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TEACHING THE MACHINE: INTEGRATING GENERATIVE AI INTO THE COLLEGE MEDIA CLASSROOM

STUART ACHER

FILM / TELEVISION / GEN AI - WRITER, DIRECTOR, EDITOR

Stuart Acher began his career with a development deal at DreamWorks based on his short film "BOBBY LOVES MANGOS," after being discovered by film critic Roger Ebert at the Sundance film festival.

An Emmy nominated feature/television editor turned director, Stuart directed multiple features and television, including season 5 of Z NATION (Syfy/Netflix) and his feature film entitled #STUCK (Amazon), starring Joel David Moore (Avatar) and Madeline Zima (Californication), of which he also wrote, and garnered several awards such as Best Performances at the Napa Valley Film Festival, and Best Director, as well as the Audience Award at the Sun Valley Film Festival. His second feature film entitled, "MANINTERVENTION" (Amazon) stars Mario Van Peebles, Travis Van Winkle (Transformers, The Last Ship), Chloe Bridges (CW: The Carrie Diaries) and Nick Roux (Jane by Design).

HIS FATAL FIXATION, a feature Stuart wrote and directed, was one of the highest rated Lifetime Originals of the year. PAY DIRT, the feature documentary that he wrote, produced, and edited hits Netflix this winter.

Stuart was recently tapped to write and direct a film for TCL studios, entitled NEXT STOP PARIS. This is his debut into AI generative filmmaking and was the most challenging and creative experiences of his career to date.

He was selected to participate in the ABC Director Television program, and graduated with distinction from Boston University's College of Communications. He is currently an active member of both the Director's Guild of America, and Editors Guild of America. As lead editor he worked on over 100 projects for NETFLIX, AMAZON, NBC, ABC, CBS, PARAMOUNT, FOX, SONY, DISNEY, HBO including the multi-Emmy® nominated Naked and Afraid and The Walking Dead.



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NAVIGATING FESTIVALS: NEXT STEPS FOR EMERGING CREATORS

NICOLE BARKER

PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION MANAGER, SERIESFEST

Nicole Barker, a University of Denver graduate with degrees in Film and Environmental Science, began her career on the producing team for *THE HOLLY*, a two-time Emmy Award-winning documentary and novel.

Now in her fourth year with SeriesFest, she curates independent and international programming and leads year-round education initiatives.



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THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY: FROM THE FRONTLINES OF ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALISM

DEBRA BIRNBAUM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, GOLD DERBY

Debra Birnbaum is the editor-in-chief of Gold Derby, overseeing the website's in-depth coverage and analysis of awards and entertainment news, encompassing film, television, music, and theater.

She was previously the global head of awards for Amazon MGM Studios, overseeing awards strategy for the streaming service's extensive slate of original films and series. Under her six-year-long tenure, the studio set new records, including 12 Academy Award nominations in 2021, 68 Emmy Award nominations in 2023, and 16 Golden Globe Award nominations in 2023. Birnbaum spent five years as the executive editor, TV, for Variety, leading television news and awards coverage for the trade magazine's multiple platforms. She has also worked for TV Guide Magazine, Redbook, George, More, The New York Post, and Us Weekly.

She has appeared frequently on TV and radio as an entertainment expert, and moderated hundreds of panels for film and television festivals, industry and consumer events, and more. Her work has earned recognition from the L.A. Press Club, the Publicists Guild of America, the Webby Awards, the Clio Awards, Promax, and the Television Academy, notably an Emmy Award for producing Variety's "Actors on Actors" series. She also belongs to key industry organizations, including the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (AMPAS), the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), the Television Academy, the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the Critics' Choice Association.

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BELOW THE LINE CAREERS: MANAGING THE GIG ECONOMY

EDDIE BONIN

VFX CONSULTANT

Eddie Bonin is an Emmy award-nominated and Visual Effects Society award-nominated digital consultant for TV, film, commercials, and special venue projects. Specializing in high-end episodic streaming TV, Bonin is a VFX production specialist, who has helped to oversee the production of dozens of highly complex projects, including Netflix's *Love, Death & Robots*, Netflix & Tim Burton's *Wednesday*, Netflix's *Stranger Things*, Netflix's *Lost in Space*, Marvel's *Legion*, HBO's *True Detective*, and AMC's *The Walking Dead*. Bonin's work spans across in-house roles at major Hollywood studios, film production crews, and VFX vendors.

