

# Northwestern University

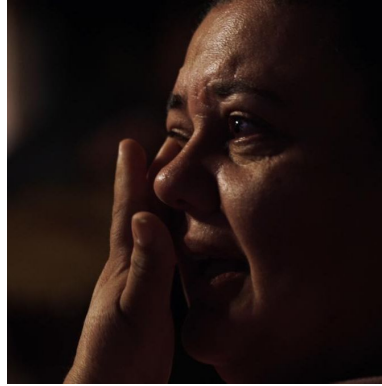
## Department of Radio/Television/Film

### Winter 2020

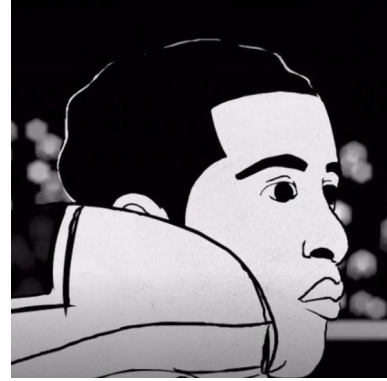
## Alumni News



*Shirley*, a film about the novelist Shirley Jackson, was adapted for the screen by MFA Writing grad **Sarah Gubbins**. The feature will premiere at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.



*Dia de la Madre*, a short film co-directed by MFA Doc Media alumna **Ashley Brandon**, and produced by MFA Doc Media alumnus **Nevo Shinaar**, is one of 74 shorts selected out of 10,397 to be shown at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.



*Stay Close*, a film by MFA Doc Media grads **Luther Clement** and **Shuhan Fan**, and produced by fellow Doc Media alumni **Nevo Shinaar** and **Ashley Brandon**, has been shortlisted for an Oscar nomination in Best Documentary Short Subject. You can watch the film on The New York Times Op-Docs.



*Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (pictured left), a play by MFA Writing grad **Will Arbery**, was named a Best Theater of 2019 pick in The New York Times.



RTVF grad **Shuling Yong's** documentary *Unteachable* [won the audience award at SGIFF](#), the Singapore International Film Festival. Shuling is pictured left.



MFA Doc Media grad **Sebastián Pinzón-Silva** has been named a [Catapult Film Fund](#) recipient for his new project, *La Bonga*.



**Natasha Nair's** *IN THE WAKE* was nominated for the International Documentary Association's prestigious David L. Wolper Student Documentary Award. Natasha is an MFA in Doc Media graduate from the class of 2019.



Congratulations to Screen Cultures PhD graduate **Annie Sullivan**, who garnered a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Oakland University in Detroit.



MA Sound Arts & Industries class of 2019 grad **Cara Ehlenfeldt** is Associate Producer for [The Truth Podcast](#).



**Justin Reifert**, produced *The Orchestra* which won Best Genre Short at Austin Revolution Film Festival, Best Off-Kilter Short Film at CIndependent Film Festival, and was nominated for Best Cinematography in a Short at Nightmares. The Orchestra is now headed to the New York City Horror Film Festival. Justin, a 2016 MFA in Doc Media grad, is pictured right.



**Brittany Shyne** (MFA Doc Media class of 2016) was named a Bay Area Video Coalition 2019 National MediaMaker Fellow. She is currently developing her thesis short [SEEDS](#) into a feature.



**Jeff Deutchman** is EVP of Acquisitions and Production for NEON and has previously held senior positions at IFC Films and Paramount Pictures. Learn more about Jeff in Screendaily's [Toronto 2019 Q&A](#).

## Faculty News

**Stephen Cone's** 2017 film *Princess Cyd* (below) was ranked one of [The 10 Best Movies of the 2010s](#) by [Richard Lawson](#) in *Vanity Fair*.





*We Believe in Dinosaurs* (directed by **Clayton Brown**, and Monica Long Ross) won Best Documentary at the St. Louis International Film Festival and will have its PBS premiere on Independent Lens on February 17, 2020.



