "Beauty Bites Beast: Awakening the Warrior Within Women and Girls," a how-come book about women's personal safety featured on Dateline NBC and NPR. She is the director/writer/producer of the documentary Beauty Bites Beast: The Missing Conversation About Ending Violence. (Movie trailer here: <http://tinyurl.com/BBB-Trailer-2016>) Ellen is co-author of "The Safety Godmothers," along with fellow self-defense expert, Lisa Gaeta. Ellen's TEDxPasadena talk explores her mission to empower people through self-defense, <http://tinyurl.com/tedx-ellen>.

Snortland lives in Altadena, CA, with her husband, Ken Gruberman, and their 3 naughty dogs.

THE COHORT

Erica Mandy



Erica Mandy is an award-winning broadcast journalist, former TV news reporter and founder and host of the NewsWorthy. She combines more than a decade of journalism experience with her own voice and style to make it easier, faster and more fun to stay updated on the day's news in less than 10 minutes. As a TV news reporter at stations across the country, and most recently at CBS Los Angeles, Erica Mandy was live on the scene during terrorist attacks, wildfires and federal court rulings, to name a few. She's interviewed politicians, celebrities, industry leaders and everyday people doing extraordinary things. Erica left CBS Los Angeles to launch theNewsWorthy. The quick daily news roundup has since been featured on multiple platforms, including iTunes "New & Noteworthy" and Salon's "12 Essential Current Events Podcasts."

THE COHORT

Gabriela Tagliavini

Gabriela Tagliavini directed two #1 movies in the box-office in Mexico, "How To Break Up With Your Douchebag" (released in October 2017) and "Ladies Night" (released in 2004 and distributed by Disney). She made her feature film debut with The Woman Every Man Wants (2001) and she earned 3 best director awards for it. Her filmography also includes Border Run (2012), starring Sharon Stone and Billy Zane, and Without Men (2011), starring Eva Longoria, Kate Del Castillo and Christian Slater. In addition to her work in feature films, she has also collaborated on projects for MTV, VH1, CNN, ABC, Starz, FOX and HBO Films. She is represented by the CAA Agency.



THE COHORT

Geummy Joanna Lee

Born in South Carolina, Joanna was raised in the Middle East. Both her parents were involved in philanthropic work around the world, which is where Joanna's altruistic nature developed.

She unexpectedly found her interests for healthcare when she became ill at the age of 13 and had to fight for her life. Her journey to save her health lead her to study global health at Keck School of Medicine. Her passion to serve and empower her community carried over, and was awarded by the Los Angeles California State Senate as well as the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Joanna has worked in a cancer specializing hospital, as the Marketing Lead, and implemented innovative healthcare solutions. She was the first Seoul Rotary Club's Young Leaders Co-President and founded the first Annual Seoul Rotary Art Fair.

While living in Korea for the first time, Joanna experienced a surprising amount of discrimination; for her age, gender, body type, education level, hair color, skin tone, confidence, independence, and her status of being single.

Today, as Social Media Influencer, Joanna helps empower small businesses and social impact organizations with social media tools. Her love for storytelling lead her to found WeGolden Productions, the first all women Asian American production company. She has created a platform to support women creatives and help change the portrayal of women in media through multidimensional roles.

Her mission is to affect change by enabling others to find their inner voice, discover their true self and feel liberated and beautiful.



THE COHORT

Gina M. Reyes

Originally from Chicago, Gina started her Hollywood career at International Creative Management talent agency in Motion Picture Production and transitioned to Film Development in her post with Ms. Salma Hayek's production company, Ventanazul/MGM. Following her time at Ventanazul, Gina landed at 20th Century Fox Film as a Creative Executive in feature film development and made the move to television as Director for the Fox Writers Lab, Fox TV Directors Lab and the Fox/AFI Filmmakers Lab for Fox Broadcasting Company, 20th Century Fox Television, and 20th Century Fox Film. She is currently the Director of Content Development for Story House Entertainment, a Univision studio, with a focus on Spanish and English-language scripted series.

Gina attended Columbia College Chicago where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism and Television. She is on the board of directors for the Young Storytellers <https://www.youngstorytellers.com/>, the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative <http://annenberg.usc.edu/research/aii>, and is an active member of the NALIP <http://www.nalip.org/> women's board. Gina has also been recognized as one of twenty Latin Americans Making a Difference for American Independent Film Today on Indiewire <http://www.indiewire.com/2016/12/latin-americans-film-industry-influence-1201745573/>



THE COHORT

Greta McAnany

Greta McAnany is an award-winning filmmaker and entrepreneur. After experiencing extreme gender bias in Hollywood, she co-founded the text message video discovery service for Gen Z/Millennial women: Blue Fever- a Techstars backed company. Previously, Greta graduated (proudly) from USC and began her film career by starting her own production company and producing the feature film Bite Size. It was released on TV, Netflix, Amazon and was featured in People Magazine, The Washington Post and on ABC. After that, Greta co-founded the distribution company X-Factor Films, which sold movies and shows to Fullscreen, Sundance Now and AMC. She is a recipient of film grants from Morgan Freeman and his Rock River Foundation, Chicken & Egg Pictures and the prestigious Thornton Foundation. Beyond her work in film (currently a co-producer for the amazing documentary about the global sanitation crisis Flush Revolution), she has produced award-winning live newscasts and reported as a theatre critic for LA Stage Times, where she interviewed Oscar and Tony-winning writers, directors and actors. Because she believes in giving back (and karma), Greta serves on the Inspired Stars Council for Arnold Schwarzenegger's non-profit After School All-Stars. She is dedicated to empowering young women through media and is addicted to musical theatre and nachos.



