

2023 SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DAVID EILENBERG



David Eilenberg is the Head of Content for Roku Media. He is responsible for the overall vision, creative strategy, and go-to-market execution, both domestically and in international territories, for content across Roku Media, as well as for setting and achieving long-term growth goals and acquisition of target audiences.

As the leader of Roku Media's Content organization, Eilenberg is responsible for the overall content mix inside Roku's proprietary AVOD service, The Roku Channel, and oversees the teams responsible for Roku Originals, Direct Licensing and Programming, AVOD/FAST, Sports, Roku Brand Studio, and "This Old House." In his prior role as Head of Roku Originals, Eilenberg and his team brought highly anticipated titles, including *"WEIRD: The Al Yankovic Story," "Meet Me in Paris," "The Great American Baking Show," "Die Hart 2: Die Harter,"* and many more to millions of streamers to enjoy for free.

Before joining Roku, Eilenberg most recently served as chief creative officer at ITV America, responsible for the company's creative strategy and growth opportunities across six production labels – ITV Entertainment, Leftfield Pictures, Sirens Media, Thinkfactory Media, High Noon Entertainment, and Good Caper Content – and leveraging global formats for the U.S. market. Among the many series he has spearheaded are the multi-Emy-winning *"Queer Eye"* (Netflix); *"Love Island"* (CBS and now Peacock); *"Hell's Kitchen"* (Fox); *"The Chase"* (ABC); *"My Mom, Your Dad"* (HBO Max); and *"Rat in the Kitchen"* (TBS).

Prior to ITV, Eilenberg was senior vice president of unscripted development, late night and specials at Turner, overseeing such series as *"King of the Nerds"* and *"Cold Justice,"* as well as the late-night *"CONAN,"* starring Conan O'Brien. Before that, he was head of development and current programming for Mark Burnett Productions, where he helped develop and produce award-winning hits including *"The Voice," "Shark Tank,"* and *"Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?"* A prolific creator, writer, and producer, Eilenberg was head writer on *"The Weakest Link"* and a writer on *"Da Ali G Show."* He also was co-director/producer of the critically acclaimed documentary *"On Common Ground,"* and he co-created the series *"Dismissed."*



CRIS ABREGO

Cris Abrego is the CEO of Hyphenate Media Group, a media holding company and premium content studio, which he co-founded together with Eva Longoria in 2023. The entertainment venture invests in creator-led production companies and develops, sells, and produces scripted and unscripted originals. As part of the partnership between the two co-founders, Hyphenate acquired the full slate of Longoria's independent production label, UnbeliEVABLE Entertainment, to help jumpstart its own independent studio function.

Renowned as an entrepreneur, entertainment executive, award-winning producer, showrunner, and philanthropist, Abrego also serves as Chairman of the Americas for international media and entertainment powerhouse Banijay, which made a strategic investment in Hyphenate Media Group to accelerate its growth.

Abrego oversees both the North American and Latin American divisions of Endemol Shine Group, the global independent content creator, producer, and distributor with a diverse portfolio of companies that are behind some of the most prominent hit television formats and series in the world.

The former co-founder and chief executive of Endemol Shine owned studio 51 Minds Entertainment, Abrego is one of the leading creators and producers of reality television in the U.S., recognized globally for pioneering a new genre of unscripted programming with the breakout celeb-reality series, *The Surreal Life*.

He originally joined Endemol Shine North America in October 2014, as Co-CEO and added oversight of the company's Latin American operations in January 2016, as Co-Chairman, Endemol Shine Americas. Abrego oversees all of Endemol Shine North America's programming, including hits such as *Big Brother* (CBS), *MasterChef* (FOX), *Lego Masters* (FOX), *The Real Housewives of Atlanta* (Bravo), *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* (HGTV), *The Biggest Loser* (USA), *Master Chef Latino* (Telemundo), *Se Rentan Cuartos* (Comedy Central Latin America), *MiraQuién Baila* (Univision), *Ink Master* (Paramount Network), *Trading Spaces* (TLC), *Deal or No Deal* (CNBC), *LOL: Last One Laughing* (Amazon) and the upcoming launch of *Utopia* (Amazon Prime), and *Súbete a MiMoto* (Amazon).

He also leads Endemol Shine North America's portfolio of industry-leading subsidiary production companies, including Authentic Entertainment, Truly Original, and 51 Minds Entertainment. Abrego, who sold 51 Minds Entertainment to Endemol in 2008, helped create the celeb-reality genre with the 2003 launch of *The Surreal Life* on The WB Network. He followed the success of *The Surreal Life* with a string of celeb-reality series for VH-1, including *Flavor of Love*, *Rock of Love* with Bret Michaels, and numerous other hit series. At its height, 51 Minds Entertainment was producing more than 150 hours of programming a year for VH1 alone.

Abrego began his career at Bunim/Murray, where he worked in production on original unscripted hits *The Real World* and *Road Rules*. As one of the highest-ranking Latinos in television, Abrego has made inclusion a top priority for his team at Endemol Shine and within the entertainment industry, as well. He recently launched a fellowship program with the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation focused on creating opportunities within the industry for diverse students. In 2013, Abrego started a scholarship fund at his alma mater, Mountain View High School in El Monte, Ca., which provides college tuition and additional resources for student-athletes. The program, led by Abrego's mother Tina, currently has 14 students enrolled at four-year universities nationally and recently celebrated its first college graduating class with three scholarship recipients. In 2016, Abrego released his first book, "*Make It Reality: Create Your Opportunity, Own Your Success*." He currently resides in Los Angeles, California with his wife and three children.



JOANN ALFANO

JoAnn Alfano is Executive Vice President of Current Programming for Universal Television, a division of Universal Studio Group. In this role, she leads the team responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the studio's current series across broadcast, cable and streaming platforms. Alfano reports directly to Erin Underhill, President, Universal Television.

Alfano currently oversees a dynamic slate of more than 40 shows, including Dick Wolf's enormously successful "Law & Order," "One Chicago" and "FBI"-branded series, Emmy® Award-winning "Hacks," Emmy Award-nominated "Girls5eva," "The Gilded Age" and "Schmigadoon!" as well as commercial hits "Never Have I Ever," "The Equalizer," "Quantum Leap" and "Bupkis." She has also been instrumental in some of the studio's most celebrated library titles, such as "Russian Doll," "The Good Place," "Will & Grace," "New Amsterdam," "Good Girls" and more.

