

Northwestern University

Department of Radio/Television/Film

Fall 2019

Faculty Welcomes



We welcome to the Evanston campus Assistant Professor **Danielle Beverly**, who has been teaching at NU Qatar. Beverly typically works as a one person crew, recording both picture and audio. Beverly's documentary *Old South* debuted in March 2015, and had its national broadcast in February 2016 on The World Channel/PBS. It was the season 4 opener of the "America ReFramed" documentary series, airing during African American History Month.

Beverly's newest feature documentary *Dusty Groove: The Sound of Transition* at [SF DocFest](#) in June. On September 23, the film visited Malmö University for a screening at [Medea](#), their transdisciplinary research lab.

Beverly also participated in a panel at [The Nordisk Panorama](#) as a member of the American Delegation selected by The International Documentary Association (IDA). It was presented by SFI Filmrummet and was



We also welcome to the Evanston campus Professor **Marco Williams**, who has been teaching at NU Qatar. An award-winning documentary film director, Marco Williams' credits include: *Tell Them We are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities* (2017), *The Black Fives* (2014), *The Undocumented* (2013), *Inside: The New Black Panthers* (2008), *Banished* (2007), *Freedom Summer* (2006), *I Sit Where I Want: The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education* (2004), *MLK Boulevard: The Concrete Dream* (2003), *Two Towns of Jasper* (2002), *Making Peace: Rebuilding our Communities* (1995), *The Spiritual Deficit and The American Dream* (1994), *Without a Pass* (1992) *In Search of Our Fathers* (1991), *From Harlem to Harvard* (1982).

Williams received a B.A. from Harvard University, in Visual and Environmental Studies. He received a Master of Arts degree from UCLA in Afro-American



RTVF welcomes Lecturer **Ariel Stess** to the MFA in Writing for the Screen & Stage program. Ariel Stess is a playwright and director originally from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her work has been produced and/or developed at Playwrights Horizons, The Bushwick Starr, New Georges, Clubbed Thumb, Mabou Mines, and The Playwrights' Center. She is a 2018-21 Core Writer of the Playwrights' Center, a member of the 2026 class of New Dramatists, and a New Georges Affiliated Artist. Her plays include *Tranquil*, *4 Women*, *The World My Mama Raised* (Clubbed Thumb), *Heartbreak* (The Bushwick Starr, co-produced by New Georges, Time Out New York Critics' Pick), and *I'm Pretty Fucked Up* (Clubbed Thumb, Five Stars Time Out New York). Ariel received her BA from Bard College and her MFA in playwriting from Brooklyn College. Her writing has appeared in The Brooklyn Rail and Culturebot.

titled “The Female Gaze 2.0 and Beyond – Capturing Women on Screen”. Beverly also presented at the UFVA conference in Minneapolis.

Studies and a Master of Fine Arts also from UCLA in their Producer’s Program. Before joining NU, he was a professor at New York University, Tisch School of the Art.

Faculty News



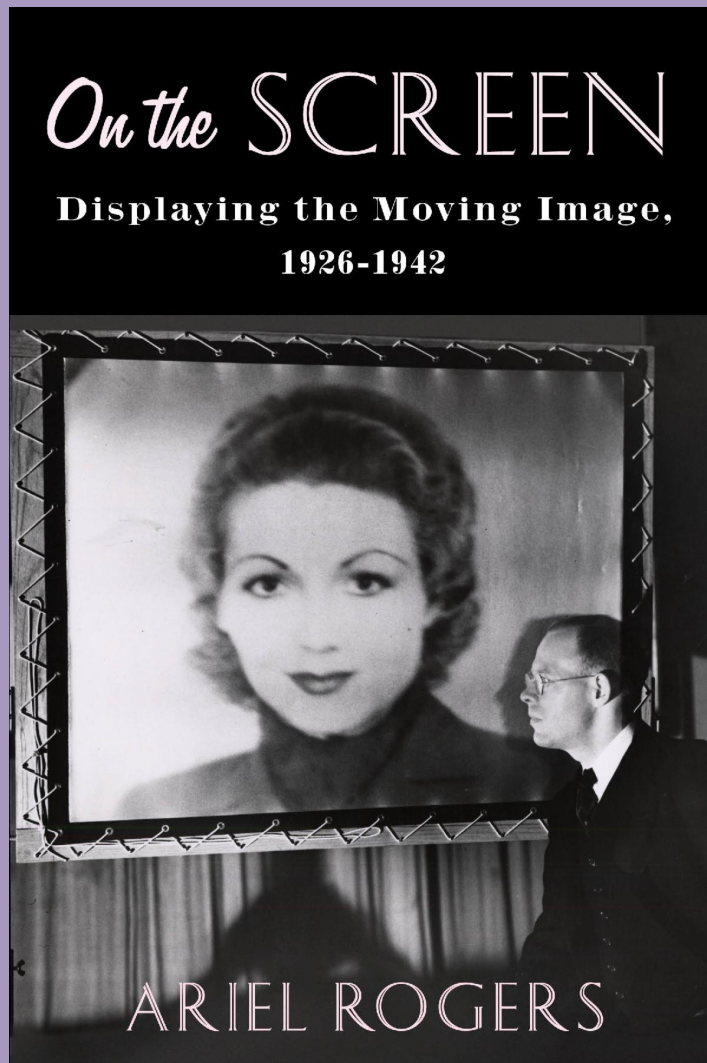
NewCity's 2019 Film 50 list included RTVF's **Ines Sommer** (above left), Associate Director and Lecturer in the MFA in Documentary Media Program, RTVF's **Aymar Jean Christian** (above right, with Elijah McKinnon), **Debra Kahn Tolchinsky**, Associate Chair and Associate Professor in Radio/TV/Film, and **David Tolchinsky** (both pictured at right), Professor and Co-Director of the MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage program.

Sommer recently completed *Seasons of Change on Henry's Farm*. The doc will play in competition at the 2019 BendFilm Festival. Sommer recently received a Chicago Digital Media Production Fund award for the production of *The Reformers*, a series of online micro-documentaries that will follow newly elected Chicago progressive Aldermen. She also organized the first DOC CHICAGO conference in March.



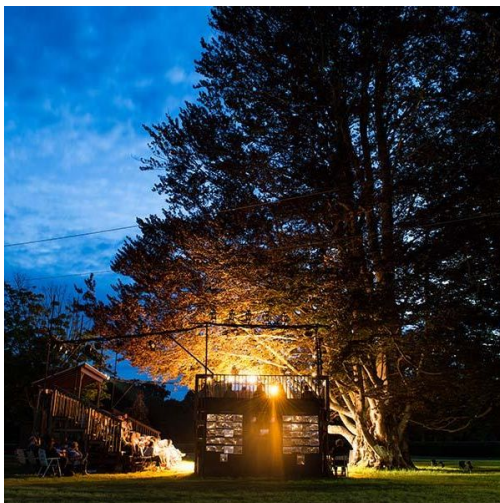
David Tolchinsky's short film, *Cassandra*, will have its premiere at the Nightmares Film Festival on October 25 in Columbus, Ohio, at the Gateway Film Center.