THE COHORT

Jen McGowan



Jen McGowan is a director based in Los Angeles. Her first feature KELLY & CAL (starring Juliette Lewis, Cybill Shepherd & Jonny Weston) premiered at SXSW Film Festival where she won the Gamechanger Award. The film was released by IFC Films to rave reviews.

McGowan got her start with award-winning short films, CONFESSIONS OF A LATE BLOOMER and TOUCH, both of which played at over a hundred festivals in the US and abroad.

She is the creator of filmpowered.com, a skill-sharing, networking and jobs resource for professional women in Film and Television. With over 1,400 active members, Film Powered was named Best in LA of 2016 by LA Weekly, was featured on Indiewire and is part of the Sundance Women's Initiative Resource.

A Film Independent Fellow, finalist for the Clint Eastwood Filmmakers Award, and recipient of the AWD Breakout Award for Excellence in Directing, she was also named one of Vulture's Women Directors Hollywood Should Be Hiring.

McGowan is currently in post on her second feature film, RUST CREEK.

THE COHORT

Jenn Page



Jenn Page has directed and produced multiple feature films, branded series, music videos, live stage shows, and a TV talk show. Determined and passionate, Jenn has a reputation for taking on tough projects and leading them to excel against the odds. Although she's directed in almost every genre, she's most drawn to romantic dramedy and musical projects. Recently, she wrapped production on her 6th feature film "Playing with Beethoven."

THE COHORT

Joanna (Zimelis) Goldblatt



Joanna (Zimelis) Goldblatt leads the Media & Entertainment Sales team in Los Angeles within Google's advertising technology group, DoubleClick. Joanna's Sales team partners with movie studios, TV networks and gaming & ticketing companies to bring insights and automation to their media buying efforts. A ten-year veteran at Google, Joanna has worked within several Sales functions at the company, including selling some of the first YouTube ad products.

Prior to Google, Joanna worked in the publishing industry and at NBC's Dateline. Joanna is a graduate of Dartmouth College and a Chicago native.

THE COHORT

Joanna Popper



Joanna Popper is a Hollywood and Silicon Valley media and marketing executive with experience in TV, Digital, Film and VR/AR. She has extensive experience in TV and Digital Content and Marketing and has a passion for VR and creating impactful stories in an innovative and immersive way. Most recently she's been the EVP of Media and Marketing at Singularity University and VP Marketing at NBCUniversal. Joanna developed a TV show partnership with NBC and Singularity University for "The Awesome Show," a new broadcast TV series on tech and innovation produced by Mark Burnett with host Chris Hardwick and is serving as an EP on the show. She is advising many immersive computing and digital media companies focused on VR gaming, holograms, haptic touch and video engagement as well as developing VR/AR content in the education and wellness spaces. She has spoken in the US and internationally on VR/AR, the future of media, retail, sports, journalism and diversity in tech. She has degrees from Northwestern University and The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

THE COHORT

Joy Donnell



Joy Donnell is a media entrepreneur and creative activist driven by the power of voice. Her vision is to create media that increases humanity. With a background in celebrity PR, luxury branding, content strategy and media distribution, she has helped with strategy and implementation of publicity and content campaigns for Warner Bros., Rolls-Royce, The Africa Channel and many other multinational entities.

Joy has spent several years fighting violence against women and girls and combating sex trafficking. Previous projects include V Day Santa Monica, V Day West LA and The Carissa Project. She's a tireless supporter of female-led initiatives and entrepreneurship. As an international speaker, Joy shares insight on branding, multi-platform content strategy and public image. Joy recently guest lectured at UCLA's School of Film, Television and Digital Media on that very subject matter. She also speaks about the role diversity plays in securing true positive, ethical luxury fashion and brand awareness.

Joy is Co-Founder and CEO of Parajin Media Corp and Editor of its flagship fashion lifestyle publication, Vanichi Magazine . Her work with Vanichi highlights rising luxury brands that are the epitome of conscious supply chains and help build economy as well as gender parity. She's also a HuffPost contributor and advises Creative Visions Foundation and Charles and Company luxury tea. She can be found online at Joy Donnell Official and on Instagram under @doitinpublic.

THE COHORT

Julie Smolyansky



Julie Smolyansky became the youngest female CEO of a publicly held firm when she took over Lifeway Foods at age 27. Since that time, Julie has bolstered the company's growth trajectory with innovative product development and marketing strategies, boosting annual revenues to over \$130 million by 2016 as Lifeway has expanded distribution throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Europe. She was recently named to Fortune Business '40 under 40,' Fortune's 55 most influential women on Twitter and Fast Company's Most Creative People In Business 1000. Julie served a multi-year stint as a member of the United Nations Foundation Global Entrepreneurs Council and was part of the 2015 class of Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum. She has produced several documentaries focused on human rights and social justice, including "The Homestretch," "Honor Diaries," and "The Hunting Ground" and recently founded the nonprofit Test400k. She lives in Chicago and is the mother of two girls.

