

RYAN MURPHY TELEVISION

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AUG. 26 - 27, 2017



# HALF FEST

HALF INITIATIVE DIRECTING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM - CLASS I



## WELCOME

Enjoy this two-day showcase of short films by mentees of the 2016 Half Directing Mentorship Program— an initiative founded by acclaimed TV screenwriter, director, and producer Ryan Murphy to help nurture the talents of women and minorities in Hollywood.

In its first year, the 2016 Half Directing Mentorship Program has mentored nearly thirty emerging directors who are women, people of color, and / or members of the LGBT community. Murphy himself has succeeded in staffing 60% of his shows with women and minority directors.

Gather at the Skirball to watch short films by the first cohort of Half Directing Mentorship Program mentees, listen to a panel of directors on how to succeed in Hollywood, attend an insightful keynote, and socialize with seasoned professionals and up-and-coming talent in the industry.

## **ABOUT THE HALF INITIATIVE**

Ryan Murphy launched Half within Ryan Murphy Productions to aim to make Hollywood more inclusive by creating equal opportunities for women and minorities behind the camera. For more information visit [www.halfinitiative.com](http://www.halfinitiative.com).

## **ABOUT THE SKIRBALL**

The Skirball Cultural Center is a place of meeting guided by the Jewish tradition of welcoming the stranger and inspired by the American democratic ideals of freedom and equality. We welcome people of all communities and generations to participate in cultural experiences that celebrate discovery and hope, foster human connections, and call upon us to help build a more just society.

## **VISITING THE SKIRBALL**

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049. Museum hours: Tuesday - Friday 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; closed Mondays and holidays. Admission to Future Aleppo is FREE. Admission to all other exhibitions: \$12 General; \$9 Seniors, Full-Time Students, and Children over 12; \$7 Children 2-12, and FREE to Skirball Members and Children under 2. All exhibitions are FREE to all visitors on Thursdays. For general information, call (310) 440-4500 or visit [www.skirball.org](http://www.skirball.org).



# HALF FEST SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part I • 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM\*

Screenings: Part II • 1:30 PM - 2:50 PM\*

Screenings: Part III • 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM\*

Screenings: Part IV • 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM\*

Inside Director Programs Panel • 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

A Cocktail Reception Hosted by CAA Follows the Panel

\* A Q&A follows the screenings.

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## SUNDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part V • 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM\*

Screenings: Part VI • 1:30 PM - 2:50 PM\*

Screenings: Part VII • 3:00 PM - 4:20 PM\*

The Director / Mentee Experience Panel • 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

\* A Q&A follows the screenings.

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part I • 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM

## THE WATER PHOENIX



### Bola Ogun

Running time: 11:00

Mermaid Anya held captive in an aquarium falls out of love with her caretaker, Jack, when he fails to follow through with his promise to break her free. Broken-hearted and alone, she must find a way to escape before they move her further away from home.

## FANNY PACK

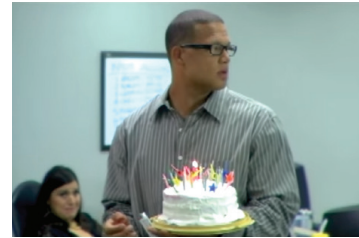


### Utera Singh

Running time: 10:07

Fanny Pack is a comedy about a young Indian-American woman who wants to follow her dreams, and a fanny pack clad Indian father who chases his daughter through an airport hoping that she will follow his.

## MISTA NICE GUY



### Stacy Spruill

Running time: 12:01

A workplace romantic comedy about a guy too nice for his own good.

## ANG TATAY (THE DADDY)



### Hernando Bansuelo

Running time: 6:42

A man embarks on a global journey to reunite with a long lost love, this docu-poem is a meditation on memory and loss. An Official Selection of the Sundance Film Institute's Short Film Connection.

## BUSH BABY



### Tarik Jackson

Running time: 16:37

Over the course of his first summer after college, Simba falls in love with a stripper, spends a night in jail, and almost ruins the family business. Through comedic interactions with old friends, elders, and the police, Simba learns what adult life in the gentrified Brooklyn really is.

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part II • 1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

## HIGHER LEARNING



### Michea Bryant

Running time: 5:57

A misplaced bag of marijuana forces the relationship between a drug-dealing valedictorian and her mother to take an unexpected turn.

## THE TRIAL OF BEN BARRY



### Shea Butler

Running time: 33:00

An estranged father and son and the sins of their past—their remorse, reconciliation and, finally, their redemption.

## UNNATURAL



### Amy Wang

Running time: 29:00

In every attempt for normality, 18-year-old James is perpetually confronted by his demon. Can James fit into a society that's been taught to hate who he is?

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part III • 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

## AMELIA'S CLOSET



### Halima Lucas

Running time: 17:17

When 10 year old Amelia gets bullied at school, she begins to secretly steal from the kids that antagonize her.

## LOST & FOUND



### Naomi Iwamoto

Running time: 24:41

Lost & Found follows senior women as they cope with the loss of their life partners and find new meaning in their lives. The film explores the question of what happens after losing that person you thought you could never live without.