Tolchinsky's script *Clear* was a first prize Van Gogh award winner at the Amsterdam International Film Festival. And his script *Heal* was a Van Gogh award finalist at the Amsterdam International Film Festival, and was selected for inclusion in the Houston Comedy Film Festival, Las Vegas International Film Festival, and The Hague Global Cinema Festival.



Associate Professor **Ariel Rogers'** new book, *On the Screen: Displaying the Moving Image, 1926-1942*, was published by Columbia University Press this summer.

In addition, Rogers' article, "Screen Practices and Hollywood Cinema in the 1930s," appeared in the Summer 2019 issue of *Screen*.



This summer, Associate Professor and RTVF Chair **Zayd Dohrn** was in the writers room for a new series from A24 and Writer/Director Mike Mills.

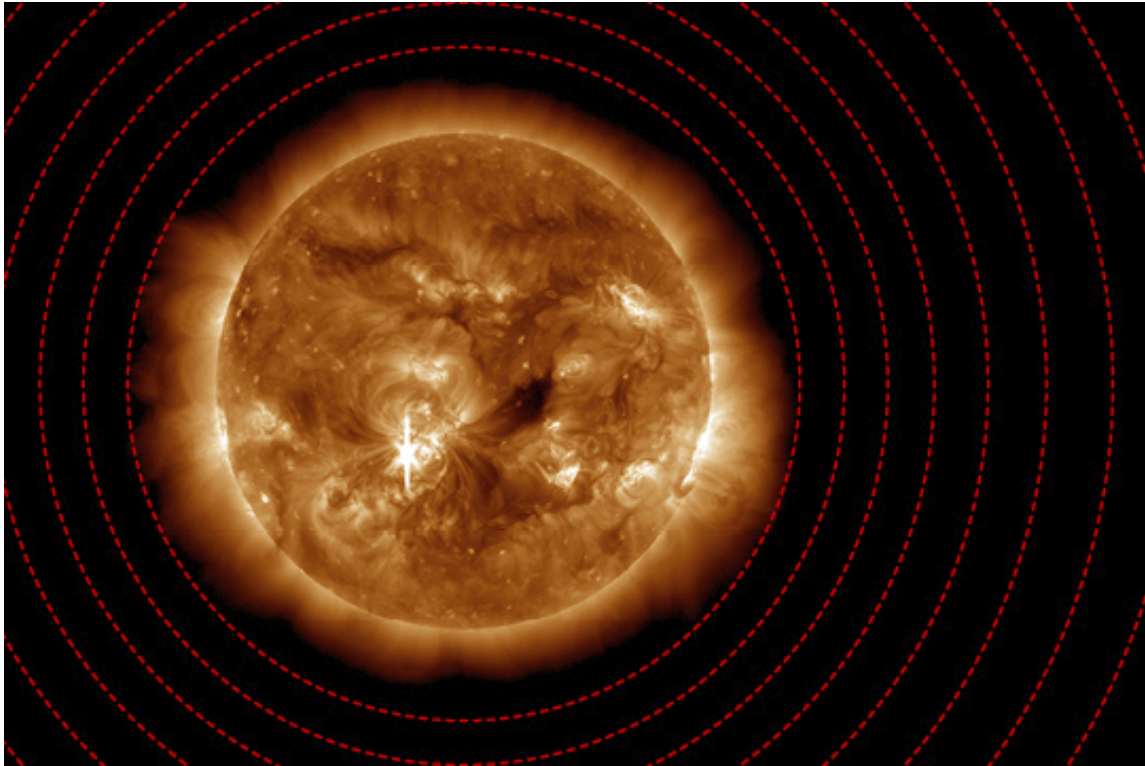


(Photo courtesy Jen Proctor)

At the annual UFVA conference in

Dohrn was also in residence at the O'Neill Playwrights Conference (pictured above) with his new play, *The Humanities*.

Minneapolis, MN, Associate Professor **Kyle Henry** (above) won the Fiction Feature Gold Award for *Rogers Park*.



The Chicago Sound Show is happening September 27-December 29. Nine artists were commissioned to make major sound installations, including Senior Lecturer **Stephan Moore**, as well as Olivia Block (an RTVF adjunct) and Andy Slater (MA SAI 2020). Moore's piece is called *Six Accompaniments for Solo Voice* and involves turning park benches into subtle interventions that interact with the noise pollution caused by the Chemistry Building's air handling system, celebrating it, decorating it, but also calling critical attention to it.

The annual sound art exhibition that **Stephan Moore** curates at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts re-opened on June 15. In mid-August, Moore's collaborative piece with Peter Bussigel called Chorus for Untrained Operator was installed at the Fiegenbaum Arts Center at Union College in Schenectady, NY. It will remain up through December 5.

Moore's new sound installation, *Two Chambers*, will be installed in the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Clermont, KY, about 20 miles south of Louisville. The piece will open on October 13 as part of an event organized by sonicBernheim, a sound art collective that brings speakers, artists, and musicians to the forest to engage with sound and nature.

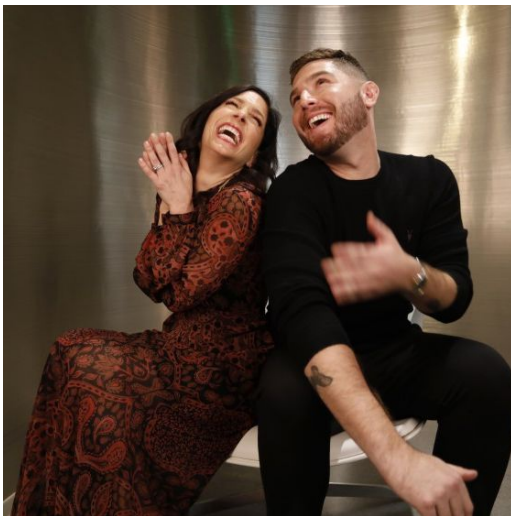
On November 1, **Moore** will perform a set with Sonic Youth guitarist Lee Ranaldo and noise-cellist Leila Bordreuil at Issue Project Room in Brooklyn.



RTVVF Senior Lecturer **Clayton Brown's** (above) film *We Believe in Dinosaurs* holds a score of 90% Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The film has distribution with 1091 and will be available for download on iTunes and Google Play starting November 19. It has international distribution through Tel Aviv's Cinephil, and has now been accepted to nine festivals.



Associate Professor **Ozge Samanci's** interactive art installation "Fiber Optic Ocean in Virtual Reality" (above) was in Siggraph Art Gallery in Los Angeles during 28 July-1 August 2019. Samanci's previous interactive art installation "You are the Ocean" was in a group show entitled Ecologies of Transformation at the University of California, San Diego.



Lecturer **Stephen Cone** directed the first two episodes of the second season of *This Close* (above), airing now on SundanceTV. The show is notable for starring and being created/written by two deaf actors. Press for the show includes this LA Times Feature, this Rolling Stone Feature/Review, and this Paste Magazine Review.

Adjunct Instructor **Kris Rey** (formally Swanberg) spent the summer filming her upcoming feature, *I Used To Go Here*, starring Gillian Jacobs and Jemaine Clement. This female-led comedy is a co-production between Party Over Here (Pen15), Yale Productions (Stowaway) and Ten Acre Films (Sorry To Bother You). *I*



Lecturer **Chaz Evans** toured an exhibition (above) to Ars Electronica 2019. With Jon Cates, Jonathan Kinkley and VGA Gallery, Evans exhibited Chicago New Media 1973-1992 in Linz, Austria.