Previously, Alfano served as Executive Vice President of Scripted Programming for NBCUniversal International Studios, where she was charged with overseeing the expansion of the global scripted business, supervising the development and production of programming across the NBCUniversal International Television portfolio of companies.

During her most recent tenure at NBCUniversal International Studios, Alfano executive produced the highly successful adaptation of the feature film "Hanna" for Amazon Studios with writer/executive producer David Farr ("Night Manager"). She also executive produced numerous series, including "You, Me and the Apocalypse" (Sky/NBC), "Deadline Gallipoli" (Foxtel), "Glitch" (Australian Broadcasting Corp./Netflix), "The Disappearance" (CTV). In addition, she also shepherded multiple projects across the studio's production companies, including "London Spy" (BBC2/BBC America), "Motive" (CTV), "The Last Kingdom" (BBC/Netflix), "Secret City" (Foxtel) and "Tales of the City" (Netflix).

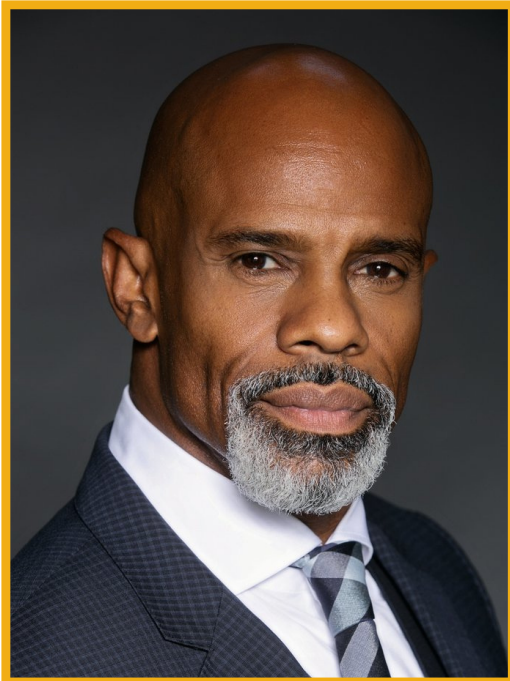
Before joining the International Studios team, Alfano was President of Television at Brillstein Entertainment Partners, where she developed and executive produced the hit ABC drama "Resurrection." Prior to that, she was Head of Programming for Lifetime Television and Lifetime Movie Network, where she oversaw all scripted and unscripted series, movies, and mini-series. While at Lifetime, she was nominated for an Emmy Award for her work as executive producer on the hit reality series, "Project Runway."

As President of Broadway Video, Alfano developed, executive produced, and won an Emmy Award for NBC's critically acclaimed comedy, "30 Rock." She then ran both drama and comedy development at Universal Television, then named NBC Studios. She presided over such seminal series as "Will & Grace," "Homicide: Life on the Street," "Scrubs" and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air."



GARY BARKER

Gary Barker, PhD, is the President, CEO and co-founder of Equimundo Center for Masculinities and Social Justice (formerly Promundo-US), a major contributor to international activism on male allyship in gender equality. He is co-founder of MenCare, a global campaign in more than 60 countries to promote men's involvement as caregivers, and co-founder of MenEngage, a global alliance of more than 1000 NGOs. He co-created the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), the largest survey of men's attitudes and behaviors related to violence, fatherhood, and gender equality. He leads Equimundo's State of the World's Fathers reports, which has become a major advocacy platform for the global care economy. He is an Ashoka Fellow and received the Voices of Solidarity Award from Vital Voices for his work to engage men for gender equality. He holds a PhD in Developmental Psychology and a Research Affiliate position at the Center for Social Sciences, University of Coimbra, Portugal. He lived nearly 20 years in Latin America and currently lives in Washington, DC with his binational family.



TED BUNCH

Ted Bunch is an author, educator, activist, and lecturer working to advance gender and racial justice and create a more equitable society. Bunch is Chief Development Officer of A Call to Men and is internationally recognized for his efforts to prevent violence against women while promoting a healthy, respectful manhood. He is a leading voice on issues of manhood, male socialization, promoting healthy manhood/masculinity, preventing violence against all women and girls, diversity, equity and inclusion, and promoting gender and racial equity.

Ted is the co-author of *The Book of Dares*, 100 inspiring, creative, fun challenges for boys based on the work of A Call to Men. *The Book of Dares* has been called "a direct answer to parents' cries for building healthy masculinity, respect, and emotional literacy in their sons."

Ted is an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is the former director and co-creator of the largest program for domestic violence offenders in America. His innovative work laid the groundwork for the prevention strategies now endorsed as best practice in engaging men to end violence against women. Bunch developed and implemented model response programs for police, fire departments, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and other first responders dealing with domestic violence.

Bunch is an adviser to and trainer for the National Basketball Association. He has also provided training to the National Football League, National Hockey League, Major League Soccer, and Major League Baseball. He was invited to help lead the #TimesUp Engaging Men efforts and is providing ongoing healthy manhood and sexual harassment prevention training throughout the entertainment industry.

He was a guest presenter for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. He is an international lecturer for the U.S. State Department and was appointed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as a committee member to UNiTE, an international network of male leaders working to end violence against women. Ted's work has been featured in the UK, Israel, Suriname, South Africa, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Brazil and Puerto Rico.

Bunch is the co-author of A Call to Men's Live Respect Coaching Healthy & Respectful Manhood Curriculum, designed to prevent dating violence, sexual assault, and bullying in school and sports. He is sought after for his impactful and engaging sexual assault prevention programs for young men in high school and college and has trained extensively in colleges and universities. Bunch is a frequent guest on national television and radio programs like the TODAY Show and National Public Radio, and has served as a script consultant for the Emmy Award-winning television series "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and for the Tony-nominated Broadway musical Jagged Little Pill.



MEGAN CHAO

Megan Chao is an award-winning documentary producer and picture editor, and is the vice president of development and production for Birman Productions, Inc., based in Los Angeles.

She is currently directing *Every 73 Seconds*, a feature documentary about the street harassment of women through the lens of female runners. She is also the co-creator and showrunner on an untitled global sustainability documentary series that takes an aspirational approach to environmental issues.

