SPOTLIGHT!

Faculty

Zina Camblin completed the playwrighting program at The Juilliard School under Marsha Norman and Christopher Durang, as part of the Juilliard Playwrighting Fellowship. While at Juilliard, she received the Lecomte du Nouy Prize for playwrighting. Her play And Her Hair Went With Her was selected as part of Lincoln Center’s Directors Lab play reading series. The play was optioned for a New York production when it caught the attention of actress Whoopi Goldberg. In addition, And Her Hair Went With Her had successful readings at The Culture Project and the Tribeca Theater Festival and has been produced by theaters around the country including The Phoenix Theater in Indianapolis, New Jersey Repertory Theater, Horizon Theater in Atlanta, The Fountain Theater in Los Angeles, and the Unicorn Theater in Kansas City.

Past productions and workshops of her other work include: Memoirs to Live/ Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Bedroom Stories/ Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts in San Francisco, Life’s a Drag/ UC San Diego, and Bunn and Clyde/The Know Theater. As a consultant for NYU’s Creative Arts Team, she helped to create several interactive theatre scripts for young audiences and as an assistant writer, editor, and researcher for the Tectonic Theater Project she helped devise two of their productions, The Jonestown Project, and I Think I like Girls. Her television credits include development projects with both NBC and Warner Bros, and being on the writing staff of the BET show, “Let’s Stay Together,” produced by Queen Latifah. Camblin recently starred in Ensemble Theater’s production of Dominique Morisseau’s play Detroit 67, and is currently working on a commission for a new women’s theater company in Cincinnati called SHEater. She is also currently developing a film concept for a female-centered cable network.

Screen Cultures PhD

Ian Hartman is a PhD Candidate in the Screen Cultures Program. His dissertation, Exotic Extensions: Technology, Anti-Modernism, and American Cyber-Utopianism, tracks the interlocking trajectories of exoticism and techno-utopianism in America from the 1940s to the present. Considering the histories of cybernetics, anthropology, popular social movements, and the artistic avant-garde, the project shows how optimism about information technologies took shape around the 20th century’s shifting discourses on race, ethnicity, and cultural difference. Ian has presented his work at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, the Game History Annual Symposium, The Society for the History of Technology, and Historical Materialism.

In addition to his doctoral research, Ian works as a graduate fellow at the Game Changer Chicago Design Lab at the University of Chicago, where he helps research and develop games for sexual and reproductive health and social justice. In 2014, he helped organize Interplay, a graduate student game studies conference hosted at Northwestern and the University of Chicago, which featured both research and design work from academics and artists across the country. Ian was recently awarded a Franke graduate fellowship at Northwestern’s Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, where he will be in residence during the 2016-17 academic year.

MFA in Documentary Media

Júlio Molica is in his first year as a Documentary Media MFA candidate. He is currently working on a documentary about a former homeless woman that left the streets of Rio de Janeiro and became one of the leaders of the Brazilian National Homeless Movement. This coming summer, Júlio will be following the changes his character Maralice and his home town undergo in a time when Brazil prepares to host the Olympic Games, as its president’s fate hangs in the balance.
Júlio worked for seven years at GloboNews, Brazil’s top all-news broadcaster. As a one-man-band reporter, he learned to produce, film and edit his own news stories. Now his challenge will be to build a closer relationship with his characters and have their relationships propel him to craft more meaningful stories.

In his first year at Northwestern, Júlio explored the world of paranormal investigations in *Unexplained Voices* and flirted with fiction for the first time with *Tea Room Trade*, a joint project with Philippine Merolle.

In 2014, Júlio co-directed the documentary *Tower of David*, which was nominated for the International Emmy Awards and awarded the bronze medal at the *New York Festivals*.

**MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage**

**Sarah Gubbins** (Class of 2009) is a Chicago playwright currently residing in Los Angeles. Her plays have been read or developed at the Public Theater, New York Theater Workshop, The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theater Company, Center Theatre Group, American Theater Company, About Face Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, the Playwrights’ Center, The Aurora Theater Company, Timeline Theater, Pine Box Theater, American Theater Company, Next Theatre Company, Actor’s Express, and Collaboration. Gubbins was named Best Playwright of 2012 by Chicago Magazine.