The documentary VR game Evans is directing, *Frame Switch*, met its public debut at the 2019 Bit Bash festival hosted by the Museum of Science and Industry. The game received a mention in a review of the festival published on the front page of the Sun-Times.

Frame Switch is a collaboration between VGA Gallery and the Media Majlis at NUQ and is supported by a MacArthur International Connections fund grant.

Used To Go Here marks Rey's fourth feature, whose prior work includes Sundance hit *Unexpected* and SXSW pic *It Was Great, But I Was Ready To Go Home*. Many notable Northwestern alumni and staff were involved in the making the film, including Theatre Professor Cindy Gold in a featured role and thirteen of Rey's former film students who were interns on the film.



Contaminated Memories, (above), a short documentary directed and produced by Associate Professor, **Debra Tolchinsky**, premiered June 25 on Op-Docs and was featured on *The New York Times* front page. Following its release, *Newsweek*, *Latin Times*, and *Metro UK* were among the international publications that wrote about *Contaminated Memories*.

On August 27, Kelly Richmond Pope and Bill Kresse spotlighted *Contaminated Memories* as well as Tolchinsky on their WGN Talk Radio show. *Contaminated Memories* will screen at the 2019 Chicago International Film Festival on Oct 17, 21 and 26. You may also watch on Op-Docs at The New York Times.

Current Student News

This past May, RTVF senior **Meredith McHale** (pictured at far left) attended the 72nd Cannes Film Festival where a project that she recorded sound for was being shown. Hayley Tibbenham, director and University of Michigan senior, was accepted into the short film corner for her film, *Inhuman*. The duo spent a week at the festival networking with other student filmmakers and receiving advice from industry professionals. The two attended a number of red carpet premieres including the premiere of *Parasite*, the 2019 Palme

d'Or winner.

Erika Hakmiller's (Writing for the Screen & Stage c/o 2020) short play, *Who's Haunting?* is being produced by Random Acts Chi in October. Her short play *Break Through* was selected for the Nox Arca Resident Showcase in September.

Resita Cox (Documentary Media c/o 2021) won a 2019 Chicago Digital Media Production Fund grant for her project, *Regrowth*. This documentary short follows the reopening of a once thriving catfish restaurant as a vehicle to examine the intertwining of food and resilience. It shows community members taking on rebuilding despite looming gentrification and five decades of disinvestment in a predominantly Black neighborhood on the West Side.

Milton Guillen (Documentary Media c/o 2020) was named a 2018 Carol Fielding grantee for his thesis film, *On the Move*.



New Podcasts from Sound Arts & Industries



[The Joys of Audio Storytelling with Ele Matelan](#)

Ele Matelan is a sonic storyteller working in Chicago as a Foley artist for both live theater and films. She has years of experience devising the perfect sound effects to propel a story forward.

Listen as Sound Arts and Industries student Jeffrey Nils Gardner guides us through Ele's view on Foley's place in audio storytelling, and audio drama communities in Chicago.



[Sound-Only Storytelling with Gary Rydstrom](#)

Seven-time Academy Award winner Gary Rydstrom has created some of the most memorable sound designs in modern cinema (*Jurassic Park*, *Toy Story*, and *Saving Private Ryan*, to name a few). He has also brought his audio storytelling outside traditional film, designing the sound for theme park *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* in Disneyland and an installation at San

Francisco's deYoung Museum called The Companions, an audio-only cinematic experience that guided visitors through immersive and directional sound.

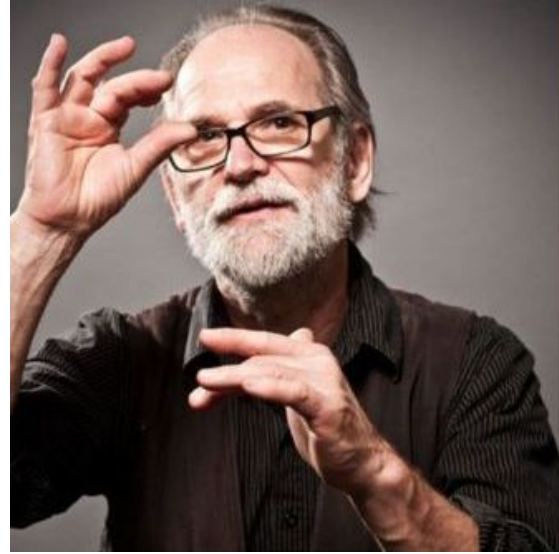
Listen as Gary takes us through the creative process behind The Companions, and the power of using audio in storytelling.



[The Voices of Dragons with Paula Fairfield](#)

Over a career including TV's LOST and Game of Thrones, Emmy award-winning sound designer Paula Fairfield has created rich soundscapes that expertly blend reality with the fantastic. On a campus visit she inspired our students to fully express their unique selves in their work.

Listen as Paula talks about sound designing Game of Thrones, advice for collaborating in creative projects, and using the voices of dragons to spur animal conservation.



[Sculpting Sounds with Trimpin](#)

Trimpin loves natural and acoustic sound. He moved to America decades ago partly to have greater access to discarded technological and mechanical materials to create his inventive installations, which combine music composition with visually imaginative kinetics (and some wizardry).

Listen as Trimpin talks about a selection of his world-renowned sound sculptures, navigating the art community as a sound artist, and the beauty of natural sound.

Welcome new graduate students!

Screen Cultures



After graduating with a BA from New York University, **Kate Erskine** completed her MSc in Gender, Media and Culture at the London School of Economics. Kate's research and interests are in the the critical analysis of visual culture, and specifically representations of madness and themes of nationalism, surveillance and migration in contemporary television. Kate received a distinction on her graduate thesis, "Gendered States of Insecurity in Homeland." Previously, she worked in film development for production companies based in New York, London and Shanghai.



Originally from the suburbs of Milwaukee, **Clare Ostroski** graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with BAs in Radio-Television-Film and Culture in the Age of Globalization, with a certificate in Digital Studies. During her undergraduate career, she developed a pop culture fanaticism working as a production assistant and film programmer. Her research interests include the representation and consumption of feminine bodies in late capitalistic media, and how women exploit both masculine and post-feminist formalities to gain cultural legitimacy in media creation and criticism. She is also interested in the intersections of celebrity and text in contemporary media, and how readings of those relationships are inherently gendered.

Nicola McCafferty is interested in examining the potential of film and music as routes to re-enchantment, with a particular interest in genres that exist at the margins of popular culture, including horror film and punk, metal, and noise music. With an eye toward affect, spectatorship, and psychoanalytic theory, she aims to study the particular types of engagement these genres invite and the ways in which the mixture of joy and disturbance they create can tap into the lost magic of the postmodern world. She is also interested in issues of identity within these genres and the inclusion/exclusion of groups and individuals within narrative, performative, and participatory spaces based on race, gender, class, and sexuality. Nicola holds a BA in Psychology from Boston College.