Notable projects: Chao was supervising producer and editor on *Murder to Mercy: The Cyntoia Brown Story* for Netflix, a feature documentary that followed one juvenile's 16-year trajectory through the Tennessee criminal justice system. This was based on the 2010 award-winning PBS | Independent Lens documentary, *Me Facing Life*, and the seven-part series, *Sentencing Children*.

She was supervising producer and editor on *Breakthroughs: The Earliest Americans* and *The Hunt for Dark Matter* for CuriosityStream, producer and editor on *Chasing Speed* for Warner Bros Discovery, and producer on *The Big Bang Machine* for PBS | NOVA.

Chao serves on the Board of Governors for the Television Academy, representing the Documentary Programming peer group, and is a hyphenate active member with the Picture Editors peer group. She is also a member of the Producers Guild of America, where she is one of the chairs for the Documentary and Nonfiction Committee.

Chao has been a faculty member at the USC Annenberg School of Journalism since 2010, where she teaches documentary production. She is faculty adviser, series producer and online editor for the award-winning documentary series, *Impact*, which broadcasts weekly on Spectrum News 1 and has national distribution through Charter Spectrum Networks.

She has a master's degree in broadcast journalism from USC Annenberg and bachelor's degrees in biology and nonfiction creative writing from the University of California at Riverside.



JEFF CONWAY

Jeff Conway is currently the most-read celebrity interview writer at Forbes in the Hollywood and Entertainment section. Over the past few months alone, he has booked exclusive conversations with Jennifer Aniston, Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson and Lindsay Lohan, just to name a few. These friendly discussions often include these notable individuals opening up about their latest business moves and their lives beyond Hollywood. Before working his way up to Senior Contributor at Forbes since 2020, Jeff was an Emmy-nominated Chicago TV Host, where he also focused on conducting in-depth and respectfully thoughtful interviews with the biggest stars in Hollywood today. He prides himself on making these high-profile creatives feel comfortable in speaking candidly, which has encouraged more genuine responses and more meaningful Forbes articles to share with the public at large. Jeff resides in Los Angeles.



MARY DECHAMBRES

In addition to her work crafting the finale of *JURY DUTY*, Emmy®-winning editor Mary DeChambres is known for cutting unscripted hits such as; *PROJECT RUNWAY* (2008), *AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR* (2013-23) and *THE REAL WORLD* (2002-03). Mary sits on the board of directors for the Motion Picture Editors Guild.



ADAM DESIDERIO

Adam Desiderio is an award-winning journalist and documentary filmmaker who has covered some of the most significant news stories of the past decade, reporting from conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and most recently Ukraine. As a producer, cinematographer and writer, his work has received numerous distinctions, including: a Peabody award, a duPont-Columbia award, the Edward R. Murrow award and multiple Emmy's and Overseas Press Club awards. In 2016, Desiderio joined VICE to help launch VICE News Tonight on HBO, leading the nightly news show to its first Emmy award in 2017 for a series of frontline reports on the battle to defeat ISIS in Mosul, Iraq. Since then, he has immersed himself into covering a wide array of stories, ranging from the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan to the rise and fall of ISIS in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the rampant gang violence plaguing Central and South America.

In the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year, Desiderio produced interviews with President Volodymyr Zelensky from his underground bunker, documented relentless attacks on civilian targets, and embedded with foreign fighters on the eastern frontlines. Prior to VICE, Desiderio produced stories for ABC and NBC News in New York where he covered the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Liberia, the 2015 terror attacks in Paris and the 2016 U.S. presidential elections. He is a graduate of Columbia University's School of Journalism.



JILL DICKERSON

Jill Dickerson currently serves as Head of Unscripted Originals at Snap Inc., the parent company of Snapchat. Since joining Snap, Jill has led development on a number of made-for-mobile shows for Snapchat's 306 million daily active users including Will Smith's *Will From Home* featuring the first-ever Fresh Prince of *Bel-Air* reunion, *Ryan Doesn't Know* with Ryan Reynolds, and *Charli vs. Dixie* with Dixie and Charli D'Amelio.

Prior to joining Snap in January 2020, Jill served as SVP, of Programming & Development at OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network for over 10 years, where she started as VP of Programming and Development and helped launch the network's unscripted division with series including *Our America* with Lisa Ling, *Welcome to Sweetie Pie's*, *Black Love*, *Ready to Love*, and *Love & Marriage: Huntsville*.

Ms. Dickerson brings over two decades of experience in reality programming to Snap, where she actively collaborates with producers in the development of nonfiction programming, and supervises editorial management of outside production. Before becoming an executive, she was consulting producer and head writer for the Sydney, Hollywood and Brooklyn seasons of MTV's longest running reality series *The Real World*, where she was responsible for developing all storylines and overseeing structure and editing of the groundbreaking show.

Previously Ms. Dickerson served as series producer for TLC's *Miami Ink*, supervising story producer for the premiere seasons of ABC series *The Bachelorette*, *The Mole*, and *Making the Band*, and senior story editor for CBS' *Big Brother*. She got her start as a story editor on MTV's *The Real World: Hawaii*.

Ms. Dickerson holds an MFA in Culture & Media from New York University and a bachelor's degree in Social Anthropology from Harvard & Radcliffe Colleges.



ALISSA DUBETZ

Alissa Dubetz is a Director at CVL Economics, based in Los Angeles, where she focuses on economic research and workforce development in the creative economy. Her recent work includes a deep dive into the changing landscape of creative occupations to inform community college curricula development and an assessment of California's performing arts sector since the onset of the pandemic. For the past four years, she has also served on the project team for the annual Otis College Report on the Creative Economy, which measures the impact of California's creative economy and offers policy opportunities for a rapidly changing environment. Previously, Alissa held leadership positions at the Milken Institute and Beacon Economics. She holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Fordham University.



MORENIKE JOELA EVANS

Morenike Joela Evans is an Emmy-Nominated Director, Writer and Creative Producer known for her calm leadership, clear vision and positive vibes on set. She's passionate about directing stories for TV & Film that are compelling, provoking and have heart. She's currently one of a handful of African-American women actively working as a multi-cam director in scripted television and also directs single cam projects.