## DEAD MAN'S HAND



### Star Victoria

Running time: 17:00

A friendly poker game turns deadly after a mysterious man enters the game. Based on Stephen King's short story, "The Man Who Would Not Shake Hands."

## READY



### Alexis Britt

Running time: 4:17

An alien searches planet Earth for the perfect home.

## ONE HALLOWEEN



### Rebecca Murga

Running time: 16:41

Based on a true story about a young Soldier, played by wounded warrior and bronze star recipient Joey Banegas, as he tries to connect with his 10-year-old daughter one halloween night after returning home from the war.

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part IV • 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

## SOME BOYS DON'T LEAVE



### Maggie Kiley

Running time: 14:12

A story about a break up without the break.

## THE BALLERINA, HER SHOE-MAKER & HIS APPRENTICE



### Eva Ye

Running time: 16:10

In 1930s Hackney, England, George Arkwright, a young man down on his luck, must navigate the refined world of ballet pointe shoe making and redeem his value as the apprentice under the shadow of his mentor Mr. Traynor.

## SAMARIA



### Kiel Adrian Scott

Running time: 30:49

In the wake of a devastating hurricane, one woman, with the help of an unlikely stranger, struggles to find the most important thing she lost in the storm... herself.

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>

Inside Director Programs Panel • 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

At this panel discussion, hear about a range of diversity director programs around town and what differentiates them, and receive insight into application processes and advice on how to stand out.

## MODERATORS

### ALEXIS OSTRANDER

Director

## PANELISTS

**TANASE POPA** • HALF  
Producer, Program Director

**MOIRA GRIFFIN** • FOX  
Executive Director, Diversity & Inclusion

**CHRIS MACK** • WARNER BROS.  
Senior Vice President, Television Workshop

**KAREN HORNE** • NBC  
Senior Vice President, Programming Talent Development & Inclusion

**JEANNE MAU** • CBS  
Vice President, Entertainment Diversity

**ANITA ORTIZ** • PARAMOUNT  
Vice President, Global Inclusion

**FRANK BENNETT GONZALEZ** • DGA  
Executive Director, Diversity Programs & Committees

**KRISTEN SCHAFFER** • WOMEN IN FILM  
Executive Director, Los Angeles

**N. BIRD RUNNINGWATER** • SUNDANCE  
Director, Sundance Institute Native American & Indigenous Program

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>

Cocktail Reception • Following the Panel

A cocktail reception, hosted by CAA, follows the panel discussion.



# SUNDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part V • 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM

## MUTED



### Rachel Goldberg

Running time: 20:00

When her teenage daughter disappears, Lena Gladwell, an African-American mother of two, struggles to gain help from media and law enforcement. She comes to learn the painful message that not all missing children are created equal.

## NI-NI



### Melissa Hickey

Running time: 19:20

The last days of a lonely street thug are seen through the eyes of a protesting angel.

## DRINK



### Emily Moss Wilson

Running time: 23:00

Drink is a sci-fi cautionary tale about a young mother forced to come face-to-face with her deepest desire. When Alice and her two sons find refuge in an old desert motel, a strange connection to the past reveals a life-altering truth that changes her family forever.



# SUNDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part VI • 1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

## CONFESSION



**Sofia Vyshnevetska**

Running time: 5:14

A father, after his daughter's brutal murder, confesses his desire for revenge.

## HAPPY BIRD



**Osahon Tongo**

Running time: 8:41

Two high school seniors look to heal their friendship through an afternoon of smoking when cutting scars are revealed and things get real.

## VIOLET HOUR



**Mark Allen**

Running time: 6:04

A young man from South Los Angeles makes a fateful decision while struggling to cure his sexuality.

## ROUBADO



**Erica Watson**

Running time: 18:07

A teen photographer in the south of France develops a tense relationship with his mother's new boyfriend.

## OLD E



**Xavier Neal-Burgin**

Running time: 14:37

Demarkus Jackson, a young basketball star from South Central, Los Angeles, puts his life at risk when he comes home for revenge against his abusive father.



# SUNDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

Screenings: Part VII • 3:00 PM - 4:20

## THE HAIRCUT



### Alexis Ostrander

Running time: 14:05

It's 1976, and petite eighteen-year-old Amy is among the first class of female cadets accepted into military service academies. Under incredible emotional and physical strain, Amy struggles to survive her first day, battling vicious sexism, swallowing self-doubt, and fighting to prove she has what it takes.

## SKINS



### Claire McCarthy

Running time: 16:00

Robert tries to rekindle a connection with his teenage daughters on their last holiday together before the divorce. He begins to realize that not only is he losing access to all that he loves, but Emma, his youngest, may be affected in a personal and destructive way.

## UNBOUND



### Maggie Mahrt

Running time: 12:32

In turn of the century Japan, a young girl sacrifices her freedom in order to save her sick father, but soon finds herself entangled in a disturbing metamorphosis as she begins to transform into a silkworm moth.

# SUNDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

The Director / Mentee Experience Panel • 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Get an inside look on the director and mentee experiences through the Half Directing Mentorship Program.

