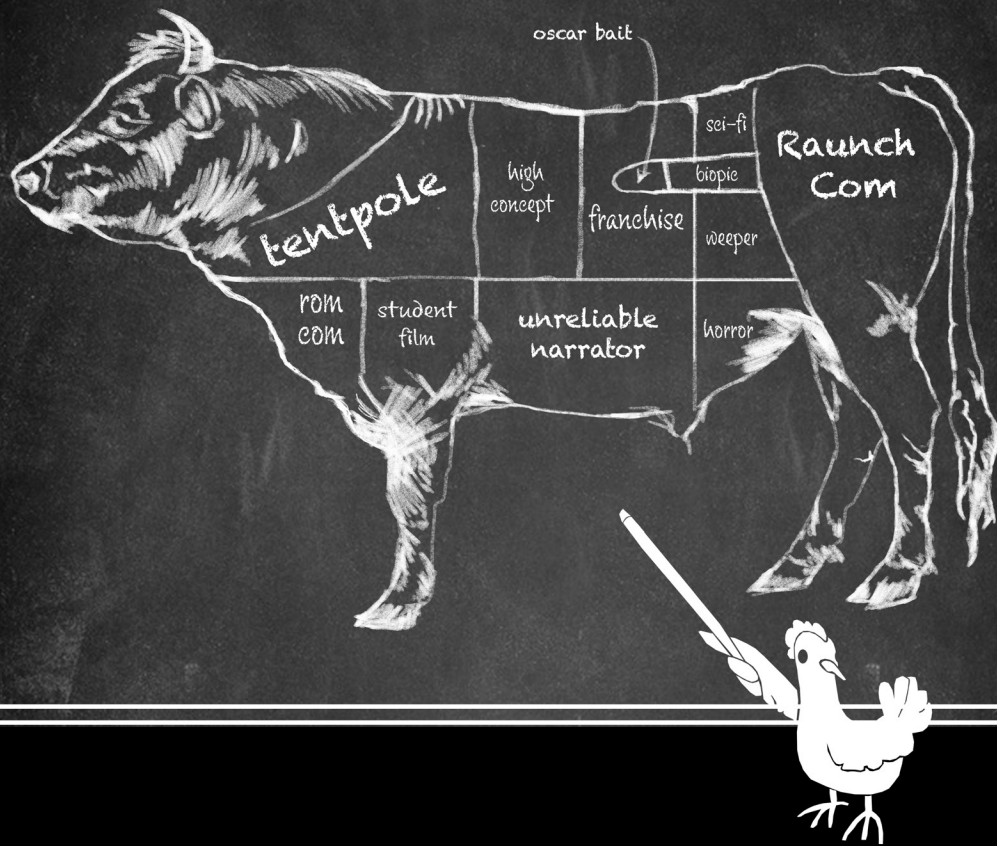


WORD FARM 2019



JANUARY 25, 26, 27

Word Farm 2019 Students

Sabine Hrkalovich

Maleia Alejandre

Magan Tran

Sydney Sterling

Mickey Woo

Josh Bevan

Kevin Kai Goh

Jake Ciccone

Matt Cinnamon

Kyle Dent

Aashka Pandya

Katie Osaki

Jacui Dufwa

Sergio Siria

Daryl Boman

Emma Demorest

Brendan Webb

Jozelyn McFerson

Nicole Flores

Hannah Berberian

Beatriz Ulloa

Paige Stoveland

Komal Surani

Kayla Duffey

Ryan Watt

Damien Bell

Danny Murray

Sofia Quinones

D'Vonte Johnson

Class Schedule

Friday we will meet at noon for lunch. Saturday and Sunday we will start at 9 AM. Please let me know which classes you might not be able to make. Please plan to be on time for classes. There will be no late admissions once a session has started.