In 2022, she directed two pilots—Disney's *Saturdays*, a single cam show highlighting the Black roller skating culture and MGM/Bounce TV's multi-cam comedy *Act Your Age*, which has been said to be a "Black Golden Girls" starring Tisha Campbell, Kym Whitley and Yvette Nicole Brown. In 2022, she was nominated for a Children & Family Emmy for directing the hit Disney series *Raven's Home*.

Morenike launched her episodic directing career on the NAACP Image Award-Winning and Emmy-nominated hit series *Family Reunion* created by Meg DeLoatch. She's gone on to direct several episodes of that series along with other hit multi-cam shows including CBS' number one hit comedy, *The Neighborhood*, the successful reboot of *iCarly* for Paramount +, the acclaimed series *How I Met Your Father* for Hulu and the hit Nickelodeon Series *That Girl Lay Lay*.

As a single-camera director, Morenike recently directed an episode of ABC's iconic drama *Grey's Anatomy*, NBC's *Quantum Leap* and took the helm of the winter finale of the 1-hour CW series *Legacies*. She directed three of ten episodes of the dark comedy *Guilty Party* starring Kate Beckinsale for Paramount+. Morenike has also directed episodes for Season 2 and 3 of the Emmy-nominated hit supernatural series *The Secrets of Sulphur Springs* for Disney.

Morenike transitioned to directing scripted television after an impressive career producing entertainment, lifestyle and docuseries for MTV News, BET, NBC, TNT, OWN, TV One and PBS.

Originally from the DC area, earned her Master's in Film from The American University and is a proud Prairie View A&M undergraduate. She is married and raising two children in Los Angeles. If she wasn't working as a triple threat in the entertainment industry, she'd be Janet Jackson's backup dancer, a detective, or an archeologist--in that order.



MATT FEURY

A self-described floppy disk guy living in a flash drive world, Matt Feury has been exploring the world of editing and chronicling the heroes of the cutting room ever since one-button mice ruled the postproduction landscape. Throughout that journey, Feury has been a fixture (think "faucet" or "light bulb") at [Avid Technology](#), a pioneer and leading provider of digital solutions for storytellers. This long and winding road lead Matt to create and host [The Rough Cut](#), a podcast dedicated to celebrating the film and tv industry's best and brightest practitioners of the editorial arts.



DIANA FISHMAN

Diana Fishman is a film and television editor with over 20 years of experience. She grew up in New York City and got a BA in Visual Arts from Brown University. During college, Diana spent a semester in Niger, West Africa where she filmed a documentary about rural radio and its role in development. Diana began her editorial career in Los Angeles in unscripted television. Her love of comedy led her to the Upright Citizen's Brigade, where she studied improv and served as editor/producer on a video production team.

She collaborates often with artists from the UCB community such as writer/director Amy Aniobi, whose dramatic short film *Honeymoon*, edited by Diana, won the Lionsgate/Starz award at the BlackStar Film Festival and was in the Diversity in Cannes Showcase. Diana's television credits include the breakout hit *Jury Duty* (Amazon FreeVee), *Grace and Frankie* (Netflix),

and *South Side* (HBOMax). Diana recently edited her first feature film, *Buddy Games Spring Awakening*, directed by Josh Duhamel for Paramount. Diana is co-chair of the Women's Steering Committee of the Motion Picture Editors Guild, where she created "Lift Up Women," the first one-on-one mentorship program in MPEG. She is represented by [Innovative Artists](#) and lives in Glendale, CA with her partner Ryan, 2 kids, Charlie and Arlo and her dogs, Fred and Simone. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, drinking wine, and throwing pottery, though not simultaneously.



JOE FLINT

Joe Flint is a media and entertainment reporter for The Wall Street Journal based in the Los Angeles bureau covering everything from broadcast networks and sports to cable and streaming.

He writes about companies such as Netflix, Apple, Warner Bros. Discovery, Walt Disney Co. and Amazon. Joe first joined The Wall Street Journal in 1999 in New York and left in 2006. He rejoined The Wall Street Journal in 2014 after several years with the Los Angeles Times.

Joe has also been a senior writer at Variety and Entertainment Weekly. With more than three decades of experience, Joe is considered the dean of media reporters.



GREG HERNANDEZ

Greg Hernandez is special projects writer for USC Communications and founded the pop culture blog Greg In Hollywood in 2009. He's been a staff writer at the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Daily News and The Hollywood Reporter.



KSENIYA IYNITSKAYA

For nearly two decades, Kseniya Ivnitskaya has managed custom editorial, consumer marketing, advertising and digital research initiatives for PEOPLE & Entertainment Weekly, developing data-driven stories that impact brand strategy, new product development, customer acquisition/retention and content. She has also spearheaded several signature studies for parent company DotDash Meredith, including studies on Red Carpet Enthusiasts, Fandom, Diversity and the State Of Streaming. For the last 10+ years she has partnered with the TV Academy on an annual post-Emmys feedback study.



IVANA KIRKBRIDE

Ivana Kirkbride has spent her career as an investor in digital media, entrepreneur at disruptive startups, and executive at Fortune 50 corporations including Google, Verizon and Meta. She is known for launching innovative video products and expanding new ecosystems at the intersection of media, technology, and entertainment.

Known for identifying market opportunities and trends early, Ivana is a sought-after speaker for her insights into the evolving content landscape and global video markets. She understands the importance of preserving television's rich history for future generations and brings a multifaceted perspective from the forefront of traditional media's transition to digital, building the creator economy, and championing diversity for underrepresented content creators.

Ivana is a member of the PGA, Television Academy and International Television Academy. She currently serves on the boards of VidCon, TruthAid Media and the TV Academy Foundation, where she chairs the Interviews Committee.



RANDI KLEINER

Randi Kleiner is a producer and entrepreneur. She serves as the Founder and CEO of SeriesFest, a non-profit organization dedicated to championing artists at the forefront of episodic storytelling. With year-round educational programs, initiatives supporting underserved voices, and professional development opportunities, SeriesFest inspires, educates, and connects a worldwide community of creators. SeriesFest culminates in a highly-curated and celebrated Denver-based festival and marketplace. Dedicated to showcasing innovative episodic content from around the world, the festival features network premieres with talent, special performances, panels, and bold new pilots. With over one billion media impressions, SeriesFest has often been described as the "Sundance for Television." This year's festival will be the 10-year anniversary celebration taking place May 1-5, 2024. For more information visit www.seriesfest.com.