Named one of *Variety Magazine*'s 2018 "Movers & Shakers," Bonin is a champion for digital artists, managers and other digital specialists who facilitate visual effects and digital production as the intersection of art and technology, within advanced storytelling.

Virtual Production is an area of focus for Bonin, as he views the traditional VFX industry and the VFX experts occupying new production crew positions, alongside other new partners now associated with virtual production, as paramount in how virtual production is advancing the entertainment production industry at large. Partners in this advancement primarily include the Art Department, Camera & Lighting Departments, Editorial Department, Special Effects Department, Directors, Producers, and others.

DEI and the fostering of career advancement are also important areas of focus for Bonin. Bonin has served on the Television Academy's Special Visual Effects Peer Group Executive Committee since 2013, plus is an active member of the Visual Effects Society, Producers Guild of America, and Hollywood Professional Alliance's expert judging pool. Bonin is a Regents Scholar UCLA graduate, originally from the Silicon Valley, California.

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JEFF CONWAY

TV HOST / SENIOR CONTRIBUTOR, FORBES

Jeff Conway is an Emmy-nominated TV Host, a seasoned moderator and the top Hollywood interviewer at Forbes, including his exclusive conversations with Jennifer Aniston, Julie Andrews, Sabrina Carpenter, Kevin Costner, Dwayne Johnson and many more.

He is best known for providing refreshingly original and extra thought-provoking interview questions to top industry talent.

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, Jeff now resides in Los Angeles, California.



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IMANI DAVIS

FILM PROGRAMMER, AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE

Imani Davis is film programmer at the American Cinematheque in Los Angeles, and also a producer and writer.

At the American Cinematheque, a 501c3 nonprofit boasting over 1,600 film screenings a year, Imani has worked to put on events with A-list filmmakers and talent such as Sofia Coppola, Sean Baker, Jordan Peele, Spike Lee, Daniels (Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert), Damien Chazelle, Christopher Nolan, and many more.

Imani is also the founder and lead programmer of the American Cinematheque's newest short film festival called PROOF, which is the only festival completely dedicated to proof-of-concept short films.

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THE FUTURE OF
BROADCAST

AARON DAY, ED.D.

LECTURER, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH

Aaron Day, Ed.D. is a Lecturer at California State University Long Beach where he teaches broadcast journalism, multimedia storytelling, and leadership.

In addition to CSULB, Aaron has taught courses at Seattle University, Eastern Washington University, and Chaffey College. His teaching career started in 2008 at Green River College in Washington State.

Aaron has more than 24 years of experience as a newscast producer in major markets including Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Diego. He has won an Emmy, Golden Mike, Edward R. Murrow, and Los Angeles Press Club awards for his work in journalism.

Aaron is a board member for the Society of Professional Journalists Los Angeles and national board member for the National Association of Black Journalists.

His research interests lie in the areas of convergence, media literacy, ethics, citizen journalism, and emotional resistance to change in newsrooms.

He was a contributor for the textbook Second Edition Videojournalism: Multimedia Storytelling for Online, Broadcast and Documentary Journalists by Ken Kobre published in 2024.

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THE FUTURE OF
BROADCAST

JANENE DRAFTS

VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER, KTLA

Janene Drafts is Vice President and General Manager of Nexstar's broadcast and digital operations at KTLA in Los Angeles, CA, with oversight of KTLA-TV, KTLA+, ktl.com, and related website, mobile apps and social media channels. Since taking the helm at KTLA in 2020 she has launched Emmy Award winning News and local programming including: KTLA News at 5pm, LA Unscripted, and Off the Clock. KTLA is the most watched station in Southern California, with over 100 hours of local news, Entertainment and Lifestyle shows, and Red-Carpet productions for the Emmy's, Oscars, and Critics Choice Awards – all available over the air and on connected TVs, mobile, tablets and laptops. Ms. Drafts has deep experience in station and sales management, strategic planning, content creation across an array of media platforms, and an interest in developing community partnerships.