THE COHORT

Jyoti Sarda



Jyoti Sarda is the Founder/CEO of Nimble Media LLC, a content production and strategic consulting company. She brings twenty years as a senior-level global marketing executive with major studios and blue chip brands to developing impact-creating, humanistic documentary and narrative content. She's currently developing *And She Could Be Next*, a multi-part documentary series that introduces audiences to the women of color mobilizing to become the next generation of American political leaders. Jyoti was co-executive producer of *Equal Means Equal* (released in 2016), an award-winning documentary feature that makes an unflinching examination of the discrimination against women built into the US legal system. Prior to launching Nimble Media, she served as Vice President of Marketing at Paramount Home Media International where she led all facets of global marketing operations for Paramount partner brands including DreamWorks, Marvel, Lucasfilm, CBS, Showtime, MTV & Nickelodeon, while overseeing the international marketing of Paramount's film catalog and acquisitions. Prior to Paramount, she worked at Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, spearheading the international new releases of high profile franchises (*Avatar*, *X-Men*) and specialty titles from Fox Searchlight. Jyoti began her career in advertising as an executive at agencies Ogilvy & Mather, JWT and MZA, working with clients such as Kraft, Dole, and Mattel.

A long time proponent for gender and racial equality, Jyoti serves on the boards of GlobalGirl Media, an organization that trains young women to become civically engaged through citizen journalism; LAANE, a leading LA-based social justice nonprofit; the ERA Education Project, which is dedicated to passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; Ellevest, a professional women's networking organization. She was the Co-Executive Director/Producer of the #GirlsGovern project (2016), a joint venture with GlobalGirl Media and Participant to promote civic engagement among minority young women. Since the 2016 election, Jyoti has focused her advocacy on improving the diversity of elected officials. She has hosted events for numerous political candidates, participated in panels regarding the gender gap in politics and consulted with various organizations such as Listen Up America Pac (LUAP), the Western Organizing Workshop (WOW) and United State of Women (USOW). Jyoti graduated from USC and received her EMBA from UCLA, making her a rare Bruin/Trojan. Jyoti is thrilled and delighted to join #50WomenCan, with the goal of achieving gender parity in media and entertainment by 2025.

THE COHORT

Kamala Lopez



Actress, filmmaker, activist and President of Heroica Films, Kamala Lopez, has launched the movement and film Equal Means Equal, to educate Americans about the importance of equal rights under federal law for women.

Born in New York City to an Indian mother and a Venezuelan father, Lopez has worked as an actor in over thirty feature films including *Born in East L.A.*, *Deep Cover*, *The Burning Season* (winner of 2 Emmys, 3 Golden Globes and the Humanitas Prize), *Clear and Present Danger*, *Lightning Jack*, and *I Heart Huckabees*. She has starred in over sixty television shows including *Medium*, *24*, *Alias*, *NYPD Blue*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Miami Vice*, and *21 Jump Street* (winner of the Imagen Award). She hosted the PBS series *Wired Science*.

Lopez, a Yale University graduate in Philosophy and Theatre Studies, formed production company Heroica Films in 1995 with the mission to write, direct and produce media for women, about women and utilizing women both in front and behind the camera.

Her film, *A Single Woman*, about the life of first Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin, won the 2009 Exceptional Merit in Media Award from the National Women's Political Caucus. In 2013 her short Spanish-language film "Ese Beso" won the Jury Award at the Senorita Cinema Festival and the Audience Award at the Boyle Heights Latina Film Festival.

In 2009 Lopez began the ERA Education Project, creating multi-media PSA's, video FAQ's, social media campaigns, educational videos & sites, piloting curriculum and travelling around the country speaking to groups as well as students in colleges and high schools. She has been the Keynote or Featured Speaker in venues as disparate as the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery, the United Nations, The National Arts Club, at the YaleWomen Global Conference as well as to "at-risk" girls and other children in L.A. Mayor Villaraigosa's Partnership for Los Angeles schools.

Lopez's work on behalf of women and girls has been recognized by Los Angeles County's Board of Supervisors and the Women's Commission who named her 2015 Woman of the Year (Arts/Media). In 2012 Women's eNews selected her as one of the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century and the National Women's Political Caucus named her the 2011 Woman of Courage. In 2016, the State of California awarded her the Latino Spirit Award for Achievement in Advocacy and Entertainment and the national civil rights group Equal Rights Advocates named her Champion of Justice.

Equal Means Equal is a labor of love that Lopez embarked on over eight years ago when she first realized that women still did not have Constitutional protections in the United States and that most Americans did not know that.