Jennifer Smart is a first year doctoral student in the Screen Cultures program. Her primary research interests include the intersection of popular music with visual culture and performance, digital culture and new media, fan/audience studies, and the politics of taste, with additional interest in media aesthetics, intertextuality, interdisciplinary artistic collaboration, and sound studies. Her MA thesis examined the work of the visual artist Dan Graham through his engagement with music and sound.

Jennifer holds BAs in History and Communications and an MA in Art History from Southern Methodist University. Previously she worked as an editor and writer at several Texas-based arts and culture publications. She continues to contribute writing on the arts to a variety of media outlets.

Writing for the Screen & Stage



Alexandra Joyce is a playwright/actor from Chicago, IL. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame with degrees in Spanish and Film, Television, and Theatre, she moved to Santiago, Chile, where she lived for the next year and a half. In Santiago, she taught English and collaborated with the musical theatre department at an all-girls bilingual school. She also served as the teacher's assistant for a devised theatre course at La Universidad Católica and worked as the assistant director for the South American premiere of Tuko Tuko by Anton Juan. Her play, *La Victoria*, was inspired by her research in Santiago and narrates the experience of theatre artists who used their craft as a revolutionary tool to protest the Pinochet dictatorship. Alex is currently directing children's theatre in her hometown.



Allison Theveny is a writer of character-driven comedy and drama. Since graduating from Georgetown University with a degree in English and a concentration in Film & Media, Allison spent a year studying law at the University of Pennsylvania, assisted in the publication of *Capitalism in America*, an economic history by Alan Greenspan and Adrian Wooldridge, and worked in development at the Folger Shakespeare Library. In her spare time, she coordinated an English as a Second Language program, performed with her improv troupe The High-Fivers, and watched as much film, television, and theater as possible. Throughout her winding journey, Allison has repeatedly reaffirmed her belief in the cultural power and responsibility of the storyteller.



Clara Deák is a Brazilian screenwriter, born and raised in Rio de Janeiro. She started her career writing for Brazilian sitcom "Cilada". Later, she won a pitching contest for OiTV, with a web



Gahee Lee completed her Bachelor of Arts in Korean Language Education at the Seoul National University. Over the past four years, she has worked in a government-affiliated institute, writing



Gwyneth Forsythe was born in the middle of a tornado bouncing storm on Midsummer's Day in 1997. She graduated from the University of Iowa in 2019 with BA in Theatre Arts and

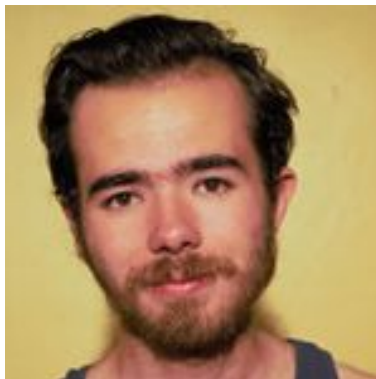
series she co-created called “Status: Single”, which helped establish her career in the Brazilian market. In the past years, she wrote for several shows, mostly comedies. Recently, she was an assistant writer for Netflix “Most Beautiful Thing” and a staff writer for HBO Latin America terror show “Esquecidos”. After a few years in the field, she decided it was time to go back to studies and focus on her own original works. She received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue her postgraduate degree.

press releases. At the same time, Lee completed courses at Korea Scenario Writers Association at night, where she was able to gain collaborative experiences with artists, and won several prizes at scriptwriting competitions. In the program, she hopes to write a story that can connect the United States and Korea, and a paper on education for dramaturgy in the United States and Korea.

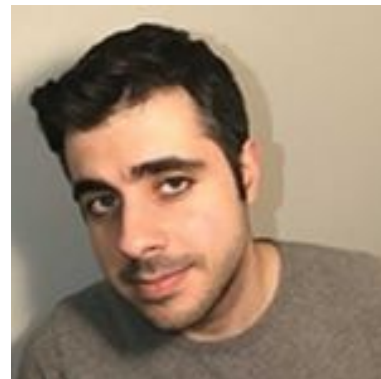
History with hard-won honors in both. She is the recipient of a VSA Playwright Discovery Award 2014 from the Kennedy Center, the Iowa Center of the Arts Scholarship 2017, Tennessee Williams Scholarship 2018, and the Lorena Bach Scholarship 2018. Her play Messenger: The MI5 Girl was produced at the University of Iowa’s theater program, where she also stage-managed four productions. She was the Drama Editor at earthwords: the undergraduate literary review, and has worked as a script supervisor on the short film Sexpert Franzen. If you’re looking for her you can find her hanging out with her dogs, re-watching Good Omens, or dreaming about wherever she’ll be traveling next.



Hayley Sigmon graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2019, where she earned BAs in communications and film studies. She minored in creative writing and was her graduating class’s sole recipient of the Thomas Wolfe Scholarship. While at UNC, she wrote, produced, and directed numerous student productions, notably her short film, Phoenix, which won Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay at the Carolina Film Association’s end-of-the-year showcase in 2019. She was also the showrunner of two student television shows. While her roots are in prose, Hayley’s visual



Henry Bender is a writer/actor/director/hobgoblin from Albuquerque, New Mexico. For four of the past five years he attended the University of New Mexico, where, among many other things, he wrote, directed, and produced his first full-length, Coyote Starts A Punk Band (And Also Saves The World). For the fifth year he has been writing various stage, screen, and video-game scripts, acting in the New Mexico Shakespeare Festival, and organizing immersive performance-art parties through a collective called “The Unemployment Agency”. Henry is attending Northwestern because he hopes to build the work ethic



Niv Elbaz is a writer and a third world culture kid who was born in Israel but was raised in Thailand. Niv received a B.A in Playwriting from Columbia College Chicago, where a wide selection of his work was produced. His significant work includes his play The Waiter of Le Majestique (2018) which was chosen as one of two playwriting senior showcase shows at Columbia College and his play Lightning (2018) which was performed at Victory Gardens Theater. He enjoys cycling, gaming, and eating international food in no particular order.

storytelling guided her into screenwriting. She writes atmospheric stories in which the setting plays as key a role as any character, and loves exploring antiheroines just as complicated as their male counterparts in the golden age of television.

needed to make the world a nicer place through storytelling. He is interested in writing movies, tv-shows, plays, podcasts, and puppet shows about queerness, overcoming trauma, and the radical notion that people should be kind to each other: all while supplanting typical heroes with the people who have typically lived on society's margins.



Peter Ronson is a writer and comedian based in Chicago, Illinois. Born in New York City, Peter received a BA from The College of William and Mary in 2015, with a major in government and a minor in theater. He performed improv in college and spent a semester in Chicago, participating in the Comedy Studies program at Second City Theater, where he later completed the Conservatory program. After graduating, Peter moved back to Chicago, where he performs improv, sketch, and standup comedy at venues across the city. Since 2017, Peter has been co-hosting and producing a weekly comedy and political discussion podcast, called The News Never Ends. The show features comedy sketches and conversations with local comedians, journalists, and activists.



