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PANELISTS

Media Educators Conference Speaker Bios



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Calling the Shots: The Art of Leading a Television Show

LESLIE AMBRIZ

ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leslie Ambriz is an entertainment journalist covering music, film and television in Los Angeles for The Associated Press. Before AP, Leslie worked as a freelance reporter and producer for companies like Remezcla, NBC News, BESE, SoulPancake, AfterBuzz TV and more. She was also the co-creator, co-host, and lead producer for Spotify Studio's 'Identity at Play.' The roundtable show highlighted notable figures and their journey towards embracing their Latinx identity. She has both a Masters and Bachelors degree in Journalism and New Media from the University of Southern California and Biola University.



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Calling the Shots: The Art of Leading a Television Show

EVA ANDERSON

CO-SHOWRUNNER OF "MARGO'S GOT MONEY TROUBLES"

Eva Anderson's credits as a writer-producer include "You're the Worst," "Dispatches from Elsewhere," "WeCrashed", and "Interior Chinatown."



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Building Momentum: Launching a Career in Entertainment

MADISON ANGLIN

VISUAL MEDIA COMPOSER

Madison Anglin is a Los Angeles–based composer whose music emulates rich harmonic palettes and multi-sensory textures. She has been recognized as a leading voice among a new generation of film and TV composers. Her work has led to distribution and placements with Apple TV+, Tubi, and Amazon, as well as screenings at DOC NYC, The American Black Film Festival, and The Atlanta Film Festival. Her previous scoring work ranges from animation and live theater to investigative documentaries, including Interrogated, a documentary short that was shortlisted for a Student Yugo BAFTA in 2023.

Her recent credits include arranging music for the Emmy Award-winning show *Margo's Got Money Troubles*, now streaming on Apple TV. She is a part of this year's Women In Film Fellowship Program as a composer fellow. She is also a proud alumna of the Television Academy Foundation Internship Program, where she received her first music studio internship under Emmy Award-winning composer Jeff Russo. In 2025, Madison was chosen as the recipient of the ASCAP Foundation's Lucille and Jack Yellen Award, which is awarded annually by nomination to an emerging composer.

Madison earned her Master of Music in Screen Scoring from New York University and her bachelor's degree in Music Composition from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she also founded the campus's first women's empowerment organization. Before reaching the university level, Madison graduated from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, Texas.



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The State of the Industry

JOSE ALEJANDRO BASTIDAS

TV EDITOR, THEWRAP

Jose Alejandro Bastidas is TheWrap's TV editor. Previously, he worked as assistant arts & entertainment editor at the San Francisco Chronicle. He also served as a staff writer at PopCulture.com, based in Nashville, and as food reporter and digital producer at The Desert Sun (a Gannett publication) based in Palm Springs. He has a BA in Mass Communication from Louisiana State University.



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GET IN THE GAME: TEACHING GAME SHOW PRODUCTION

BOB BODEN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, "FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK"

Emmy® Nominee Bob Boden's career in unscripted / alternative TV programming has included senior management and production functions for a variety of studios, networks and production companies. He is frequently acknowledged as an industry leader in the game and reality genres.

He is currently Executive Vice President, Production & Development, Entertainment Studios and Executive Producer of the late night CBS comedy celebrity game show *Funny You Should Ask*. Bob's production credits include EP of GSN's *The Chase*, four series on the HUB family network, 19 series on FOX Reality Channel, and co-creator/EP of the FOX game show *Greed*. He has senior credits on numerous other docuseries, competition reality, talk, lifestyle, magazine, variety and hidden camera series.

His executive positions have included SVP Reality & Game Show Development, Hasbro Studios, SVP Programming, Production and Development, FOX Reality Channel, SVP Programming, Game Show Network, SVP Production & Development, dick clark productions, VP Development & Production, FX Networks and VP, Daytime Programming, Family Channel, as well as positions at CBS, ABC and Paramount and consulting roles at Lionsgate, EndemolShine, Fremantle, ITV, Sony and many others.

Bob is Secretary of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and spent 13 years on the Board of Governors of the Television Academy. He is an adjunct professor for Syracuse University's LA semester program and Co-Founder of the National Archives of Game Show History at the Strong National Museum of Play.

Bob has an MA from California State University Dominguez Hills and a BA from UCLA.



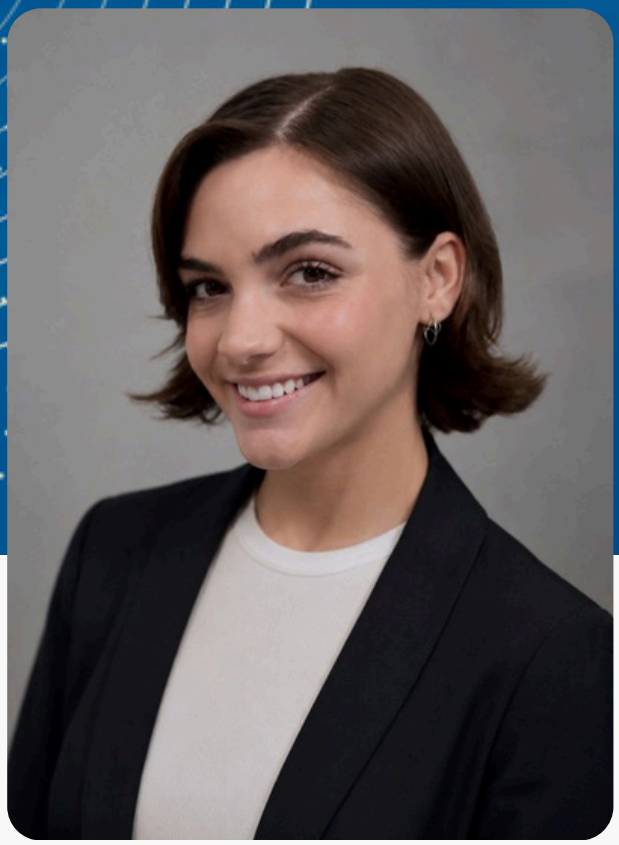
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The State of the Industry

DAVID CANFIELD

SENIOR WRITER, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

David Canfield is a Senior Entertainment Writer at The Hollywood Reporter, where he has written cover stories on subjects including Ryan Coogler and Callum Turner and reports on the film and television industries and awards season. His work has also appeared in Vanity Fair, The New York Times, Entertainment Weekly and Slate, among other publications. David is a National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Award finalist and GLAAD Media Award nominee, and has served on film-festival juries in San Francisco, Savannah and more.