She previously served as the Vice President and General Manager of a combination of media properties serving Seattle, WA, including two local television stations, KOMO-TV (ABC) and KUNS-TV (Univision) and their related digital operations, and three local radio stations. Throughout her media career, Ms. Drafts has been deeply involved in the local community, cultivating long-term relationships with Seattle Children's Hospital, Salvation Army, and The Pike Place Market Foundation, and serving on various boards including Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the ABC Board of Governors. She currently serves on the Executive Boards of the Los Angeles Urban League and the California Broadcasting Association. She also serves on the board for Project Angel Food. Ms. Drafts graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in advertising communications.

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IOLI FILMERIDIS

PHILANTHROPIC ADVISOR, LITTLETON ROAD PRODUCTIONS

For 11 years, Ioli Filmeridis worked with the US Agency for International Development on political crises, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, human rights and governance across Asia and Africa.

Her prior experiences were with the United Nations, foundations, and nonprofits in the areas of women's rights, economic development, literacy, education, immigrant small business and entrepreneurship development.

For the past few years, she has advised Littleton Road Productions on their social action and philanthropic objectives, developing educational and awareness campaigns for Dr. Death and The Girl from Plainville.

Ioli holds a Masters in Nonprofit Management and International Development from NYU and is currently pursuing an Urban Planning and Governance of the Large Metropolis degree at UCLA and Sciences Po, Paris.

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BRIAN FLANAGAN

PRESIDENT, MYTHICAL ENTERTAINMENT

Brian joined Mythical in 2016 and oversees all business, finance, strategy, investing, legal, press, and policy matters at this leading Creator-led, Creator-owned studio.

Before entering Creator media, he was an experienced financier and producer of film and television, with credits including *The Night Manager* and *Hacksaw Ridge*. Brian began his career in finance, first as an investment banker at JPMorgan and then as a private equity investor in entertainment, media, and technology companies.

He graduated Harvard *cum laude* in American history & literature.



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PHILIP FOWLER

SUPERVISING EDITOR

Philip Fowler ACE is a Television/Film Editor known for working on a diverse variety of projects including "The Killing", "Grey's Anatomy", "High Potential" and most recently "Peacemaker".

Whether editing a large scale VFX project or an intimate piece, Philip edits with an emphasis on character and tone. In addition to editing both television and film, Philip has cut seven television pilots, including the hit ABC show "High Potential" from Drew Goddard. He is a frequent collaborator of Writer/Director Veena Sud, having edited five projects with her.

Philip hails from Cheyenne, Wyoming, home to the largest rodeo in North America (Frontier Days aka "The Daddy of 'em All"). Growing up in cowboy country, Philip found a passion for film and television early on thanks to his mother. She introduced Philip to Hitchcock, independent cinema and his favorite film, "My Best Friend's Wedding."

When not editing, you can find Philip playing volleyball, attending drag shows and spending long days at the beach with his twin daughters.



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UNSCRIPTED EDITING: SHAPING THE NARRATIVE IN REALITY TV

KATHERINE GRIFFIN

FILMMAKER & EDITOR

Originally from Bloomington, Indiana, Katherine studied at the Pacific Theatre of Performing Arts for directing and acting and at UCLA for screenwriting and producing. She works as a writer, director, editor, and producer for television, films, and documentaries. She has been nominated for eleven Primetime Emmy Awards with one win for editing *Top Chef*.

Katherine's screenplays and pilots have been semi-finalists and finalists in the Nicholl Fellowship, Cinestory Fellowship, Zoetrope Screenplay Competition, Austin Screenwriting Competition, Page Screenwriting Awards, Tracking Board, and the UCLA Screenwriting Competition.

Katherine was selected, based on her pilot work, to appear onscreen with Shonda Rhimes in her Masterclass on becoming a Showrunner. She collaborated on two feature screenplays with acclaimed film director Alfonso Arau, and her feature script *Butterflies & Lightning* has recently been optioned.

In 2021, Katherine was hired by Disney+ Latin America to oversee the look, tone, and casting for a 10-episode series titled: *Lucha*. She recently completed writing and directing the award-winning short film *Le Ballon Bleu*, shot entirely on location in Paris on the iPhone.

Katherine co-produced Amanda Ladd's award-winning feature documentary *Laddie: The Man Behind The Movies* about the life and career of her father, Alan Ladd, Jr.