**Ozge Samanci's** *You are the Ocean* and *Fiber Optic Ocean in VR* are currently in an exhibition in Píksel Festival for Electronic Art in Bergen, Norway. <https://19.píksel.no/>



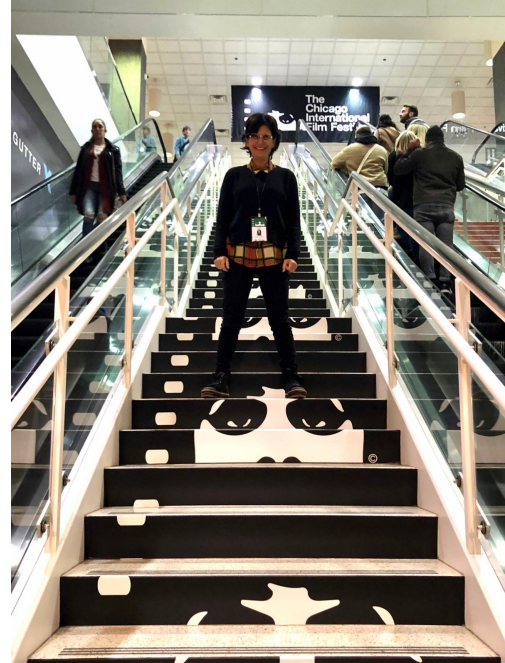
**David E. Tolchinsky** was named Best Director of a Crime Short at the Anatomy Crime & Horror International Film Festival in Athens, Greece for his film, *Cassandra*. At Nightmares Film Festival in Columbus, Ohio, Ruby Dalton was nominated for Best Actress for her role in *Cassandra*, and Dave was interviewed for the podcast, Candy Coated Razor Blades. Finally, Dave's script *Heal* was the Grand Prize Winner for Best TV Pilot at the Rhode Island International Film Festival and was nominated for Best Short Sitcom at the Houston Comedy Film Festival.

**Calum Walter's** film *Meridian* (below) was selected for New Frontier Shorts, at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.





**Marco William's** film, *Crafting an Echo*, has enjoyed a fall festival run, screening at New Orleans Film Festival, St Louis International Film Festival, and Cucalorus Film Festival. Other professional endeavors included being on the opening Conversation at the 2019 Double Exposure Festival in DC and the Editorial Commission for POV. Last, his film *Tell Them We are Rising* was nominated for a News and Documentary Emmy.



**Debra Tolchinsky's** short documentary, *Contaminated Memories* screened at the 55th Chicago International film festival where she participated in an Industry Days panel entitled, Capturing the Real. Debra also took *Contaminated Memories* to Rome, Italy, for a special screening and seminar on wrongful convictions at the Universite Roma Tre in conjunction with the Italy Innocence Project.

**J.P. Sniadecki** was awarded a JustFilms production grant by the Ford Foundation for a new project set in Cairo, IL, and was a featured filmmaker at the Interseccion Film Festival in Galicia, Spain. Screenings of his films *Foreign Parts*, *El Mar La Mar*, and *Yumen* were recently held at the Reina Sofia museum, Cineteca Madrid, and Cinemateca Catalyuna in Barcelona. Sniadecki's collaboration with Chinese



Lisa Malloy and J.P. Sniadecki, film still from *Untitled (Cairo, IL Project)*, 2018, Cairo, Illinois. Courtesy of the artists.

artists Huang Xiang and Xu Ruotao, *Yumen*, also screened at Pravo Ljudski Film Festival in Sarajevo. And the Festival Film Dokumenter, an annual documentary film festival held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, will screen his films *The Yellow Bank* and *The Iron Ministry*.

