



January 27th - 29th



Word Farm 2017 Students

Josh Bevan

Charlotte Burns

Daniel Bydlowski

Mic Dahl

Andrea Dehnke

Connor Haines

Omari Harmon

Lola Hyndley

Eliza Janssen

Will Lord

Keenan McGuckin

Gustavo Melo

Katie Rose Michel

Aashka Pandya

Shannon Peckham

Anna Tardiff

Christian Thomas

Argun Turkun

Alexander Wehrung

Class Schedule

Friday, January 27

9:00		Coffee & Snacks	Sign-In
10:00-12:00	Session 1	Allison Anders <i>Rewriting</i>	Glenn Leopold <i>My Career in Writing For Animation</i>
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00-3:00	Session 2	Bill Steinkellner <i>10 Crucial Steps to a Successful Writing Career</i>	Jarrett Golding <i>Brainstorming a Commercial Concept and Pitch</i>
3:30-5:30	Session 3	Mitchell Kreigman <i>9 Rules for Creative People</i>	Anne Cofell Saunders <i>Breaking a Pilot: The Writer's Room</i>

Saturday, January 28

9:00		Coffee & Snacks	
10:00-12:00	Session 4	Toni Graphia - <i>Writing and Producing</i>	
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00-3:00	Session 5	Ian Weinreich <i>On Writing TV Pilots</i>	Elysse Hollander <i>Adapting a story</i>
		Justin Tipping	
3:00-3:30	Snacks		
3:30-5:30	Session 6	Sam Raimi	
6:00	Dinner	Annenberg Conference Room - 4315 SSMS	

Sunday, January 29

9:00		Coffee & Snacks	
10:00-12:00	Session 7	Jeff Nathanson	Cheri Steinkellner <i>A comedy-writing workshop</i>
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00-4:00	Session 8	Omar Najam/Mia Resella	
		Harrison Reiner - <i>Story Development Workshop</i>	

Word Farm Bios

Allison Anders

Allison Anders is an award-winning film and television writer and director. She attended UCLA film school and in 1984 had her first professional break working for her film mentor Wim Wenders on his movie *Paris, Texas* (1984). After graduation, Anders had her first film debut, *Border Radio* (1987), which she co-wrote and co-directed with Kurt Voss. The influential indie film examined the Los Angeles punk scene in the 1980s and went on to be nominated by the Independent Feature Project for Best First Feature, and it recently had its TCM premiere. Anders and Voss would partner again on *Sugar Town* (1999), another film about the Los Angeles music industry, starring several of their friends, including the lead singer of X, John Doe. *Sugar Town* was also nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards.

Anders' other credits include *Gas*, *Food Lodging* (1992), *Mi Vida Loca (My Crazy Life)* (1993), *Grace of My Heart* (1996) and *Four Rooms* (1995). In 2001, Don Cheadle was nominated for an Emmy for Best Supporting Actor for his work on Anders' film *Things Behind the Sun* (2001). The powerful movie about the long-term effects of rape went on to garner the SHINE Award as well as the Peabody Award.

Anders is also well known in television for directing episodes of hit shows such as *Sex and the City*, *Gross Pointe, Cold Case*, *The L Word*, *Men in Trees*, *What About Brian?*, *Southland*, *The Mentalist*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *Gang Related*, *The Divide*, *Murder In The First*, *Proof*, and AMC's *Turn*.

In 2003, Anders became a professor of the Film and Media Studies Department at UC Santa Barbara, and in 2006 she made an appearance in the film documentary *Wanderlust*. Anders and her daughter Tiffany Anders together co-founded the "Don't Knock the Rock Film and Music Festival" in Los Angeles. Throughout her career she has been recognized for her achievements in film and nominated for various awards and prizes; other major highlights include a New York Film Critics Circle Award, as well as the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

Anders was nominated for an Emmy for best director for Lifetime TV *Ring Of Fire*.

Anders has recently directed the Lifetime remake *Beaches*, which will premiere this year.