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DAVID HARTLE

PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE, SCRIPTED SERIES, NETFLIX

David Hartle is a veteran production executive and producer with over 25 years experience working in scripted television across network, basic cable and streaming. David is a production executive at Netflix where he oversees production on scripted series, including Mo, Tires and The Upshaws.

Prior to joining Netflix, David spent several years with the Walt Disney Co. As Director of Production for the Disney | ABC Digital Media Studio, he oversaw production on digital original content produced for the ABC television network. He was responsible for the strategic direction and production of many of the network's digital media initiatives at the time.

Previously, David was a producer at ProdCo, Inc. where he oversaw production on scripted one-hour and half-hour pilots and series for Disney | ABC Television Group's Freeform network, including Switched At Birth, The Fosters and Baby Daddy.

Prior to going in-house, David spent the first part of his career as a freelance producer. He is serving his second term as Governor of the Television Academy for the Production Executives Peer Group and is a long time member of the Producers Guild of America, Producers Council.



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LITERALLY!**

DANIEL HINERFELD

DIRECTOR, CONTENT PARTNERSHIPS, NRDC'S REWRITE THE FUTURE

Daniel Hinerfeld is a two-time Emmy-winning filmmaker and journalist.

He founded NRDC's documentary film unit and co-founded and directs Rewrite the Future, NRDC's initiative to support representation of the environmental crisis in entertainment.

Daniel previously worked as a reporter, producer, and senior editor at NPR, where he launched the Tavis Smiley show.

Daniel co-created the nationally syndicated political analysis show Left, Right, and Center, at KCRW.

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BELOW THE LINE CAREERS: MANAGING THE GIG ECONOMY

HEIDI HOFFMANN

AUDIO ENGINEER

Heidi Hoffmann is an audio engineer from Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

After obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Film Production from Bowling Green State University and completing her internship with the Television Academy Foundation, she found full time employment at Bang Zoom! Studios and has been there for six years.

Her credits include Scott Pilgrim Takes Off, Twilight of the Gods, and Spidey and His Amazing Friends. Heidi is based in Burbank, CA and in her spare time enjoys playing recreational sports.



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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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ROAHN HYLTON

MUSIC PRODUCER AND COMPOSER

Roahn Hylton, also known as First Born, is a Grammy-nominated music producer and composer whose work spans hip-hop, R&B, pop, and film/TV scoring. A Houston native, he rose to prominence as co-producer of Nicki Minaj's breakout hit "Super Bass" and has since collaborated with artists including Ariana Grande, Ne-Yo, Trey Songz, Ludacris, and Flo Rida.

In recent years, Roahn has expanded his creative impact into screen composition, co-creating the original score for Amazon's *Free Meek* and composing for acclaimed series and films such as *Bel-Air*, *Chef's Table*, *Vampire Academy*, *The Wonder Years*, *Shaq*, and *Civil: Ben Crump*. Most recently, he scored *SNL 50*, which received three 2025 Emmy nominations.

Roahn is now exploring the intersection of music and artificial intelligence, building new workflows that integrate creative intuition with emerging technology. He is an active member of both the Television Academy and The Recording Academy, helping shape the future of music and media through community, advocacy, and innovation. With credits across major platforms—including Peacock, Netflix, HBO, and Prime Video—Roahn continues to lead as a creative force at the convergence of sound, story, and technology.



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BEN IGUCHI

MANAGER, ORIGINAL SERIES, NETFLIX

Based in Los Angeles, California, Ben Iguchi is a manager on the Live Action Comedy Original Series Team, where he has contributed to hit shows such as Cobra Kai, Leanne, That '90s Show, and the upcoming Free Bert.

A 2016 graduate of Georgetown University, Ben brings a passion for storytelling and comedy to every project.

Outside of work, he enjoys playing tennis, attending comedy shows, and surfing along the California coast.



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LARRY LABOE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER, NEWFILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES

Larry Laboe is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA), an organization dedicated to supporting filmmakers and storytellers globally.

He is a member of the Producers Guild of America and has previously served as a faculty member at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI). Additionally, Larry is a Board Member of the BRIC Foundation and the Film Festival Alliance (FFA), and he serves on the committee for SAGindie.