## MODERATOR

### TANASE POPA

Producer, Program Director

## PANELISTS

### RACHEL GOLDBERG

Mentee

### NELSON CRAGG

Director

Based in Los Angeles and specializes in narrative feature film and television projects. Nelson's directing credits include the International hit, AMERICAN HORROR STORY for acclaimed producer Ryan Murphy, and the critical smash series AMERICAN CRIME STORY: THE ASSASSINATION OF GIANNI VERSACE. Nelson's cinematography credits include AMERICAN CRIME STORY: THE PEOPLE VS OJ SIMPSON, AMERICAN HORROR STORY, HOMELAND, BREAKING BAD, HALT AND CATCH FIRE, ELEMENTARY, CSA, and many other award-winning pilots and features. Nelson has been nominated for multiple Primetime Emmy Awards for his cinematography work on HOMELAND and AMERICAN CRIME STORY: THE PEOPLE VS OJ SIMPSON. Nelson holds a master's degree in film production from the University of Southern California.

### ALEXIS OSTRANDER

Mentee

### JENNIFER LYNCH

Director

Currently one of the most sought-after directors in episodic television. She has directed, written, and produced over three dozen shows and films, and is best known for her outstanding work on THE WALKING DEAD, AMERICAN HORROR STORY, QUANTICO, FINDING CARTER, THE STRAIN, SALVATION, ZOO, ELEMENTARY, DAMIEN, and many more. The daughter of famed director David Lynch, and graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, Jennifer got her start at nineteen when she wrote and directed the notorious cult classic BOXING HELENA, which was nominated for a Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. She went on to become the first woman to receive the New York City Horror Film Festival's Best Director Award after her film Surveillance took the top prize at the Sitges Film Festival in Catalonia, Spain— one of the foremost fantasy and horror festivals in the world. She's the author of the book The Secret Diary of Laura Palmer, based on the famous TWIN PEAKS television series, serves on the board of directors for the Hollywood Horror Museum, and has several upcoming film and television projects in the works.

# 2016 HALF MENTEES

Mark Allen  
Hernando Bansuelo  
Alexis Britt  
Michea Bryant  
Shea Butler  
Rachel Goldberg  
Melissa Hickey  
Naomi Iwamoto  
Tarik Jackson  
Maggie Kiley  
Jean Lee  
Halima Lucas  
Maggie Mahrt  
Claire McCarthy  
Rebecca Murga  
Xavier Neal-Burgin  
Bola Ogun  
Alexis Ostrander  
Kiel Adrian Scott  
Uttera Singh  
Stacy Sprull  
Mia Swier  
Osahon Tongo  
Star Victoria  
Sofia Vyshnevetska  
Amy Wang  
Erica Watson  
Emily Moss Wilson  
Eva Ye

# MARK ALLEN

Mentor: Alexis Ostrander



Mark Allen is an award-winning filmmaker with an MFA from USC School of Cinematic Arts. His screenplays have placed as finalists in the Sundance Screenwriters Lab for the last three consecutive years. He was a finalist of the HBO Writer's Fellowship and was recognized at the 2016 Beverly Hills Film Festival for screenwriting. His award-winning short film VIOLET HOUR (2013) played at numerous festivals around the country, most recently winning Best Short Film at the 2015 Princeton Film Festival.

In 2015, he was awarded the Artists Alliance Screenwriter of the Year award. Prior to attending film school, Mark earned a law degree from UC Berkeley and worked with George Lucas at Lucasfilm and Hillary Clinton on her 2008 presidential campaign. Currently, Mark is writing and developing a feature adaptation of Pat Frank's novel ALAS, BABYLON for Lunacy Productions.

# HERNANDO BANSEULO

Mentor: Tim Minear



Hernando is a 2016 Directing Fellow for HALF, a mentorship program within Ryan Murphy Productions 20th Century Fox TV-based production company. He will shadow on FEUD, a new FX anthology series starring Jessica Lange and Susan Sarandon as Joan Crawford and Bette Davis on the set of WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE?

Of Haitian and Filipino descent, Hernando holds an MFA in Film and TV Production from USC's School of Cinematic Arts and a BA in Stage Directing from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. He is a Sundance Fellow who participated in the 2016 New Frontier Virtual Reality Storytelling Lab and whose short, THE DADDY (ANG TATAY), is an Official Selection of the Institute's Short Film Connection.

He is currently developing a myriad of projects for film and television including GET CLOSE, a 2016 Sundance Producing Fellowship Finalist about legendary actress Glenn Close, AMERICAN JOHN, a four-time Sundance Screenwriters Lab Finalist and Tribeca Film Institute selection and PURR, a sexy drama series in development at Endemol Shine.

The award-winning director has participated in the Ingmar Bergman immersion program at Sweden's Lund University, the Reykjavik International Film Festival's Talent Lab, and Film Independent's Project:Involve. His work has screened in Cannes, South Africa, Iceland, the UK, the Bahamas, and across the US. His acclaimed debut feature, A REUNION, was released theatrically in Fall 2015 and is now available Digitally and on Blu-Ray / DVD.

Hernando is repped by Joel VanderKloot of Nelson Davis LLP, who counts Ricky Gervais, Edgar Wright, Nicolas Winding Refn, Sean Durkin, and Antonio Campos among his clients.