Jarrett Golding

Jarrett Golding is a screenwriter and educator from Houston, Texas with an M.F.A. in Writing for Screen and Television from USC's School of Cinematic Arts and multiple produced and distributed feature film credits. Jarrett has written multiple produced and distributed films, and teaches screenwriting and film studies at Pepperdine University and University of California Santa Barbara. He is currently working with writer-producers Chuck Lorre and Margaret Nagle on the upcoming miniseries *Bonfire of the Vanities*, based on the seminal novel by Tom Wolfe. Previously, Jarrett was a founding member of Amazon Studios, serving as Creative Executive overseeing Comedy/Kids & Family, and served as Writers' Assistant on NBC's award-winning *Parks and Recreation*. He lives in Sherman Oaks, with his pregnant wife and two dogs.

Toni Graphia

Toni Graphia landed her first television script on the critically acclaimed ABC Viet Nam drama, *China Beach*. She's gone on to write nearly 100 episodes of quality drama, in addition to 17 network and cable pilots. Her credits include *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. This is Toni's third season writing and producing the show, which films in Scotland, England, Prague and South Africa.

Graphia's episode "*Faith*" was just named by the New York Times as one of the Best Television Episodes of 2016. She has won a George Foster Peabody award, along with the Women's Image Network Award for Best Writing. *Outlander* has been nominated and/or won Golden Globes, People's Choice Awards, Critic's Choice awards, Saturn Awards and BAFTAs.

In addition to her work in television, Graphia is an adjunct professor and has taught writing at USC, UCLA, UCSB, Emerson College and lectured at AFI, CalArts, Syracuse University, and Glasgow Caledonian University in the U.K.

Elyse Hollander

Elyse Hollander, a native of Los Angeles and graduate of UCLA's undergraduate film program, has previously worked at Anonymous Content, Universal Pictures, and for director Alejandro G. Iñárritu. Her Madonna bio-pic, *Blond Ambition*, was number one on the Blacklist this year, with Mike DeLuca and Brett Ratter attached to produce. Elyse is currently a writer's assistant on *Fresh Off the Boat*.

Mitchell Kriegman

Mitchell Kriegman began his career performing in the dark "An Evening of Stories and Tricks You Won't See Anywhere" and other original performance art works in New York at Dance Theater Workshop, the Kitchen, La Mama and others. He joined the team of *Saturday Night Live* as a filmmaker, performer and writer and contributed to the cult classic *Mr. Mike's Mondo Video*. In television Kriegman is the creator of the groundbreaking television series *Clarissa Explains It All*, and story editor of the original *Ren and Stimpy*. *Rugrats*, *Doug* and *Rocko's Modern Life*. Kriegman also created the children classics *Bear in the Big Blue House*, *Book of Pooh* and *It's a Big Big World* and wrote *Elmo in Grouchland*.

He is the winner of three Emmy Awards, the Director's Guild Award and an American Film Institute Fellowship (AFI).

Being Audrey Hepburn his first novel was published by St. Martin's Press Fall 2014. *Things I Can't Explain* his second novel based on *Clarissa Explains It All* was published in Fall 2015.

His audio work "The Telephone Stories" are part of the permanent collection of The Whitney Museum. His video art works reside in the libraries of the Kitchen Center, The London Institute of Contemporary Art, MOMA, the Paley Center and others. Grants include National Endowment for the Arts and the MacDowell Colony among others. His short stories have been published in *The New Yorker*, *the National Lampoon*, *Army Man*, *Glamour*, *Between C&D*, *New York Press* and *Harper's Bazaar*. His play *Here's Johnny!* was staged for reading at the Ensemble Studio Theater LA at Winterfest 2014.

He writes about art and culture for the Santa Barbara Independent, Inside San Ynez and the Los Angeles Review of Books (LARB).

