



JANUARY 24-26TH

Department of Film & Media Studies, UCSB



Word Farm 2014 Students

Abbie Amstutz	Chanel Miller
Joe Arciniega	Miranda Morgan
Alexander Bernstein	Christopher Marchant
December Brown	Elliot Patzkowsky
Isabelle Carasso	Barbara Piszczek
Danica Carrigg	Daisy Rogozinsky
Jimmy Chang	Melinda Rosenberg
Julia Chou	Christopher Daniel Soriano Palma
Elyse Craig	Jimmy Solis
Ivy Fang	Corina Svacina
Caitlyn Grisham	Kevin Torres
Teodros Horning	Jullisa Villatoro
Nick Hornung	Shaina Vinson
Cody Joslin	Beverlee Weinsoff
Parker Lantin	Cheyenne Winings
Sam Lerner	Daniel Anthony Zozaya
Matthew McNulty	

Class Schedule

Friday, January 24

9:00	Coffee & Snacks	Sign-In	
10:00-12:00	Session 1	Tom Lazarus	Cheri Steinkellner
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00-3:00	Session 2	Mitchell Kriegman	Jeff King

Saturday, January 25

8:00	Coffee & Snacks		
9:00-11:00	Session 3	Omar Najam/Mia Resella	Dan O' Shannon
11:30-1:30	Session 4	Ian Weinreich	Dean Pitchford
1:30-2:30	Lunch		
2:30-4:30	Session 5	Toni Graphia	Chuck Kim
4:30-5:00	Snacks		
5:00-7:00	Session 6	Tom Sylvestri	Jane Espenson
7:30	Dinner	Annenberg Conference Room - 4315 SSMS	

Sunday, January 26

9:00	Coffee & Snacks		
10:00 -12:00	Session 7	Aaron Vaccaro	Joel Church Cooper
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00 -3:00	Session 8	Bill Steinkellner	Michael Miner

Word Farm Bios

Joel Church Cooper

Joel got his start co-creating and starring in the web series *Roommating* which generated millions of views. From there he went on to become a Contributing Writer on the Onion Sports Network show *Sportsdome* on Comedy Central, and a Writer/Producer on *The Rotten Tomatoes Show* on Current TV. Recently he's been staffed on the TBS sitcoms *Men at Work* and *Ground Floor* as well as the NBC sitcoms *Up All Night* and the upcoming *Undateable*. He currently has a feature film in pre-production with Funny or Die.

Jane Espenson

Jane Espenson (@JaneEspenson) is co-creator of the award-winning online CW comedy *Husbands* along with her producing partner Brad Bell. She is known for her work as a writer for *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel*, *Firefly*, *The O.C.*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Game of Thrones* among other shows. She currently writes for ABC's *Once Upon A Time*, while continuing her work on *Husbands*.

Toni Graphia

Since graduating from UCSB, Toni Graphia has had a 20-year career as a television writer, and written for such quality dramas as *Battlestar Galactica*, HBO's *Carnivale*, *Roswell*, *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, *Mercy*, *Grey's Anatomy* and JJ Abrams' *Alcatraz*. In addition, she's sold 17 network and cable pilots, been nominated for a Writer's Guild award and won a prestigious Peabody award. She's currently a writer and co-executive producer for *Outlander*, an upcoming time-travel series from Starz, currently filming in Scotland.

Chuck Kim

Chuck Kim is a television writer living in Los Angeles. He's written for NBC's hit series *Heroes* as well as for comic books, with characters ranging from the *Powerpuff Girls* to the *X-Men* to *Superman*. After graduating from New York University with a BA in English, Chuck was accepted to law school, but instead took a job as a comic book editor at DC Comics. After working several years on such characters as Batman, Superman, and Aquaman, Chuck left DC Comics to try to enter the world of television. Moving to Los Angeles, he worked for E! Online as an online reporter. In 2003, Chuck got his big break when he was picked as a writing fellow in the Disney/ABC writing fellowship. He then wrote for several seasons on *Heroes* and is now working on developing his own ideas for television. He has also written for DC, Marvel and Nickelodeon comic books.