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Get in the Game: Teaching Game Show Production

MILY CUNNINGHAM

TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCER

Mily Cunningham is a producer working across unscripted television and game shows, with a particular passion for contestant-driven entertainment. Her love of the genre began as a family pastime and developed into a career path while studying Television, Film, and Media at California State University, Los Angeles, where a course in game show development helped cement her interest in the field.

Since then, Mily has worked across casting, contestant production, development, and production on projects including Netflix's *Star Search* and Disney+'s *Hannah Montana 20th Anniversary Special*. Most recently, she joined The CW's *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* as Head of the Contestant Department, continuing to build a career centered around the people, stories, and behind-the-scenes work that bring unscripted entertainment to life.



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The Power of TV: Creating With Care

RENEE DAVIDSON

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, BRADY: UNITED AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Renee Davidson is Vice President of Communications at Brady: United Against Gun Violence, the nation's oldest gun violence prevention organization. She oversees Brady's efforts to shape the national narrative around gun violence, the leading cause of death of children in America. She leads Brady's Show Gun Safety campaign, which empowers Hollywood to help prevent gun violence by responsibly depicting firearms on screen. She has helped forge partnerships with Walt Disney Studios, Paramount, CBS Studios, NBCUniversal, CAA Foundation, and more to impact films and TV shows reaching millions of viewers. Under Renee's leadership, Brady has won numerous honors and awards for marketing and advocacy campaigns, including by Cannes Lions, Shorty Awards, MarCom Awards, Webby Awards, and more. Prior to Brady, Renee worked at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

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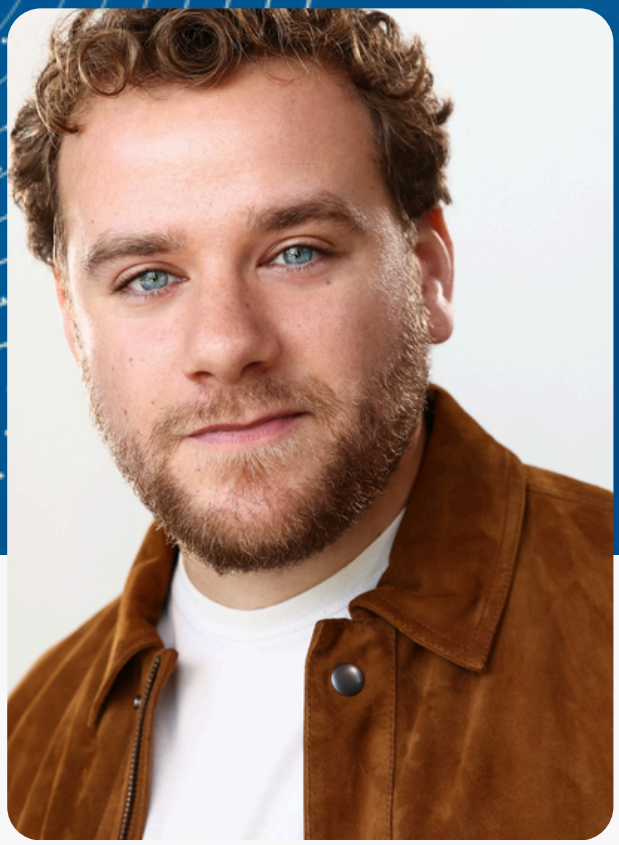


Building Momentum: Launching a Career in Entertainment

EMILY DILLARD

PRODUCER | SENIOR PROJECT COORDINATOR, WALT DISNEY IMAGINEERING

Emily Dillard is a writer, producer, and creative executive. Working across live action, animation, and visual effects, she has contributed to projects for Warner Bros. Animation, DC, Cartoon Network, and Hanna-Barbera. A graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design, her work is driven by character-focused storytelling that explores human connection, identity, and transformation. She co-wrote and produced A MOSQUITO IN THE EAR, starring Jake Lacy and Nazanin Boniadi, a feature inspired by the true story chronicled in Andrea Ferraris' graphic novel.



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The Rise of Vertical Production

DANNY FARBER

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Danny Farber is a director, actor, writer, and producer born and raised in Chicago, IL. With over a decade in the entertainment industry, Farber's diverse filmmaking portfolio includes vertical dramas, music videos, commercials, narrative projects, and branded content. Farber has found success working in various international markets as a Microdrama Vertical Director and actor. As a director, Farber has made over twenty feature-length vertical dramas for various platforms including (but not limited to) ReelShort, Dramabox, Goodshort, and many more. As an actor, Farber has appeared in critically acclaimed TV shows like "1923," “Chicago Fire,” and "Proven Innocent." Farber continues to act and direct in projects that he creates for himself.



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From Classroom to Festival: A Legal Framework for Student Filmmakers

STEVE FISCH

PRODUCER / BUSINESS AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE

Steve Fisch is a person who wears many hats: producer, business affairs executive, lecturer, photographer, and dad, among others, and he's collected most of them the hard way. A native of Los Angeles, his path to entertainment law took the scenic route. He got his start laying in German narration on the Oscar-winning short *Why Man Creates*, then traded the studio for the South China Sea as a Navy Photographer's Mate with Combat Camera Group (descendants of the Ford and Capra WWII units) during Vietnam. Back on dry land, he earned his film degree at UCLA and spent a decade in production, segment-producing *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* and producing *Doomsday Chronicles* and the Peabody Award-winning *Snippets*, before deciding what the industry really needed was one more entertainment lawyer.