THE COHORT

Karin Hayes

Karin Hayes is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. She received the duPont-Columbia University Award for *The Kidnapping of Ingrid Betancourt*, and the Target® Filmmaker Award for *Pip & Zastrow: An American Friendship*, a film about friendship, civil rights and race relations. Hayes directed/produced *Held Hostage* in Colombia, the story of three American contractors captured by FARC guerrillas in Colombia, and co-authored the book *Hostage Nation: Colombia's Guerrilla Army and the Failed War on Drugs* (Knopf 2010). Her feature documentary *WE'RE NOT BROKE* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and currently streams on digital platforms. Hayes produced/directed two episodes of the series *Truth and Power* (currently on Netflix), and has produced for PBS, National Geographic, Discovery, Travel Channel, and Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. She has also worked as a cameraperson on documentary films including the 2015 Emmy Award-winning PBS POV documentary *When I Walk*, *Magnificent Burden*, and *Disarm*, about the international campaign to ban landmines. She is a member of the Producer's Guild of America, Film Fatales, and the International Documentary Association.



THE COHORT

KARLA ESCOBAR

Karla S. Escobar is the founder & CEO of Wise Owl Media Group, a multimedia company based in Los Angeles, CA that specializes in video & post production, media training, and production consulting.

Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Karla received her Bachelor of Arts in Film Production and Editing from California State University Northridge, where she is still involved as alumni with the school and sorority Delta Delta Delta.

Before becoming an entrepreneur Karla worked as a coordinating producer for CBS's Emmy award winning show, *Entertainment Tonight* for over 5 years interviewing and producing segments with the likes of Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Justin Bieber, and more. She also coordinated the first live Grammy broadcast, and multiple specials with TV Guide.

In 2014 she took the risk and began her multimedia company, Wise Owl Media Group. Since its launch Wise Owl has worked with renowned brands, artists, and companies like ASCAP, Cengage Learning, Party Rock Records, Bang Zoom Entertainment, Jessica Sanchez (*American Idol*), and more, creating one of a kind content and features.

Karla has always been passionate about giving back to charitable organizations and has volunteered with St. Jude Children's Hospital, Little Kids Rock, and served as a board member for Project Lead Kindly. She also serves as a board member for the Westlake chapter of NAPW.



THE COHORT

Kelly Harrington



Kelly Harrington grew up in Australia, and studied Photography at R.M.I.T, realizing that her business ambition and starving artist life were worlds apart. Kelly quickly realized that combining the two would take her to the number one photographic company in the world at the time, being Kodak Eastman. Kelly spent seven years working in a variety of capacities from technical training, to sales and finally finding her love of marketing.

With a passion to experience the world and not just through pictures, it was time to move to the United Kingdom. Ironically enough, a divergence from pictures was not her destiny, with immediate effect joining Warner Brothers and then very fortunately being scouted by NBC Universal.

Kelly says she is proud to be part of the NBC Universal family and calls it home. Currently in the role of Vice President of Global Brand Marketing, for Catalog, 1440 Entertainment and Licensing here in Los Angeles after a move two years ago.

She oversees and orchestrates all aspects of Universal's Catalog Home Entertainment, feature film marketing including creative advertising, media, publicity, promotions, digital marketing, and administration.

During her time, she has developed marketing campaigns complementing NBC Universal's theatrical campaigns within Home Entertainment including, most recently, The Fast & Furious franchise, Illumination Powerhouses like Despicable Me, The Secret Life of Pets and Sing and the Fifty Shades franchise. Prior to her move to Los Angeles she spent five years as Head of Catalog and Customer Marketing in lovely London, overseeing retail and e-commerce strategy and execution across product and display. Kelly is incredibly inquisitive and loves challenges in all shapes and sizes, this is exciting for her.

THE COHORT

LOLITA LOPEZ



NBC Los Angeles, Investigative Reporter/Anchor, NBC Universal Southern California.

Lolita Lopez is an investigative reporter and anchor at NBC4 Southern California and has been part of the team since 2011. Fluent in Spanish, Lopez is widely recognized in Latino communities throughout Southern California. She has covered a range of significant national stories from the Christopher Dorner manhunt to the Los Angeles Kings Stanley Cup win in 2012. Earlier in her career, she was stationed at Ground Zero for nearly two weeks while covering the World Trade Center tragedy.

A journalist for more than 20 years, Lopez feels privileged to tell peoples' stories and honored to meet many inspiring people along the way. As a breast cancer survivor, she has shared her own challenges during treatment and recovery with a series of stories on her courageous fight against the disease as a working mother and wife.

Prior to joining NBC4, Lopez had a successful, decade-long career at WPIX-TV in New York, where she served as a general assignment reporter and, later, a sports anchor. Earlier in her career, she was one of only two reporters on Court TV's issue-oriented legal program "Pros and Cons" with Nancy Grace. While working on the show, Lopez covered many controversial cases, including the parole hearing of John Lennon's murderer.

Over the course of her career, Lopez has been recognized with several industry awards, including several Los Angeles area Emmy Awards for her live anchoring and investigative reports. She won two New York area Emmy Awards for 'Best Sports Feature' and 'Best Live Sports Coverage.' She also was praised by New York's largest Spanish language daily newspaper, El Diario La Prensa, as one of the most outstanding women in the community.