Friday, January 25

12:00-1:00	Lunch	SSMS 2303	
1:00-3:00	Session A	Perry Lang	David Mandell
3:00-3:30	Break		
3:30-5:30	Session B	James McNamara	Trae Briers

Saturday, January 26

9:00-9:55	Breakfast	SSMS 2303	
10:00-12:00	Session C	Glenn Leopold	Dean Pitchford
12:00-1:00	Lunch	SSMS 2303	
1:00-3:00	Session D	Toni Graphia	Tara Miele
3:00-3:30	Break		
3:30-5:30	Session E	Noah Harpster	Anne Cofell Saunders
6:00	Dinner	Annenberg Conference Room - 4315 SSMS	

Sunday, January 27

9:00		BREAKFAST	SSMS 2303
10:00-12:00	Session F	Omar Najam	Mia Resella
12:00-1:00	Lunch	SSMS 2303	
1:00-3:00	Session G	Kit Steinkellner	Nat Gertler

Word Farm Bios

Trae Briers

Trae Briers received his B.A. in Film Studies from University of California, Santa Barbara and holds an MBA specializing in Finance. Chief Operations Officer and is Co-Owner of FFAM GROUP Media, LLC.

While in film school, Trae did an independent research with one of his professors on "How to make a movie for 100,000". And with that newfound knowledge, he took that research and made the film, *In Your Eyes* which was the "First" film to be shot in its entirety within Ventura County to get national distribution. The movie was a sold-out success at the 2004 Santa Barbara International Film Festival, requiring a second screening. The movie received national distribution with Maverick Entertainment, and was a very popular DVD rental and On-Demand. He has produced numerous short films and infomercials, and uses his Financial Analyst skills to ensure his productions are managed with efficiency. Trae has taken the mantra "Consistent Persistence", and is focused on making quality films.

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' *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 himself has either written or directed. As a writer and director, Perry started professionally writing *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*, *Weeds* and *NCIS: Los Angeles*. Perry's third feature, *An Interview with God*, is now in release by Universal Pictures. Perry lives with his family in Santa Barbara, California.

Glenn Leopold

Glenn Leopold, a three time Emmy nominee, has written hundreds of animated episodes for such shows as *The Smurfs* (Emmy Nomination), *Scooby Doo*, 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! Zoinks!), *Scooby-Doo and the Witch's Ghost*, *Scooby Doo and the Ghoul School*, and *A Flintstones Christmas Carol*.

Glenn is also the singer-songwriter/founder of the group *Gunhill Road*, whose record "Back When My Hair Was Short" was a Top 25 hit back when his hair was long! A documentary about the group's reunion and return to recording — *Every 40 Years* — played at the SBIFF in 2017, and is available online at Amazon Prime!

Nat Gertler

Nat Gertler has written comics for DC, Image, Archie, Boom!, and many other publishers, including such characters as Speed Racer, the *Power Rangers*, the *Flintstones*, and *Snoopy*, as well as his original works *The Factor* and *Licensable Bear*™. He's also written for magazines, websites, animated television, and many computer books. He co-wrote *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Creating a Graphic Novel*. His one-man company, About Comics, has published everything from Neil Gaiman to Charles Schulz to the *Negro Motorist Green Book*. He's the founder of 24 Hour Comics Day, an international festival of comics creation. He also runs a blog and a podcast for fans of Peanuts books. He considers himself lazy.

Nat was born and raised in southern New Jersey, and got his BA at age 18 from Simon's Rock College, having majored in math, as if that makes any sense. Well, a writer's path is rarely straightforward. He lives in Camarillo with his wife, two kids, and many books. He looks good on paper, particularly when he's writing about himself in the third person.

Tony Graphia

Toni Graphia currently serves as Executive Producer/Writer on *Outlander*, for Starz network. This is Toni's fifth season writing and producing the show, which films in Scotland, England, Prague and South Africa and has been nominated and/or won Golden Globes, People's Choice Awards, Critic's Choice awards, Saturn Awards and BAFTAs .

