

Northwestern University

Department of Radio/Television/Film

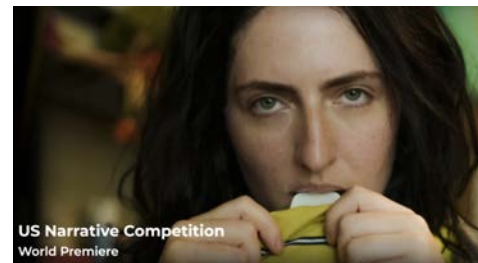
Spring 2022

Alumni News



Marion Hill (RTVF '16) returned to campus with her Sundance premiered and award-winning fiction feature film debut *Ma Belle, My Beauty* in May. She visited advanced directing students and the student film group Studio 22, (for which she was a co-executive director of during her senior year at NU), and screened her film at the Block Museum. . The film is distributed by [Good Deed Entertainment](#). For more details, see the interview with Hill in the [Chicago Tribune](#).

Alex Heller's (RTVF '15) feature directorial debut *[The Year Between](#)* premiered at **[The 2022 Tribeca Film Festival](#)**. The film, which uses comedy to explore mental illness during the college experience, stars Alex, J. Smith-Cameron and Steve Buscemi. It was produced through Chicago's Full Spectrum Feature and is repped for US sales by CAA.



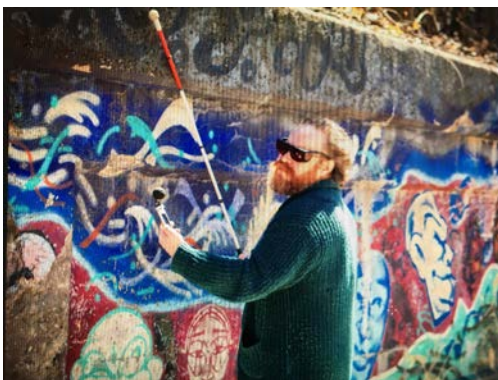
The film ***Tahara***, a queer coming of age drama set during a Hebrew school funeral was directed by **Olivia Peace** (RTVF '16) and written by **Jess Zeidman** (RTVF '18). The Film is a NYT Critics Pick and got a fantastic write-up in the ***New York Times***. The film is distributed by Film Movement.

HollyShorts Fellow
**STOWE
STORY
LABS**
2022



Stowe Story Labs has announced its 16 writers awarded fellowships to develop their original projects through its Narrative Lab and Writers' Retreats, held throughout 2022. RTVF MFA alumna **Oona O'Leary** ('17) is this year's HollyShorts Film Festival Fellow for her hour-long drama *Re Possessed*. More information can be found in the [Deadline](#) announcement.

Meredith Haines (SAI '20) was awarded Artist in Residence for 2022 at [High Concept Labs](#) in Chicago.



Andy Slater (SAI '20) was awarded a 2022 [USA Fellowship](#). Andy also presented an [evening of sound-based works](#) at the Gene Siskel Film Center in March. The event was presented in partnership with Gallery 400 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Conversations at the Edge at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Gene Siskel Film Center.

Erica Ricketts (SAI '21) is the sound designer and audio engineer on "Last Audience: a performance podcast" in collaboration with interdisciplinary artist, Yanira Castro. The [podcast](#) is adapted from one of Yanira's dance works made pre pandemic. It is a mixture of science fiction, political motivation, and dance.





Brad Robin's (SAI '18) piece "Spread" will be performed later this summer in Vienna at the Golden Key Piano Composition Competition awards ceremony.



Sylver Wallace (SAI '22) is an invited artist for the **Yaddo National Benefit** this October at the Bowery Hotel in New York City and will be introduced by artist and composer Laurie Anderson.



Lianna Squillace (SAI '19) joined LinkedIn as a Senior Audio Engineer.



Brianna Odom (SAI'18) joined Entertainment Studios as a sound mixer.

Special Announcement

New Pritzker Pucker Studio Lab



The **Pritzker Pucker Studio Lab** (PPSL) for the Promotion of Mental Health via Cinematic Arts launched in the fall. The Studio Lab was written up in **Variety**. The PPSL sponsored weekly evening public lectures, screenings, and performances, including “Do you really have a self? A story about possession,” by Michelle Molina, Associate Professor, Religious Studies/History/Gender Studies; “Performance & Discussion: Trauma-Informed Storytelling; Where’s the Rest of Me?” by David E. Tolchinsky, “Ann, Fran, and Mary Ann” by Erin Courtney;” screening of *Violet* (co-sponsored by the MFA in Writing for Screen+Stage), with a Q&A with filmmaker Justine Bateman; “Lecture: Depictions of Women with Bipolar Disorder in Film and TV,” by Dr. Crystal T. Clark, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Obstetrics and Gynecology; “Discussion: Cultural constructions of dissociation and what they say about self, agency and desire,” with Rebecca Seligman, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Global Health; field trip to see the Goodman Theatre’s *Good Night, Oscar* with a talkback by playwright Doug Wright; and “Panel Discussion: Media Production Cultures and Mental Health,” With Nava Mau, Sowjanya Kudva, & Debra Tolchinsky; a performance by Eliza Bent, and an event with Asian American Filmmakers. Information about getting involved can found **here**. Check for PPSL’s upcoming events **here**

