



JANUARY 23-25TH

Department of Film & Media Studies, UCSB



## **Word Farm 2015 Students**

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Joe Arciniega

Kayla Barajas

Madeline Blair

December Brown

Isabelle Carasso

Cassady Clifton

Mic Dahl

Gustavo Gonzalez

Andrew Hamilton

Nick Hornung

Taylor Hurles

Christine Huynh

Cody Joslin

Nick Juskie

Phalguni Laishram

Joshua Lakey

Maraya Marlowe

Kirsten "Cookie" Pierre

Ariana Rodriguez

Michael Shaughnessy

Fabiana Tesauro

Shaina Vinson

Vivian Vuong

Tristin Weber

Siobhan Wetzel

Melinda Weisberger

David Wills

Shannen Melo

# Class Schedule

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## Friday, January 23

9:00		Coffee & Snacks	Sign-In
10:00-12:00	Session 1	<b>Glen Leopold</b>	<b>Matthew Ryan</b>
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00-3:00	Session 2	<b>Justin Winters</b>	<b>Mitchell Kreigman</b>

## Saturday, January 24

9:00		Coffee & Snacks	
10:00-12:00	Session 3	<b>Omar Najam, Mia Resella</b>	<b>Perry Lang</b>
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00-3:00	Session 4	<b>Michael Miner</b>	<b>Harrison Reiner</b>
3:00-3:30	Snacks		
3:30-5:30	Session 5	<b>Toni Graphia</b>	<b>Amy Pocha</b>
6:00	Dinner	<b>Annenberg Conference Room - 4315 SSMS</b>	

## Sunday, January 25

9:00		Coffee & Snacks	
10:00-12:00	Session 6	<b>Alex Metcalf</b>	<b>Bill Steinkellner</b>
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00-3:00	Session 7	<b>Bryce &amp; Jackie Zable</b>	<b>Harrison Reiner</b>

# Word Farm Bios

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## Toni Graphia

(Executive Producer/Writer) After a stint as an advertising copywriter, Toni Graphia pursued a career in television, landing her first staff writing position on the critically acclaimed ABC Viet Nam drama, *China Beach*. She's gone on to write over 75 episodes of quality drama, in addition to 17 network and cable pilots. Her credits include the *Battlestar Galactica*, HBO's *Carnivale*, *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, *Roswell*, *Chicago Hope*, *Grey's Anatomy* and JJ Abrams' *Alcatraz*. Graphia currently serves as Executive Producer/Writer on *Outlander*, for Starz network, now filming in Scotland and based on Diana Gabaldon's international best-selling book series. Graphia has been nominated for a Writer's Guild Award and won a prestigious George Foster Peabody award in 2006. In addition to her work in television, Graphia has taught writing at USC, UCLA, UCSB and Emerson College, and lectured at Glasgow Caledonian University in the U.K.

## 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.

## Perry Lang

Starting to work in film as an actor at 17, Perry Lang has acted in over thirty films and seventy hours of television. His film work includes Sam Fuller's *The Big Red One*, Steven Spielberg's *1941* and John Sayles's *Sunshine State* as well as *Eight Men Out* where Perry played one of the indicted eight who threw the 1919 World Series. His Television work as an actor includes *MASH*, the title character in the Emmy winning television special *Hewitt's Just Different*, *A Rumor Of War* and numerous guest appearances, including many projects that he has himself either written or directed.

As a writer and director, Perry started professionally writing doing *Tales From The Darkside* in New York. Among a number of studio assignments, he wrote the first film he directed, *Little Vegas* then rewrote the second, the *Action Adventure; Men of War*.

Since then Perry Lang has directed over eighty hours of television including *NYPD Blue*, *ER*, *Alias*, *NCIS: Los Angeles* and *Weeds*. Perry lives with his family in Santa Barbara, California.