Jeff King

Jeff King started his career writing series TV for *Going to Extremes*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *American Gothic*, and *Models Inc.* Then he moved into feature films, selling screenplays on spec, writing remakes such as Hitchcock's *The Birds*, *Flight of The Phoenix*, and Kurosawa's *High and Low* for Martin Scorsese; adaptations like Isak Dineson's *Angelic Avengers*, and Nelson DeMille's *Lion's Game*; and rewriting *Die Hard 4*, *Blood and Chocolate*, and others. He's currently at work on two screenplays, has been writing TV pilots for Sony, Fox, HBO, VH-1 and Amazon as well as writing his first book. He lives in Montecito with his wife and two children.

Mitchell Kriegman

Mitchell Kriegman's work has been published in *The New Yorker*, the *National Lampoon*, *Army Man*, *Glamour*, *Between C&D*, *New York Press* and *Harper's Bazaar*. He joined the team of *Saturday Night Live* as a filmmaker, performer and writer and worked on the cult classic *Mr. Mike's Mondo Video*. Winner of four Emmy Awards, the Director's Guild Award and an American Film Institute Fellowship (AFI) as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Mitchell Kriegman began his diverse career as a fiction writer and filmmaker. He is the creator of the groundbreaking television series *Clarissa Explains It All*, and executive story editor of the original *Ren and Stimpy*. *Rugrats*, *Doug* and *Rocko's Modern Life*. Kriegman also created the children's classics *Bear in the Big Blue House*, *Book of Pooh* and *It's a Big Big World* and wrote *Elmo in Grouchland*. He has written original screenplays for *Rogue*, *Universal*, *Disney*, *Columbia Pictures* and others. *Being Audrey Hepburn*, his first novel will be published by St. Martin's Press fall 2014.

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Also, *Things I Can't Explain* his second novel, based on *Clarissa Explains it All*, was acquired at Thomas Dunne Books and will be published summer 2015. His soon-to-be-published memoir *The Crooked People in the Crazy House* was excerpted in *The Southampton Review*.

Tom Lazarus

Tom Lazarus teaches The Master Class in Screenwriting at UCLA Extension, is the author of two books on screenwriting, has written eight features, nine movies of the week and has worked as a producer/writer on seven series. He has also directed four features and fifty hours of television. Tom Lazarus's first career was in entertainment advertising, where he created advertising for the major motion picture studios. He also designed album covers and was nominated for a Grammy. His second career was writing, directing and producing educational and business films. He won more than two dozen international film festival honors including Best Educational Film of the Year at the San Francisco Film Festival. He was nominated for a CLIO for directing a Fair House Public Service TV spot. Then, Mr. Lazarus started writing for television, writing seven *Movies of the Week* including *Hear No Evil* and the *Ordeal of Bill Carney* and working as a staff writer/producer for nine network series such as *Hunter*, *Jake and the Fatman*, *Starman*, *Stingray*, *Mike Hammer* and *War of the Worlds*. His feature credits include the original story for George Burns/Brooke Shields motion picture *Just You and Me, Kid* and the script for the Swedish made *Revenge and Justice* and the #1 film in America upon its release *Stigmata*. He has had nine feature films made from his original screenplays. Tom Lazarus has directed five feature films: *Movies Kill*, *Word of Mouth*, *House of Love*, *Voyeur Confessions*, and *Exhibitionist Files*. Mr. Lazarus wrote, directed and executive produced five seasons of the cable TV hit *7 Lives Xposed*. He has published two books through St. Martin's Press, *Secrets of Film Writing* and *Rewriting Secrets For Screenwriters* and his present book, *The Last Word – Definitive Answers To All Your Screenwriting*.

Michael Miner

Michael Miner's professional career includes time as a director of photography and director/cameraman of twenty music videos. As co-writer of *Robocop*, the iconic action story about the part man/part machine law enforcer of the future, Mr. Miner received the Saturn Award for Best Science Fiction Screenplay and a nomination for Best Screenplay by the Mystery Writers of America. He is also the co-writer of the pilot for *Robocop: The Television Show*, produced by Sky TV and *Anacondas: Search For The Blood Orchid*, the action adventure sequel about humans battling deadly snakes. His solo writing credits include *Lawnmower Man II*, the science fiction sequel to the virtual reality story about an idiot savant trapped in a computer program and his debut as a writer/director, *Deadly Weapon*, a drama about a teenager who finds a prototype Star Wars weapon and uses it to take a desert town hostage. Most recently, he directed *The Book of Stars*, magic realism about the troubled relationship between two sisters and the memory book one of them keeps that has the power to anticipate future events. Mr. Miner discovered the script while teaching a writing class at the Maine Photographic Workshops. Mr. Miner has written screenplays for Oliver Stone, Sylvester Stallone and Michael Douglas. He is currently developing an erotic thriller situated on the campus of Harvard University, and two television series, one about juvenile justice in America and the other about the dystopian aspects of digital information. He has taught screenwriting at the Maine Photographic Workshops, the University of Hawaii, the Southeastern Media Institute, the Praxis Center for Screenwriting in Vancouver, the University of California at Santa Barbara, California State University at Los Angeles and the InsideOut Writers Program for incarcerated juveniles in Los Angeles County.