# ALEXIS BRITT

Mentor: Brad Buecker

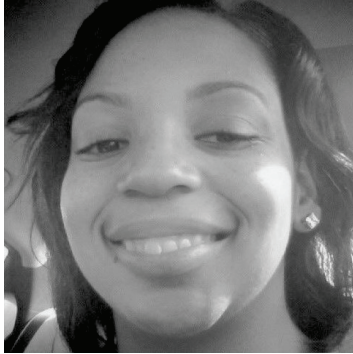


Alexis Ryan Britt grew up on Long Island, binging on peanut butter and episodes of *The Golden Girls*. She spent a year of her undergraduate studies in Madrid, where she fell in love with film. Since that transformative year she's written and directed many short dramedies and comedies, and visually engaging music videos for local Los Angeles bands. She recently graduated from the USC School of Cinematic Arts with an MFA in Film & TV Production.

She is currently working on feature films, content for television and the web, and photography series which explore issues of sexuality and gender, and the power of vulnerability.

# MICHEA BRYANT

Mentor: Barbara Brown



Michea Bryant is a young, eager graduate student in her 2nd year in the Film and TV Production program at the University of Southern California. A Maryland native, she is a diligent worker with a creative mind and a keen eye for detail. Michea is extremely passionate about writing, directing, and producing content that remolds and expands upon the African-American narrative in Hollywood.

A late bloomer in the cinematic arts world, the majority of Michea's life prior to USC was rooted in athletics. Between playing collegiate sports and covering professional sports as a Mass Media major at La Salle University, Michea was undying in her pursuit to become an ESPN analyst. A childhood dream of playing professionally became a dream deferred after Michea suffered severe damage to her knee, ending her basketball career. Sidelined for two summers on crutches, Michea stumbled upon a new love; film and television. Her first two short films, on which she served as writer, director, producer, cinematographer, and editor, were Campus Movie Fest Campus Finalists in 2012 and 2013.

Michea has always been an exceptional editor and writer, creating content for NBC / Comcast Sportsnet as an intern for the Washington Redskins under the tutelage of 10-time Emmy Award winner Larry Michael. In her first year at USC, she has learned so much through a bevy of experiences, which include writing and directing three short films, producing two more, and editing an advanced USC film. She looks forward to exploring the myriad of possibilities here in Hollywood, and she's excited about what the future holds.

# SHEA BUTLER

Mentor: Barbara Brown



Shea E. Butler, is an award winning filmmaker for her short films, “The Trial of Ben Barry,” and her most current film, “The Waystation.” “The Waystation” recently was awarded Best Short Horror film at the 2016 Go West Fest and Shea won Best Female Filmmaker Short Films at the 2016 Action On Film International Film Festival. She also directed a segment of the independent feature film BRAD’S UNTITLED RESTAURANT PROJECT which has been released on Vimeo VOD, and three monologues of the award winning play, THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES, for charity in Los Angeles.

Shea just finished a screenplay adapted from the book, “Langata Rules: Pirates at Lat 10,” with the book’s author, has written a film noir feature / two-hour pilot that is set in Las Vegas, and is the co-creator of the comic book “Undercover Cockroach.” She has also been a development executive and segment producer on reality TV and a script supervisor for television and film.

In 2014 Shea was accepted into and completed the Warner Bros. Television Director’s Workshop, and for 2016 she has been accepted into Ryan Murphy’s Half Directing Mentorship Program. Shea has a BA in Literature & a MA in TV & Film, and is a member of the Writers Guild, I.A.T.S.E. 871, Alliance of Women Directors, and the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Born in Cairo, Egypt to American parents living abroad, Shea has travelled extensively throughout the world, her most recent trip being a horseback riding safari through the Okavango Delta in Botswana.



# RACHEL GOLDBERG

Mentor: Jennifer Lynch



Rachel Goldberg is an award-winning director whose most recent film, *MUTED*, starring Chandra Wilson (*GREY'S ANATOMY*) and Malcolm-Jamal Warner (*THE COSBY SHOW*) sold to HBO. Her work has screened around the world, garnering over 20 awards including the Director's Choice Award from the Oscar-qualifying Rhode Island Int'l Film Festival and Best Narrative Short at *Translations: The Seattle Transgender Film Festival*. She has been supported by the Ryan Murphy Television Half Directing Mentorship Program, the Sony Pictures Television Directors Program, We for She's Direct Her program, AFI's Directing Workshop for Women, Film Independent's Project: Involve, and most recently, the FOX Global Directing Initiative.

As a proud participant in AFI's prestigious Directing Workshop for Women, Rachel directed and co-wrote the award-winning *NEIGHBORS*. This was developed into the feature screenplay *TRANSFORMATION AWAITS* which was selected for the Sundance Financing Initiative, was recognized by the Academy's Nicholl Fellowship, won the Barren Branches LGBTQ Grand Prize in Screenwriting and was selected for the highly competitive Film Independent Screenwriting Lab. The film is set up at Triangle Road Entertainment with Rachel attached to direct.

Rachel is also attached to helm *WAITING FOR CAMELOT* which is being produced by Sundance / Cannes alumnus, Todd Remis (*MAGIC MAGIC*) and TIFF veteran, Julie Snyder (*TANNER HALL*), as well as *CIRCUS CIRCUS* based on the play by the same name. She has directed close to 30 productions for stage and screen and her work has been described as "poetry in motion" by the LA Weekly and "stunning" by the LA Stage Scene.