She won a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Play in 2012 for *The Kid Thing*, which was produced by Chicago Dramatists and About Face Theater and developed and produced by the Steppenwolf Theater. Her play *The Drinking Problem* (formerly titled *The Water Play*) was developed as part of PlayLabs at the Playwrights’ Center and received additional development from Timeline Theater in Chicago. *The Kid Thing* won an Edgerton Foundation New American Play Prize. Her play *Fair Use* was developed and produced at the Steppenwolf Theater Company as part of their First Look Repertory of New Plays during the summer of 2008 and was produced by Actor’s Express Theatre in Atlanta. She was commissioned to write *I am Bradley Manning* by the Theatre School at DePaul University and the play was produced at the Merle Reskin Theater in Chicago in 2012. Her work *fml: how Carson McCullers saved my life* was commissioned and produced by the Steppenwolf Theater in 2012 and published by Dramatic Publishing in 2013. Her play *Cocked* just finished its world premiere at Victory Gardens Theater.

Her half-hour comedy pilot *I Love Dick*, based on the 1997 Chris Kraus novel of the same name, was recently picked up by Amazon Studios and will be directed and produced by award-winning *Transparent* creator Jill Soloway. Kathryn Hahn and Kevin Bacon are set to star in the lead roles as independent filmmaker Chris (Hahn) and magnetic professor Dick (Bacon). Gubbins will also co-write the film *Ten Aker Wood* with Jill Soloway for Amazon Studios.

**RTVF Undergraduate**

**Olivia Peace** is currently in her fourth and last year at Northwestern University, studying Radio/TV/Film. Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Olivia has always been fascinated with themes of identity and individuality. Currently, Olivia is directing *Pangaea*, a short drama set on a rooftop eight days after the landfall of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. *Pangaea* is an Inspire Media grant recipient and also received funding through Northwestern University’s Undergraduate Research Grant program. Pangaea will be Olivia’s final directorial piece in her college career, following an animated short *Lucid* (2014) as well as several music videos that have received grants as well as festival recognition. *Pangaea* was filmed on location in the 7th ward of New Orleans and draws upon both the ethnographic work and experiences of actual hurricane survivors as well as past research from historians, documentarians, and historical indexes. It is a marriage of documentary theater with film and will be her most ambitious work yet.

Olivia enjoys using modern artistic tools and new media to create and tell stories which amplify and uplift marginalized voices. She is very interested in themes of childhood and transition. Her work spans a multitude of mediums from 2D paintings to film to large scale art installations. As a black woman, Olivia is heavily influenced by stories from the black American diaspora and feels compelled to represent those narratives in as much color and complexity as her materials will allow. For more information on Olivia’s work, go to [olivia-peace.com](http://olivia-peace.com).
WELCOME NEW ADJUNCTS

Kathleen Moynihan Falls, teaching Writing: Fantasy and Science Fiction.

Tim Horsburgh, teaching Topics in Postproduction: Marketing and Distribution.

Alex Inglizian, teaching Advanced Audio Production.

Riad Ismat, teaching Political Drama: Between Stage and Screen.

Edwin Linker, teaching Topics in Preproduction: Producing the Feature Film.

Lily Mooney, teaching Improv for Writers.

Bill Siegel, teaching Studies in Film/Video Production: MFA Pre-Thesis Seminar.

Luke Stadel, teaching 300-level Screen Cultures courses.

Calum Walter, teaching Light and Cinematography.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Thomas Bradshaw's play Carlyle opened at The Goodman Theatre April 2 with a favorable review from The New York Times. He was interviewed on WBEZ Morning Shift.

Clayton Brown's documentary The Believers, co-directed with Monica Long Ross, will be distributed on May 10 through Gravitas Ventures. It will be available on iTunes, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Google Play, and cable video on demand across the country.

Stephen Cone's film Henry Gamble's Birthday Party will be released on DVD and all VOD platforms (iTunes, Amazon, etc.) on May 3.

Zayd Dohrn's play The Profane, directed by NU alumnus David Schwimmer, was workshoped as part of Playwrights Horizons Theater's New Works Lab. The play is about a first-generation immigrant whose liberal, seemingly tolerant worldview is tested when his daughter falls in love with the son of a conservative Muslim family. His play REBORNING opened internationally at the Theatre Guild of Ancon in Panama, and at Visceral Companhia in Brazil.

Chaz Evans' exhibition Psychedelic Tourism, was curated through VGA Gallery and featured the work of three video game artists: William Chyr, Paloma Dawkins, and Greg Wohlwend.

Rebecca Gilman is an Artistic Associate at The Goodman, where she reunites with Artistic Director Bob Falls for a new drama about the heart and soul of a small town and its citizens: Soups, Stews, and Casseroles: 1976, which premiers May 21st, 2016. Ms. Gilman's plays include Luna Gale, A True History of the Johnstown Flood, Dollhouse, Boy Gets Girl, Spinning Into Butter, and Blue Surge (all of which were commissioned and originally produced by The Goodman).