WENDY LEE

Wendy Lee is an entertainment business reporter, covering streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV+. She also writes about podcasting services, digital media and talent agencies. Lee was part of a team that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in breaking news reporting of the fatal shooting on the set of "Rust." She previously covered tech for the San Francisco Chronicle and worked at KPCC-FM (89.3), the Star Tribune in Minnesota and the Tennessean. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley.



ADAM LICHTENSTEIN

Born with a natural love for time code, Adam showed an early preference for non-drop frame, then rose through the editorial ranks pretending to enjoy sports, overusing terms like "shots on goal", "swish", "in your face" and "that's what I'm talking about" without the slightest idea what he was talking about. He recently completed work on the documentary, *FILM GEEK* (2023) directed by Richard Shepard.



BRIAN LOWRY

Brian Lowry has been a media columnist and critic for CNN since April 2016. Before that spent 12 years as a columnist and chief TV critic at *Variety*, preceded by seven years at the Los Angeles Times as a reporter and columnist covering the television industry.

Lowry has been a contributor to National Public Radio and Fox Sports and is the former co-host of "*Square Off*," a weekly talk program about the television business on TV Guide Network.

He is also the author of two authorized companion guides to the Fox series "*The X-Files*."

Lowry graduated from UCLA.



TARAH MALHOTRA-FEINBERG

Tarah Malhotra-Feinberg has worked for over two decades as an unwavering advocate for social justice and a creative force in both traditional and emerging media. Dedicated to shaping narratives that drive change, he has collaborated with industry trailblazers such as Wayfarer Studios, HBO, NBCUniversal and Hearst. A harmonious fusion of creative leadership and branded content strategy has positioned him as a transformative force in media. As the leader of the social impact content division at Justin Baldoni's Wayfarer Studios, Tarah has co-created and produced projects like the Webby-nominated Man Enough Podcast and impact campaigns around the studio's films, while cultivating a highly-engaged community of over a million enthusiasts. His professional journey underscores a consistent passion for meaningful storytelling and industry innovation.



KATE MARSDEN

Kate Marsden is Canva's Head of Global Partnerships, responsible for scoping and shaping strategic partnerships with a specific focus on the Entertainment Industry. Kate leads the effort to build mutually beneficial partnerships that aim to grow brand love and adoption of the design platform and to empower the world to visually communicate. Kate is based in Canva's head office, in Sydney Australia.



JENNI MATZ

Jenni Matz is the Director of the Television Academy Foundations' Interviews: An Oral History of Television. With her guidance the program launched its award-winning website, [TelevisionAcademy.com/Interviews](https://www.televisionacademy.com/interviews), which contains cross-referenced access to our 900+ long-format, oral history interviews with television pioneers from Betty White to Larry Wilmore. Jenni started working at the Foundation in 2008 as its first digital archivist, supervising the launch of the pilot [emmytvlegends](https://www.televisionacademy.com/emmytvlegends) website, and working with colleagues in the archival and information technology fields to create a fully indexed, time-based content management system. In 2022, *The Interviews*' received a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities to preserve the Interviews collection, a multi-year endeavor which Jenni project-manages. Previously, Jenni was the manager and producer of the American Comedy Archives at Emerson College,

a collection of in-depth interviews with comedians spearheaded by comedy legend Bill Dana. She worked for over 20 years in documentary television production as a producer, editor, and researcher, including work on the award-winning American Experience documentary *Hoover Dam*, a 16-part series on American Literature for Annenberg CPB, and as a Line Producer for Diane Sawyer. She is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker. She co-chairs the Association of Moving Image Archivists' copyright committee. Jenni has a J.D. from Southwestern Law School, a Masters in Library and Information Sciences from Simmons College, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Bates College.



GLEN MAZZARA

Glen Mazzara is a television writer/creator/showrunner who most recently was Showrunner for BEACON 23, starring Lena Headey and Stephan James. Simultaneously, he was also a Consulting Producer for THE ROOKIE, starring Nathan Fillion. He is currently developing several projects based on major IP for Netflix and Sony. His most recent creation was A&E's series, DAMIEN, based on the classic horror film, "The Omen." Before that, Mazzara was Executive Producer and Showrunner for AMC's record-breaking series, THE WALKING DEAD, which earned him two Saturn awards and was listed as one of AFI's Top Ten TV Programs of 2012. He was awarded the 2013 Bram Stoker award for Superior Achievement in a Screenplay. He also earned a Peabody for his work on the Golden Globe-winning THE SHIELD. He ran season two of TNT's medical drama HAWTHORNE and worked on NBC's LIFE. He created the series CRASH, the first scripted drama on STARZ and developed Stephen King's DARK TOWER novels as a series for Amazon.

In 2023, Mazzara was selected as one of The Hollywood Reporter's Forces for Change for his work on inclusion and diversity issues in the entertainment industry. He has co-chaired of the WGA's Inclusion & Equity Group for eleven years and is a co-founder of the WGA Staff Writer Bootcamp. Mazzara is a frequent speaker at the WGA, the Writers Guild Foundation, the WGA Showrunner Training Program, and the WGA Writers Access Project. He has served on the WGAW Board of Directors and is currently on the Board of Trustees for Humanitas. He is a member of ReFrame, which works to improve opportunities for women in the entertainment industry. He has taught classes and seminars at colleges across the country and is a frequent speaker at professional conferences both in the U.S. and overseas. He is a proud member of NYU's Mentoring Network and received their inaugural Mentor of the Year Award. He has served as an advisor for the Sundance Institute's Episodic Story Lab.

Mazzara lives in LA with his family.



NAKIA MONET

Nakia Monet is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to entertainment journalism and TV production. Putting in work and shuffling out creative ideas for documentaries, scripted and unscripted shows at companies such as E!, BET, TMZ, and MTV. Nakia is not only an on-air host but she has contributed articles to companies like BuzzFeed, Black Hollywood Live, EUR Web, and Afterbuzz TV.

The NYC native found her love of art while growing up in Boston. Receiving a BA in Broadcasting from Pine Manor College, Nakia knew exactly where she needed to be to make it happen, Los Angeles.