He has been a grants panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, LA County Department of Arts and Culture, and City of West Hollywood. Larry has produced content featuring talents such as James Franco and Joseph Gordon-Levitt for many of the world's leading brands, networks, and studios.

Many of these productions have been official selections at prestigious festivals like South by Southwest (SXSW) and have received major awards, including a BANFF World Media Festival Rockie Award.

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CHRISTINA E. LEE

VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS, TELEVISION, METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER STUDIOS

With more than 20 years of experience in entertainment public relations, Christina Lee has worked with and learned from the finest publicists in the world, honing her craft and gaining valuable insight into the world of media and television. Currently, she is the Vice President, Communications for the television division at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios (MGM an Amazon Company). She is responsible for executing strategic internal and external communications, media and talent relations for MGM Television scripted and unscripted series.

Additionally, she manages and services the studio's global network partners in more than 200 territories, guiding publicity campaigns for series internationally distributed by MGM. She has overseen some of today's most successful series including *The Handmaid's Tale* (HULU), *Fargo* (FX), *Vikings* (HISTORY), *Vikings: Valhalla* (Netflix), *Luis Miguel: La Serie* (Telemundo/Netflix), *The Big Shot with Bethenny* (HBOMax), and *Wednesday* (Netflix), just to name a few. Prior to joining MGM, she worked at Broad Green Pictures where she headed corporate communications for the studio and before that she worked at Rogers & Cowan where she oversaw campaigns for clients including Target and Saban Brands entertainment divisions. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Radio, Television, Film from California State University, Northridge and began her career at DreamWorks, SKG.

Prior to becoming the governor of the Public Relations peer group, Lee spent two years as an active member of the esteemed Peer Group Executive Committee (PGECE).



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UNSCRIPTED EDITING: SHAPING THE NARRATIVE IN REALITY TV

CHARLES LITTLE III

TELEVISION EDITOR AND DIRECTOR, AMERICAN CINEMA EDITORS

Charles Little III, ACE is an Emmy award-winning film and television editor, producer and director.

Charles film and television credits, both fiction and non-fiction include FX network's internationally acclaimed documentary series *Welcome To Wrexham*, Ryan Murphy's hit drama series "9-1-1" and "9-1-1 Lone Star"; Lauren Greenfield's provocative 5-part mini-series for FX entitled "Social Studies" and Netflix's exclusive, stylized sports series entitled "Full Swing".

Charles has produced and directed short form content and reality series for agencies and networks including Singha Beer, Gertrude Agency and MTV for which Charles has received multiple Telly Awards.

Charles is equally as active outside of the cutting room advocating for diversity and inclusion, mentoring and promoting the craft of picture editing at every opportunity.

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THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY: FROM THE FRONTLINES OF ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALISM

CYNTHIA LITTLETON

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, VARIETY

Cynthia Littleton is Co-Editor-in-Chief at Variety. She has covered the television beat for the past 20 years.

She began her career at United Press International, followed by stints at Broadcasting & Cable magazine, Variety, and The Hollywood Reporter, where she rose to Editor before rejoining Variety in 2007. At Variety she has also served as Business Editor.

Cynthia is the author of *TV on Strike: Why Hollywood Went to War Over the Internet* (Syracuse University Press, 2013), the definitive account of the 2007-2008 Writers Guild of America strike and the impact of the disruptive digital advancements that fueled the labor strife.

She is also the co-author with Susanne Daniels of *Season Finale: The Unexpected Rise and Fall of the WB Network and UPN* (HarperCollins, 2007).