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Glenn Leopold

Glenn Leopold is a three time Emmy nominee and has written hundreds of animated episodes for such shows as *Swat Kats*, Disney's *Doug* (Emmy nomination), *The Smurfs* (Emmy nomination), *Scooby-Doo*, *The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest*, *Pink Panther And Sons*, *Snorks*, *Fantastic Four* and many more. His NBC prime time specials include *Tis The Season To Be Smurfy*, *The 12 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 *Scooby-Doo And The Witch's Ghost*. 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? That early Gunhill Road album was (finally!) released on CD by Wounded Birds Records in 2011, prompting a reunion of the band, who recorded a new album -- *Gunhill Road: Every 40 Years* -- released in 2014. A documentary on the reunion, *Every 40 Years*, will be shown at the 2017 Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

Omar Najam

Omar Najam is a writer, director and improviser living in Los Angeles. Over the last few years, he has been lucky enough to direct music videos, short films and online commercials. His writing credits include Arcana Comics *The Talented*, *The Red Shirt Diaries* and *Social Medium*. In the past, he has worked with Adult Swim, Lifetime, Machinima, SMBC Theater, Loot Crate, Vertigo Entertainment and Geek&Sundry. In his spare time he runs *Sunnydale Study Group*, a *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* podcast, and performs with his improv team *Swimming Lessons* at the Upright Citizens Brigade theater on Sunset. His short film *Lights* will be hitting the festival circuit this Spring and his proudest production moment was directing Nathan Fillion for one line in the ComicCon Firefly Online game trailer.

Jeff Nathanson

Jeff Nathanson has been a professional screenwriter for over 25 years. His credits include *Catch Me If You Can*, *Rush Hour 2*, *The Terminal*, *Rush Hour 3*, *Tower Heist*, and *The Last Shot*, which he also directed. He earned a BAFTA Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay for *Catch Me If You Can*, and he teamed with Steven Spielberg for a third time in 2008 when he wrote the story for *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull* with George Lucas. In May his next film will come out, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*. And he is currently writing *The Lion King* for Disney.

Nathanson is a graduate of UCLA and The American Film Institute. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and three children.

Sam Raimi

SAM RAIMI has directed one of the industry's most successful film franchises ever—the blockbuster *Spider-Man* trilogy, which has grossed \$2.5 billion at the global box office. All three films reside in the industry's Top 25 highest grossing titles of all time.

In addition to the franchise's commercial success, *Spider-Man* (2002) won that year's People's Choice Award as Favorite Motion Picture, earned a pair of Oscar® nominations (for VFX and sound) and also collected two GRAMMY® nominations (for Best Score and Chad Kroeger's song *Hero*). The sequel (2004) won the Academy Award® for Best Visual Effects (with two more nominations, Best Sound and Sound Editing) and two BAFTA nominations (for VFX and sound), among dozens of other honors.

Most recently, Raimi is known for directing *Oz the Great and the Powerful*, a prequel to one of Hollywood's most beloved stories. Grossing nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in worldwide box office, *Oz* has also been elected for awards across the board, including a nomination at the People's Choice Award for Favorite Family Movie, and winning Film Music at the BMI Film & TV Awards.

Apart from creating one of Hollywood's landmark film series, Raimi's eclectic resume includes the gothic thriller *The Gift*, starring Cate Blanchett, Hilary Swank, Keanu Reeves, Greg Kinnear and Giovanni Ribisi; the acclaimed suspense thriller *A Simple Plan*, which starred Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton and Bridget Fonda (for which Thornton earned an Academy Award® nomination for Best Supporting Actor and Scott B. Smith landed a nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay); his baseball homage, *For Love of the Game*, with Kevin Costner and Kelly Preston; the western *The Quick and the Dead*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Sharon Stone, Russell Crowe and Gene Hackman; and the supernatural thriller, *Drag Me to Hell*, with Alison Lohman and Justin Long.

Raimi began his career in his native Michigan after directing his own Super 8 movies as a teenager. He left his studies at Michigan State University to form Renaissance Pictures with future producer Rob Tapert and their longtime friend, actor Bruce Campbell, with whom he made his very first film, *Within the Woods*, a short horror film they used to raise money to make a feature. That resulting horror classic, *The Evil Dead* (1982), financed and produced with investments from local business people and doctors, became a hit at the 1982 Cannes Film Festival and spawned a sequel, *Evil Dead 2: Dead By Dawn* (1987), which, like the original, showcased Raimi's inventive, imaginative direction and offbeat humor.