Faculty News

In February, **Neil Verma** served as a historical consultant on the set of the upcoming Martin Scorsese film "Killers of the Flower Moon." Verma advised on a scene that recreated a 1930s radio play, complete with sound effects and music. He was also recently quoted as a source in a **New York Times feature** on the revival of radio drama in the podcast age.

Marco Williams was awarded a National Endowment for the **National Endowment for the Humanities Production Grant** of \$550,000 for his film, *Eyes on The Prize: Reclaimed*. The grant will support the production of a documentary film about the history,

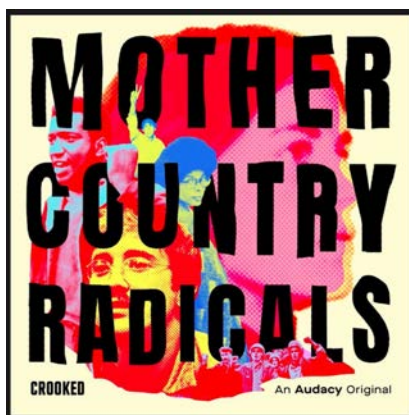
making and the legacy of *Eyes on the Prize*, the landmark public television series about the civil rights movement.



Department of Radio, TV, Film faculty members **Eliza Bent, Kyle Henry, Stephan Moore, Eric Patrick, and Debra Tolchinsky** won 2022 Northwestern Provost Grants for Research in Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts, which recognizes the truly excellent research and creativity of Northwestern's faculty. Projects range from theater to film to installation, sound to documentary to narrative fiction projects.

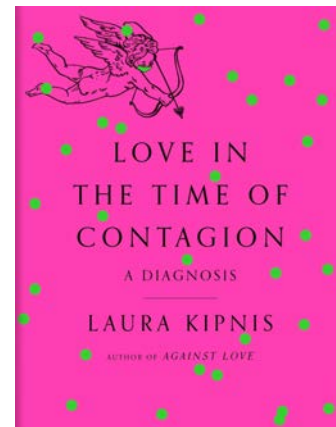
Jacob Smith's article "Gregory Bateson Meets The Mayor of Casterbridge," is being published this Spring in the Thomas Hardy Society Journal. The article discusses Hardy's novel and a 1978 BBC television adaptation of it in relation to Bateson's "ecology of mind."

Ariel Rogers was awarded an NEH Fellowship to support the writing of her new book, which uses the rise of virtual reality (VR) as an opportunity to revisit the concept of the cinematic frame.



Zayd Dohrn's original podcast series *Mother Country Radicals* premieres at the Tribeca Film Festival in the "Audio Storytelling" category on June 8. Dohrn writes and narrates the 10-episode limited series - a personal history of the revolutionary undergrounds of the 1970s - which is produced and distributed by Crooked Media (Pod Save America).

Laura Kipnis's new book **Love in the Time of Contagion: A Diagnosis** was published in February and was a New York Times Editors Choice. She also wrote **"Has Academia Become A Hotbed of Craven Snitches"** for the Chronicle of Higher Education.



Özge Samancı visited Angoulême Comics Festival in France as a fellow with **Forecast Platform** in Berlin. Following that, Özge had an exhibition of a chapter from her upcoming graphic novel "Evil Eye" in Berlin. The exhibition was staged in the basement of a historical building (RadialSystem) to symbolize the Basilica Cistern in Istanbul where the exhibited chapter took place. Özge also held a workshop, gave a reading from "Evil Eye," and participated in a panel. As a result of Ozge's visit to Angoulême, French rights of Özge's previous graphic novel Dare to Disappoint were sold to Éditions du Faubourg.

Brett Neveu wrote ***Night's End***, a horror film directed by Jennifer Reeder, produced by Neveu, Neil Edelstein, and RTVF Professor **David E. Tolchinsky**, and starring Geno Walker, Kate Arrington, Felonious Munk, Lawrence Grimm, Daniel Kyri, Theo Germaine, with Michael Shannon. The film screened at The Music Box, **Block Cinema** (co-sponsored by the **Pritzker Pucker Studio Lab** and the MFA in Writing for Screen+Stage), and is now streaming on Shudder/AMC. The film was line produced by RVTf alumna **Grace Hahn** (C16), and production coordinated by RTVF alumna **Lucinda Mandel** (C19). *Night's End* is a Shudder original film, and a Crow Island Films and Institutional Quality Production (Neveu and Tolchinsky's company).



