

# Northwestern University

## Department of Radio/Television/Film

### Winter 2019

## Alumni News



Above: MFA in Documentary Media program alumni co-directors **Shuhan Fan** (MFA '16) and **Luther Clement** (MFA '17) at the premiere of their Sundance Competition short documentary *STAY CLOSE*. The film was co-produced by **Nevo Shinaar** (MFA '17) who was also in attendance with the film's subjects. Not pictured is co-producer **Ashley Brandon** (MFA '17) and composer **Summer Lin** (MA Sound Arts & Industries '18).



**Caitlin Kunkel** (MFA in Writing for the Screen & Stage '09) spoke to Erik Gernand's junior tutorial CMN 380: Voice of the Satirist about her newly



**Russell Gillespie** (MA in Sound Arts & Industries) composed the theme for The New Yorker: Politics and More Podcast, and he also did the music and sound



Alumnus **Miguel Jiron** was a [storyboard artist](#) on the film *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, which won an Academy Award at the ceremony on February 24

published book *New Erotica for Feminists: Satirical Fantasies of Love, Lust, and Equal Pay* co-written by Brooke Preston, Fiona Taylor, and Carrie Wittmer.

design for *Richie Beyond*, an animated short by NU RTVF grads.

for Best Animated Feature Film.



**Sebastian Pinzon Silva** (MFA Doc Media '17) and **Milton Guillen** (MFA Doc Media '20) have been selected as Diverse Voices in Documentary Fellows, a mentorship and development program for documentary filmmakers of color, organized by Kartemquin Films and the Community Film Workshop of Chicago.

Disney+, Walt Disney Company's upcoming direct-to-consumer streaming service, has given a 10 episode, straight-to-series order to *Diary of a Female President*, from writer and RTVF alumna **Ilana Peña**.

**Sara Accuardi's** play, *The Delays*, premiered at Shoebox Theater in Portland, OR, in January.

**Diane Carol Harder**, MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage '09) directed a short film which was written by **America Michele Palacios** (MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage '08), that premiered in the National Screen Institute Online Short Film Festival on January 7, 2019. It is called *Penny Foster*, and can be viewed [here](#).

**Will Arbery's** play *PLANO*, a hit during its short run in last season's Summerworks festival at Clubbed Thumb, will return for a limited Off-Broadway engagement at the [Connelly Theatre this spring](#). The cast from the 2018 run will return for the encore engagement, which kicks off April 8.

## Undergraduates



On March 16, **The Blackout** won the College Television Award in the Variety category at the 39th College Television Awards, also referred to as “The College Emmys.” The group’s “Quarter Update” competed against productions from Emerson College and Savannah College of Art and Design.

**Adam Birch** & **Elenore Pan** were invited to be a part of the Sony NAB Student Experience.

## PhDs in Screen Cultures

Screen Cultures student **Cara Dickason** has been elected to the SCMS Executive Board as the grad representative. Recent grads **Beth Corzo-Duchardt** and **Racquel Gates** are Board members.

**Kelly Coyne** received a travel award to attend the Northeast MLA conference in Washington, DC. She also had a review of John Alberti's book on *The Killing* accepted for publication in the *Journal of Popular Television*.

**Jelena Jelusic** received a Buffett Dissertation Research Grant and a TGS Dissertation Research Grant. The grants are for archival research in the six countries of the former Yugoslavia.

**Evelyn Kreutzer** and **Esra Cimencioglu** curated a film series titled *Migrating Berlin* that took place at the Block Museum over three nights in January.



# MFAs in Writing for the Screen & Stage

**Liam Fitzgerald's** play *Peg or Zen in the Art of Butt\*f\*cking Straight White Men* is a semi-finalist for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference.

**Shuping Yang's** play *Paper Dreams* will receive a reading on February 2 as part of Three Cat Productions' 2019 Chicago New Work Festival.



MFAs **Aalisha Sheth** and **Nikkita Duke** and RTVF undergraduates **Erika Rodriguez** and **Mega Dafiaghor** traveled to Los Angeles with RTVF faculty member **Erik Gernand** in February as part of the sitcom sequence. They met with numerous alumni and current RTVF faculty member **Zina Camblin** at her office for *WU-TANG: AN AMERICAN SAGA* (Hulu) where she is a writer. The students will produce their original sitcom *ALIENS IN AMERICA* which was written in Camblin's sitcom course.



The MFA students' 48-Hour Film Festival was organized by **Ben Verschoor**.

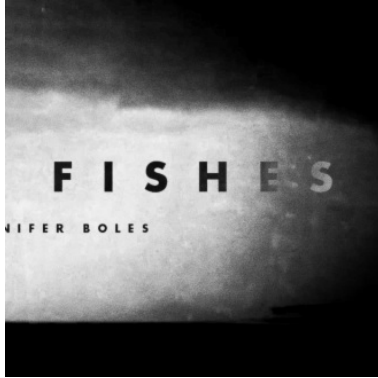


**Erika Hakmiller** published *Your Perfect Drink Based On Which One of Henry VIII's Wives You Are* on The Belladonna Comedy.



**Exal Iraheta's** ten-minute play *Open Venas* will be presented at Theater Masters' Take Ten Play Lab, with a reading in Aspen to be followed by a production in New York.

# MFAs in Documentary Media



**Jennifer Boles** and **Benjamin Buxton** were both awarded TGS Research Grants. **Boles'** films, *Cowboy Town* and *Hall of Fishes*, were also Official Selections for FLEX FEST, Florida Experimental Film Festival.