Raimi next turned to the fantasy genre, writing and directing the comic book-inspired *Darkman* (1990), starring Liam Neeson and Frances McDormand, then followed with 1993's *Army of Darkness*, a comic sword and sorcery fantasy starring Bruce Campbell.

The mid-'90s also found Raimi producing two telefilms (with friend and partner Tapert) that would become the genesis of a pair of highly popular syndicated series—*Hercules: The Legendary Journeys* (on which he served as executive producer during the program's four-year run) and the successful companion series, *Xena: Warrior Princess* which aired from 1995-2001. His television work also includes executive producing the CBS series *American Gothic*.

Raimi continued his collaboration with Tapert in his production company Ghost House Pictures, which produced such films as *The Grudge*, *The*

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Messengers and *The Possession* along with 2016's smash hit *Don't Breathe*.

Raimi's work has been a favorite on the film festival circuit, with the filmmaker winning a Best Director honor for *Darkman* at the 1990 Sitges-Catalonian Festival in Spain; the Critics Award for *Army of Darkness* at the 1992 Fantasporto Festival in Portugal; the Golden Raven, also for *Army of Darkness*, at the 1992 Brussels International Festival; and a Grand Prize nomination for the same title at the Avoriaz Fantastic Film Festival in France. Raimi himself has also won the Saturn Award twice (*Spider-Man 2*, along with a George Pal Memorial Award) from the Academy of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy.

Raimi is currently producing season three of the critically acclaimed television series *Ash vs Evil Dead*.

Harrison Reiner

Harrison Reiner produced and co-wrote on *Amar a Morir*, a Spanish language film released wide in Latin America which later premiered commercially in the United States in 2011 on CineLatino. *Amar a Morir* starred 5 actors nominated for Mexico's Academy Award; won Best Spanish Language Film at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival; Reiner served as co-producer on the feature film comedy, *Sundown*, released domestically in 2016 by Pantelion (a Lionsgate-Televisa company). He is currently executive producing *Batlir* for Turkey's national television broadcast network, TRT, and is, as a co-producer, developing a slate of films for distribution in the U.S. and Latin America for *Amar a Morir's* director, Fernando Lebrija, including *Forever Alone* which will be distributed by Corazon Films of Mexico. He has been an Editors Guild Story Analyst for CBS Television Studios for 20 years. Previously he was production executive on the Academy Award-winning film *Cinema Paradiso*; program evaluator for the 2007, Emmy-nominated PBS documentary series *America at a Crossroads*, a look at post-9/11 America; and Story Editor at RKO Pictures for the filming of *Eight Men Out*. Reiner was a visiting associate professor of screenwriting at UC Santa Barbara, a visiting associate professor of writing-for-directors for UCLA's M.F.A. directing program and a screenwriting lecturer for its professional screenwriting program. Committed to promoting diversity in film and television, he has mentored emerging Latino and African-American producers and writers for more than a decade under the auspices of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers and the Hollywood Black Film Festival. He holds an interdisciplinary master's in film producing, business and law from Columbia University in the City of New York and was trained as a classical actor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts and at 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.

Mia Ressella

Mia Ressella is a writer and artist most known for her work on Felicia Day's Geek & Sundry network as part of the web duo *2 Broke Geeks*. She has written on such web series as *Social Medium*, *The Red Shirt Diaries*, and the upcoming *Future Girl*. Her animated short *Shadow* was funded by Matt Groening and recently premiered at the Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival. Prior to writing independently, Mia worked for two years as a transmedia consultant on projects related to Moonbot Studios and the Roald Dahl Estate. She graduated from UCSB in 2009. Resella was selected into the 2016-2017 Nickelodeon Writing Program and is currently in the UCLA Animation Workshop.

Anne Cofell Saunders

Anne Cofell Saunders first broke into television as an assistant and lead researcher on the ground-breaking series *24*, where she earned her first writing credit. From there she staffed on the critically acclaimed re-imagining of *Battlestar Galactica*, where she shared a Peabody Award and was nominated for a Hugo award for the fan-favorite episode "Pegasus." She earned her first producer credit on two seasons of *Chuck* followed by the final two seasons of *Smallville*. She won two Saturn awards for her work as Co-Executive Producer on NBC's *Revolution*. As a Consulting Producer she wrote the 2nd season finale of *The Last Ship*.