Since moving to The City of Angels Nakia has been on countless red carpets, worked with a slew of network executives, celebs and interviewed some of the hottest names out like: Keanu Reeves, Jane Fonda, Cynthia Erivo, Tiffany Haddish, Jamie Foxx, and more. Nakia wears many hats and is an On air Host, Entertainment journalist, Content creator, Television producer, Writer and podcaster.



SUSAN MOORE

Susan Moore is a Senior Supervising Producer for the Emmy-nominated entertainment news series Access Hollywood. With over 20 years of producing experience, Moore is a skilled storyteller with expert knowledge of film, television, fashion, pop culture, beauty, green living, and more. Driven and constantly thinking ahead, Moore not only oversees Access Hollywood's editorial content and talent bookings but also launched the E-commerce and shoppable segments.

Transitioning her skills in managing brand integrations and sponsored segments and combining them with her passion for television history and preservation, Moore conceptualized and spearheaded Access Hollywood's new broadcast series "Access Icons: The Interviews." In partnership with the Television Academy Foundation, these reoccurring features pay homage to past industry leaders by using the Television Academy Foundation's extensive archive of interviews and insight from today's change-makers who

ruminate on the past while providing their perspectives on the present status of the business. Icons featured thus far include Emmy-winning actors Henry Winkler and Sheryl Lee Ralph.



BRYAN MU

Bryan Mu is Senior Vice President of Research & Insights for Universal Studio Group (USG). In this role, Mu is the lead research and analytics executive responsible for global marketplace analysis, strategic planning and audience insights for four powerhouse television studios: Universal Television, UCP, Universal International Studios and Universal Television Alternative Studio. He reports to Pearlana Igbokwe, Chairman, USG.

Mu serves as a key contributor to the studio group's critically acclaimed slate of programming, including Dick Wolf's enormously successful "Law & Order," "One Chicago" and "FBI"-branded series, Emmy® Award-winning "Hacks," "The Equalizer," "Never Have I Ever," "Bupkis," "Chucky," "Dr. Death," "That's My Jam," "Hollywood Game Night," "Everyone Else Burns" and "We Are Lady Parts."

Previously, Mu served as Senior Vice President of Content and Cultural Insights for NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment and Studios, where he oversaw research for NBCUniversal's cable entertainment content portfolio—including USA Network, SYFY, Oxygen, E! and Bravo—and UCP. He worked across award-winning titles including "The Umbrella Academy," "Mr. Robot" and "The Sinner," as well as the fan-favorite series "Resident Alien."

Prior to joining NBCUniversal, Mu was Vice President of Cable Research for Sony Pictures Television. He consulted with executive producers on ratings performance, competitive positioning and marketing activity for hit series including "Breaking Bad," "Community" and "Damages."

Mu graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a master's degree in Business Administration and from Pitzer College with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. He is based in Los Angeles.



MICHAEL MULVIHILL

Mike Mulvihill, President, Insights and Analytics, oversees the research, analytics and strategic planning teams across FOX Sports, FOX Entertainment and Tubi.

Mulvihill plays an important role in maintaining existing rights deals with several of FOX Sports' key league partners, including the National Football League and Major League Baseball, and also in acquiring new rights agreements. He was involved in FOX Sports' rights deal that secured the FIFA World Cup in 2018 and 2022, as well as the extension adding the 2026 FIFA World Cup to FOX Sports' portfolio. He also played a key role in the agreement that made FOX Sports the principal domestic partner of the United States Golf Association as well as the company's agreement with the Pac-12 Conference for regular-season over-the-air college sports, which was the network's first foray into collegiate athletics.

In his role, Mulvihill serves as a liaison between FOX Sports and league partners including NFL, MLB and NASCAR, providing input on scheduling decisions in order to maximize viewership and exposure. His involvement with game regionalization on FOX Sports' NFL package has propelled FOX Sports to record ratings in recent years.

Mulvihill joined FOX Sports in 1995 as a research analyst. He was promoted to the position of Senior Vice President in 2011, and was named to Sports Business Journal's prestigious "Forty Under 40" list as a member of the publication's 2010 class. He has also participated on numerous industry panels and is regarded as one of the industry's leading experts on ratings and trends. Mulvihill was named to his current position in 2023. Prior to FOX Sports, Mulvihill worked at CBS in affiliate research.

A graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia with a bachelor's degree in communications, Mulvihill received his school's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008. Mulvihill resides in Los Angeles with his wife, Dionne Nosek, and their two children, Nate and Harper.



DORON OFIR

Television Executive Producer of *#RichKids of Beverly Hills* (E!), *F in Fabulous* (BET), and original casting director of more than 200 reality productions, from *American Idol* to *RuPaul's Drag Race*, *Millionaire Matchmaker* to *Jersey Shore* — finds the world's most fascinating people. Then he quickly decides whether they have what it takes to be on reality TV. He is one of the first to create brick-and-mortar, fully functioning, talent-integration casting and development companies in entertainment.

Doron Ofir Casting, a division of Popular Productions, Inc., is an independent casting company inspired by and directly contributes to the world of Pop Culture. His casts are the most recognizable, talked about, and memorable talent in the history of non-scripted television.

NOAH POLLACK



Noah Pollack is a VP of Original Content, Unscripted at Tubi where he oversees all documentary and reality originals for the leading AVOD platform including projects created in partnership with such companies as VICE Media Group, TMZ, Studio Ramsay Global, and Fox Alternative Entertainment. An award-winning producer and executive, Pollack has both extensive domestic and international programming experience selling, producing, and overseeing series and films across the digital, broadcast and cable landscape. Prior to joining Tubi, Pollack launched and operated MAP MEDIA, a boutique consulting and production company servicing clients across the entertainment landscape. Before MAP, Pollack served in senior leadership roles within Comcast/NBCUniversal, Viacom, A&E Networks, Bunim/Murray Productions and All3 America. Additionally, Pollack also created and hosted the industry-leading podcast, EXEC/PRODUCER, and co-founded the bi-partisan voting initiative, GOOD TO VOTE.

A lifelong Angelino and graduate of UC Berkeley, Pollack resides in Los Angeles with his wife, two daughters and rescued pooch.