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KELLY MACMANUS FUNKE

PRESIDENT, LITTLETON ROAD PRODUCTIONS

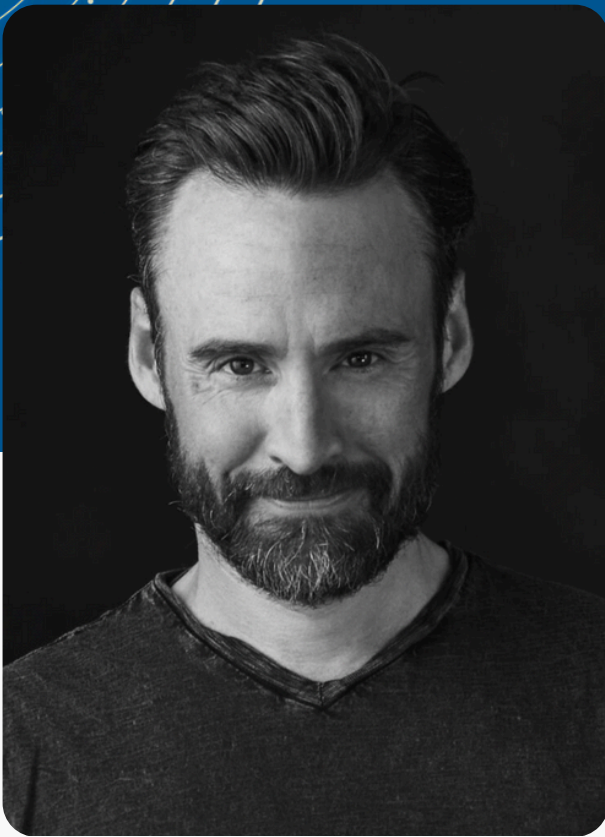
Before becoming Littleton Road's President, Kelly spent a decade at sportswear brand FILA, most recently as Senior Vice President, Marketing for North America. She was part of the global executive leadership team who returned the company from near-extinction to a \$5 billion enterprise that won the footwear industry's highest award in 2018.

Prior to FILA, Kelly had senior operations roles in a U.S. Senate campaign, at nationally renowned political ad agency Jamestown Associates, and at Furniture Co, a high-end retail store and interior design firm.

But Kelly's career is rooted in entertainment; she got her start working for Cary Woods as he produced the first projects of writer/directors Jon Favreau, James Mangold, Alexander Payne, Scott Rosenberg and M. Night Shyamalan, among others. Under her own company, Film Generator, she was associate producer on Jonas Pate's *SHRINK* and championed the early works of author Gregg Hurwitz, Broadway dramatist and screenwriter Jon Hartmere, and television writer Patrick Macmanus.

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PATRICK MACMANUS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & SHOWRUNNER, LITTLETON ROAD PRODUCTIONS

Under his overall deal with UCP (Universal Content Productions), a division of Universal Studio Group, Patrick Macmanus serves as writer, executive producer and co-showrunner, alongside Liz Hannah, on Hulu's 'The Girl From Plainville' starring Elle Fanning.

Macmanus recently served as writer, executive producer and showrunner on the Critics Choice Awards-nominated 'Dr. Death,' for NBCUniversal's streaming service Peacock. Macmanus has developed series at AMC, Starz, ABC, Sony Pictures Television, Fox Television Studios, NBC, Tribeca, CBS, Amazon, Netflix and more. He previously worked on SYFY's 'Happy!,' starring Christopher Meloni.

In 2021, Macmanus expanded his production company, Littleton Road Productions, and formed Littleton Road Philanthropy with the goal of extracting political, social and economic themes embedded in the scripted shows and reimagining those themes as opportunities to educate and empower viewers as individuals who engage in the world around them.

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**HOW GREY'S ANATOMY
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MEG MARINIS

SHOWRUNNER, GREY'S ANATOMY

Meg Marinis is showrunner and executive producer of ABC's GREY'S ANATOMY, television's longest-running prime time medical drama.

She began her career as a Writer's Production Assistant on the show's third season and served as writer's assistant and medical researcher before being promoted to staff writer.

During her nearly two decades at GREY'S, she has penned over 30 episodes including the season 21 finale and upcoming 22 premiere.

A Houston native, she is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin's Plan II Honors Program with a dual degree in Radio-Television-Film.

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MEREDITH MILTON

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, NRDC'S REWRITE THE FUTURE

Meredith Milton is Creative Director of NRDC's Rewrite the Future, as well as a producer and former studio executive at Searchlight, Lionsgate and Summit.

She was an EP on THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE and oversaw a diverse slate of films as an exec, including THE FAVOURITE and the STEP UP franchise.



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CREATING TELEVISION FOR THE INTERNET GENERATION

JACOB MONCRIEF

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, MYTHICAL ENTERTAINMENT

At Mythical, Jacob oversees content production and post-production, distribution, production finance, branded entertainment, live events, office operations, business affairs and human resources.