Anne sold a pilot to 20th Century Fox/FOX network and currently has a deal with Sony Television, where she is developing a show with Josephson Entertainment.

Anne has a BA from Northwestern University and earned an MFA in playwriting from Ohio University. She has taught television writing at the USC School of Film And Television, and has been a guest speaker at USC, UC Santa Barbara, Writer's Boot Camp and San Diego Comic Con. She was also a panelist and judge at this year's Austin Film Festival.

Bill Steinkellner

Bill Steinkellner is known for writing and producing the television show *Cheers*, for which he received two Emmys for best comedy, a Golden Globe, a People's Choice Award, and a Writer's Guild Award. He also ran the animated series *Teacher's Pet*, which won two Daytime Emmys, and wrote and produced a feature film *Teacher's Pet* based on the series. He co-wrote the 2010 stage revival of *The Pee Wee Herman Show*. In 2013 Steinkellner was nominated for a Tony for Best Book of a Musical for *Sister Act*. He is the author of the book *Postcards from the Moon*, which is a *LA Time's* Bestseller. He has taught improvisation for the stage for thirty years at institutions such as The Groundlings, Second City, and Cirque du Soleil. Steinkellner has also taught at collegiate institutions such as University of Southern California and University of California, Santa Barbara.

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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); *Sister Act* (with Alan Menken, Glenn Slater, and Bill Steinkellner – Pasadena Playhouse 2006, Alliance Theater, Atlanta 2007, opening London Palladium June 2, 2009), and now, *Hello! My Baby* (with Irving Berlin, Gus Kahn, Shelton Brooks, Joe McCarthy, George M. Cohan, Jeff Rizzo, etc -!). When not writing for stage and screens, Cheri teaches writing at the University of California; directs local high school and junior high school musicals; and has created "The Ultimate Write-off" (a competitive writing event at the Santa Barbara Writers Conference). Cheri and her husband Bill live in Santa Barbara with their three favorite children: Kit, Teddy, and Emma.

Justin Tipping

Justin Tipping is a writer/director born and raised in the Oakland CA Bay Area. Justin's debut feature film, *Kicks*, had its world premiere opening the US Narrative competition at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival produced by Animal Kingdom (Short Term 12, It Follows, Paterson) with distribution by Focus World and Universal International. He co-produced *Lowriders* with Brian Grazer and Jason Blum for Universal Pictures, Blumhouse Productions, and Imagine Entertainment, starring Demian Bichir, Eva Longoria, Melissa Benoit, Gabriel Chavarria, and Theo Rossi which had its world premiere opening the 2016 Los Angeles Film Festival. In addition, he has written films for Sony, TriStar Pictures, Double E Pictures, Trigger Street Productions, and The Weinstein Company. His short film, *Nani*, won more than a dozen awards internationally, including the Student Academy Award and the Director's Guild of America Student Filmmaker Award after its world premiere in competition at the Berlin International Film Festival. As a director, Justin was selected by the Weinstein Company and Lexus to direct a short film as part of a global Lexus campaign as well as by Sony to direct a short film as part of the Sony 4k series. He holds a BA in Film and Media Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MFA in Directing from the American Film Institute Conservatory.

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. 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 Legendary Entertainment. He spent several years as a staff-writer on Disney XD's *Mighty Med*, concurrently developing a pilot for the network. He was a contributing writer on the hit web-series, *Honest Trailers* and on the Netflix series, *Skylanders Academy*. He currently is writing an animated movie for Activision Blizzard.

Special Thanks

All of our Guests

The Film and Media Studies Department

Janet Walker

The Writers' Room

Writers Guild of America

Carsey Wolf Center

Charles Wolfe

Scott & Jennifer Frank

Perry Lang

Quinnolyn Benson-Yates

Joe Palladino

Alexi Jones

Katie Cook

Shannon Peckush

Noah Goodman

Kathy Murray

Dana Welch

Keith Boynton

UCen Catering

Isla Vista Screen Printing