He graduated from Loyola Law School and went on to build a decades-long career in television business and legal affairs at MGM, Fox Family Worldwide, Starz Media, Wilshire Court (Viacom), and Bento Box Entertainment, negotiating deals across nearly every network and platform along the way. Somehow, he did all this while also serving in the Navy Reserve, retiring as a Captain after a tour as the Navy's Hollywood Liaison and earning the Legion of Merit, because a full-time entertainment law career apparently left him with some spare time to fill.

These days, Steve is back to his producing roots, optioning sci-fi books and life rights, and lending his experience as a member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, its Television Executives Peer Group and Veterans Affinity Group, the Los Angeles Copyright Society, and Veterans in Media and Entertainment. Whether he's closing a complex rights, development or financing deal or standing arms-raised and grinning on the Antarctic ice, Steve brings the same fearless enthusiasm to everything he does.



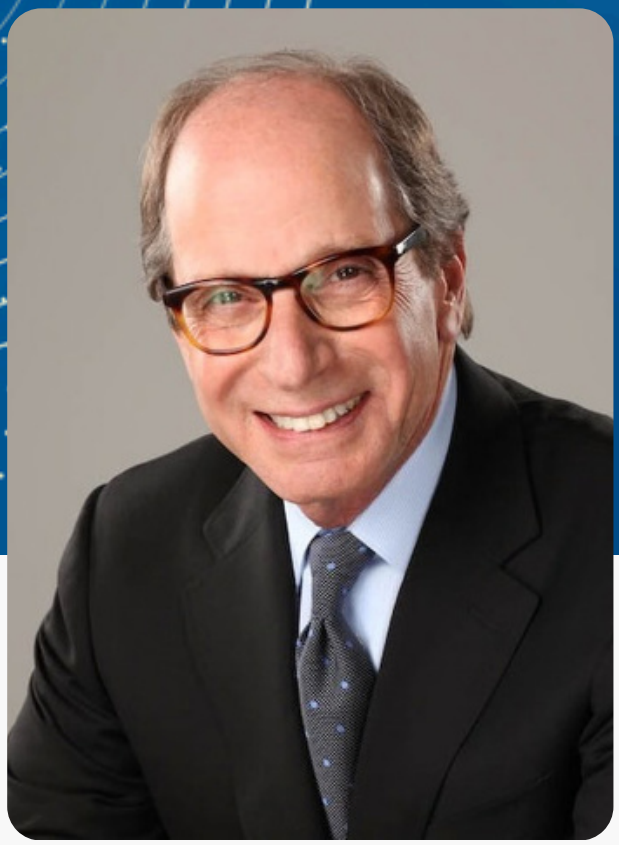
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The Interviews: Unlock the Ultimate Curriculum Tool

JOSSEL FRANCO

DIGITAL ARCHIVIST, THE INTERVIEWS

Jossel Franco manages the preservation of the analog component of The Interviews: An Oral History of Television, a collection of long-form interviews with esteemed professionals from across the television industry. She develops and implements workflows and metadata standards to support the digitization, long-term preservation, and accessibility of these recordings. Jossel holds a BA in History from Augsburg University and an MLIS from Simmons University.



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Get in the Game: Teaching Game Show Production

HARRY FRIEDMAN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, "JEOPARDY!" AND "WHEEL OF FORTUNE"

Nineteen-time Emmy® Award-winner Harry Friedman was Executive Producer of the two most successful syndicated game shows in TV history, *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune*, from 1995 to 2020. In 2011, both shows tied in the Daytime Emmy Awards' Outstanding Game Show category, and Friedman became the first producer ever to win two Emmys in the same category. Under Friedman's direction, *Jeopardy!* received the prestigious Peabody Award in 2012. In 2016, he earned the Guinness World Records entry for most game show episodes produced,11,128 at that time. In 2017, Friedman was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Emmy, and in 2019 he was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Friedman began his TV career in 1972 as a writer on the classic game show *The Hollywood Squares*.

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From Classroom to Festival: A Legal Framework for Student Filmmakers

SHARON GLANCZ

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT ATTORNEY

Sharon J. Glancz is a strategic entertainment and media attorney with more than 25 years of in-house experience at NBCUniversal. Her work covers content licensing, distribution, intellectual property, commercial transactions, branded partnerships, production, and emerging technology. Known for translating complex legal issues into plain language, she has spent her career working alongside creative and business teams to find practical solutions that move projects forward.

From negotiating distribution and talent agreements to advising on intellectual property, rights clearance, marketing compliance, and content strategy, Sharon draws on deep familiarity with how the entertainment business actually works — on both the creative and commercial sides.

Sharon is a graduate of Loyola Law School Los Angeles and holds a B.A. in History from UCLA. She is a member of the California and Nevada State Bars, serves on the Editorial Board of Los Angeles Lawyer magazine, and is active in the California Lawyers Association and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. A longtime member of the Television Academy, she participates in the Academy's Women's, Veterans, and Jewish affinity groups.

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Emerging Technology & Storytelling

JIM GEDULDICK

VFX & VIRTUAL PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR | CINEMATOGRAPHER

Jim Geduldick is a renowned creative innovator whose work spans film, animation, visual effects, virtual production, and artificial intelligence. With a career defined by a passion for storytelling and a drive to push technological boundaries, Jim has cemented his reputation as a leader at the intersection of creativity and cutting-edge innovation. With roots in filmmaking and visual effects, Jim has contributed to an impressive array of projects, blending his cinematic expertise with a mastery of digital tools.

Credits include episodic series and feature film work on Amazon's *Criminal*, Apple TV's *Yo Gabba Gabba Land!*, Disney's *Muppets Mayhem*, "Coyote vs. Acme," Robert Zemeckis's "Here" & "Pinocchio."

His work in visual effects highlights his commitment to elevating narratives through stunning visuals and immersive worlds. In recent years, Jim has become a pioneer in virtual production, leveraging AI & real-time rendering and advanced workflows to redefine modern filmmaking. From LED volume stages to motion capture, his approach seamlessly integrates digital and practical techniques, empowering filmmakers with unprecedented creative flexibility. Jim is also Chair of SMPTE RIS group, founding member of CCAI (Creators Coalition on AI) and member of the Visual Effects Society's Technology Committee.