## Glen Leopold

A three time Emmy nominee, Glenn has written hundreds of animated episodes for shows such as Disney's *Doug* (Emmy nomination), *The Smurfs* (Emmy nomination), *Adventures From The Book Of Virtues*, *Scooby-Doo*, *The Real Adventures Of Johnny Quest*, *Pink Panther And Sons*, *Fantastic Four* and many more. His NBC prime time specials include *Tis The Season To Be Smurfy*, *The Twelve Days Of Christmas*, and the Emmy nominated *The Town Santa Forgot* starring Dick Van Dyke. Among his feature-length animation credits are the best-selling direct-to-video *Scooby-Doo On Zombie Island* (3 million copies and counting! Zoinks!), *Scooby-Doo And The Witch's Ghost*, *Scooby-Doo And The Ghoul School*, and *A Flintstones' Christmas Carol*. He has also written live-action sitcoms, features (*The Prowler*, *Too Scared To Scream*) and is an accomplished singer-songwriter. His songs have appeared in Disney's *Doug*, *Tis The Season To Be Smurfy*, and there are nine (count 'em) on the Rhino Records CD's. He even had a hit record ("Back When My Hair Was Short" with his group *Gunhill Road*) that actually got him on American Bandstand. Cool, huh?

## Alex Metcalf

Alex Metcalf is an award-winning writer whose work has been produced on radio, television, theater and film. Alex's most recent film is *GOD'S POCKET* with the late Phillip Seymour Hoffman, released by IFC Films in 2014. Recently, Alex has been working as a writer/producer in television on such shows as *KINGDOM* (DirectTV), *UnREAL* (Lifetime), *LUCKY 7* (ABC) and well as the just announced Civil War Drama from Scott Free and PBS. His most recent original feature script, *THE FABULIST*, is scheduled for production in Germany in 2015. Other arcane credits include *FUNHOUSE*, a multimedia theater/television piece with the Flying Karamozov Brothers, performed at A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle; *BLOOD*, a play produced in New York and Los Angeles; and *THE HUMAN CONDITION*, a nationally syndicated radio play. Alex earned a MFA in dramatic writing from New York University.

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## Michael Miner

Mr. Miner received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and Theater, and a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he wrote and directed LABYRINTHS, which won a Focus and Cine Eagle Award, ALIAS JANE DOE, which was exhibited at the Deauville and Bilbao film festivals, and COSMOGRAPHIA, which was exhibited at Filmex. While at UCLA he was also a cinematographer of ten student films including SCARRED, which was exhibited commercially and FOOL'S DANCE, which was produced by PBS. Mr. 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 LAWNMOWERMAN 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 a screen adaptation of Philip K. Dick's THE THREE STIGMATA OF PALMER ELDRITCH, 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. Mr. Miner has embarked on a second career as a large format landscape photographer. He spent the months of January, 2010 AND OCTOBER 2014, working as an artist-in-residence at the Grand Canyon for the National Park Service. His images are in hundreds of private collections and on display in galleries in Monterey, California and Durango, Colorado.

## Omar Njam

Omar Najam is a writer, director and proud Gacho who loves playing with action comedy. In the last few years, he has been lucky enough to direct music videos, short films and online commercials, the most exciting of which has been the Firefly Online ComicCon trailer with Nathan Fillion. His writing credits include Acrana Comics' The Talented, The Red Shirt Diaries (Season 2) and a screenplay that he can't quite talk about here. He is also half of the YouTube channel "2 Broke Geeks," which is part of the Geek & Sundry network. In the past, he has worked with Adult Swim, Lifetime, Machinima, SMBC Theater and Vertigo Entertainment. In March, he will be starting a podcast series dedicated to Buffy The Vampire Slayer. As for now, he's studying improv at the Upright Citizens Brigade and trying to learn to play the mandolin.

## Amy Pocha

Amy is a UCSB film studies alumni who somehow tricked people into paying her to write. Sometimes the things she writes are funny. Sometimes they are even jokes. About 99% of the time they are reviews of what she just ate on Twitter. They get no likes. Let's change that -- follow her @InnerAmy. #shamelessplug Since moving to LA, Amy has worked in both Features and TV (animation and live action) -- yeah gang, multitasking! Here is a list of some companies that have had her on payroll and then removed her from payroll: CBS, Comedy Central, NBC, Walt Disney Features, Sony, FOX, WB. Most recently, Amy is on staff with her writing partner at NBC's UNDATEABLE (@UndateableWRoom) -- which is run by Bill Lawrence and Adam Sztykiel. The second season airs March 17th. So watch it.

Prior to her writing gigs, Amy worked in development and became a "reader." It's pretty cool. She still reads for 2 of the top 4 industry workshops/fellowships - ask her about it.