Ruby Hutson-Ellenberg is a playwright and storyteller from Queens, New York. She graduated from CUNY at Hunter College in 2016 with a B.A. in English. Since graduating, she's worked at a due-diligence firm in midtown Manhattan, most recently as senior editor summarizing and reviewing first-person interviews for institutional investors. Her original play *Eve and Her Neighbors* won Hunter College's 2015 Andrew and Eleanor McGlinchey second place prize for a play. It was later produced at The Kraine Theater on the Lower East side during The 2016 NY International Fringe Festival. She has worked as a production intern at the Mint Theater on 42d Street in Manhattan, which produces forgotten plays from the past, and performed at storytelling events around New York.



Skyler Tarnas is a Michigan-born-and-raised writer, director, and performer with passions for Shakespeare, true crime, and fake crime. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 2017, and was awarded the Roy W. Cowden Fellowship and the James H. Robertson Award for distinctive performance in drama and creative writing. Three of his two-act plays and several one-acts were performed by university theater groups, and his short comedy "Anarchy at the Hearty Toadstool" was performed at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. His play "He Said She Said" was also given a staged reading at Theatre Nova's 2019 Michigan Playwrights Festival. Skyler also interned and assistant stage managed for Detroit Public Theatre, as well as directing or producing a handful of independent productions in Ann Arbor. He enjoys writing murder-filled and wacky plays that still seek to explore the young confused queer experience.

Sound Arts & Industries



Timothy C. Burns is a music obsessive residing in Chicago. He earned a BA in arts management from Columbia College Chicago and enjoys cycling and skateboarding. Tim began DJing and collecting records and became one third of the DJ/hosts of Chicago is the World, a radio program on WHPK. Through his research of music he found his spiritual home, Ilé Osikan, where he was initiated Oni Yemoja in 2016. Tim is excited to make a living working with music and audio adaptation in different forms of media and technology by expanding his knowledge and experience through the MA in Sound Arts and Industries program at Northwestern this fall.

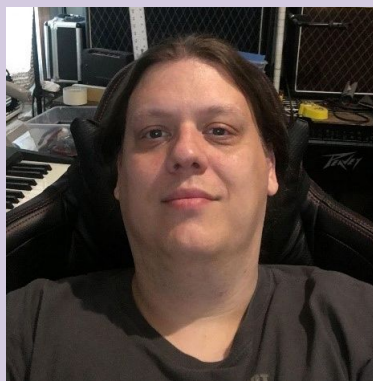


Kevin Cagnolatti is a proud Chicagoan with a bachelor's in audio arts and acoustics from Columbia College Chicago and a master's in digital cinema from DePaul University. He is a film sound designer and wants to advance his craft to all aspects of media, from VR to gaming; in his words, "to be an ambassador for Sound." Some of his favorite designs come from pieces he did for the Onion, namely "An Interview with God". Most recently he sound designed the short film "Rearview" directed by Stephen Kniss. He is very excited to be in the last few stages of building his own personal Mini theater/Dub stage... at home.

Daniel Christain is from the south suburbs of Cook County in Illinois, and holds a BA in communication with a focus on film making. Daniel previously attended the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences a decade ago, and has continued working in the field of audio for a variety of projects. His real passion includes 5K marathons, architecture, sound design, theme parks/attractions, Legos, video games, documentary/behind the scenes films, and musical instrumentation. Daniel hopes that the MA in Sound Arts and Industries at Northwestern will help increase his knowledge on the process of designing audio for documentaries, podcasts, and theme park attractions.



Jose Maldonado is from St Paul MN and moved to Chicago to attend DePaul University to get a BA in cinema and mass media. He worked for Cumulus media (The Loop, 101.1 WKQX) as a promotions assistant, which had a few stations and experienced what a several-



Aaron Mix is originally from Michigan but has lived in Chicago for eleven years. He did his undergrad in music composition at DePaul University and also studied sound recording technology. His musical career so far has been something of a winding road, from guitarist to



Lucy Newton is from Louisville, Kentucky and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Louisville. Her academic studies emphasized the connection between acoustics and the mind, and she further pursued her sound purpose through

million-dollar radio station looks like and how it operates. After that he snagged a spot working for Telemundo with their promotions team. His interest in sound came from passion in high school to install speakers and subs in his car and those that followed. He likes discovering new music that will be the breaking new trend that has lasting cultural, social impact for its time and generations later.



Troy Cruz holds BAs in music and psychology from Lake Forest College. He enjoys everything music, from listening, playing, or creating. He has learned the basics of Ableton Live with a focus on electronic music composition and synth design. In his free time outside of music, he is working out. He hopes to get a better understanding of how music creates a relationship between all forms of media, and he is interested in music composition for films and video games, as well as sound design, and the creation of very unique electronic sounds. An interesting fact about Troy is that he interned at a company that builds church organs.

recording engineer to composer and everything in between. He has been writing music that combines traditional classical instrumentation with electronic instruments and sound manipulation techniques. Since using sound design as part of his compositional process, he's very excited to have the opportunity to deepen his knowledge of sound and open up new creative territory.



Felicia Dominguez is most recently from Kenosha, WI and holds a BA in theater and English education. Since deciding that teaching high schoolers definitely wasn't her dream job, Felicia has spent much of her free time learning about storytelling through sound, with forays into theatrical sound design, podcasting, and most recently, a student-collaborative radio play program, which brought newly written scripts to life. Felicia hopes to explore many industries and job opportunities that focus on supporting storytelling through sound over her next two years in the Sound Arts and Industries program at Northwestern.

fundamental recording techniques utilized in academic research and clinical diagnostic purposes. In her free time, she enjoys experimenting with sound editing, conceptual design, and literary voice under the digital moniker, lucidsqueeze. Lucy looks forward to creating excellent and original content with other sound artists.



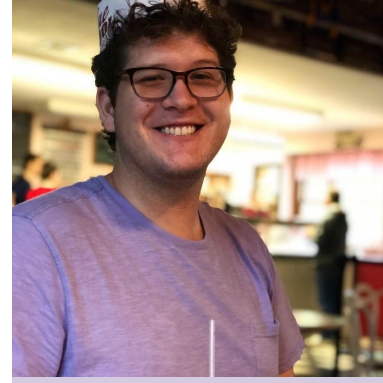
Danny Greenwald is a sound artist previously based in Baltimore. He grew up in Columbia, Maryland. One of his biggest accomplishments was teaching a group of mostly Spanish-speaking children with no musical skills to play "Cry Me a River" by Justin Timberlake on the guitar (their choice). He started learning how to play the drums at a very early age and has since delved into experimental music—based largely on field recordings. His work has been featured in The Washington Post, Pitchfork, Vice, and The Fader, among others. In the coming year he hopes to score a film starring Benicio del Toro.



Meredith Haines is a Philadelphia-based musician, educator, and sound artist. After graduating from Temple University with a BFA in dance in 2012, she spent the next seven years of her life tirelessly writing music, playing shows, and touring with her multiple projects. Her work has been featured in New Noise, Bandcamp, SPARK Magazine, and many other blogs and radio stations. This past year, she served as the Band Coach at an afterschool music program, where she helped students from underserved neighborhoods write original songs. Through the MA in Sound Arts and Industries program, she hopes to gain skills to create a revolutionary music program that would include sound art, experimental music, and soundscapes as creative tools for her students.