Omar Najam

Omar Najam is an editor/producer for the YouTube channel SMBC Theater as well as the co-creator of *2 Broke Geeks* and co-writer of *Talented*, a graphic novel that is going to be published by Arcana Comics in 2014.

Word Farm Bios

Dan O'Shannon

Dan O'Shannon comes from a small town outside of Cleveland, Ohio called Painesville. Painesville, named after General Edward Paine (1746 - 1841), was incorporated in 1832. It is the county seat of Lake County, and its current population is 19,563. It is the home of Lake Erie College, known around the world for equine studies. Painesville's Hispanic population increased elevenfold between 1990 and 2010. New residents were primarily immigrants from León, Guanajuato, the ninth-largest metropolitan region in Mexico. They had settled in Painesville after finding work in its plant nurseries. Dan is a writer. (editors note: such shows as *Fraiser*, *Cheers*, *Jericho* and currently *Modern Family*, where he serves as executive producer and show runner)

Dean Pitchford

Hawai'i born and Yale educated, Dean Pitchford acted, sang and danced off- and on-Broadway and in over 100 commercials before turning to songwriting, screenwriting, directing and writing fiction. He has won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe (Best Song: *Fame*), and has been nominated for three more Oscars, two more Globes, seven Grammys and two Tonys. His songs have sold over 70 million records and have been recorded by artists as iconic as Whitney Houston, Barbra Streisand, Cher, Kenny Loggins, LL Cool Jay, Dolly Parton and Hugh Jackman, among others. On and off-Broadway, his work has been seen in *Footloose*, *Carrie - the Musical*, and *The Boy from Oz*, among others. His novels *The Big One-Oh*, *Captain Nobody* and (most recently) *Nickel Bay Nick* have been published by Putnam/Penguin; his performances of the audiobooks of the first two titles were both nominated for Grammys (Best Spoken Word Recording.) Learn more and check out the video clips at www.deanpitchford.com

Mia Resella

Mia works as a new media researcher for the literary management company Michael Siegel & Associates (clients include Moonbot Studios, Roald Dahl, Lauren Child) and is a co-creator of the YouTube channel *2 Broke Geeks*.

Bill Steinkellner

Bill Steinkellner writes very short stories on the backs of postcards. He began this unusual practice to get a girl to date him. That was many years ago, and now she his partner, wife, and mother of his three children. Bill is the author of *Postcards From the Moon*, his first collection of p.c. stories which won rave reviews, was a Los Angeles Times Best Seller and is, of course available on Amazon.com. Additionally, Bill is an award-winning television and screenwriter: *Cheers* and Disney's *Teacher's Pet* (Emmys, Golden Globes, BAFTAS, People's Choice awards), also *The Jeffersons*, *Who's the Boss*, *Family Ties*, *Just Shoot Me*, *Hope & Gloria*, *Bob, Benson, Baby Blues*. Stage: Bookwriter (with wife, Cheri): *Sister Act The Musical* (London Palladium, Hamburg, Broadway 2011), *Princesses*, (Goodspeed, 5th Avenue), *Jailbirds on Broadway*, *Our Place*, and the original *Pee-Wee Herman Show* (Groundlings, Roxy Theater, HBO) . Creator/Director: *Instaplay*, L.A.'s first all-improvised musical-comedy *Proud Father*, *Teddy*, *Kit & Emma* (check out the girls' stellar new high-school webcomic, ACES at www.AcesComic.com).