Rachel's experience includes working in the editing department of *KILL BILL Vol. 2* and studying under David Sacks (*THE SIMPSONS*) and Jason Venokur (*3rd ROCK FROM THE SUN*). Most recently she had the pleasure of shadowing Jennifer Lynch on *AMERICAN HORROR STORY* and has had been fortunate to shadow on *GREY'S ANATOMY*, *THE FOSTERS* and a number of other shows. Rachel earned her MFA in Directing from the California Institute of the Arts and her BA in Theater and Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. Rachel serves on the board of the Alliance of Women Directors and the Unusual Suspects Theater Company.

# MELISSA HICKEY

Mentor: Gwyneth Horder Payton



Born in Texas, Melissa Hickey is an award-winning filmmaker with a bachelor's in Anthropology from Columbia University and a master's in Directing from the American Film Institute. She is the recipient of the Daniel Petrie Scholarship, the Women in Film Scholarship, and the Richard P. Rogers Spirit of Excellence. Her thesis film NI-NI premiered at Clermont Ferrand, screened at more than 20 international film festivals, and was recognized by the DGA with a Jury Award.

At present, she is developing her first feature film, IT'S ABOUT BOBBY COLLUM, a coming of age set on the Texas Gulf Coast.

# NAOMI IWAMOTO

Mentor: Barbara Brown



Naomi Iwamoto is a second generation Japanese American writer and director whose passion for storytelling was nurtured very early on by growing up between two cultures- Japan and the U.S. During these formative years, Naomi learned to listen, observe, and reflect. But, it wasn't until many years later, while enrolled at USC's School of Cinematic Arts where she discovered the kind of stories she wanted to create and the kind of filmmaker she wanted to become.

Naomi directed the comedy documentary, *LOST & FOUND*, which was fully funded by USC's School of Cinematic Arts, wherein three films are green-lit through a competitive pitch and selection process. Her doc follows women over the age of 85 who find love again after losing their husbands.

Naomi also wrote the Asian American musical, *MANGO STICKY RICE*, based on her own embarrassing dating history. The rom-com musical follows a binge-eating woman on the quest to find love in the online dating world.

Naomi received the Edward Small Directing Award for excellence in directing and was named an Ace-Nikaido Fellow for advancing understanding of Japan and US-Japan relations.

Currently, she is in post-production for *BEST BUDS*, a comedy that follows two best friends who reveal their deepest secrets to each other while hot boxing their car the night before they head to college.

She is finishing up an M.F.A. from the USC School of Cinematic Arts and holds a B.A. from UCLA in Political Science and Asian American Studies.

# TARIK JACKSON

Mentor: Ian Brennan



A Brooklyn, New York native, Tarik Jackson found filmmaking after a horrendous car accident while a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. Jackson left the accident unharmed but walked away from the near death experience with a new sense of purpose and focus. Shortly after the accident, Jackson decided that he wanted to leave an everlasting mark on culture, this led Tarik to dive head first in filmmaking. Tarik was a participant in the 2009 Youth Filmmakers program at the American Black

Film Festival. Tarik got accepted to USC's School of Cinematic Arts graduate film program. Upon acceptance into the program Tarik was granted the Muller family scholarship Award. During his third semester at USC, he and fellow classmates Steven Caple Jr. and Vicotria Rose were selected by the faculty to produce a twelve minute film that was financed by the school. The film *A DIFFERENT TREE* tells the story of an eight year old using a school assigned family tree to connect with her absent father. The film has since been accepted into numerous festivals and won the American Black Film Festival. After completing his Masters program Tarik co created, directed and co wrote *CLASS*, an eight episode original series that premiered on YouTube. Since it's release in July of 2015 the series has been viewed over 500,000 times. Tarik is currently in pre production, on his first feature film *BUSHBABY*, about gentrification in his hometown in Brooklyn.

# MAGGIE KILEY

Mentor: Brad Buecker



Maggie Kiley was one of eight directors selected for AFI's Directing Workshop for Women and one of twenty filmmakers chosen for the FOX Global Directors Initiative. Most recently, Maggie was selected as the first participant in Ryan Murphy Television's Half Directing Mentorship program and subsequently is slated to direct an episode in the upcoming season of SCREAM QUEENS on Fox and AMERICAN HORROR STORY on FX Networks.

Maggie's AFI short film, SOME BOYS DON'T LEAVE, played over 50 festivals, garnering awards at Tribeca and Palm Springs. Maggie received the Panavision New Filmmaker Grant for her debut feature, BRIGHTEST STAR. The film, starring Chris Lowell, Rose McIver and Allison Janney, was released by Gravitas theatrically and SVOD in early 2014. Her second film, DIAL A PRAYER, starring Brittany Snow and William H Macy, released in the Spring of 2015. More recently she directed the thriller CAUGHT starring Anna Camp for Mar Vista Entertainment, marking an impressive three features in just three years. CAUGHT world premiered at the 2015 Los Angeles Film Festival as one of eight films in competition in the genre section: Nightfall and was later acquired by Lifetime. On the series side: Maggie most recently directed 5 episodes of CARING starring Hannah Dunne and Mickey Sumner for Superdeluxe (Turner) and is currently in production on GUIDANCE for Awesomeness TV.