**Jessica Scott's** film, *SNEAKERS: IT'S COMPLICATED*, screened at Harper College's Black History Month Short Film Festival.



**Heqiuzi Wang's** thesis film *ROUGHLY DELICATE* screened to a sold-out audience at the Slamdance Film Festival in Utah. The film continued its festival run at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival.

## MAs in Sound Arts & Industries



**Karina Longworth** visited the Sound Arts & Industries program to talk about her popular podcast *You Must Remember This* and her new book *Seduction: Sex, Lies and Stardom in Howard Hughes's Hollywood*.



**Ele Matelan** gave an artist talk to SAI students in February. Matelan serves as WildClaw Theatre's resident Foley artist, and she discussed her career in Foley sound and audio theatre.

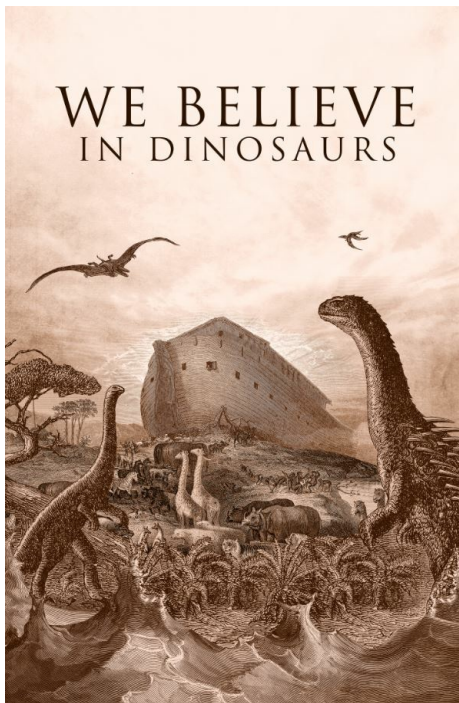


**Roger Mosely** (Cornell University) and **Steve Pardo** (Harmonix Music Systems) joined RTVF faculty **Chaz Evans** and Screen Cultures PhD student **Whitney Pow** for a panel on sound in games.

## Faculty News



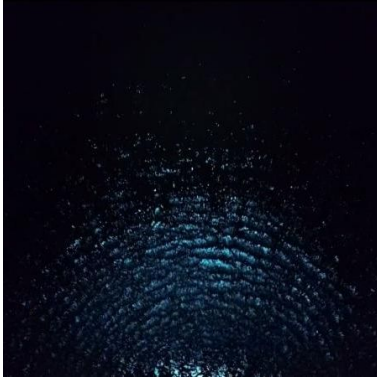
Professor Hamid Naficy was the subject of a documentary that screened at the Gene Siskel Film Center and at the Block Museum in February. Naficy is well known as a scholar of Iranian, post-colonial, and diaspora cinema. Maryam Sepehri's film *Mouth Harp in a Minor Key: Hamid Naficy on/in Exile* contextualizes Naficy's many professional accomplishments within his personal experience as well as the political and social history of Iran and the United States.



We Believe in Dinosaurs, a feature documentary co-directed by Senior Lecturer **Clayton Brown** and **Monica Long-Ross** (RTVF MFA alum) will screen at the San Francisco International Film Festival for its Launch Program, as well as AFI Docs. The film has secured sales representation from Creative Artists Agency.

Assistant Professor **Danielle Beverly** participated on a panel at The International Documentary Association's 2018 Getting Real industry conference in September. The panel, titled "What is the Value of a Film School Education", examined pros and cons of obtaining a film degree for entry and success in the documentary field. Moderated by Professor **Marco Williams**.





**Calum Walter's** film, *MERIDIAN*, had its debut at the Berlinale International Film Festival.



*Twilight Bowl* by **Rebecca Gilman** played at The Goodman Theatre and closed on March 10.



*Iran Namag*, a leading bilingual Persian-English journal in Canada, will publish a fall special issue celebrating the career, publications, films, and caricatures of **Hamid Naficy**.



Organized by MFA in Doc Media associate chair and lecturer, **Ines Sommer**, the inaugural DOC CHICAGO conference brought filmmakers from Chicago's diverse documentary community together. From expert panels to a short docs program, community conversation, and networking, this free event offered an opportunity for local documentary filmmakers to learn, exchange ideas, and connect.

DOC CHICAGO is presented by the non-profit Percolator Films in collaboration with Chicago Filmmakers. Speakers, moderators, and participants include next generation filmmakers along with renowned documentarians like Kartemquin Films' Gordon Quinn and Northwestern professors **Marco Williams**, **Danielle Beverly** and **Brent Huffman**.



*Creature Companion*, a film that professor and Co-Director of the MFA in Writing for Screen+Stage **David Tolchinsky** produced with Block Museum's **Dan Silverstein**, directed and also produced by former RTVF faculty member **Melika Bass**, screened at the Florida Experimental Film and Video Festival [FlexFest] in Tampa, Florida, the Images and Views of Alternative Cinema Film Festival in Nicosia, Cyprus, and will show at the Onion City Film Festival, Chicago on March 21, 2019, and the Headroom Screening Series in Iowa City, IA, on April 26.

Professor Tolchinsky also gave a talk, "Trends in Movie/TV Dialogue," at the Prague Film School, Prague.

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Please send us your news for the Spring 2019 newsletter by May 15, 2019, at [rtvfnewsletter@northwestern.edu](mailto:rtvfnewsletter@northwestern.edu).

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