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The Power of TV: Creating With Care

STEPH GREEN

DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, "THE GOOD DAUGHTER"

Steph Green is an Oscar and Emmy-nominated film and television director whose work spans independent cinema and critically acclaimed television. Most recently, she directed and executive produced all six episodes of Peacock's limited series THE GOOD DAUGHTER starring Rose Byrne and Meghann Fahy premiering November 12. Based on #1 NYT bestselling author Karin Slaughter's bestselling book, THE GOOD DAUGHTER is a gripping emotional thriller that follows two sisters piecing together a violent incident from their shared past.

In 2025, Green directed and executive produced the pilot and three episodes of DUSTER, created by J.J. Abrams and LaToya Morgan for HBO Max. In 2020, she earned an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Directing in a Limited Series for her work on HBO's WATCHMEN "Little Fear of Lightning" episode. Green previously directed and executive produced the pilots for DARE ME and THE L WORD: GENERATION Q, helping establish the creative foundation for both series. Her extensive directing credits include some of the most acclaimed television of the past decade, such as THE AMERICANS, STAR WARS: AHSOKA, THE DEUCE, THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE, AMERICAN CRIME, BATES MOTEL, YOU'RE THE WORST, BILLIONS, PREACHER, LUKE CAGE, and SCANDAL. In 2009, Green received an Academy Award nomination for her short film NEW BOY, which she wrote and directed in Ireland. Known for her bold visual style, emotional nuance, and strong character work, Green continues to be a leading voice in cinematic television.



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Get in the Game: Teaching Game Show Production

KRISTIINA HACKEL

DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

Kristiina Hackel is the Director of Academic Innovation and Strategic Partnerships for the College of Arts & Letters, Professor in the Department of Television, Film, and Media Studies, and a Fall 26 Fellow for the Center of Effective Teaching and Learning at California State University, Los Angeles.

As a scholar, she has contributed to Intellect Press' *World Film Location* series and *Women Screenwriters–An International Guide*. An award-winning filmmaker—among other wins she was the producer of a College Television Awardee—her last series *Speedie Date*, was a Webby nominee.

Kristiina received her PhD in Comparative Literature and her MFA in Film Production from USC.



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The State of the Industry

STEPHAN HORBELT

SENIOR EDITOR — DEPARTMENTS, EMMY MAGAZINE

Stephan Horbelt is Senior Editor, Departments, for the Television Academy's emmy magazine, where his work celebrates the industry and art form of television across all genres, disciplines and professions. He has worked in print and digital media for more than 20 years, most previously as Executive Editor of LGBTQ social media platform Hornet, and before that as Editor-in-Chief of Frontiers magazine, Southern California's historic LGBTQ publication of record. Stephan holds a B.A. in political science from Rhodes College and a J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law. Originally from Houston, he has called Los Angeles home for more than 20 years.



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The Interviews: Unlock the Ultimate Curriculum Tool

JENNA HYMES

SENIOR DIGITAL ARCHIVIST, THE INTERVIEWS

Jenna Hymes is the Senior Digital Archivist for the Television Academy Foundation's The Interviews: An Oral History of Television, where she oversees access and preservation for the collection. She was previously the Digital Projects Manager for The Interviews, and has worked at the UCLA Library and the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary. She holds an MLIS from Syracuse University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Queens College.



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The State of the Industry

ANGELIQUE JACKSON

SENIOR ENTERTAINMENT WRITER, VARIETY

Angelique Jackson is a senior entertainment writer for Variety, based in Los Angeles. During her tenure, Jackson won two National Arts & Entertainment Journalism awards, four Southern California Journalism awards and a Webby. She also co-hosted Variety's Emmy-nominated "Actors on Actors" broadcast for PBS. Prior to joining Variety, Jackson worked as a producer for Entertainment Tonight, winning three Daytime Emmys. She is a graduate of the Grady College of Journalism at the University of Georgia with a degree in Broadcast News.

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Inside the Foundation's Education Programs

DAVID JIMENEZ

EDUCATION PROGRAMS MANAGER, TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION

David Jimenez is the Education Programs Manager at the Television Academy Foundation, where he project manages programs such as the College Television Awards and the Production Assistant Training Program. In addition to his experience at the Television Academy Foundation, David has served as a Teaching Artist at Center Theatre Group, supporting their high school programming, and as a career coach for individuals pivoting into the technology sector, advising on resume building, salary negotiation, and cover letter writing. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Sociology from UCLA and a Certificate in Television Writing from UCLA Extension.



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Calling the Shots: The Art of Leading a Television Show

JASON KELLER

SHOWRUNNER, "STICK"

Jason Keller is the creator, writer, and showrunner of the acclaimed Apple TV series *Stick*, starring Owen Wilson. Its second season launching this November, the heartfelt and deeply human comedy has quickly become one of the platform's standout original
series.

Keller's decades-long screenwriting career includes the Academy Award best picture nominee *Ford v Ferrari* and spans a range of genres, establishing him as one of Hollywood's most versatile storytellers. At their core, his projects blend humor, heart, and richly drawn characters while exploring themes of identity, redemption, and human connection, often in the realm of sports.

Keller wrote and is producing the highly anticipated feature film *Isle of Man*, spotlighting the legendary Isle of Man TT Race and starring Channing Tatum and Eve Hewson. The upcoming feature will accompany a docuseries that he also produced.



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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY & STORYTELLING

CHRISTINA LEE STORM

HEAD OF STUDIO, NARRATIVE AT SECRET LEVEL

Christina Lee Storm is Head of Studio, Narrative at Secret Level and Co-Founder of PLAYBOOK PLBK. She is an accomplished executive and award-winning producer known for pioneering storytelling through emerging technologies in film, series, animation, documentaries, XR, and multi-platform storytelling. Christina is recognized for her work at the forefront of human authorship, attribution, creative provenance, copyright and governance in AI-driven film and television production.