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## Harrison Reiner

Harrison Reiner was lead creative producer and co-writer on *AMAR A MORIR*, a feature-length, \$3 million-budgeted, foreign film starring 5 actors previously nominated for Mexico's Academy Award and featuring original music recordings by American Idol Top 4, Jason Castro, and 12-time Grammy Award-winning music producer, Sebastian Krys. *AMAR A MORIR* earned 7 Mexican Golden Globe nominations, was nominated for the Imagen Award (the premiere American film award for Latino-driven content), won Best Spanish Language Film at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and was awarded the Jalisco Academy of Motion Picture and Visual Arts Best Film Award at the Guadalajara International Film Festival. He is currently partnered with American Film Institute alum Nathaniel Greene, producer of Grammy-nominated rapper Iggy Azalea's hit music video *WORK* (which has received more than 130 million hits on YouTube to date) to write, direct, and produce independent films. Mr. Reiner was, at the start of his film and television career, Production Executive on the Academy Award-winning motion picture, *CINEMA PARADISO*, and on *IMPROMPTU*, starring Academy Award-winner Emma Thompson, Oscar nominee Judy Davis, and Golden Globe Award-winner, Hugh Grant. He is a guild story analyst on staff at CBS Television Studios, serving its Cable Series, Network Drama, and Limited Series divisions. He previously served as Story Editor for RKO Pictures during the filming of *EIGHT MEN OUT*, directed by iconic indie film director John Sayles. He has been a Story Analyst for Universal Pictures, Warner Brothers Feature Animation, and Sherry Lansing Productions in association with Paramount Pictures, and was a program consultant for the PBS documentary series, *AMERICA AT A CROSSROADS*, a portrait of post-9/11 America. He has been a visiting associate professor of writing for short film for the M.F.A. directing program at UCLA's School of Film and Television, a visiting associate professor of screenwriting at UC Santa Barbara, and was an instructor of screenwriting for the Professional Screenwriting Program at UCLA. He has, in his ongoing commitment to promoting diversity in film and television, been a screenwriting mentor for both the HBO-sponsored Latino Writers Lab of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers and the Hollywood Black Film Festival for more than ten years. Reiner is the recipient of a California State Legislature citation for his devotion to mentoring emerging Latino filmmakers. He holds a B.F.A. degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, an interdisciplinary master's in film, business, and law from Columbia University's School of the Arts in New York City, and a certificate from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. He is a member of the Editors Guild and the Independent Caucus of the Writers Guild of America. His photography depicting the aftermath of 9/11 is part of the permanent collection of the New York Historical Society in Manhattan.

## Mia Resella

Mia Resella is a writer, artist, and YouTuber specializing in animation and comedy. She is currently writing for multiple web series, including *The Red Shirt Diaries* (Season 2) from showrunner Jason Inman and *Social Medium* from showrunners Tara Jayn and Brian Newlin of Dreamworks. Additionally, her and Omar's YouTube series "2 Broke Geeks" has been part of Felicia Day's Geek & Sundry network for the past 2 years. Previously, Mia worked as a new media consultant for Michael Siegel, manager of the Roald Dahl Estate and Moonbot Studios, researching and advising on transmedia storytelling projects (such as enhanced ebooks, apps, web videos, games, web sites, installations, etc.) for existing properties. She was also the storyboard artist for the New Media Rockstars series *Draw My News*. Mia graduated from the UCSB Film and Media Studies department in 2009 and received additional education from the UCLA Professional Screenwriting Workshop, the UCLA Animation Workshop, and Upright Citizens Brigade.

## Matthew Ryan

Matt Ryan began his career in film in 1995 at the NYU Cantor Film Center, producing events with guests such as Martin Scorsese and Bill Clinton. He earned his MFA in Screenwriting at Loyola Marymount University in 2008. He is currently Pollock Theater Director and host of the Script to Screen TV show, which examines the development of a screenplay to the big screen from the perspective of the writers, directors, producers, and actors. Past guests have included Oscar-winning screenwriter John Ridley for *12 Years a Slave*, actor Malcolm McDowell for *A Clockwork Orange* and, Jennifer Lawrence for *Silver Linings Playbook*.

## 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](http://www.AcesComic.com)).

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## Justin Winters

Justin Trevor Winters began his career working in the Literary Department at Innovative Artists Talent and Literary Agency where he worked in collaboration with established directors, screenwriters, and authors as well as read scripts, wrote coverage, and recommended potential clients. He later joined Creative Artists Agency, and after assisting in launching numerous projects, decided to focus on his own screenwriting career. His latest film *Killing Winston Jones*, starring Richard Dreyfuss, Danny Glover, Danny Masterson, and Jon Heder, is set to be released this year, and he is in different stages of development on several other film and TV projects, both one-hour dramas and half-hour single-camera comedies. He is also currently an instructor at the UCLA Extension Writers' Program and regularly contributes to ScreenCraft.org, FilmCourage.com, and CreativeScreenwriting.com, websites dedicated to encouraging young writers and filmmakers to study and pursue their goals and aspirations.