While not working, Lopez cherishes spending quality time with family and friends sharing stories with lots of good food and laughter. She also enjoys participating at charitable events that support important causes impacting Southern Californians, such as the local American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, the Multiple Sclerosis Society's MS Walk and the Network for a Healthy California, which promotes healthy eating and physical activity within lower income communities.

Born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, Lopez moved to Houston at age four when her father became the women's track coach at Rice University. A lifelong sports fan, Lopez graduated from Harvard University in 1998, where she had been on the University's volleyball and track teams for four years. She resides in the Pasadena area with her husband and daughter.

THE COHORT

MARIA GIESE



Maria Giese wrote and directed the 1996 feature film *When Saturday Comes* starring Sean Bean and Pete Postlethwaite, and the award-winning digital feature film *Hunger* based on the novel by Nobel Prize-winner Knut Hamsun. She has also directed two Cine Gold Eagle winning short films and has written three screenplays that have been produced into feature films. She is the founder and president of Women Directors in Hollywood, founding chair of the Women's Media Summit and the Women's Media Action Coalition, a member of the Directors Guild of America, the Alliance of Women Directors, and Film Fatales, and serves on the advisory board of Cinefemme.

In 2015 after 4 years of activism in the Directors Guild of America, Giese became the person who instigated the biggest industry-wide Federal investigation for women directors in Hollywood history, going on now. In *The New York Times*, Manohla Dargis referred to her work as "a veritable crusade." She is now a subject in several feature-length documentaries in production and has been signed by the Boston literary agency Kneerim & Williams to write a book, "Troublemaker," about her work getting the ACLU and EEOC to investigate this issue— the ramifications of which are resonating globally.

Giese holds a BA from Wellesley College and a Master's degree from UCLA's Graduate School of Theatre, Film and Television. In 2016 she was awarded the prestigious EQUITY AWARD from Stanford University. She founded the activist agitator web forum Women Directors in Hollywood, and her articles have appeared in *Ms. Magazine*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Elle*, *IndieWIRE*, and *Film Inquiry*, Giese herself has appeared on CNN Global, BBC International, ABC Live, Sky TV UK Live, Bloomberg TV, and NPR, and she has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *Cosmopolitan*, *LA Weekly*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Variety*, *The Guardian*, among others internationally.

THE COHORT

Michelle Edgar



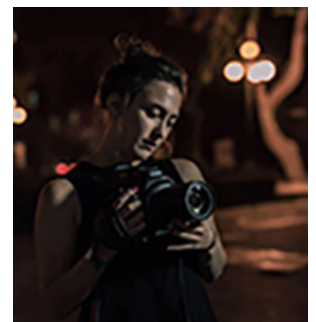
Michelle Edgar is an agent at ICM Partners in Global Branded Entertainment and Concerts. Michelle's expertise and focus is securing partnerships for ICM Partners artists across all genres of music. She founded The XX Project over 4 years ago and has made it part of her everyday life to inspire and empower women in business through this network and platform by providing women with resources and tools to enhance their lives.

As an executive in the music business for over five years, Michelle has previously worked at FRUKT, KIDinaKORNER, Red Light Management and Warner Bros Records, focusing on strategic partnerships and artist development. She has worked on campaigns for the likes of Imagine Dragons, The Black Keys, Skylar Grey, Theophilus London, Gary Clark Jr., Steve Angello, Miguel, Mariah Carey, JD McCrary and Tina Knowles WACO foundation.

Michelle also founded Music Unites: a non-profit organization funding sustainable music education programs in underserved public schools. The organization launched the Music Unites Academy program in partnership with the Compton Unified School District. Her love for music stems from her training as a concert pianist at Manhattan School of Music and Northwestern University.

THE COHORT

Monica Wise



Monica Wise is a Colombian American documentary filmmaker and video journalist. Wise focuses on sharing intimate stories of resistance that span borders and highlights feminist, LGBTI, and indigenous narratives. Her work has appeared in The Guardian, The Atlantic, TeleSUR, OZY, AJ+, MSNBC, PBS, History Now, and NBC Latino. She worked on Pamela Yates' "500 Years," a feature documentary following indigenous resistance in Guatemala, which premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival. Wise was a producer and cinematographer on "The New Deciders," a PBS special with Maria Hinojosa. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College and has produced work from Haiti, Cuba, Costa Rica, Chile, and Colombia. She also recently completed a reporting trip as a IWMF Adelante fellow to El Salvador and Guatemala. She is currently working on a documentary series about female leaders in resistance, as well as two documentaries investigating unresolved human rights cases in Guatemala and Mexico. www.monicawiserobles.com

THE COHORT

Munika Lay



Munika Lay is responsible for business development and finance at End Cue, the production company behind Jon Watts' *COP CAR* and Netflix's upcoming stop-motion animated feature *BUBBLES*.

Munika joined End Cue from Paramount Pictures, where she led the Strategic Planning & Business Development group. Prior to that, Munika worked in Planning & Analysis at Warner Bros. She was also an integral part of QED International, the independent film financing and international sales company behind *DISTRICT 9* and *FURY*. She started her career at WME Entertainment in the Motion Picture Literary group.

Munika hails from Long Beach, California, and she earned her MBA from USC's Marshall School of Business and her BA in Communication from Stanford University.