# Current Student News

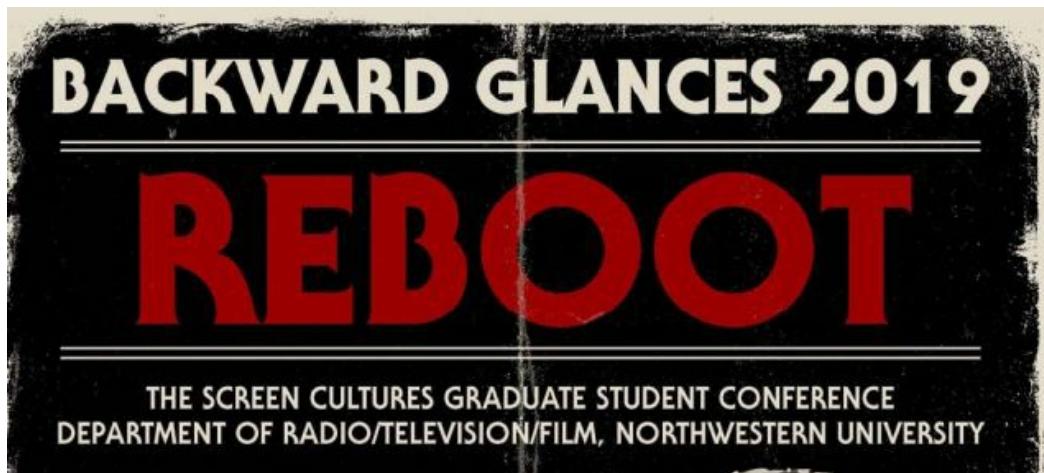
Undergraduates



Congrats to The Blackout for another wildly successful show on December 7!

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### Screen Cultures



Screen Cultures graduates **Samantha Freeman**, **Ben Riggs**, **Carter Moulton**, **Rita Lin**, and **Crystal Camargo** presented at Screen Cultures' second Backward Glances Conference in September. Alumna **Dr. Reem Hilu** (Washington University in St. Louis) was one of the featured keynote speakers.

PhD student **Evelyn Kreutzer** won the Society for Cinema and Media Studies' Claudia Gorbman graduate student writing award for her paper "Mediating and Disrupting the Flow: Classical Music Conventions in the Performance and Video Art of Nam June Paik and Charlotte Moorman." The paper will be published in *Music, Sound, and the Moving Image*.

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### Writing for the Screen & Stage



**Zayd Dohrn** and **David Tolchinsky** as co-directors of the MFA in Writing for Screen+Stage helped arrange for and co-moderated discussions with alumni **George RR Martin** (October 13, above) and **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** and **Brad Hall** (October 27, below) for the MFA in Writing for Screen+Stage students.



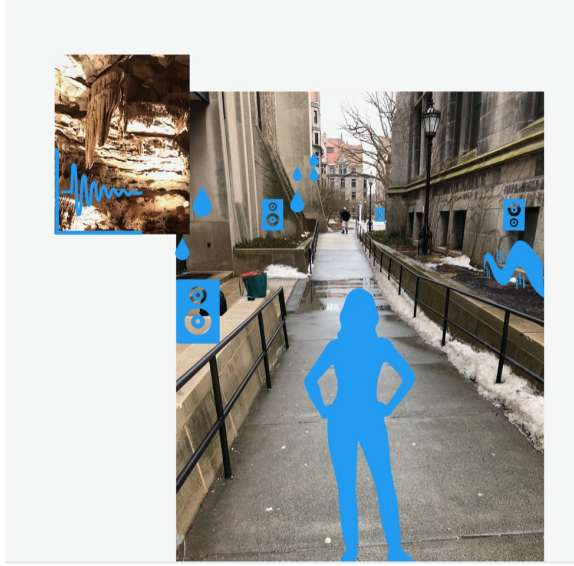
TV writer **Mimi Rothman Schapiro** (pictured at center, below) visited with the first year MFA writers in David Tolchinsky's 561 course.