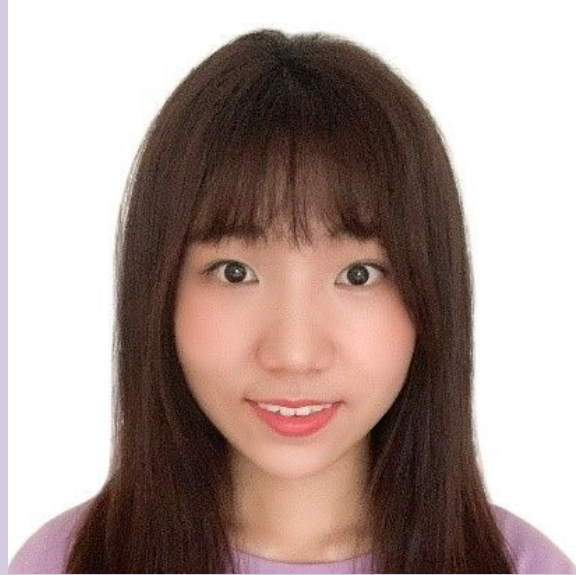
Daniel Hayashi is from Quincy Illinois, transplanted in Chicago since 2014. He completed a Bachelor of Music from Columbia College Chicago in 2018 and has been working as a piano teacher and interning for a recording engineer. He first got into sound as a musician/composer, though in the last year found himself entranced with recording/mixing. He has always enjoyed writing/producing music but now realizes he enjoys recording/sculpting sound for other people's stories too. He hopes to get a sense of which stories he can help illuminate with sound through this program and how to better tell his own tales.



Solon Kelleher's ready to bust a move when he hears the right groove. He's originally from a small city in New England called Worcester, MA, a.k.a. "Wormtown" for its underground music scene. His current favorite musical find of 2019 is a trilogy of albums from mashup artist Neil Cicierega. He thinks you should go to the 5:21 timestamp on the album "Mouth Moods" if you're at all curious. For the last year, Solon returned to Worcester and worked at his family's 101-year-old restaurant, which is a local landmark of sorts. He's attending Northwestern's Sound Arts and Industries program so he can open a studio space similar to PRX's Podcast Garage on the second floor above his family's restaurant. If, along the way, he learns the skills needed to perform live music a la Imogen Heap or produce psychological thriller radio dramas, he'll be a happy camper.



Originally from Colorado, **Henry Koch** is returning to Northwestern after receiving his Bachelor of Music from the Bienen School of Music this past June. In addition to earning a degree in voice and opera performance with a certificate in musical theatre, he was also pursuing mechanical engineering until pivoting to sound engineering during his senior year. In addition to working on environmental advocacy projects, Henry's sound work is centered on recording the innately artistic and musical sounds of nature. This summer, Henry worked on a research project funded by Northwestern that investigates the relationships between composers/performers and their outdoor environments. These collaborations will result in multiple filmed outdoor performances, with music videos uploaded in conjunction with his new music organization Outside OutLoud. (If anyone wants to know more about Outside OutLoud or would like to get involved/collaborate on environmentally connected music, please reach out!)

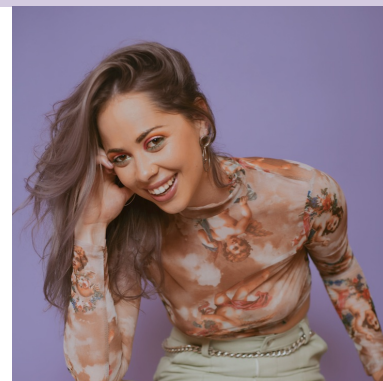


Born and raised in China, **Xinyi Liu** studied music technology and art at Shanghai Conservatory of Music and graduated in 2019. She cultivated a music background through taking courses like Musical Acoustic and Computer Music, which also equipped her with musical-technology skills like audio mixing and DAW software use. To follow her interest in sound design, she took sound design elective courses and did sound design for three animations and one radio play. For further studying, she desires to understand the role of sound designers in film production and how to efficiently cooperate with other departments. Her goal is to learn how to utilize audio technology skills, and gain knowledge of media culture to figure out how sound tells a story.



Danny Robles is from Woodstock, Illinois and recently graduated from Lake Forest College with a BA in music and English. Danny is a multi-instrumentalist who currently teaches piano

Andy Slater was born in Milford, CT in 1975. He was diagnosed with a rare degenerative eye disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa and is legally blind/visually impaired. Andy has been creating sound art since he was 16 before he knew that sound art was a thing. He moved to Chicago to attend SAIC and study sound in their BFA program. He does a lot of work about accessibility and disability justice, uses a bunch of synths, field recordings, broken gear, antiquated adaptive tech, and anything



Hannah Viti is a Chicago native and proud product of Chicago Public Schools. She holds two BS degrees in conflict studies and gender & sexuality studies from DePauw University. Since

out of his own studio based out of Lake Forest, Illinois. Other than practicing piano, Danny spends much of his time writing and performing music with his bands Eve Black and Calico Loco. When he's not teaching or performing, you can usually find Danny at DIY Shows listening to local acts or watching an art-house horror flick. While studying at Northwestern, Danny hopes to experiment with how sound and music can interact with other forms of media.

he can find to create his work. He founded the Society of Visually Impaired Sound Artists in 2015 to encourage blind and visually impaired people to explore sound as an art form, provide accessible audio tech training, and lobby for more sound art in museums and galleries. He has performed, presented, and exhibited in a number of places: MCA Chicago, Expo Chicago, University of Chicago, Art Institute of Chicago, Contemporary Jewish Museum SF, Ian Potter Museum of Art Melbourne, Artlands Australia, Gallery 400, Constellation, Elastic Arts, Hideout, Empty Bottle, Flux Factory NYC, and so on. He also plays in a psychedelic space funk septet, Velcro Lewis Group, among other projects.



Ian Williams is originally from the western suburbs of Atlanta, but has lived in Chicago for over 11 years. He went to UChicago for undergrad, earned a degree in cinema & media studies, and has worked at several college access and success programs since graduating in 2012. He's been making his own music and experimenting with sound since he was 12 years old and has produced and released 3 music projects ranging from house to hip-hop over the years. He co-produced a podcast through The Nerdlogues called Blank Cassette that presented the stories behind the songs of guest-submitted playlist and mixtapes last year. He hopes



Anthony Groce is from Lake Villa, IL and has a B.A. in cinema & photography from The University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale. He is passionate about tennis and aesthetics. Anthony is on his 5th career, having gone through the film & theatre industries, graphic design, IT, teaching tennis, and as an AV technician, specializing as a "Sound Guy." Anthony has worked for most of the major Chicagoland AV companies which brought him to run sound for scores of VIP's, most notably one president, B. Obama. Anthony is looking forward to turning his focus from live

graduating she's become a fully trained mediator, event planner, podcast advertising specialist, and most proudly, a DJ. Although her love of DJing first began on the radio, you can now catch her across the city in a plethora of venues playing everything from funk to house. She's very involved in the local LGBTQ community and is an avid volunteer for the Chicago YWCA as a sexual assault first respondent. She's most excited to develop sound skills in podcasting and interviewing, as well as film sound narrative.