Rebecca Gilman, Debra Tolchinsky, and David Tolchinsky joined authors Stuart Dybek and Alex Kotlowitz in the most recent Lawrence B. Dumas Domain Dinner. The panel, titled "Storytelling Across Media," was conceived and moderated by David Tolchinsky, and was covered by Northwestern University News, which ran a drawing of the panelists by Özge Samanci.

Laura Kipnis gave keynote talks at the University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of Texas-Austin. Her essay "Sexual Paranoia Strikes Academe" has been selected for the Best American Essays of 2016 edited by Jonathan Franzen.

Stephan Moore presented work at Connecticut College's Biannual Symposium on Arts and Technology. The theme was "Open All Ports," and his project was titled Performance Portrait: Live. The project was made with a team of collaborators from across the country, a group called a canary torsi, that he had been working with for over 10 years. Moore also participated in a conference at Brown University called the Conference for Research.
Hamid Naficy was awarded “Alumnus of the Year” from the Department of Film, Television and Digital Media, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television at the annual Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference (in Atlanta). The Persian translation of his book, *A Social History of Iranian Cinema: Volume 1: The Artisan Era, 1897–1941*, by Mohammad Shaiba, titled *Tarikh-e Eja'ami-ye Sinema-ye Iran, volume 1, Tolid-e Kargahi* (1276–1320), won the “best translation” cinema book award at the 5th Annual Cinema Book Awards in Tehran, Iran, in February 2016. The award is organized by the Iranian House of Cinema, an official body consisting of all the country’s film and cinema industry crafts unions. On February 25 and 26, he co-funded and co-organized with the MENA Program and Block Cinema *Kutluğ Ataman: Turkish Cinema at the Margins*, which included a visit by the Turkish director and the screening of two of his films, *Lola + Bilidikid* (1998) and *Kuzu* (*The Lamb*, 2014), and a discussion moderated by Naficy and Q&A with the audience at the Block Cinema. *Iranian Post-revolution Cinema: A Rising Global Cinema* was published. He was the Iranian Studies Initiative Distinguished Lecturer, giving the keynote talk, “Iranian Postrevolution Cinema: From Iconoclasm to Global Cinema,” at the University of Southern California (USC) Middle Eastern Studies Program as well as the lecture “Iran’s Mediatic Public Diplomacy with the West—War by Other Means” at USC School of Cinematic Arts Annual Distinguished Lecture. He conducted the workshop on “Regionalism as a Film Studies Optic” for Film and Media Studies and Middle Eastern Studies graduate students and faculty at USC.

Brett Neveu’s play *Miss America* will premiere as part of the Greenhouse Theater Center’s inaugural “Solo Celebration!” series in January 2017.

Eric Patrick will deliver a paper titled “Animating the Sonic Residue” in Singapore at the Society for Animation Studies conference in June.

Miriam Petty’s book *Stealing the Show: African American Performers and Audiences in 1930s Hollywood* has been published by University of California Press.

Ariel Rogers was awarded a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to support work on her current book project on screen technologies.

Özge Samancı gave invited talks on her research at University of Southern California, World Building Media Lab, Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts, and Georgia Institute of Technology Digital Media Department. She also gave readings of her new book *Dare to Disappoint* in New York (Bluestockings Bookstore), Atlanta (Charis Bookstore), Los Angeles (The Last Bookstore), Chicago (The Book Cellar), and St. Paul (Subtext Bookstore). A short review by China Mieville about *Dare to Disappoint* appeared in *The Guardian*. In March, she was a panelist in C2E2 Chicago Comic Expo, on a panel titled Go Graphic.

Jacob Smith contributed to The MIT Press book *Sound as Popular Culture*.

J.P. Sniadecki was interviewed by *POV Magazine* on his 2012 hit film *People’s Park*.

Ines Sommer’s documentary-in-progress *A Season of Change on Henry’s Farm* was recently awarded a generous post-production grant from the Mammel Family Foundation in the total amount of $70,000. The documentary follows Central Illinois farmer Henry Brockman as he takes action against global warming’s impact on his organic farm. As part of its spotlight on Chicago’s indie filmmaking scene, the Gene Siskel Film Center honored Ines Sommer with a “2016 Star Filmmaker” award at the annual *Hollywood on State* gala in February. In May, Ines Sommer will be a panelist and present excerpts from her forthcoming broadcast documentary *Count Me In* at the 4th International Conference on Participatory Budgeting in North America.

Lynn Spigel was the keynote speaker at the symposium “Auteurism: Then and Now” at the University of Pittsburgh and University of Lyon, and gave the lecture “Television and Modern Art” at Addison Gallery in Boston.