Maggie is an ensemble member of off Broadway's critically acclaimed Atlantic Theater Company and part of the filmmaking collective Film Fatales. Upcoming feature projects include Eyal Alony's SKIN DEEP (for which she is a Directing Fellow at Film Independent) and Alissa Dean's CRICKET with producers Lynn Hendee and Bill Chartoff.

# JEAN LEE

Mentor: Gwyneth Horder Payton



Jean Lee jumped into directing after making a short, investigative doc on Philadelphia's sex trafficking industry at the University of Pennsylvania ('09). In 2010, she moved to Southeast Asia to study film-making at Tisch, Asia ('14). Her narrative short, CAHAYA, premiered at the 2013 Berlinale International FF and won the Berlin Velo film award. Upon moving to LA, her feature script KIMCHI PRINCESS was selected for the 2013 Sundance Screenwriter's Intensive & 2014 Film Independent Director's Lab.

Jean was also a fellow in the 2014 AFI Directing Workshop for Women with her narrative short, TORTOISE. Recently, Jean wrapped production on her first feature film, PECADO ORIGINAL.

Currently, she is in Ryan Murphy's Half Directing Mentorship Program and the Women in Film / Blacklist TV lab with her sci fi anthology series, STRANGER PILGRIM.

# HALIMA LUCAS

Mentor: Brad Buecker



From the city of Stockton, California comes 25-year-old writer and director, Halima Lucas. She is second oldest in the line up of nine brothers and sisters and the combo platter of unique personalities in her home greatly inspires her storytelling. Upon recently graduating from USC's School of Cinematic Arts with an MFA in Film & TV Production, she is also entering her thesis film, AMELIA'S CLOSET, into the festival circuit, which has already become a semi finalist for the Student Academy Awards.



# MAGGIE MAHRT

Mentor: Liza Johnson



With a background that includes theater, painting, writing and film, director Maggie Mahrt was born to be a storyteller. Maggie's first short film, CHOW BELLA, played at festivals around the world and won the Audience Choice award at the San Diego IndiFest. Mahrt went on to garnish recognition for her work on the critically acclaimed web series, BUMP+ and also for award-winning commercials such as THE-BOUQS.COM. She spent the last three years working as the Assistant to the Showrunner on GRIMM at

NBC during which time she shadowed various directors on the series and fell in love with the pace and world of Television. Since November of 2015, Maggie has become the lead in-house director / producer for a digital content company where she shoots commercials, short films and other content for luxury brands and cause-connected clients. In 2016, Maggie was chosen as one of eight women to participate in the AFI Directing Workshop for Women. She recently completed her short film, UNBOUND as part of this endeavor. UNBOUND is based on the short story, Reeling for The Empire by New York Times bestseller, Karen Russell. Maggie optioned and adapted the piece to screen and is looking forward to taking it out to festivals soon. Maggie's goals are to create and direct original content for television and emerging platforms.



# CLAIRE McCARTHY

Mentor: Brad Buecker



Director, writer, producer and visual artist, Claire McCarthy is a directing graduate of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (2001) and also holds a Bachelor of Design / Communications (Hons) from the University of Technology, Sydney.

Her most recent work was on *THE TURNING*, an Australian omnibus feature where curated filmmakers each helmed an interconnected story from the celebrated Tim Winton novel. Claire directed the centerpiece segment starring Rose Byrne, who won Best Actress for her performance at the Australian Academy Awards last year.

Her award-winning feature film, *THE WAITING CITY*, starring Radha Mitchell and Joel Edgerton, released in North America after premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2010. The film was nominated for three Film Critics Circle Awards, an Australian Directors Guild award, won two Independent Film Awards for cinematography and editing, and has sold to almost 40 territories around the world.

Claire's first feature *CROSS LIFE* premiered at the Sydney Film Festival, screened at Pusan in Korea and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award at the 2007 IF Awards. Her Young Filmmakers Fund documentary film, *SISTERS*, was broadcast on ABC Television and is still distributed internationally. Her short film *SKIN* garnered worldwide acclaim on the festival circuit with a noteworthy turn from a young Mia Wasikowska.

Claire has a diverse slate of directing projects at various stages including her upcoming project *OPHELIA* starring Naomi Watts and Daisy Ridley, and *THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF RACHEL DUPREE*, starring Emmy award winning and twice Academy Award nominated actress, Viola Davis.

# REBECCA MURGA

Mentor: Mary Wigmore



A Chicago native, Rebecca Murga is an award-winning filmmaker who works in Los Angeles as a writer and director. She produces and directs films, commercials, and digital web content. Her work has been featured on Mundo Fox, ABC, CBS, and currently working on a short film that will feature on HBO digital.

Rebecca served as a Captain in the US Army and has deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan, as one of the first women attached to Special Operations Command in Afghanistan working along side NAVY Seals and Special Forces. She is a recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award for excellence in broadcast journalism, the highest award in the Department of Defense for her work in Afghanistan.