## Bryce Zable

CNN correspondent-turned-screenwriter Bryce Zabel has created five primetime network television series and worked on a dozen TV writing staffs. A produced feature writer in both live-action and animation, he has written and produced for nearly all major networks and studios and collaborated with talents like Steven Spielberg and Stan Lee on projects that include videogames, comic books and web series.

In 2008, Bryce (with his wife, Jackie) received the Writers Guild of America (WGA) award for writing his third four-hour Hallmark mini-series, *Pandemic*. He has received credit on produced films and miniseries that include *Atlantis: The Lost Empire*, *Mortal Kombat: Annihilation*, *Blackbeard*, and *The Poseidon Adventure*. He wrote Syfy's first original film, *Official Denial*, and the first film in the Unsolved Mysteries MOW franchise, *Victim of Love*. He has worked for ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, HBO, Showtime, SONY, Warner Bros., 20th Fox, Universal, Syfy, Hallmark, USA, Animal Planet, etc. He has been an award-winning on-air journalist for PBS (investigative reporter), CNN (correspondent) and NBC (local news). He is an active, dues-paying member of the WGA, DGA and SAG.

In addition to the Emmy-winning *Dark Skies* (NBC), Bryce has received the WGA "created by" or "developed by" credit on *Kay O'Brien* (CBS), *M.A.N.T.I.S.* (FOX), *The Crow: Stairway to Heaven* (SYN) and *E.N.G.* (CTV). His other series work includes Steven Spielberg's *Taken*, *L.A. Law*, *Life Goes On* and *Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*.

## Jackie Zabel

Producer | Writer - In the last few years, Jackie Zabel has become a nationally published author, and scripted an international mini-series that won the 2008 *Writer's Guild Award* for "Best Longform Original." "*Pandemic*," a Hallmark Channel mini-series co-written with her husband Bryce, aired as a "special event" picture. She also co-wrote, *Chasing a Dream*, starring Treat Williams as the father of a son who wants to break the four-minute mile in high school. She has also completed a script for the indie comedy, "*Let's Do It*," about the making of the first student film ever that is in pre-production.

Additionally, Jackie is involved in documentary production. She is an executive producer on "*13 Families*," a documentary that examines the lives of all the families who lost loved ones during the Columbine massacre in 1999 and "*Misty*," a documentary about the legendary fighter pilot squadron in Vietnam.

Her book, *The Hollywood Cookbook: Cooking for Causes*, was released in national chains such as Barnes & Noble and Borders. The book features themed meals from twenty different celebrities who each name their favorite charities (\$5 per book goes to the fund). It won *Gourmand Awards* for "Best in the United States," "Best in the World" and "Best of the Best of the Last 12 years," in the category of fundraising cookbooks.

Jackie also was instrumental in the University of Oregon's successful "*Lights, Camera, Oregon!*" campaign kick-off event where she served as a producer and also co-wrote the script for the evening's festivities. Many of the evening's special touches were the result of her observations of event planning from attending multiple awards shows with her husband, including the Oscars, Emmys, Grammys, etc.

In 2001, Jackie shared story credit on the Disney summer release, "*Atlantis: The Lost Empire*." She's also written television episodes, *Movies of the Week*, and optioned both television and feature material to Nickelodeon, Warner Brothers, and Universal.

Jackie's career started in local news, writing and producing for KCBSTV. She graduated with a Masters' degree in Broadcast Journalism from USC, and has two undergraduate degrees in Journalism and Psychology from the University of Texas, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

# Special Thanks

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The Film and Media Studies Department

The Writers' Room

Writers Guild of America

Scott & Jennifer Frank

Janet Walker

All of our Guests

UCen Catering

Joe Palladino

Kathy Wertheim

Nick Hornung

Glenn Leopold

Perry Lang

Paul Portuges

Kathy Murray

Dana Welch

Sally Lombrozo

Debjani Bhattacharya

Keith Boynton

Maraya Marlowe

Maison Kaprielian