Before joining Mythical, Jacob served as General Manager at Westbrook Media, where he oversaw all aspects of strategic business and content operations across a slate of unscripted, digital, and branded content.

During his tenure, he produced Post Malone's Twelve Carat Toothache: A VR Experience (Meta), Class of 88 (Audible), Exposure (Samsung/Hulu), and Off Thee Leash with Megan Thee Stallion (Snapchat). Previously, Jacob was SVP of Production & Operations at Mythical, leading production initiatives for nearly five years.

Earlier in his career, he worked in production at BuzzFeed and MTV. In addition to his industry work, Jacob is an Adjunct Professor at his alma mater Chapman University, where he teaches a masterclass in Production Management.

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UNSCRIPTED EDITING: SHAPING THE NARRATIVE IN REALITY TV

NAKIA MONET

ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST & ON AIR HOST

Nakia Monet is a powerhouse in entertainment journalism and television production. She has contributed her talent and creativity to networks such as E., BET, MTV, and TMZ, developing content across documentaries, scripted, and unscripted projects. As both an on-air host and journalist, her work has been featured in outlets including BuzzFeed, E!, Amazon Prime, Black Hollywood Live, EUR Web, and AfterBuzz TV.

A New York City native who discovered her passion for the arts while growing up in Boston, Nakia earned her BA in Broadcasting from Pine Manor College before moving to Los Angeles to pursue her career. Since then, she has covered countless red carpets and interviewed Hollywood icons such as Keanu Reeves, Jane Fonda, Cynthia Erivo, Lily Gladstone, Halle Berry and Jamie Foxx.

Nakia continues to shine as a journalist, host, writer, and television producer, recognized for her versatility, creativity, and engaging voice in entertainment media.



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THE FUTURE OF
BROADCAST

ERIKA NAKASANO

SENIOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, DIGITAL, SPECTRUM NEWS

Erika Nakano is the Senior Executive Producer of Digital for Spectrum News, overseeing digital coverage across Southern California and Hawaii.

After graduating from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, she began her career as a multimedia journalist in the Four Corners region of New Mexico.

She later worked in Phoenix on the digital team, assignment desk, and in the investigative unit before moving back home to SoCal. Working in local news for the last 16 years, Erika has covered a wide range of breaking news, elections, and in-depth community-driven stories on television, websites, mobile apps, streaming platforms, and social media.

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THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY: FROM THE FRONTLINES OF ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALISM

MIKEY O'CONNELL

TV FEATURES EDITOR, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Mikey O'Connell is the TV Features Editor at The Hollywood Reporter, where he's held several positions since joining the magazine in 2011. Though his primary focus is covering the television industry, he frequently explores culture and film — writing and reporting features, news, interviews and profiles, as well as overseeing many annual editorial packages such as the Hollywood's 50 Most Powerful Showrunners issue. Mikey also manages weekly Q&A franchise Creative Space and wonders how many days will pass before his parents notice this new bio. (He'll report back on that.)



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THE FUTURE OF
BROADCAST

NAIBE REYNOSO

REPORTER AND PRODUCER

Naibe Reynoso is a Mexican-American Multi-Emmy award-winning journalist based in Los Angeles California. She is also a speaker and author.

She has worked and contributed to various regional, national and international networks including KTLA, France 24, Univision Network, Reelz Channel, CNN en Español, the Biography Channel, Fox News Latino, Larry King's ORA TV, and has even filled in as a co-host on ABC's "The View". She also co-created "The TRENDTalk," a one-hour talk show and co-founded the events company Latinafest LLC which has produced over a dozen successful events in the Los Angeles Area.

In 2018 she created Con Todo Press, a publishing company that creates books that celebrate diverse cultures. Her first children's book, "Be Bold, Be Brave: 11 Latinas who made U.S. History," was an Amazon #1 best seller, and highlights women who excelled in medicine, science, sports, the arts, journalism and politics. It was also awarded best nonfiction picture book in the 2020 International Latino Book Awards, was a 2020 Moon Beam Gold winner for best multicultural non-fiction book, and was listed on the Tejas Star Reading 2021-2022 list. In 2020 her first fiction book "How to Fold a Taco" won Publishers Weekly Selfies award inaugural grand prize in the children's category.