She has been instrumental in implementing creative and strategic production technologies for franchises, IP, and world-building with studios such as Netflix, Universal, and DreamWorks Animation. Notable titles Christina has been involved with include *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, *Back in Action*, *Trolls*, *The Boss Baby*, *Abominable*, *Trolls World Tour*, *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*, *Newborn*, and currently producing hybrid horror film *Terrarium*.

Christina is Co-Founder of The Creative + Tech Orbit substack. She is Governor of the Television Academy's Emerging Media Programming peer group, Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Lead for the Academy's Responsible AI & Production Standards Working Group, and an active member of the Innovation Advisory Committee. Christina sits on the Producers Guild of America's Production Innovation Task Force, Los Angeles Mayor's Entertainment Industry Council, Runway's 100 Film Fund Advisor Panel, and Board of Directors for East West Players. She is a member of VES, WIA, and the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences.

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GET IN THE GAME: TEACHING GAME SHOW PRODUCTION

SEAN LOUGHLIN

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNSCRIPTED DEVELOPMENT, ENDEMOL SHINE

Sean Loughlin is the Executive Vice President, Unscripted Development, for Endemol Shine North America (ESNA). A 20-year veteran of the studio, Loughlin is a central architect of ESNA's unscripted strategy, responsible for conceiving, developing, and selling a diverse slate of projects across all major broadcast networks and streaming platforms.

During his tenure, Loughlin has been instrumental in launching high-profile hits, including *Fear Factor: House of Fear* (FOX) and *Deal or No Deal Island* (NBC), serving as an executive producer on both series, the revamped *Wipeout* (TBS), *Foodtastic* (Disney+), *Hot Wheels Ultimate Challenge* (NBC) and *The Courtship* (USA/Peacock). Previously, he was part of the internal team that developed and sold successful series, including *Steve Harvey, Page Six TV, Love in the Wild*, and *Pitbull's New Year's Revolution*.

Loughlin's deep history with the company began in 2005, when he joined the launch team for Endemol USA's scripted efforts. During that period, he was involved in the initial development of the critically acclaimed hit series *Hell on Wheels*. Over the following two decades, he rose through the ranks to become one of the most respected development executives in the unscripted space.

Sean is also an adjunct professor at Cal State LA, where he teaches in the university's groundbreaking game show curriculum and helps the next generation of creators understand how compelling formats, mechanics, and gameplay are built.



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The Rise of Vertical Production

SHAMIKAH MARTINEZ

SCREENWRITER

Shamikah Christina Martinez is a creative director, screenwriter, and performer with roots in music, fashion, and tech. She has written for Apple TV+ and Nickelodeon, developed original pilots for FOX and Paramount+, and co-founded Poetic Film Club, a youth program bridging poetry, film, and feeling.

Most recently, she's turned her attention to vertical cinema and micro-dramas (your resident verti-gal℠, if you're looking). She is the founder of VER, a creative studio crafting verticals for the worlds of fashion, beauty, and music, and served as Creative Producer on Fenty Beauty's *Behind the Glam*, the first micro-drama series from a major global beauty brand.

Current projects include *The Ravenous*, a horror-comedy feature with producer Nikkia Moulterie; *La Sangre Llama*, a feature adaptation of her short film, with director Sonia Malfa; and *Soft Launch*, a musical micro-drama with Kas Kas Productions, starring singer-songwriter and actor Leo Kalyan.

Her work is Spirit-led and rooted in her Afro-Puerto Rican heritage, where humor and healing coexist. If it were up to Shamikah, this bio would just say "a poet and a clown."

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The State of the Industry

SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

STAFF WRITER, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Samantha Masunaga is an entertainment business reporter who covers the studios. She also writes the weekly Wide Shot newsletter on the business of Hollywood. A Southern California native, Samantha has worked at the Times for 12 years and previously covered the aerospace industry.



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The Interviews: Unlock the Ultimate Curriculum Tool

JENNI MATZ

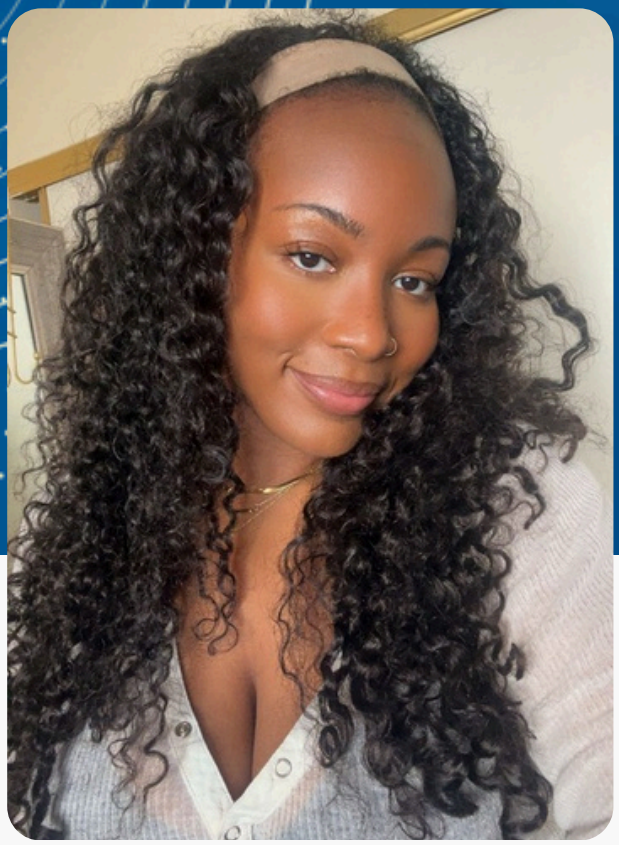
DIRECTOR, THE INTERVIEWS

Jenni Matz is the Director of the Television Academy Foundations' The Interviews: An Oral History of Television. With her guidance the program launched its award-winning website, TelevisionAcademy.com/Interviews, which contains cross-referenced access to our 950+ long-format, oral histories with television pioneers from Betty White to Larry Wilmore. Jenni joined the Foundation in 2008 as its first digital archivist, supervising the launch of the pilot 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. Along with producing The Interviews and managing its online presence, Jenni works to enhance use of and access to the Interviews, including licensing the footage to documentary filmmakers.