Returning SAI student **Matt Wagner** is originally from Western Pennsylvania and has been living in Chicago for three years. He received B.A.s in music composition and politics from Messiah College and studied abroad at Goldsmiths, University of London. As a composer, he has scored short films that have been selected for several international film festivals, and he was also selected as a Finalist for both the ASCAP and BMI Student Composer Awards in 2014. Matt and his wife Carrie have a band called Silver Liz and have opened for touring acts at Chicago venues such as Subterranean & Beat Kitchen. During his time in the SAI Program, Matt plans

to sharpen his skills as a bedroom producer into those of a professional through this master's program. His interests in sound are quite varied, but they primarily revolve around music production, sound design, radio, and the recording industry. He loves the NBA but is not a big fan of college basketball...at all.

sound (although still doing so full-time) to the booty worlds of mastering, the recording arts, and audio technology.

to develop skills in sound design for film and television, learn Max, and explore ways musical artists can use video games containing sonically interactive content to release their music.

Documentary Media



Noura Al Sabboury Al Khayat is from Lebanon, however, they grew up in Douala, Cameroon. As such, they are fluent in French, English, and Arabic. Noura left Cameroon to attend high school in Denver. After high school, Noura graduated with a B.A in Studio Arts from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. While there, Noura focused on promoting social justice on campus working with queer students of color and students from religious minorities. This work, inside and outside academia, and their experience as a queer muslim student of color in the United States, has shaped Noura's artistic vision. Meanwhile, their previous work at the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership at Kalamazoo College as social media manager and event photographer helped them understand the power of art and media when it comes to spreading awareness and



Mizani Ball is a New Orleans native who has grown to have a passion for storytelling and videography. She has recently earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication with a minor in Entrepreneurship from the illustrious Xavier University of Louisiana. She has gained over three years of experience in videography and editing from working as a production intern at Court 13/Department Of Motion Pictures, a production/social media intern at the New Orleans Video Access Center and a student director of 'Strangers' (XU Media TVshow). In addition, to traveling to Trinidad and Tobago to conduct ethnographic research and to film a documentary centered around consent and sexuality during the Carnival season. Throughout her college career Mizani has been apart of organizations such as the Gold Star Dance team, National Association for the Advancement of Colored



Chris Churchill is a teacher, tour guide, and veteran of local, no-budget theatre and comedy. His absurd comedy, "Chair" (2007) was "highly recommended" in the Chicago Reader. In 2018, his play, "Dénouement" sold out all four Saturdays at Second City's DeMaat Theatre. He holds an MA in communication, media, and theatre from Northeastern Illinois University. His thesis project, a feature length documentary, "Tell Me About My Mother" about his mother's extreme bouts with mental illness, served as his thesis project, got into a few festivals and won some awards. He teaches at Harper College in Palatine, both a college level public speaking course and theatre/film/improv camps for kids.

engaging people.

People, National Association for Black Journalist, Peer Dean Association and Student Government Association.



Resita Cox is a freelance journalist and filmmaker based in Chicago, IL. She graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with degrees in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. Resita launched her career in journalism at WTVD-TV in Raleigh, NC and WCTI-TV in New Bern, NC as a multimedia journalist and news reporter. Shortly after leaving the South, Resita joined Dose Media in Chicago as a producer, reporter and on-air talent for the nationally-syndicated morning news show, Morning Dose. With a wide range of journalistic skill ranging from in-front to behind the camera, Resita transitioned her know-how and passion for storytelling into her current role as editor and producer at Local Legend Films. She is currently directing a film on the West Side of Chicago through a Restorative Narrative fellowship with IVOH, an organization focused on empowering filmmakers to tell stories of resilience and hope. Resita has also worked with Kartemquin Films, one of the leading documentary film houses in the Midwest.



Alessandra El Chanti is from Lebanon but was born and raised in Qatar. She speaks English and Arabic fluently and can understand just a tiny bit of French. She attended Northwestern University in Qatar for her undergraduate studies and majored in Media Industries and Technology, with a minor in media and politics. During her 4 years at NU-Q, she explored different types of fields within the media industry through various and internships. Her internships include Al Jazeera Arabic, Vogue Arabic, Qatar Foundation, and different production houses in Qatar. Alessandra graduated from NU-Q as the recipient of the Dean's Award, which is the highest form of recognition a graduating student can be granted from the university. She was also the student union president during her final year at NU-Q.

She is currently working on a documentary about middle eastern tradition of coffee cup readings!



John Haley (pronouns he/him/his) is an aspiring filmmaker originally from Mankato, Minnesota. John graduated from the University of Notre Dame in May of 2018 with a degree in Film, Television, and Theatre and Peace Studies. John has completed work with ART WORKS Projects, CBS News, and on the documentary film *Free Solo*. He has spent the past year serving as an Americorps volunteer at New Avenues for Youth in Portland, where he helps to connect youth experiencing homelessness to resources. John is interested in the intersection of documentary art and social advocacy as well as queer approaches to filmmaking, which he hopes to develop as a MFA candidate at Northwestern University. He has directed two short documentaries: *Respectfully, Tony*, telling the story of one man who spent 12 years on death row, and *OUT on the Streets*, which centers on the lives of homeless LGBTQ+ youth in Chicago.



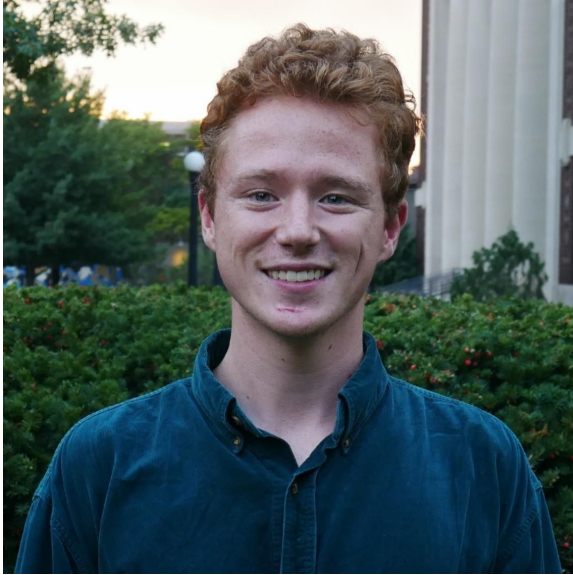
Anvar Hassanpour is a Kurdish filmmaker from Iran. Anvar started writing short stories and poetry from a very young age, and literature eventually led him to the cinema. Anvar believes in the power of story, and he sees cinema as a tool for economic, political, and social changes. He believes that cinema can always play a leadership role to create the right path for societies. Anvar has been working as an independent filmmaker in the last ten years and he's directed several documentaries, commercials, and a few fiction projects. Anvar has received his Bachelors in Fine Arts, Cinema Art - Science with a concentration on film directing from Columbia College Chicago. Anvar hopes that Northwestern will create more opportunities for some new collaboration.