David Tolchinsky weighed in on the legal debate over the ownership of Star Trek at *Inverse*. The short film he was commissioned to write by *Fork the Man Productions*, *The Coming of Age*, was accepted to *Filmideo 2018* and screened at the Newark Museum on April 30. The film was also accepted to *Los Angeles Cinefest*. Three SOC undergrads worked on *The Coming of Age* through a URAP Grant. Aimee Hechler, Gabriella Romagnoli, and Claire Wiley, alongside two other SOC students, Jon Oliver and Itai Joseph.
David Tolchinsky and Brett Neveu are co-curating Sick by Seven, seven plays and videos about mental health in the modern world, at A Red Orchid Theatre in Chicago as part of A Red Orchid’s [Incubator Series] designed to expose audiences to new voices and new directions outside and within the ensemble of A Red Orchid Theatre. The show will run Friday and Saturday, June 17 and 18, at 8 pm; June 19 at 7:30 pm; Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25, at 8 pm; and Sunday, June 26, at 7:30 pm. Playwrights include Lisa Dillman, Marisa Wegrzy, Brett Neveu, Shannon Pritchard (MFA for the Screen+Stage Class of 2014 and MFA program assistant), David Tolchinsky, and Grant James Varjas, with excerpts from an Untitled Wilhelm Reich film by former RTVF faculty member Melika Bass. The show’s producer is Sarah Gitenstein and the show’s video curator is Melika Bass. SOC students interning on this project via a URAP grant include Mary Anane, Alex Gold, and Christopher Edward Reichert. For more information, please contact (312) 883-5967 or write to sickby7@gmail.com.

Calum Walter will be an RTVF full-time lecturer specializing in sound starting in the Fall 2016 academic year.

### STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

#### PhD in Screen Cultures

Linde Murugan was hired as a tenure track Assistant Professor at Fordham University in New York.

Hannah Spaulding won the top student paper for the Communications History Division of the [International Communication Association](https://www.icaawards.org/).

#### MFA in Documentary Media

Tim Fryett’s (Class of 2017) documentary short Of A Few Days screened as part of the shorts program for the 45th New Directors/New Films, organized by [The Museum of Modern Art and Film Society of Lincoln Center](https://www.moma.org/). Of A Few Days also screened at the Ethnografilm Festival in Paris on April 1.

Jasmine Huff’s (Class of 2016) short documentary Unpacking Soul screened at Angelo State University’s [Doing Autoethnography Conference](https://www.cos.asu.edu) in March 2015.

Iyabo Kwayana’s (Class of 2017) film Macarrão screened as part of the Palm Beach Film Festival’s Coming of Age Shorts 2 program. The film is also slated for the [Newport Beach Film Festival](https://www.newportbeachfilmfestival.com). Macarrão also screened at the Pan African Film Festival 2016 in February. Iyabo’s work as a Director of Photography was also featured in the film short, All Men Are Flowers, which screened at the [Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival](https://www.lapff.org) April 21 through April 28.

In the first weekend of March, the MFA in Documentary Media students and faculty traveled to Columbia, Missouri for one of the most acclaimed documentary festivals, the True/False Film Festival. The festival included over 35 features, dozens of shorts and educational seminars for our MFA students.

On April 2, the MFA in Documentary Media students attended screenings at Chicago’s [Doc10 Film Festival](http://doc10asyarakat.org). The students took part in documentary seminars and the saw films by legendary documentary filmmakers Barbara Kopple, Albert Maysles, Werner Herzog and had the opportunity to see documentaries that have won awards all around the world.

Class of 2017 MFA Documentary Media students curated a screening for their Winter Quarter films called, FIGHTING/FORGETTING - SHORT FILMS INSPIRED BY ARCHIVES. The screening also featured short pieces created in Professor J.P. Sniadecki’s Embodied Camera course.

On May 23, Andrea Meditch (BS degree in Communications and Media from Northwestern) will be visiting with the Class of 2016 MFA in Documentary Media students.

On June 8, 9 and 10, 2016 the first graduating class of MFA in Documentary Media students will be screening their thesis work at Block Cinema.

#### MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage

Class of 2017 students Sharon Krome and Oona O’Leary went backstage for a tour of The Goodman Theatre with MS in Leadership for Creative Enterprises students.
**PLAYWRIGHTS’ CENTER**

Kate Tucker Fahlsing (Class of 2016) has a reading of her play, *Ducks Unlimited*, at Greenhouse Theater May 10th and is a Top Ten Finalist, still under consideration, for the Core Apprentice position at The Playwrights Center.