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 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, and is a member of the Oral History Association's Legal & Ethics Task Force.

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.

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The Rise of Vertical Production

NAKIA MONET

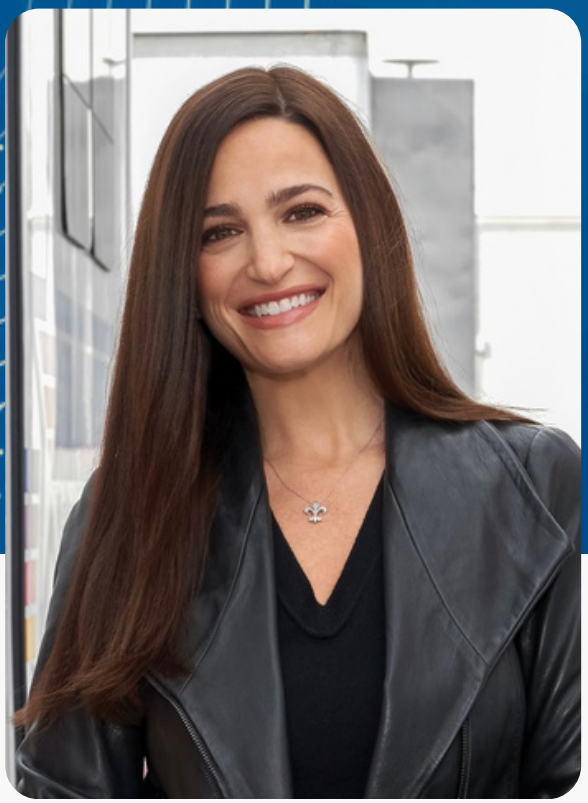
ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST & ON-AIR HOST

Nakia Monet is an entertainment journalist, television host, producer, and content creator known for bringing personality, curiosity, and an authentic voice to entertainment and pop culture coverage. Throughout her career, she has worked with leading entertainment brands and networks including E! News, BET, MTV, TMZ, and Amazon Prime Video, building extensive experience both in front of and behind the camera.

As an on-air host and entertainment journalist, Nakia has covered red carpets, press junkets, premieres, and major entertainment events, interviewing some of Hollywood's most recognizable names, including Keanu Reeves, Jane Fonda, Cynthia Erivo, Halle Berry, Jamie Foxx, Reese Witherspoon, Jake Gyllenhaal, and Jurnee Smollett. She has also hosted and moderated panels for the Television Academy and the Emmys, further showcasing her ability to lead engaging conversations with talent and industry professionals. Her work has appeared across platforms including BuzzFeed, Black Hollywood Live, AfterBuzz TV, Popcorn Talk, and Where Is The Buzz TV.

A New York City native who discovered her passion for entertainment while growing up in Boston, Nakia earned her B.A. in Broadcasting from Pine Manor College and continued her training at the New York Film Academy before moving to Los Angeles to pursue her career in television and entertainment journalism.

Today, Nakia continues to expand her voice as a host and storyteller through her independent media platform, Reverse Happy Hour Media, where she creates personality-driven entertainment and pop culture content, including her series On The Rocks. Whether interviewing talent, moderating a live conversation, breaking down the latest movie or television moment, or connecting with audiences on social media, Nakia brings a conversational interviewing style, sharp pop-culture knowledge, humor, and genuine enthusiasm to everything she hosts.



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CALLING THE SHOTS: THE ART OF LEADING A TELEVISION SHOW

LAUREN NEUSTADTER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, "LUCKY", "THE MORNING SHOW", "THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME", "ELLE"

Neustadter's recent television work includes executive producing adaptations of the Reese's Book Club picks *Lucky* (Apple TV), *The Last Thing He Told Me* (Apple TV), *From Scratch* (Netflix), *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Hulu), and *Daisy Jones and the Six* (Prime Video), which received a combined total of 11 Emmy nominations in 2023. She also executive produced *My Kind of Country*, Apple TV's first music competition series, two seasons of the psychological thriller series *Surface* (Apple TV), and mystery thriller *The Last Thing He Told Me* (Apple TV). Neustadter is currently in post-production on Season 5 of *The Morning Show* (Apple TV) and on Season 2 of *Elle* (Prime Video). Named TV Producer of the Year alongside Reese Witherspoon by The Hollywood Reporter in 2022, she has been included in THR's Power 100 Women in Entertainment, Variety's Power of Women in Hollywood, and Variety's TV Producers Impact List. On the film side, Neustadter produced the adaptation of the New York Times bestseller and Reese's Book Club selection WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING (3000 Pictures/Sony), which stars Daisy Edgar-Jones and surpassed $100 million at the worldwide box office. She also produced Aline Brosh McKenna's feature directorial debut YOUR PLACE OR MINE (Netflix) and SOMETHING FROM TIFFANY'S (Prime Video), starring Zoey Deutch, with both reaching the top spot on the viewing lists of their respective platforms. In 2025, Neustadter produced the wedding comedy YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED, which stars Reese Witherspoon and Will Ferrell and ranked among Amazon MGM Studios' top three most-watched comedy films of all time. She's currently in post-production on the Reese's Book Club pick THE NIGHTINGALE (TriStar/Sony) starring Elle and Dakota Fanning.

Before joining the team at Hello Sunshine, Neustadter spent over a decade working in film as an executive at Miramax, then Twentieth Century Fox (with a producing stint in between). In 2011, she left the feature world to become an executive at FOX network, where she oversaw shows like Brooklyn Nine-Nine, The Mindy Project, Lethal Weapon, and 24, among others. Neustadter lives in Los Angeles with her husband and their two children.