Cheri Steinkellner

Cheri Steinkellner has earned four Emmys, three Golden Globes, two Writers Guild Awards, a People's Choice, Parents' Choice, and a BAFTA, for writing and producing television (*Cheers*, *Jeffersons*, *Family Ties*, etc), and animation and film (Disney's *Teacher's Pet*, etc). For stage, she has written the books for *Princesses* (with David Zippel, Matthew Wilder, and Bill Steinkellner – NAMT 2003, Goodspeed Norma Terris 2003, Seattle 5th Avenue Theater 2004); the Tony-nominated *Sister Act* (with Alan Menken, Glenn Slater, and Bill Steinkellner – Pasadena Playhouse 2006, Alliance Theater, Atlanta 2007, currently playing the

London Palladium, opening on Broadway Spring 2011); *Mosaic* (with Georgia Stitt, opening off-Broadway in April); and *Hello! My Baby* (with the great composers of the Golden Age of Tin Pan Alley and Georgia Stitt). When not writing for stage and screens, Cheri teaches writing at the University of California; directs local youth productions including *Rent* (named Best Youth Theater production 2009 by Santa Barbara Independent), *A Chorus Line*, *Anything Goes*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, and *Our Town*; and created "The Ultimate Write-off" for the Santa Barbara Writers Conference). Cheri and her favorite husband Bill live in Santa Barbara with their three favorite children: Kit, Teddy, and Emma.

Tom Sylvestri

Tom Sylvestri is one of the most acclaimed story consultants in the motion picture and TV industry today. He's worked for over 50 major companies in Hollywood, identifying and developing movie and TV properties that have won all manner of awards, set box-office records, and scored historic ratings. A graduate of the NYU film school, he attended USC's graduate Professional Writing program as well as studying acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York. A former book club editor, music journalist, and musician, he has lectured at various universities and has a slate of projects in development as a writer and producer. "Tom Sylvestri has an incredibly astute understanding of movie material and of the mechanics of good screenwriting. His insights, combined with his years of experience, make him an invaluable resource to anyone trying to successfully develop a screenplay." – Hutch Parker, producer; former Vice-Chairman, Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp.; and former Chairman, New Regency Productions.

Aaron Vaccaro

Aaron Vaccaro is currently a staff writer on the CBS comedy *Mike & Molly*, but paid more than just his WGA dues to get where he is today. Growing up in the San Fernando Valley (the non-porny part), Aaron was always enamored by the entertainment industry, inspired by his grandfather who starred in the original *Our Gang* comedies. After graduating from UC Santa Barbara with a double major in Pre-Law & Film Studies, Aaron broke his mother's heart by taking a stab at the entertainment industry instead of law school. That would begin his eight-year journey to becoming a television writer, featuring Writers' Assistant stints on *24*, *Ghost Whisperer*, *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, *Wilfred*, and *Mike and Molly* where he was eventually promoted to staff writer in May 2013. In addition to being chosen as a "2012 NBC Writer on the Verge," Aaron has also optioned a drama pilot about the Secret Service, a subject he knows nothing about, and a feature script entitled, *Sasquatch vs. The Abominable Snowman*.

Ian Weinreich

Ian Weinreich is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara's film studies program, where he was awarded the Paul N. and Elinor T. Lazarus scholarship in screenwriting and helped organize the very first annual Word Farm. Following graduation, Ian attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts for his MFA in dramatic writing and gained expertise in hammering out TV scripts and obtaining copious amounts of student debt. After returning to LA, he cut his teeth writing sketches featuring Kevin Nealon and Jimmy Kimmel, Nathan Fillion, Simon Pegg and has had videos featured on FunnyorDie, The Huffington Post, VH1's Best Week Ever and G4's Attack of the Show, to name a few. His last feature was optioned by Imagine Entertainment and he is currently a staff writer on Disney's *Mighty Med*, and a contributing writer on the hit web-series, *Honest Trailers*. featured on FunnyorDie, The Huffington Post, VH1's Best Week Ever and G4's Attack of the Show, to name a few. His last feature was optioned by Imagine Entertainment and he is currently a staff writer on Disney's *Mighty Med*, and a contributing writer on the hit web-series, *Honest Trailers*.

Special Thanks

The Film and Media Studies Department

The Writers' Room

Writers Guild of America

UCen Catering

Scott & Jennifer Frank

All of our Guests

Joe Palladino

Kathy Wertheim

Daisy Rogozinsky

Nick Hornung

The Event Staff

Cristina Venegas

Paul Portuges

Kathy Murray

Dana Welch

Sally Lombrozo

Debjani Bhattacharya

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