Reynoso is also the author of the best-selling Disney Encanto Little Golden Book, and Antonio's Amazing gift published by Disney Books.

Mrs. Reynoso served on the Peabody Awards board from 2015-2020. She received the BIBO Award for "Outstanding work in Media." Her bilingual background includes investigative reporting, hosting, entertainment reporting, radio, and TV production.

She lives in her native Los Angeles with her husband, her daughter and son.

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UNSCRIPTED EDITING: SHAPING THE NARRATIVE IN REALITY TV

JENNIFER ROTH

TELEVISION EDITOR AND PRODUCER

Jennifer Roth is an Emmy Award-winning television and film editor and producer, winning a 2024 Daytime Emmy for *The Book of Queer* and earning a 2025 Primetime Emmy nomination for *Queer Eye*.

With over 50 titles on her project roster, including *Queer Eye*, *Project Runway*, *Duck Dynasty*, *MasterChef*, and documentaries for Netflix, Disney, and Showtime, Roth distinguishes herself through her empathetic editing approach that delivers authentic emotional truth and examines the human experience.

A University of Buffalo graduate who has collaborated with nearly every major network and streamer, she is a proud member of the Motion Pictures Editors Guild and the WGA.

She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters.

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TEACHING THE MACHINE:
INTEGRATING GENERATIVE AI INTO
THE COLLEGE MEDIA CLASSROOM

ERIC SHAMLIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SECRET LEVEL

Eric W. Shamlin is CEO of Secret Level, the most accomplished and prolific AI-native entertainment studio. With a career spanning three decades across Hollywood, Silicon Valley and Madison Avenue, Eric has delivered iconic work at Apple, Omnicom, Entertainment One, and Monks. He is a multiple Emmy, Peabody and Cannes Lion winner.

Additionally, Eric is an active member of the creative community and currently sits on the Board of Governors for the Emmys, where he Chairs their Innovation Advisory Committee, in addition to being the Innovation Chair for the Producers Guild of America and holds multiple advisory positions for the SXSW film festival.

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BELOW THE LINE CAREERS: MANAGING THE GIG ECONOMY

SANDRA VALDE-HANSEN

ASC, LPS, THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY, XO KITTY

Sandra Valde-Hansen, ASC, LPS is a Filipina-American cinematographer whose dynamic body of work spans narrative features, television, and documentary. A graduate of the American Film Institute Conservatory (MFA Cinematography), she now serves as a Senior Lecturer at AFI, shaping the next generation of visual storytellers.

Valde-Hansen's work has premiered at Sundance and been featured on major platforms including Showtime, Hulu, Netflix, and Prime Video. Her notable credits include **The L Word: Generation Q** (Showtime), **Plan B** (Hulu), and the documentary **Burn Motherf*\ker, Burn** (Showtime). A longtime collaborator of filmmaker Gregg Araki, she lensed his STARZ series **Now Apocalypse** and the Sundance films **Kaboom** and **White Bird in a Blizzard**. Recent credits include **XO, Kitty** (Netflix) and Seasons 2 and 3 of **The Summer I Turned Pretty** (Prime Video), created by bestselling author Jenny Han.

Valde-Hansen is committed to expanding representation both in front of and behind the camera. Actively involved with Women in Media, Women in Film, Film Independent, and the ASC's educational initiatives, she champions inclusive mentorship and career development for emerging artists.

In 2022, she was invited to join the prestigious American Society of Cinematographers (ASC). She is also a proud member of Lupon ng Pilipinong Sinematograpo (LPS), the Society of Camera Operators, the International Cinematographers Guild, the Television Academy, and the American Association of University Professors.

She resides in Los Angeles with her husband and daughter.



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HOW GREY'S ANATOMY MADE
SEASON 21 THE HOTTEST ONE YET
—LITERALLY!

ELLIS WATAMANUK

SENIOR DIRECTOR, ENTERTAINMENT LAB, RARE

Ellis Watamanuk is a media impact producer and strategist working at the intersection of storytelling and climate action.

A former film executive, he now serves as the Sr. Director of the Entertainment Lab at Rare, bringing the organization's social science expertise to the entertainment industry.