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MASTERCLASS IN EPISODIC DIRECTING

DR. RACHEL RAIMIST

EPISODIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Rachel Raimist is a trailblazing television director and tenured professor of directing whose work centers on smart women, messy families and the magical reality of adolescence. Her directing credits span drama, comedy, action, musicals, science fiction and fantasy. She has brought her distinctive voice to series including *Elsbeth* (CBS), *Bel-Air* (Peacock), *The Spiderwick Chronicles* (Roku), *Sex Life* (Netflix) and *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* (Hulu), among others.

At the Directors Guild of America (DGA), Raimist made history as the first woman appointed Co-Chair of the Special Projects Committee by President Lesli Linka Glatter. She has also served as Alternate Co-Chair of the Women's Steering Committee, Co-Chair of the Disability Committee and Alt. Co-Chair of the Latino Committee. A passionate advocate for equity and representation, Raimist co-founded the DGA's annual Women's Day and leads initiatives spotlighting groundbreaking, diverse directors.

Raimist's origin story as a filmmaker is shared in the award-winning documentary TEENAGE WASTELAND which streams on Netflix.

She has taught for Sundance, Netflix, African Creative Television, Tyler Perry Studios and the Latino Film Institute. She serves on the Advisory Board of Kōawa Studios at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. She has taught filmmaking, feminism and storytelling at more than 30 colleges and universities and has filmed and taught in more than 20 countries. In 2010, the Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota named the Rachel Raimist Feminist Media Center in her honor.

Raimist is the Morgan Woodward Endowed Distinguished Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington.



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Building Momentum: Launching a Career in Entertainment

DINO RAY RAMOS

FOUNDER, DIASPORA

Dino-Ray Ramos is an award-winning journalist, producer, and media consultant. In 2021, he founded DIASPORA, which evolved into a nonprofit media organization in 2025. Prior to that, he served as an editor at Deadline Hollywood, where he created, produced, and hosted the GLAAD Media Award-winning New Hollywood podcast

Dino has worked at the intersection of entertainment, advocacy, and culture. He has worked with GLAAD, Amazon/MGM Studios, Orion, Lionsgate, Film Independent, the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Center Theatre Group, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), the Producers Guild of America (PGA), and the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE). He also was an adjunct faculty member at Columbia College of Chicago and has participated numerous journalism mentorship programs for GALECA, Outfest, among others.

His editorial work has appeared in Vogue, Entertainment Tonight, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Oakland Tribune, and others. He also created, produced, and hosted the Problematic Fave and Green Room podcasts. In 2020, he was named to Gold House's A100, which recognizes the most impactful Asian Americans in the country. He is a a board member of the Los Angeles chapter of the NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists and member of GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics as well as the Critics Choice Association.



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NICOLA RINCIARI

DIRECTOR | PREVIS LEAD, WARNER BROS. ANIMATION

Nicola Rinciari is an Italian director and writer from Palermo. His work spans filmmaking, animation, and visual storytelling, with credits on major productions including *The Wild Robot* and *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*. As a filmmaker, his short films and advertisements have earned more than 50 awards and nominations at international festivals, including Best Scripted Series at the 2022 College Television Awards presented by the Television Academy Foundation, a nomination at the 2020 Student Academy Awards, and Best Student Short Film at the Savannah Film Festival. Since 2022, he has been a member of the BAFTA Newcomers program for directors. A MOSQUITO IN THE EAR , starring Jake Lacy and Nazanin Boniadi, marked his feature directorial debut. The film opened the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, received the Panavision Spirit Award for Independent Cinema and was recently acquired by Narrative Distribution for theatrical and digital release.

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Inside the Foundation's Education Programs

NANCY ROBINSON

SENIOR DIRECTOR, EDUCATION PROGRAMS, TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Nancy Robinson is the Senior Director of Education Programs for the Television Academy Foundation. In this role, she provides strategic leadership and oversight of the Foundation's education initiatives, including the Internship Program (Summer, Fall and Spring), College Television Awards, Media Educators Conference, Access Behind the Screens and Power of TV. Her responsibilities also include cultivating and strengthening industry partnerships to expand opportunities for interns and recruiting new internship partners. Additionally, she leads nationwide college outreach efforts to increase awareness of and participation in the Foundation's education programs.

Prior to joining the Foundation's Education department in 1999, Nancy was a convention services manager for a large trade association, planning and executing their annual convention and numerous small meetings across the country. She was also an awards consultant with a firm specializing in managing submissions for such companies as the Disney Channel, HBO and Fox. She began her career as the Primetime and Daytime Emmy Awards assistant for the Television Academy.

Nancy is a graduate of the University of California – San Diego with a Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts/Media Production and a minor in Sociology.



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CALLING THE SHOTS: THE ART OF LEADING A TELEVISION SHOW

DAVID ROSEN

SHOWRUNNER, "MAXIMUM PLEASURE GUARANTEED"

David J. Rosen is an author and screenwriter, and the creator, showrunner, and executive producer of Apple TV's drama series MAXIMUM PLEASURE GUARANTEED. His original spec feature SUPERMAX, co-written with David Weil, is currently in production for Amazon MGM Studios, starring Will Smith and directed by David Gordon Green. Rosen also serves as an executive producer on the film. Rosen previously served as an executive producer on HUNTERS (Amazon), starring Al Pacino, and as a consulting producer on SUGAR (Apple TV), starring Colin Farrell, and Simon Kinberg's INVASION (Apple TV). He has also published several books, one of which he adapted into a series for MTV, and his writing has appeared in numerous publications, including Esquire and The New York Times.

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The Rise of Vertical Production

ADRIANA SANTOS

SHOWRUNNER AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / CO-FOUNDER, FUMERO FILMS

Adriana Santos is a Mexican-Filipina executive producer, showrunner, and entrepreneur whose career began in 2009, working across international productions in Mexico, the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Over the years, she has collaborated with acclaimed directors including Alfonso Cuarón, Catherine Hardwicke, Valeria Golino, and John Sayles, building a reputation for leading seamless cross-border productions and uniting global creative teams.