DEBORAH PRATT

Deborah M. Pratt is an American Director, Writer, Producer, Singer, Dancer, and Actress. After graduating from Webster University with a degree in Psychology and Theatre, she won a nationwide talent search and came to Hollywood under contract to NBC. She wrote songs and sang on multiple albums, started acting, writing and producing. After starring in multiple pilots and writing for the shows she had been reoccurring on, she co-Created, worked her way through the ranks and became Executive producer and head writer on the iconic series "*Quantum Leap*" for NBC for which she penned 25 episodes and co-wrote an additional 15. She Executive Produced and worked as the head writer for "*Tequila and Bonetti*" for CBS. Ms. Pratt co-Created for television and Executive Produced "*The Net*" for USA network. She wrote for multiple television series. As a writer, Ms. Pratt sold features to Warner Brothers and 20th Century Fox animation.

She is a proud, award-winning graduate of the American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women and made her directorial debut with "*Cora Unashamed*" was for the BBC, PBS, and Masterpiece Theatre's The American Collection.

Deborah is a five-time Emmy nominee, a Golden Globe nominee, and recipient of The Lillian Gish Award from Women in Film, The Angel Award, The Golden Block Award, and Five Black Emmy Nominees Awards. She has written to direct multiple feature films including the biographic screenplay for her epic, 17th-century love story "*Chevalier & Antoinette*" and "*Heartswear*" about Black, Chicago attorney Mattie Tatum who returns to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to defend and save her White, childhood best friend Nadine Palmer for the murder of her abusive husband. Deborah a published novelist, she breaks the mold of science fiction and creates a genre of science fantasy with the soul-bending tale of a new earth and the key to human empowerment.

The books are intricately layered with scientific fact and imaginative fantasy. "The Vision Quest" (TheVisionQuest.com) is an exhilarating journey into the future of our world. The story begins in a unified, utopian society and, thanks to the biological machines we created, becomes a dystopian world at war with our mechanical creations for the salvation of humanity. Ms. Pratt is a pioneer in trans-media entertainment and is developing the Vision Quest world she's created in her books across multiple entertainment platforms. Her latest book series is "*Age of Eve*" and *The Tempting; Seducing the Nephilim* is in stores. Deborah was on the Board of Directors of the Writers Guild of America and is an active member of the DGA, SAG, PGA, WGA, and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She lives in Los Angeles, fights for women and minority rights in the entertainment industry, and has two children; Actress, Troian Bellisario, and Computer Engineer, Nicholas-Dante Bellisario.



RACHEL RAIMIST

Dr. Rachel Raimist is a formerly tenured college professor turned television director who works across genres. She has credits in action, drama, comedy, family, musicals and more. She recently directed episodes of the family fantasy *THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES* (Paramount Television) and the musical *UP HERE* (Hulu). She has directed beloved episodes of *SEX/LIFE* (Netflix), *THE SEX LIVES OF COLLEGE GIRLS* (HBO Max), *WU-TANG: AN AMERICAN SAGA* (Hulu), *FANTASY ISLAND* (Fox), *DIARY OF A FUTURE PRESIDENT* (Disney+) and more. Raimist is active in leadership at the Directors Guild of American. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the DGA Disability Committee and the Alt. Co-Chair of the DGA Women's Steering Committee. Raimist holds a B.A. and a M.F.A. in Directing from the UCLA School of Film and Television and a M.A. in Women's Studies and a Ph.D. in Feminist Studies from the University of Minnesota where The Rachel Raimist Feminist Media Center was named in her honor.



SEAN RANKINE

For over 20 years, Sean Rankine has been producing and directing on some of America's most memorable reality television series. Starting out on the mother and father of American reality shows, MTV's *"The Real World"* and *"Road Rules"* in 1999 as a Production Assistant and Researcher. His credit list includes over 50 seasons of series and specials for both cable and broadcast television. He is CEO and Co-President of This Way Out Media, Inc.

Sean has produced series spanning all segments of the reality genre. Follow Docs, House Reality, Competition/Elimination, Docuseries, Occu-soaps, and "Soft Scripted" projects have all been transferred with success and acclaim. Having worked with notable celebrities, actors, supermodels, athletes, musicians, and even members of the Brady Bunch, his shows are often memorable and buzz-worthy. He has directorial credits for 10 cycles of MTV's *"Making The Band"* and several other series.

With a strong passion for television, he has served as Executive Producer on over 18 cable series for Viacom, like *"Saddle Ranch"*, *"I Want to Work for Diddy"*, *"College Hill"*, and *"College Hill: Interns"*.

In recent years, as the Executive Producer behind 11 seasons of the widely popular series *"Basketball Wives"* and *"Basketball Wives LA"* he has logged over 200 episodes of Vh1 alone. Additional recent Executive Producer credits are for the popular series: *"The Rap Game"* and *"Making a Model w/ Yolanda Hadid"* for Lifetime as well as *"Your Husband is Cheating on Us"*, *"Camp Getaway"* and *"Married to Medicine LA"*, all for BRAVO. Of late, he has served as an Executive Producer/Showrunner on OWN's *"Iyanla: Fix My Life"* and *"The Jo Jo Siwa Project"* for PEACOCK. His production company, This Way Out Media Inc, currently has *College Hill: Celebrity Edition* for BET, *Basketball Wives: Orlando* for VH1 and an episodic unscripted project for HULU in production.



MICHAEL RUCKER

Michael Rucker is a Peabody Award-winning Executive Producer and Director in the Unscripted television landscape for over 15 years. Credit highlights include Project Runway, Work of Art, Fast Foodies, 101 Places to Party Before You Die, and heading, developing, and showrunning the most successful and viewed division of Fullscreen's SVOD.

ALISA SHERROD



Alisa Sherrod graduated from Clark Atlanta University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She has always had a love for history and storytelling that highlights and is inspired by real people, and real stories. With nearly 20 years of experience under her belt, Alisa started her career in casting and production management for nonfiction content. Over the last decade, she has been producing and directing unscripted content for Netflix, Vh1, WETV, MTV, BET, ABC and Roku. Alisa is currently showrunning and developing unscripted content as well as narrative projects for film and television. She continues to fight for a more inclusive industry; with presence of diversity, equity and inclusion at the executive and C-suite levels and all heads of departments within physical production. Alisa has been a member of the Producers Guild of America since 2017. In addition to being a proud graduate of a prestigious HBCU, Alisa is honored to be a 22-year member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

BEN SOLOMON



Ben C. Solomon is a Pulitzer Prize-winning international correspondent and producer for VICE News specializing in conflicts around the world.