She is a graduate of the AFI Conservatory Directing Workshop for Women, and announced at the Latino Reel panels at the Sundance Film Festival this year, Rebecca is a recipient of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP) Latino Lens incubation and production grant. The program is sponsored by the Time Warner Foundation and National Endowment of the Arts. HBO has signed on to distribute the short films on their digital platform.

Rebecca is a passionate advocate for veterans and women's issues with articles published in The New York Times and The Global Journal and she has appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America," and "The View." Most recently, she was featured on NPR as the director of a short film "War Ink" which tells veteran's war stories through their tattoos.

# XAVIER NEAL-BURGIN

Mentor: Michael Goi



Xavier Burgin attended The University of Alabama before being accepted into USC's School of Cinematic Arts for TV & Film Production. He nurtured his creative process there, discovering a love for writing and directing. Now, he's a Sundance Lab Fellow with a twitter following of 57,000, an HBO Short Film Finalist, and Ryan Murphy Television Half Directing Mentorship Program mentee. Xavier's filmography has been accepted in The American Black Film Festival, HBO Short Film Competition, Raindance Film

Festival, Urbanworld Film Festival, LA Shorts Fest, Anchorage Film Festival, Burbank International Film Festival, Sunscreen West Film Festival, and many more. Xavier is a fellow of The Sundance Institute's Youtube New Voices Lab where his webseries, LAME LANCE, was one of eleven projects selected. Xavier shadowed on the set of AMERICAN HORROR STORY as a member of the RMTV Half Directing Mentorship program. Xavier amassed a following of over 50,000 plus followers on twitter through his long form twitter stories, landing him features on sites such as BuzzFeed, Distractify, Complex, Global Grind, Clutch Magazine, Thought Catalog, Twitter's Moments Page, and Alux.

Xavier directed, OLDE E, a USC 546 Advanced Narrative film, received the Charles and Lucille King Best of Student Media Award and was a semi-finalist for the 43rd Student Academy Awards. Xavier's film, ON TIME, a proof of concept piece based on the feature script, Rough Around the Edges, co-written with Tiara Marshall, that made it past the first round of the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab. The film premiered at The American Black Film Festival. It was a finalist in the HBO Short Film competition, and will be on all HBO platforms in 2017. It also netted Xavier a Best Director award at Sunscreen Film Festival West. Xavier has worked with Bazelevs (WANTED, UNFRIENDED), Blavity, Riveting Entertainment, Google, Lenovo, Coca-Cola, The Distinguished Filmmakers' Network, and Oscar Mayer as a director, writer, cinematographer, and / or writer. Xavier is also part of the National Lampoon Lemmings Improv group. Xavier strives to bring an emotionally, powerful aesthetic through drama, and a pleasantly gut-aching, hilarity through comedy. Above all else, he currently works towards building an artistic resume highlighting his unique, and progressive sensibilities.

# BOLA OGUN

Mentor: Brad Falchuk



Bola Ogun is a Los Angeles based filmmaker. She is an alumni of the AFI Directing Workshop for Women. She shadowed directors, Michael Lehman and Rose Lee, then went on to assist Rachel Bloom, Executive Producer, Writer and Actress on CW's CRAZY EX GIRLFRIEND. Prior to this, she worked consistently as a Production Assistant for ten years on notable projects such as THE DARK KNIGHT RISES, NEIGHBORS, TRUE DETECTIVE, PRISON BREAK and FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS which helped

her gain production knowledge in every aspect of filmmaking.

Bola has directed several independent projects including her own music video ANOTHER GIRL SHAKES HER BUTT and is currently completing a Fantasy drama THE WATER PHOENIX about a mermaid held captive in an aquarium. Her ultimate goal is create innovative films that reflect the makeup of our society without race, gender, sexual orientation or disability being the sole focus of a character's identity.

Bola attended University of North Texas for Musical Theater with a minor in Psychology. She was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, as a first generation American, her family is from Lagos, Nigeria.

# ALEXIS OSTRANDER

Mentor: Nelson Cragg



Filmmaker Alexis O. Korycinski was one of ten directors selected for the AFI's Directing Workshop for Women. She was picked as one of twenty directors to participate in the Fox Global Directors Initiative and one of seven drama fellows for the apprenticeship program. Recently, Alexis was chosen for the inaugural 2016 Ryan Murphy Television's Half Directing Mentorship Program and subsequently is slated to direct an episode in the upcoming season of AMERICAN HORROR STORY on FX.

Alexis directed THE HAIRCUT, starring Bailey Noble (TRUE BLOOD) and Molly Quinn (CASTLE), which premiered at the 2014 AFI FEST. The film has been screened at over 45 film festivals internationally, garnering 12 awards. Created through AFI's Directing Workshop for Women, THE HAIRCUT was the recipient of the Panavision New Filmmaker Grant, Creative District Grant, Impact First Films Grant, and The Caucus for Producers, Writers & Directors Foundation Grant. She participated as a Clinic Fellow in the 2015 Sundance Female Filmmakers Initiative Financing Intensive, and is currently developing THE HAIRCUT into a feature-length script.