In 2020, she founded Pina Films, producing documentaries, commercials, feature films, and television series rooted in culturally driven storytelling. In 2021, Pina Films partnered with Fumero Films, where Adriana now serves as Co-Founder and COO. Since then, she has led alongside Alejandro, his partner, the development and production of more than 55 vertical series earning multiple awards and accumulating over 300M views worldwide. While helping establish one of the first Latino studios in the vertical space to operate under a two 40 shows slate deal.

Today, Adriana is focused on expanding in the vertical format across the U.S. and Latin America, producing English, Spanish and Bilingual speaking vertical series while building scalable studio systems that merge cinematic storytelling, fast-turnaround production, and innovative digital distribution. Recognized for blending creativity with operational leadership, she has also become a sought-after advisor in the rapidly evolving vertical content space.



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The Power of TV: Creating With Care

JENNIFER SIMMONS KALEBA

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, RAINN

Jennifer Simmons Kaleba is the Vice President of Communications at RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization and creator and operator of the National Sexual Assault Hotline. Jennifer has spent nearly 30 years building awareness and driving action for nonprofits on issues ranging from national and global children's poverty, safety, education and hunger; land conservation and environmental preservation; transportation reform; mental health policy; arts advancement and advocacy; and women's rights. She is recognized for developing meaningful and effective ways for people to connect with a mission through powerful storytelling and purposeful engagement. Above all, she is a mother of three fierce daughters who are already taking up the fiery mantle of advocacy and compassion, and will go on to change the world in ways Jennifer can only dream of today.



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The Power of TV: Creating With Care

KARIN SLAUGHTER

WRITER/ EP/ SHOWRUNNER, "THE GOOD DAUGHTER"

Karin Slaughter is one of the world's most popular storytellers. She is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of more than 25 novels, with more than 40 million copies sold across the globe. Pieces of Her is now a #1 Netflix series. The *Will Trent* show is streaming on Disney+. *The Good Daughter* is coming soon as a limited series.

Karin Slaughter is also the founder of the Save the Libraries project—a nonprofit organization established to support libraries and library programming. A native of Georgia, she lives in Atlanta.



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Inside the Foundation's Education Programs

BROOKLYN SNYDER

PROGRAM MANAGER, TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Brooklyn Snyder is a Los Angeles based arts administrator and California native. For the past four years, she's worked as a Program Manager for the Television Academy Foundation, where she project manages programs including the Media Educators Conference, College Television Awards, The Power of TV, and Access: Behind the Screens.

Prior to her role at the Television Academy Foundation, Brooklyn has worked at the Music Academy of the West, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, and On the Verge Repertory Theatre. Brooklyn holds a BA in Theatre and Psychology from Chapman University.



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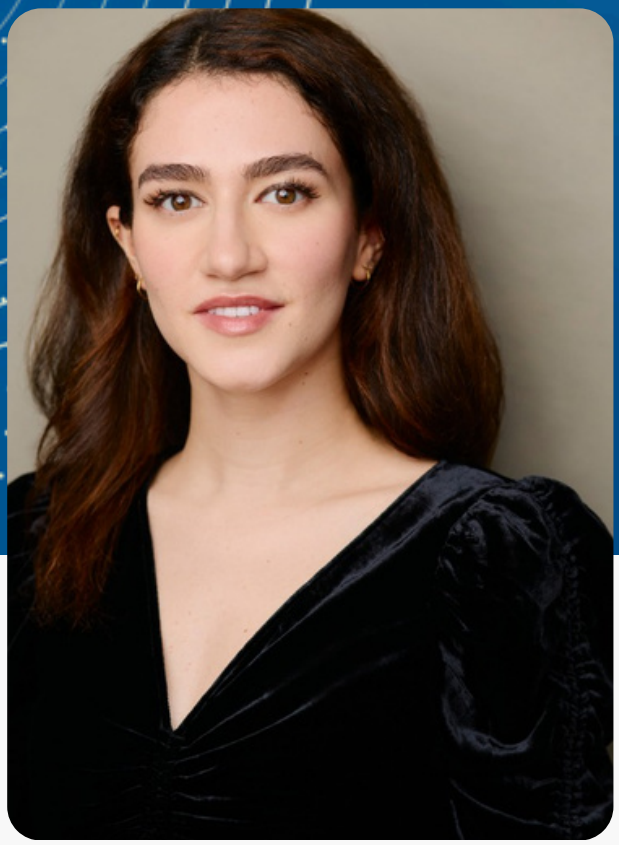
The Power of TV: Creating with Care

ANNE VASQUEZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Anne Vasquez serves as the Executive Director of the Television Academy Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Television Academy. In this role, she leads the Foundation's acclaimed programs, initiatives, and fundraising efforts, providing strategic direction and cultivating partnerships that help build a strong, vibrant future for the television industry. Through its work, the Foundation advances its mission to inspire tomorrow's Emmy winners today.

A veteran media and nonprofit executive, Anne previously served as the CEO of EdSource, an award-winning California nonprofit news organization devoted to education journalism. With a journalism career spanning 28 years, Anne has worked as the Chief Digital Officer, Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Managing Editor for media groups that include Tribune Publishing and the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel, which won a Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service under her leadership. She has served on the boards of the American Society of News Editors, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Leadership Council of the Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University, her alma mater. Anne also is an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California, where she has taught a graduate course in narrative storytelling.



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Building Momentum: Launching a Career in Entertainment

KAREN ZIPOR

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Karen Zipor was the 2021 Television Academy Foundation intern in Animation, and now works as a full-time producer: having produced content for Disney, Dreamworks, and Warner Bros Animation. She also contributed to the VFX production team at Universal Pictures ("The Odyssey" and "Disclosure Day"). Additionally, Karen is the Webby award-winning producer of "Brittany Broski's Royal Court" — a celebrity interview show featuring high-profile guests like Harry Styles, Anne Hathaway, and many more. After founding her own production studio, Zipped Up Films, Karen's directorial work spans across both live-action and animation ("The Worm's-Eye View of the Bird" and "A Painterly Hand"), creating shorts, features, and web shows from development to completion.