Her episode "Faith" was named by the New York Times as one of the Best Television Episodes of 2016. She has been nominated for a Writer's Guild award for *Life Goes On*, won a George Foster Peabody award for her work on *Battlestar Galactica*, along with the Women's Image Network Award for Outstanding Writing with her *Outlander* episode "The Devil's Mark."

Graphia has written nearly 100 episodes of quality drama and 17 network and cable pilots. Other credits include *Battlestar Galactica*, HBO's *Carnivale*, *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, *Roswell*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *JJ Abrams' Alcatraz*, and the ABC Viet Nam drama, *China Beach*, nominated for Best Drama Series three years in a row.

Noah Harpster

Noah Harpster is an Emmy-nominated and Peabody Award winning actor, writer and producer. He's known mostly for playing Remy on Tig Notaro's *One Mississippi* and for writing, producing and acting on the show *Transparent*. He is currently starring in the new Apple series, *For All Mankind*. He and his writing partner, Micah Fitzerman-Blue, run *Blue Harp*, a production company. At Amazon, they're currently producing the series based on the national bestseller *Girl in Snow*, and the adaptation of Weike Wang's acclaimed novel *Chemistry*. At FX, they're producing the NYT best seller *Let's Pretend This Never Happened* and Scott McClanahan's *Crapalacia*. They are currently writing *Painkiller*, a one-hour series about the incredible true story of the opioid crisis, and *Christians*, a half-hour comedy about hipster Christians living in San Diego. They recently finished writing a limited series about John Hinckley Jr for *Vice*, the sequel to *Maleficent* for Disney, and the adaptation of *Beautiful Ruins* for Sam Mendes and Fox. And -- it took 8 years to finally get here -- but their project *You Are My Friend* just wrapped filming in Pittsburgh, in which Tom Hanks plays Mister Rogers.

Word Farm Bios

David Mandel

David Mandel is the two-time Emmy Award-winning show runner and Executive Producer of *Veep*. He also wrote for such shows as *Saturday Night Live* (92-95), *Seinfeld* where he wrote the "The Bizarro Jerry" (aka "Man-Hands") and "The Betrayal" (the "backwards" episode with Peter Mehlman), *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and even an episode of *The Simpsons* ("Treehouse of Horror XXIII" with Brian Kelley). He is the cowriter of *Eurotrip* and *The Dictator* and if you press him on it *The Cat in the Hat*. His directing credits include *Veep* (Emmy nominated for "Kissing Your Sister"), *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *The Comedians* and *Eurotrip* (uncredited). He is the co-author of "Star Wars Art: Ralph McQuarrie," and an avid collector of original comic book art and Star Wars memorabilia and movie props if you have any to sell.

James McNamara

James McNamara is a television writer currently developing and writing shows for Sony Pictures/Playmaker and Goalpost Pictures. Other TV work includes writers rooms for the Academy Award-winning See-Saw Films, NBC Universal/Matchbox, ABC, Porchlight Films, Foxtel, and Endemol Shine. For the theatre, James co-wrote *Radio With Pictures*, which played at the Sydney Opera House. James is also an award-winning non-fiction writer published in the New York Times, Washington Post, Times Literary Supplement, and The Spectator among others. Clive James has described his non-fiction writing as having "already made a global contribution to cultural analysis," and BAFTA LA recently named James an "international rising star" as a screenwriter. James holds a PhD in English from Oxford and degrees in English and Law from the University of Western Australia. He trained at NIDA, the Upright Citizens Brigade, and Bell Shakespeare, and graduated in screenwriting from AFTRS, Australia's national film school. James taught screenwriting at UCSB last quarter.

Tara Miele

Tara Miele is a writer/director who works in both film and television. Most recently, Tara wrapped production on the feature film, *Wander Darkly* starring Sienna Miller and Diego Luna. The film, a magical realism love story inspired by a real life experience, was produced by Lynette Howell's 51 Entertainment and ShivHans Pictures.