Hope Rehak (Class of 2017) was awarded a full scholarship to the Kenyon Playwrights Conference. In April she had a feature spot with The Kates on Broadway at the Laugh Factory Chicago.

Kate Royal (Class of 2017) interviewed MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage alumna Sarah Gubbins (2009) on her new play *Cocked* and her upcoming TV series with Jill Soloway for AfterEllen.com.

Lin Tu (Class of 2016) is contracted by Edko Films to work as a second draft writer on a Chinese feature screenplay. She is about to shoot her 12-minute short screenplay, collaborating with a DePaul-based director, and was chosen as a semi-finalist for Bay Area Play Festival for her play *I Love My Family*.

**RTVF Undergraduates**

Cameron Smith (RTVF 2017), Ethan Senser (RTVF 2016), Olivia Peace (RTVF 2016), and Lena Elmeligy (RTVF/MENA 2018) were awarded the prestigious Academic Year Undergraduate Research Grants.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**MFA In Writing For Screen + Stage Alumni**

Will Arbery (2015) has won the $30,000 Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Artists. This is the first time a SOC graduate has won the award and the first time an MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage alumnus/a has won.

Kristin Chirico (2008) documented her experience at the bridal salon in Say Yes To The Dress for BuzzFeed.

Farhan Arshad’s (2010) episode of Dr. Ken, Korean Men’s Club, premiered on April 15.

Jenny Hagel (2009) has been staffed as a writer on Late Night with Seth Meyers and was recently featured in a sketch on the show.

Jen Spyra (2012), writer for The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, was featured in the The New Yorker’s Shouts & Murmurs column with her essay “Sunday Routine” on March 7.

**RTVF Undergraduate Alumni**

Robert Boesel’s (Creative Writing for the Media Program 2007) novel, *Adult Stuff*, a funny self-help guide for how to survive your twenties is available on Amazon.

Issac Feder’s (RTVF 2002) short film A.C. Green: Iron Virgin had its world premiere as part of Tribeca/ESPN Sports Film Festival: Sports Shorts. A.C. Green: Iron Virgin, is about “Showtime Laker” and reigning Iron Man of the NBA, doing the dirty work every night for 1,192 straight games—more consecutive games than any player in NBA history. But it wasn’t just his durability that separated AC from his NBA brethren: he was a proud virgin, who was saving himself for marriage.

Aurin Squire’s (Creative Writing for the Media Program 2001) play Running on Fire is part of the 2016 Eugene O’Neil Theater Center’s National Playwrights Conference.

J. Ryan Stradal’s (Creative Writing for the Media Program 1998) novel Kitchens of the Midwest has been named the 2016 Adult Debut Book Of The Year by the American Booksellers Association.
On April 15, 2016 Foley artist Sandra Fox, engineer Jack Heeren, and assistant Andrea Cyr from Footsteps Post-Production Sound, Inc. of Uxbridge, Ontario gave a presentation, Q&A, and hands-on workshop as the first event in the brand-new recording studio space at John J. Louis Hall. Foley is the art of recording and adding sound effects to a film after shooting has completed. The audience was treated to clips of past work, demonstrations on ways to create visceral sound effects, and the recording of participant-created Foley for a fight scene from the series Vikings. The event, “Foley Sound Effects Workshop,” was sponsored by the MA in Sound Arts and Industries and co-sponsored by the Radio/Television/Film Department and School of Communication.

On April 18th, legendary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman came to Northwestern’s Block Cinema to screen his 40th documentary, In Jackson Heights, followed by a talk back moderated by Debra Tolchinsky. On April 19th, Wiseman taught an exclusive masterclass for the MFA in Documentary Media students. The Hoffman Professor is a short-term filmmaker residency funded by a generous gift from Jane Steiner Hoffman and Michael Hoffman.

The MFA in Writing for Screen + Stage and the SOC EPICS office are sponsoring a panel on “Writing: Fact and Fiction” on May 13, time to be determined. Panelists include Artistic Producer at Steppenwolf Theater Company and playwright Aaron Carter (Panther Burn, First Words), producer Lisa Cortes (Precious, Shadowboxer), writer Laura Eason (SoC graduate ’89, Sex with Strangers, House of Cards), and writer Deirdre O’Connor (Assisted Living, Jailbait).

The June 4th Arts Circle celebration will foreground John J. Louis Hall’s new Sound Studio. Sandra Fox from Footsteps and her team will perform live foley on the half-hour. Sessions with include a Q&A with highly decorated Foley veterans as well as some one-on-one instructionals for any participants who are interested in learning some advanced techniques.

RTVF Chairman David Tolchinsky will present Seth Meyers at Commencement for Meyers’ honorary degree.