Ben spent 9 years as the New York Times' first international multimedia correspondents based in Cairo, Istanbul, Nairobi, and Bangkok. After, he was the inaugural Filmmaker-in-residence FRONTLINE on PBS before joining VICE in 2020. He has reported from over 60 countries and documented most of the major wars of the past decade.

He started his career as an intern for The New York Times before moving to Egypt in 2011 to work as a freelancer covering the uprisings in Egypt, Libya and Syria. Since then he has covered a variety of conflicts including the war in Syria, the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the war against ISIS in Iraq, the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine.

In 2022, he was one of the first western journalists to interview Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a hidden bunker during the opening weeks of the invasion.

In 2015, Ben was a part of a New York Times reporting team to win the Pulitzer Prize for International reporting. In the same year, he received the George Polk Award for health reporting, the World Press Photo multimedia 2nd Prize for short features, an Edward R. Murrow award for continuing coverage of the Ebola crisis, and was nominated for the Livingston Award for Young Journalists. In 2019, he was awarded an Emmy for his coverage of the conflict in Congo and won two more for his coverage from Afghanistan in 2021.



CRAIG THOMSON

Craig Thomson is an award-winning television news executive. With a career spanning 14 years, Craig has produced and developed hundreds of hours of international and domestic news television programming.

Prior to VICE News, Craig launched the Al Jazeera America network from the ground-up as executive planning producer, managing the team responsible for running coverage out of 12 domestic bureaus. Previously, Craig worked as a broadcast journalist for BBC, and as the London Bureau producer for NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corp). Throughout his career, Craig has produced desk and field reports covering the 2012 and 2016 Presidential elections, Ferguson and Baltimore riots, Pope Francis' visit to the U.S., as well as reportage in the field throughout Europe covering terrorism, politics, business and economics, sports, culture, and entertainment.

Craig joined VICE as a senior producer in 2016 to launch the critically-acclaimed nightly newscast "VICE News Tonight," leading the show's international content to many Emmy® wins, RTDNA Edward R. Murrow Awards, Peabody Award and Overseas Press Club Award wins.



MARIEL TURNER

Mariel Turner is an entertainment reporter and editor. The Detroit native currently serves as the senior culture editor and on-camera host for Shondaland.com, where she covers film, television, and music in Los Angeles. Previously, Mariel served as a senior editor and correspondent at The Grio and Us Weekly, and she has covered entertainment for several outlets, including Ebony Magazine and KTLA 5 News.



ANDREW WALLENSTEIN

Andrew Wallenstein is President and Chief Media Analyst of Variety Intelligence Platform, a subscription extension of the Variety brand focused on market research. He has been with Variety since 2011, previously as Co-Editor-in-Chief. Wallenstein received the Luminary Award for Career Achievement from the Los Angeles Press Club in 2017. He was an on-air contributor for NPR's All Things Considered for nearly a decade and also hosted the PBS series "*Variety Studio: Actors on Actors*" and TV Guide Channel's "*Square Off*," a weekly primetime series about the TV industry. Wallenstein has a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University. His work has appeared in the New York Times, Boston Globe, Business Week as well as at The Hollywood Reporter, where he served in various senior roles from 2002 to 2010.



MATT WALSH

Matt Walsh is a two-time Emmy-nominated actor from HBO's award-winning comedy series *Veep*. Matt is a founding member of the iconic sketch/improv theater Upright Citizens Brigade and he recently appeared in Hulu's "*Unplugging*" which he co-wrote, and starred alongside Eva Longoria. Other credits include Fox Searchlight's "*Flamin Hot*" and the co-host of the podcast "*Second in Command*" on All Things Comedy.

Matt will next be seen co-starring opposite Rza from the Wu-Tang Clan in the indie film "*Not An Artist*,". He will also star in the Apple series "*Manhunt*" and return to the CBS series "*Ghosts*".

In addition to his film and TV work, Walsh is a charitable founder of Open Books with his wife Morgan which donates LGBTQ affirming books to public elementary schools around the country. He also works with Defy Ventures, an organization that helps mentor and find employment for formerly incarcerated men and women.

Walsh currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife Morgan Walsh and their three children.



LAUREL WEIR

Laurel Weir is Executive Vice President and Head of Programming and Strategic Insights & Research for SHOWTIME/MTV Entertainment Studios and Paramount Media Networks, a global network of media assets that reaches over one billion people in more than 180 countries featuring some of the most iconic brands in entertainment including SHOWTIME, MTV, Comedy Central and Paramount Network among others.

Weir recently expanded her purview to include SHOWTIME Programming and Strategic Insights & Research, in addition to overseeing programming across all MTV Entertainment brands and studios. Additionally, her oversight includes thought leadership for the portfolio, shaping brand strategy and content execution as well as all research efforts – such as consumer insights, culture & trends and multiplatform analytics – to inform development, content strategy, marketing, creative and more.

Recently, Weir has led the charge in fueling Paramount’s linear-streaming ecosystem, including major hits like 1883, 1923 and Tulsa King, while also leading programming strategy for the upcoming SHOWTIME rebrand to Paramount+ with SHOWTIME. She has also spearheaded collaboration with Paramount+ and Pluto TV to accelerate streaming via hit franchises, which has yielded record-breaking results across the portfolio.

During her tenure, Weir has cultivated forward-thinking thought leadership initiatives for each brand, which included a comprehensive study on Gen Z to inform brand strategy for MTV as well as research collaborations with a broad-scope of partners, ranging from media (Morning Consult) and academia (USC Annenberg School, American University, Duke University) to non-profits (Pivotal Ventures, a Melinda French company, Surgo Health), all in an effort to support and bolster MTVE’s long-standing social impact campaigns for Mental Health as well as Youth Voter engagement and access.

Weir’s accomplishments have earned her several industry recognitions, including a David Ogilvy Award for Excellence in Advertising Research. She has been named one of the Top Women In Media by Cynopsis and is a Cablefax Most Powerful Women multiple year honoree.

Weir began her career at CBS where she held various positions within Research and was responsible for measurement and analytics of the broadcast and cable landscape.