THE COHORT

Nancy De Los Santos



Born and raised in Chicago, Nancy began her career as Assistant Producer and Producer for Roger Ebert and Gene Siskel's film review program *At The Movies*. Nancy has written for Lifetime, The Disney Channel, as well as the Showtime drama series *Resurrection Blvd.*, the PBS series *American Family*, and Hulu's *East Los High*. She's also been on the writing staff the National Council of La Raza's Alma Awards, hosted by Eva Longoria.

Nancy is the Associate Producer on the feature films *Selena* starring Jennifer Lopez and *Edward James Olmos*, and *My Family, Mi Familia* starring Jimmy Smits. She received her degree in Radio, Television, and Film from the University of Texas at Austin.

She is co-writer and co-producer of *The Bronze Screen: One Hundred Years of the Latino Image in Hollywood Cinema*, a feature documentary that aired on Cinemax/HBO, and was presented on the PBS series, *Voces*. She is also the co-producer and co-writer of a documentary on the life of legendary Chicano troubadour and composer, Lalo Guerrero. *Lalo Guerrero: The Original Chicano*, aired on PBS, as part of the LPB series, *Voces*.

THE COHORT

PENNY SEGAL



Born and raised in Southern California, I am the youngest of four siblings, making me the baby of the family.

I went to California State University, Fullerton aka Cal State Disneyland where I received my Bachelor's degree in Radio/TV/Film from. During my senior year, I worked at Disneyland and my school and work schedules allowed me the opportunity to do my college internship at Paramount Studios on the series - Family Ties.

After graduation, a fellow student (now an Emmy winning editor) helped me get my first paying job on Cheers. While I could say the rest is history, and looking back it feels like history, it was the beginning of a career that took me from multi camera (Family Ties, Cheers, Coach), to single camera (Bronx Zoo) to reality series (Ripley's Believe It Or Not!) and features (Dick Tracy). In the early stages I took any job I could get believing that everything I learned would make me a better employee. Each job gave me the opportunity to learn and take that knowledge to the next. My jobs varied from production assistant, accounting clerk and production secretary eventually focusing on post production.

My career has always been freelance - with the longest job being two continuous years - and the shortest a few weeks. I had always been freelance but in 2017 I decided to start saying yes to opportunities and that is when my resume was sent to Netflix and that takes me to present day where I am no longer freelance but hired as a staff employee by Netflix as their Manager, Post Production - Kids & family vertical

THE COHORT

Rachel Feldman



Rachel Feldman has directed more than 60 hours of television, including episodic drama, single camera comedy, and movies. She holds an MFA in directing from NYU and has taught directing at the MFA level at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. First a child actor, she worked her way up production as a storyboard artist on studio pictures.

Feldman hopes to soon be directing FAIR FIGHT, a political thriller she co-wrote, based on the life of Fair Pay activist Lilly Ledbetter. Double Nickel Entertainment is producing the Athena List winning script.

Feldman has directed many short films, most recently the 2017 production of HERE NOW, starring Amy Brenneman, shot by ASC cinematographer Nancy Schreiber. The film was made on grants from Panavision and Technicolor. Feldman's films have garnered 25 international awards and been broadcast on PBS and HBO.

Feldman recently sold her pilot KINKS to producers Pillar Segal and studio eOne Television. The script is a 2017 WGA Writer's Access Program winner and selected as a WGA Drama Queens best pilot.

Feldman chaired the DGA Women's Steering Committee and is a vocal activist for gender parity behind the camera.

Rachel Feldman
Director/Writer

WWW.RACHELFELDMAN.COM

THE COHORT

ROSSER GOODMAN



Rosser Goodman is a member of the Producers Guild of America, Alliance of Women Directors, Film Fatales and the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. She is the owner of Circle Content; a global, full service creative, production & media company based in Los Angeles.

For two decades Ms. Goodman has successfully managed and led over 100 feature films, television pilots, commercials and music videos as an assistant director or producer. A partial list of clients includes: Disney, Dreamworks, Facebook, HBO, Lionsgate, MTV, NBC/Universal, Paramount, Showtime, Sony, Sundance and Warner Brothers.

Ms. Goodman is an award-winning director/writer. Her screenplay *mongoose8* won the Panasonic Filmmakers' Award. Her films won Audience and Best Filmmaker Awards at film festivals across the world. Her directing work currently airs on Netflix, Hulu, The Sundance Channel, PBS, and iTunes.

Ms. Goodman attended New College and pursued a graduate film degree at Anthropology Film Center in Santa Fe. She taught classes at the Learning Annex and Filmmmentor.com. Her successful humanitarian efforts include Board of Directors at "Diamond in the Raw," an organization assisting at-risk girls where she earned "Board Member of the Year." Later, she received Lifetime Achievement Award from Millennia Scope Entertainment Foundation which eradicates homophobia through all media

THE COHORT

Sarah-Jane Murray



SJ's love of storytelling began at a young age. During her childhood in Ireland and France, her father read to her every night -- especially J.R.R Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. Today, as an author and tenured professor at Baylor University, she imparts the tools of insanely great storytelling to her students, and to participants worldwide in her highly sought-after story workshops.