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**Sound Arts & Industries**





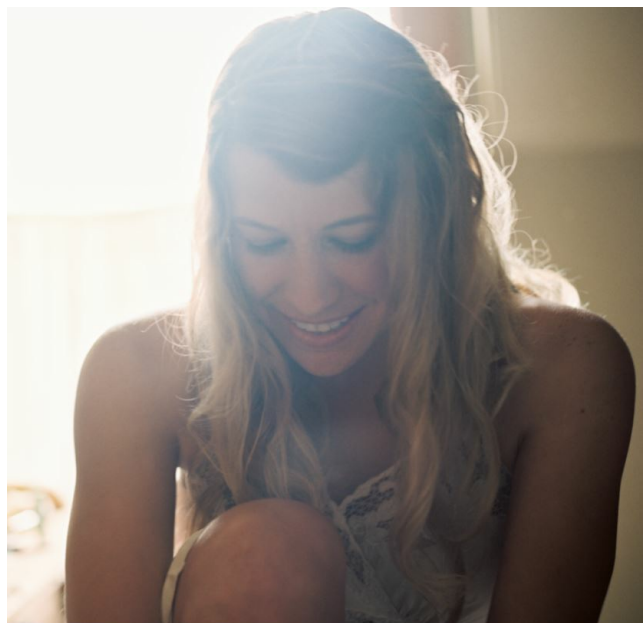
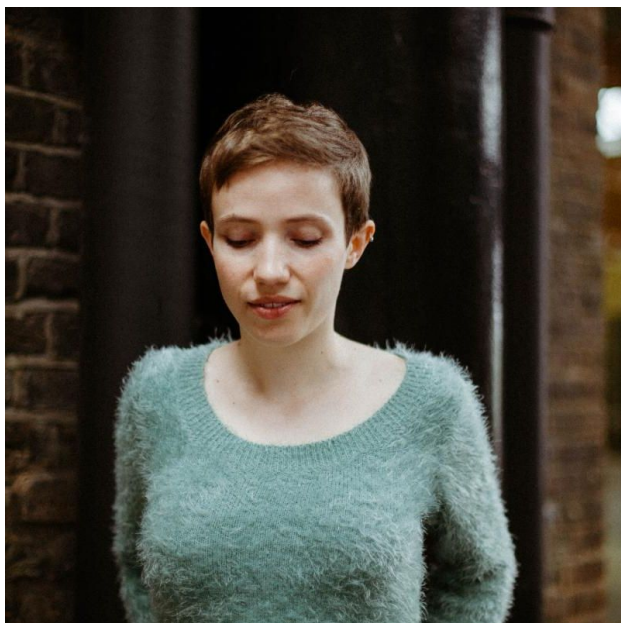
Student **Andy Slater** and faculty **Stephan Moore** and **Olivia Block** have installations at [The Chicago Sound Show](#) through the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art. The outdoor exhibit space throughout University of Chicago's campus allows people to connect and interact with found sound, meditative human voice, acoustic archaeology, and more.

**Mande Mallonee**, (top right), Head of Video Production at Elektra Music Group, discussed the current music video industry on October 16. She guided students through the video production process from inception to completion.

On October 23 Media artist and radio producer **Kara Oehler** discussed the production of her "[Sonic Voyages](#)" issue of the *New York Times Magazine*, which guides the audience through recordings instead of print. Recordings include ultrasonic conversations of urban rats in NYC and the cracking of the Earth's crust in the Atacama Desert, among others.

On October 25, Sound Arts and Industries students collaborated with Engineering Design Innovation students for a day-long masterclass on designing sound with interactive architecture.

**Eleanor McDowall** led a discussion on radio, storytelling and dance on November 14. McDowall is a Director at Falling Tree Productions. She is the series producer of BBC Radio 4's Short Cuts, which won the Gold Award for Best Radio Podcast at the British Podcast Awards in both 2017 and 2018.



## Documentary Media



In November, the MFA in Documentary Media students were treated to a masterclass with filmmaker Brett Story where she discussed her film *The Prison in Twelve Landscapes* and her newest film *The Hottest August*.

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Please send all news items for the next issue by February 6, 2020, to

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