Tara is perhaps best known for the viral video 'Meet a Muslim' which she created to combat Islamophobia. The video has been featured on Refinery 29, BuzzFeed, Upworthy, and was shared around the world over 40 million times. The film resulted in a blind script deal at Warner Bros. for Tara. She has also recently been hired to pen a drama tackling gun violence in America. As a screenwriter, Tara has set up projects at Lionsgate, Screen Gems, New Line and Disney Channel.

Tara has directed two action-packed episodes of *Hawaii Five-0*, last season's penultimate episode of *Arrow*, as well as four feature films, three under the MarVista Entertainment/Lifetime banner. She is a graduate of Ryan Murphy's Half Foundation and the CBS Directing Initiative.

Looking forward, Tara aims to create more socially conscious work in an effort to build bridges and conversations.

Tara is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and currently resides in Los Angeles with her talented husband and two amazing daughters. She is a member of the WGA and DGA.

Omar Najam

Omar Najam is a writer, director and improviser who loves playing in genre and comedy. He has worked with companies like Loot Crate, Geek&Sundry, Lifetime Networks, DC Comics, BBC America, FX Networks, Comic-Con International and Universal Studios, and has made things for properties such as *Emma Approved*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Firefly* and *Doctor Who*. He is the host of two weekly podcasts, has hosted a weekly show at UCB, has written and hosted two interactive online shows for HyperRPG, and once ran a show for Saving Throw about a haunted VHS store filled with legally distinct blockbuster knockoffs. In his spare time Omar likes to knit, hang out with this cat, play mandolin and read about organization techniques.

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, eight Grammys and two Tonys. His songs have been recorded by such iconic artists as Whitney Houston, Barbra Streisand, Cher, LL Cool Jay and Dolly Parton. Dean wrote the screenplay and all the song lyrics in the 1984 classic *Footloose*; that soundtrack album unseated Michael Jackson's *Thriller* as #1 on the Billboard charts and spent 10 weeks in that position. In spring, 2018, Kenny Loggins's recording of the title track was named to the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress. 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 *Nickel Bay Nick* have been published by Putnam/Penguin; his performances of the audiobooks of the first two titles were both nominated for Grammys. To date, Dean's songs have sold over 70 million records worldwide.

Mia Resella

Mia Resella is a television writer and alumnus of UCSB ('09) who has written for Disney, Nickelodeon, Dreamworks, and Sesame, and was a participant in the Nickelodeon Writing Program. Previously, Mia enjoyed working with companies like Bad Robot and Geek & Sundry before shifting her focus to animation and children's entertainment. She has also received an MFA in Animation from UCLA, where she wrote, directed, and animated three short films funded by Matt Groening. Currently, Mia is staffed on an unannounced Disney Jr. show, and has just received her first development deal.

Kit Steinkellner

As a television writer, Kit is the creator and executive producer of the Facebook Watch half-hour series *Sorry for Your Loss* starring Elizabeth Olsen, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and was named one of the "10 Best New Shows of 2018" by the New York Times. She is currently at work on the second season of the show. Steinkellner has also developed with Showtime and wrote on the Amazon series *Z: The Beginning of Everything*. As a playwright, her work has been produced Off-Broadway at Playwright's Horizons Peter Jay Sharp Theater, at the San Diego Old Globe, and at the Kennedy Center. Steinkellner is the author of the graphic novel *Quince* which won the 2018 Independent Publisher Book Awards Award for Best Graphic Novel and was nominated for a 2018 Eisner Award for Best Digital Comic.

Special Thanks

All of our Guests

The Film and Media Studies Department

Bhaskar Sarkar

The Writers' Room

Writers Guild of America

Carsey Wolf Center

Charles Wolfe

Scott & Jennifer Frank

Lisa Bruce

Joe Palladino

Alexandria Tritt

Hope Felt

Kathy Murray

Dana Welch

Keith Boynton

UCen Catering

Isla Vista Screen Printing