Inspired by her own research into how stories shape our cultural landscapes, and the field of Story Design™, in which she is recognized internationally as a pioneer, SJ is deeply committed to shifting the needle on important social issues through film and media. She has written, produced, advised and executive produced several acclaimed feature-length documentaries. More recently, she is migrating back towards her early love for narrative feature films, with several projects in development, and has directed several short films -- both for brands (including an award-winning project for CatSpring Yaupon), and for an exclusive project featuring trafficking survivor and activist Brooke Axtell. Her work in film has been released at major film festivals and acquired by major distributors, including PBS and NETFLIX.

SJ is also passionate about using storytelling to build movements for individuals and businesses and is a sought-after business strategist for entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs, who understands the power of story to hack growth and scale market share by helping companies break into blue oceans.

She is the founding co-chair of the NEXUS working group on film, media & story, and has spoken and curated panels for the WhiteHouse, the United Nations, Sundance, Harvard, the Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris, and beyond. She is the author of two books and has delivered two very popular TEDx talks, "Hardwired for Story" (2014) and "Write and Wrong" (2015). She lives in Austin with her feisty Wheatonpoo, Coco Chanel, and travels frequently to both coasts.

THE COHORT

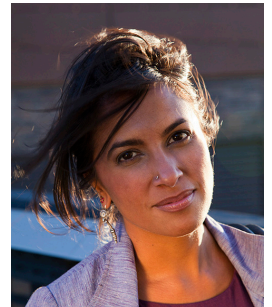
Sarah Moshman



Sarah Moshman is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and TEDx speaker whose work has been featured on Upworthy, Marie Claire, CNN, and Good Morning America. After directing two short documentaries about female empowerment in young women, (*Girls Rock! Chicago* (2010) and *Growing up Strong: Girls on the Run* (2012)) she set out to direct her first feature doc - *The Empowerment Project: Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things* (2014) which has been screened over 700 times around the US and around the world in schools, groups, organizations and corporations starting conversations about gender equality. With Indieflix as the distributor, the film has been sponsored by major brands like Nordstrom, American Girl and Microsoft to spread this message far and wide. Sarah's second feature doc, *Losing Sight of Shore* follows the incredible journey of four women who rowed across the Pacific Ocean and was released globally on Netflix in May 2017. Next up she's directing a documentary examining sexual harassment in the workplace. Sarah is dedicated to telling stories that uplift, inform and inspire as well as showcase strong female role models on screen.

THE COHORT

Shalini Kantayya



Filmmaker and eco-activist Shalini Kantayya recently directed the season finale for the National Geographic series *Breakthrough*, broadcast in June 2017 with Executive Producer Ron Howard. Her debut feature film, *Catching the Sun*, about the race for a clean energy future, premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival and was named a 2016 New York Times Critics' Pick. The film released globally in 35 languages on Netflix on Earth Day with Executive Producer Leonardo DiCaprio, and was nominated for Best Documentary by the Environmental Media Association.

Shalini Kantayya finished in the top 10 out of 12,000 filmmakers on Fox network's *On the Lot*, a show by Steven Spielberg in search of Hollywood's next great director. The mission of her production company, 7th Empire Media, is to create a culture of human rights and a sustainable planet through wildly imaginative media that makes real impact. Her science-fiction film about the world water crisis, *a DROP of LIFE*, won Best Short at Palm Beach International, and was broadcast on national television in India and the U.S. The film was used as a tool to organize for water rights in 40 villages across Africa—making a real-world impact. Kantayya is a Sundance Documentary Film Fellow, a TED Fellow, and a Firelight Media Lab Fellow. A William J. Fulbright Scholar, she has received recognition from IFP Spotlight on Documentary, the New York Women in Film and Television, and the Jerome Hill Centennial. For more information: shalini.tv

THE COHORT

Valerie Madden



Valerie Madden is a multi-award-winning marketing and design Creative Director / Art Director leading teams to create key art and brand campaigns launching and sustaining TV, Movie and streaming content. You'll recognize her work applied to many of the highest-rated and much loved original series and films created by Amazon Studios, NBCUniversal, Universal Studios, HBO, CBS, 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros., Paramount, and Sony. A few favorites out of about 250; Transparent, Mozart In The Jungle, Good Girls Revolt, Red Oaks. Catastrophe, The Tick, Will & Grace, The Office, 30 Rock, Heroes, Chuck, Law & Order, Celebrity Apprentice, Parenthood, Medium & The Olympics.

Valerie is also committed to supporting connective community volunteer programs, and events focused on art, entertainment, and diversity. She serves as a leadership volunteer for OUTFEST LGBT Film Festival after a 4-year stint as a Board of Director / Officer and served five years on the steering committee for the LA LGBT Center's An Evening Of Women, and two of her ten years at NBCU, was selected to co-lead OUT@NBCUniversal.