Liberty Ingraham-Gonzales graduated from California State University of Monterey Bay with a degree in Cinematic Arts and Technology focused in producing and film marketing. In 2017, Liberty was an associate post-production producer and assistant editor on the independent feature film *Saltwater*. In March of 2017 Liberty worked with CSUMB and the Library of Congress, collecting veteran's stories for archival purposes. She created a short documentary from her archival work called *Conflicted*, which screened at the 21st Annual Social Justice Colloquium. Liberty received the honor of being inducted into the Library of Congress in March of 2017 and was awarded a certificate of recognition by the United States Congress. Liberty is working on the documentary feature film *Addicts Among Us* by KEET PBS North Coast, Humboldt Area Foundation and First 5 of California in Humboldt County where she also was a TEDx Humboldt Bay guest speaker.



Marilyn Oliva is an emerging independent filmmaker, artist, activist, and daughter of Salvadorian Civil War refugees. She was born and raised in San Francisco, CA where she received her B.A in Anthropology and minor in Latino/a Studies at San Francisco State University. Throughout her years in college, she developed her passion for documentary filmmaking and created documentary projects on gentrification, oral histories, the arts, and community-driven stories. After college, Marilyn continued her freelance career in the Bay Area. One of her favorite gigs was documenting a revolutionary moment in Silicon Valley for the *Immigrants in Tech Hackathon* hosted at Netflix HQ. As a Northwestern documentary media candidate, Marilyn will further expand her knowledge on documentary filmmaking and use it as activism to better serve the stories of misrepresented communities. Her current interests are animation and experimental documentaries.



Sean Moore graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in Film, Television, and Media and Anthropology. This summer he worked on a documentary about a Buddhist commune/organic farm in Ann Arbor, MI. Because of his experience working on that doc, the commune hired Sean to work at their stall at the local farmer's market. For Sean, filming helps him to see the world more lucidly. He wants to share that insight with others and hopes to sharpen his craft as a filmmaker while at Northwestern and to meet inspiring and hard-working individuals that will push the form of documentary to new directions. He is interested in ethnographic film within the tradition of Anthropology. The idea of collaboration between subject and filmmaker, like what happens in Jean Rouch's *Chronicle of a Summer*, is a personal inspiration.



Shannon Riley is a Delaware native who has come to call Philadelphia home. She has a B.S. in Video & Motion Graphics from Wilmington University. After college, Shannon spent several years working as a Producer and Assistant Director of commercial videos. Some of her favorite projects include developing a 360 immersive documentary experience, creating a musical commercial, and producing a biweekly news videocast. She is excited to channel her “make it happen” attitude developed as a Producer and AD into directing her own stories. . As a commercial video Producer, she witnessed first-hand the influential power of video media as well as the potential filmmakers have to manipulate narratives. Because of this, she is motivated to explore the concepts of truth and authenticity in documentary media and strives to present honest stories in all of her work.

Alumni News



NU RTVF graduates **Travis LaBella** (c/o 2011) and **Jacqueline Reyno** (c/o 2011) were part of a team that won a Los Angeles Area Emmy Award for their documentary *That Far Corner: Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles*.



Chico Mattoso's (MFA Writing c/o 2013) new show on HBO Latino, *Pico da Nablina*, premiered in August. Its English title is *Joint Venture*, and it can be accessed on HBO GO or HBO Now with English subtitles.

Jessica Ynez Simmons (MFA Doc c/o 2016) won the Short Doc Silver Award for *Emerald Ice: a docufantasy about Diane Wakoski*.

The Promotion, a play by **Joe Giovanetti** (MFA Writing c/o 2018), was chosen to be featured at the National New Play Network's 18th Annual National Showcase of New Plays in Atlanta in December.

Doc Media alumni **Ashley Brandon** and **Jessica Simmons** presented works at the annual UFVA conference in Minneapolis.

The Block Museum screened two MFA in Documentary Media program alumni's works as part of the Chicagoland Cinema Showcase: Hall of Fishes by **Jennifer Boles** (Class of 2019) and *Palenque* by **Sebastián Pinzón Silva** (Class of 2017).

The thesis film of **Pam Austin** (MFA Doc c/o 2018), *Whimper*, had its broadcast premiere on WTTW - Chicago PBS on Friday, September 13th, 10:30pm CST. The broadcast screening was part of Chicago International Film Festival Selects, in celebration of this year's Chicago International Film Festival. Austin's film screened at last year's CIFF.

Naeema Jamilah Torres' (MFA Doc c/o 2019) film *Redacted* won Best Short Documentary at the Columbus Black International Film Festival.

Three documentary shorts by alumni will be at the 2019 New Orleans Film Festival. *Hall of Fishes* by **Jennifer Boles** (MFA Doc c/o 2019), *Practice* by **Iyabo Kwayana** (MFA Doc c/o 2017), and *Roughly Delicate* by **Heqiuzi Wang** (MFA Doc c/o 2018) all screen at this year's festival. The fest runs October 16th - 23rd.

Heqiuzi Wang also won Made in Chicago award at this year's Chicago Underground Film Festival (CUFF) with her thesis documentary *Roughly Delicate*. CUFF is the longest running underground film festival in the world and is dedicated to the work of filmmakers who present defiantly independent visions.

Natasha Nair's (MFA Doc c/o 2019) *In the Wake* made its world premiere at the 2019 Camden International Film Festival in September. Cheers to Natasha and what promises to be a long, successful festival run for her film.

In August, **Jessica Scott's** (MFA Doc c/o 2019) *The Color of Skin* screened at the Hip Hop Film Festival NYC. The short doc "explores and highlights the hatred, bigotry, discrimination and injustices against African-Americans committed by white men."

Elodie Edjang's (MFA Doc c/o 2018) thesis film, *Book of Daniel*, screened at Black Harvest Film Festival at Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago on Sunday, August 18 - 3PM.

MFA Doc Class of 2017 alumni **Luther Clement** and **Shuhan Fan's** short doc *Stay Close* and Ashley Brandon's *On the Bit* played in NYC at the IFC Center in July. The screenings were a co-presentation by Tribeca Film Institute, POV shorts, and The New York Times Op-Docs. *Stay Close* will make its broadcast television premiere on PBS's POV in October.

MFA Writing Class of 2016 graduate **Alex Phillips'** newest film *Who's A Good Boy* will screen at the upcoming Chicago International Film Festival in the shorts competition category after premiering at Maryland Film Festival, winning the "Weirdest Boner Award" at Sick 'n Wrong in Orlando, the "Insanity Award" at Shock Stock in Ontario CN, and screening at Sidewalk, Mammoth Lakes, and Palm Springs International Shorts Festival among others. Read the review here: Who's a Good Boy (2019) Short Film Review. Phillips' earlier shorts *Happy Place* and *Eel* screened internationally – with *Happy Place* winning a nomination nod for Best International Short at Vancouver's Bad Ass Film Festival. He just finished another short *Pushing Mongo* and is in development on his first feature *All Jacked Up and Full of Worms* in association with Full Spectrum Features.

Department of Radio/Television/Film

Annie May Swift Hall

1920 Campus Drive, 2nd Floor

Evanston, IL 60208

Phone: 847-491-7315

Fax: 847-467-2389

rtvfnewsletter@northwestern.edu



Received this email from a friend? [Follow this link to sign up for this email here.](#) Prefer to unsubscribe? See link below.