[The Climate Crisis + Media Arts Working Group](#), founded and co-lead by **JP Sniadecki**, was awarded two years of funding from the [Buffett Institute](#).

Current Student News

Undergraduates

The 2022 RTVF Undergraduate Screenwriting Fund Prize award winners are:

1st Prize: (\$1000).

Radhika

Coming-of-Age feature film script by **Maggie Brill**

Two 2nd Prizes: (\$500 each).

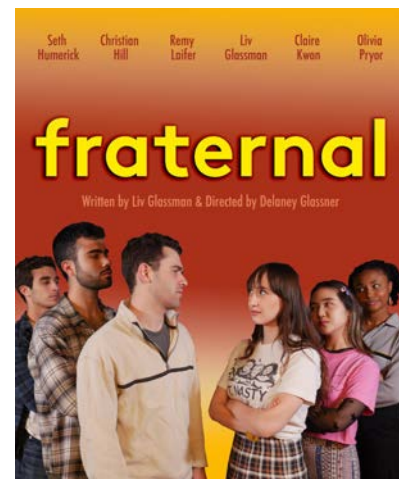
Hopeless Romantic

a half-hour comedy television script by **Stella Rumble**

Girls Who Read

a half-hour comedy television script by **MaryKate Schoonover**

Fraternal, a sitcom proof of concept written by RTVF senior **Liv Glassman**, will world premiere at SeriesFest as part of the Collegiate Spotlight award in Denver this May. Liv Glassman received funding for *Fraternal* from Northwestern's Sitcom Grant and produced the pilot with director **Delaney Glassner** and producer **Julianna Lee** as well as support from RTVF faculty Erik Gernand, Eliza Bent, and Jonah Zeiger. View the trailer on SeriesFest's website [here](#).



The 2022 RTVF Screenwriting Fund Prizes Graduate Division award winners are

1st Prize (\$1000)

Smut Club; Pilot, Abby Brooke

Two 2nd Place Prizes (\$750 eac)

Dora, Isaac, and the Great Flood, Pilot, Philip Kenner

Quran Camp, Feature, Samah Meghjee

Daryn Robinson, MFA Writing for the Screen & Stage '23 currently performs in ***Shamilton: The Improvised Hip-Hop Musical*** through June 3rd at **The Second City**. After that, she will spend this summer in New York City interning for fellow Second City and Northwestern alum Stephen Colbert at ***The Late Show With Stephen Colbert***. Daryn believes both experiences will aid her career as a comedy writer!



Salwa Meghjee's play *Intake: Hawaii* was selected as a semi-finalist in the 2022 Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival.

< kekeandwayne ...

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Keke and Wayne
A new web-series sitcom written by Maria D. Smith
Directed by Maddie Morse
Produced by Kay Liu
open.spotify.com/playlist/ODmmONBBR7WjntY6vfgaXW?si

Last year, **Maria Smith** had the opportunity to represent Northwestern in the ***MFA Take Ten festival***. Now, that play is being published in the festival's annual anthology. She is also going into post-production with her sitcom proof of concept ***Keke and Wayne*** that she received a grant to make from the university.

Psychotropic, a new play by **Philip Kenner** (MFA WSS '22), premieres July 7th at ***Rolecall Theater*** in Atlanta with a two week run. Directed by Maddy Roberts, *Psychotropic* tells the story of two theatremakers who care deeply about the environment. Every time they get close to staging the perfect play about climate change, Hurricane Jessica Chastain has other plans.

The Chef's Monologue, a new podcast featuring amazing writers cooking up short, fresh monologues based on provided "recipes." Hosts **Michael Frazel** (MFA WSS '22) and **Philip**

Kenner (MFA WSS '22) interview the writers about their fascinating processes. Follow us on [Instagram](#) for updates!



MA in Sound Arts & Industries



"Inhuman Figures," a film essay by **CA Davis** (SAI '22) and Michelle N. Huang that examines science fiction tropes and how they connect directly to historical and contemporary racial stereotypes of Asian Americans, launched on the [Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center's Online Museum](#).

Felicia Dominguez (SAI '22) self-produced the audio drama series [AURICLE](#). This podcast is an anthology series about fleeting, intimate connections made with the help of a match-making app, Iris. We're all desperate for connection, and Iris is programmed to help us succeed.



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