THE COHORT

Whitney Davis



Whitney Davis joined CBS Entertainment Diversity as a Manager in December 2013 and reports to Tiffany Smith-Anoa'i, CBS, EVP, Entertainment Diversity, Inclusion and Communications. Davis manages several programs including CBS On Tour, The Diversity Symposium, CBS Diversity Writers Mentor Program, DGA Directors Initiative and the successful CBS Diversity Sketch Comedy Showcase, while serving as a liaison between CBS Entertainment and its affiliate diversity Coalitions. Prior to her current role, Davis was one of three selected to participate in the pilot class of The Emerging Creative Leadership Experience – a rigorous two year program initiated to identify and develop new leaders at CBS Entertainment. Davis began her career at CBS as a Page in August 2006. She worked her way up to Digital Journalist and Associate Producer for the CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley, The CBS Early Show, and CBS News.com, covering a wide range of news stories from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan to the shooting of congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and other major news events.

THE COHORT

Winnie Kemp



Winnie Kemp serves as SVP of television development at Super Deluxe, a disruptive entertainment brand dedicated to cultivating diverse auteurs and amplifying unconventional creative voices. The company, which is a division of Turner and operates independently in Downtown Los Angeles, has been described by The Los Angeles Times as shaping the future of television. Winnie, herself, was among Adweek's 2017 list of female disrupters in media.

Winnie, 37, is a champion of unexpected and under-told stories that have emotional resonance. You can see her touch in such projects as *This Close*, a groundbreaking dramedy series about friendship that's created by, written by and starring Shoshannah Stern and Josh Feldman, both of whom are deaf. The show got a straight-to-series order after premiering at the Sundance Film Festival in 2017 and will premiere on AMC's Sundance Now in February 2018.

Winnie has also been at the helm of *BKPI*, a series about three women who fight crime in their immigrant Brooklyn neighborhood where residents don't always feel comfortable going to the cops. It premiered at Series Mania in Paris before screening at the Los Angeles Film Festival and Outfest, and is now being developed for television. IndieWire compared the experience of watching these "three badass, working-class women of color" fight crime "akin to that of watching *Wonder Woman*."

Winnie's show *Caring*, about two moms and their nannies striving to find a balance between taking care of others and themselves, premiered at the New York Television Festival in October 2017. The show deals with immigration and class among other issues.

Outside of work, Winnie is active in her community. She lives in Venice and is a District Captain for the Sister District Project, which sends volunteers to neighboring purple and red districts in hopes of flipping them blue.

Winnie grew up in a Taiwanese family in the suburbs of Chicago and went to Stanford as an engineering major. After working in investment management in New York, she moved to Los Angeles in 2007. Prior to joining Super Deluxe in 2015, she worked in independent film finance at CAA and in development at CBS Films.

THE COHORT

Xan Aranda



Emmy nominee Xan Aranda is a director, producer, writer, and consultant with projects ranging from fiction and documentary film and TV to branded content, commercials, music videos, and more.

Xan's Emmy nomination was alongside Jill Soloway for Transparent's THIS IS ME, a collection of short films for which she served as Producer and Co-Executive Producer. With Mark and Jay Duplass, Xan developed and serves as an Executive Producer of HBO's ROOM 104. She also produced BLUE JAY with Mel Eslyn, starring Mark Duplass and Sarah Paulson, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

After its world premiere at the New York Film Festival and Lincoln Center, Xan's directorial debut ANDREW BIRD: FEVER YEAR screened in over 90 festivals and took home nine awards.

Her collaborators have included Focus Features, Amazon, Epitaph Records, Grammy-nominee Neko Case, Starbucks, the U.S. Department of Education, and a wide variety of acclaimed independent content creators.

Top Two Up and Coming Women

THE COHORT

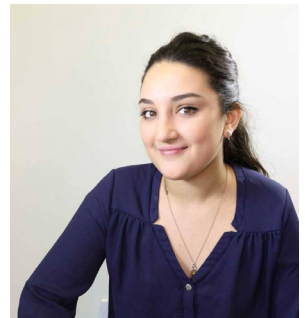
Jennifer Morgan



As a current Mount Saint Mary's University student, Jennifer has been deeply immersed in the world of film, media, and social justice from the start of her educational and professional career. In the past, she has worked with Lionsgate Entertainment, Live Nation, SoulPancake, and Wayfarer Entertainment to assist in creating meaningful and empowering content as an intern, production assistant, and freelance videographer/editor. Currently, she is the President of Women in Film and Media, a student-run organization with a mission to educate young women on the basis gender parity in the entertainment industry. As an aspiring industry executive and filmmaker, Jennifer hopes to create content that changes the way people see the world in a creative and innovative way, and continue to take the lead in creating change for women in entertainment and for women everywhere.

THE COHORT

Zoe Malhotra



Zoe Malhotra is a current junior at the University of Southern California, majoring in Media Arts and Practice at the School of Cinematic Arts. Within her program she studies multi-media literacy and critical making, primarily focusing on documentary storytelling and creative producing. Professionally, she has worked on a range of sets and productions, produced for large-scale award shows and premieres, and currently works for Blue Fever Entertainment. She is interested in the social responsibilities of the entertainment industry, and wants to support diverse content and content makers. Zoe's greatest professional vision is a career in which, when finished, has paved a pathway of acceptance, equal opportunity, and respect for storytellers and media makers everywhere.