Alexis was named a finalist with writer Dani Bailes for the ScreenCraft Short Film Fund for the screenplay "911." Alexis and Dani had previously collaborated on the Italian / English-language short film BAMBINA, which is currently in post-production, and her short film BALLON is currently on the festival circuit. Additionally, Alexis has written a guest post for Indiewire: "Here's Why Female-Driven Films Are Important Right Now."

Alexis is attached to direct two feature films and is currently developing several projects for film and television.

# KIEL ADRIAN SCOTT

Mentor: Angela Bassett



Award-winning writer-director Kiel Adrian Scott's films have screened internationally and aired on HBO, PBS, CineMAX, Shorts TV, Centric and BET. Kiel's short film, *THE ROE EFFECT*, won several major film festivals, including Best Short Film at the American Black Film Festival's HBO Short Film Competition, Best Narrative Short at the Urbanworld Film Festival and the Saatchi & Saatchi NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE Producer's Award. *THE ROE EFFECT* was nominated for Best Independent Mini Feature at the

Black Reel Awards and included in Cannes Film Festival's 2010 Short Film Corner. Of the film, Academy Award-winning director Jonathan Demme remarked, "Exquisitely made, fantastic in every single aspect, the themes are profound. Kiel is an incredibly exciting new American filmmaker. Bravo!"

Kiel is an alumnus of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. Every student awarded admission into The Cooper Union receives a full tuition scholarship. Kiel is also a recent graduate of New York University's Graduate Film Program where he was awarded a full tuition Dean's Fellowship, was a Spike Lee Fellow, and served as Professor Spike Lee's Graduate Teaching Assistant. After completing his academic coursework, Kiel was asked by Lee to serve as Directing Assistant on Lee's professional projects. Kiel collaborated with Lee as a co-writer on Lee's recent feature length film and first foray into video games, NBA 2K16's *Livin' Da Dream*, which sold over 4 Million copies in its first week alone.

Kiel's personal filmic works are investigations of the psychological ramifications of being undervalued and marginalized in modern society. Addressing issues ranging from homelessness to homophobia, racial animosity to the erosion of women's reproductive rights, Kiel's films are ultimately about consequences of not caring for others. In addition to pursuing a career as a writer-director for feature films, Kiel is elated at the prospect of working in television as a writer, director, and one day, as a showrunner.

Kiel's latest film, *SAMARIA*, won a Directors Guild of America Student Film Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement and was a finalist in the 2015 Student Academy Awards. *SAMARIA* is a short film adaptation of Kiel's feature length screenplay, *EPILOGUE*. *EPILOGUE*, which was an inaugural selection of the New Orleans Film Festival's A.M.P.A.S. sponsored Emerging Voices Program, will very likely be Kiel's theatrical motion picture debut.



# UTTERA SINGH

Mentor: Gwyneth Horder Payton



Drama has always been a part of Uttera Singh's life. On the day she was born, her 9 months pregnant mother was hit by a firecracker and her father rescued the mother and rushed her to the hospital. That's how this real life firecracker was born. That fiery spirit is still very much alive in her. Uttera is an MFA graduate of the USC School of Cinematic Arts. She is the recipient of the Ryan Murphy Diversity Fellowship and just finished directing her thesis film FANNY PACK, a proof of concept for a half hour TV

show starring Brian Geord (BIG BANG THEORY, SEINFELD). Her one-woman show INDIAN LADY SHAKESPEARE WEARS UNDERWEAR premiered in Los Angeles. Uttera was chosen as one of the directos on the USC / James Franco feature film MAD WHALE starring Camilla Belle, Dominic Rains, Summer Phoenix and James Franco. Uttera lives in Los Angeles and spends her time going on adventures and then writing about them.

# MIA SWIER

Mentor: Helen Hunt



Mia Swier is a Director, Writer & Producer working in Los Angeles and New York. She currently works freelance as a one-woman Producer / Director for various companies to create dynamic content including national television commercials, music videos, short films and promos. She is developing a feature with a crackerjack writing / acting team as well. Most recently, Mia was a Writer / Producer at Fox Broadcasting Company in the Special Ops department, heading up launch campaigns and

in-season digital content for the promotion of original series. A lot of this work involved interview-based set visits, in which she field-produced and conducted the interviews, behind-the-scenes, red carpets, and music videos to promote series

including: SCREAM QUEENS, GLEE, GRACEPOINT, NEW GIRL, THE MINDY PROJECT, and THE FOLLOWING. Prior to her work at Fox, Mia held a similar position at Showtime Networks, producing content for premium series including DEXTER, WEEDS, CALIFORNICATION, HOMELAND, SHAMELESS & more.

Mia graduated from New York University in 2007 with a B.S. in Mass Media, and has a certificate in Filmmaking / Directing from New York Film Academy. She has worked in production on various films and series including SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE, THE TONY DANZA SHOW, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, NASHVILLE STAR, The Tony Awards, The Daytime Emmy Awards, The Democratic National Convention, The Tribeca Film Festival, The Thanksgiving Day Parade and the SuperBowl.



# OSAHON TONGO

Mentor: Barbara Brown



Osahton Tongo is a writer-director from Naperville, Illinois. He is a graduate of USC School of Cinematic Arts MFA program where he was an Annenberg Fellow, USC Comedy Executive Board Member, Media Institute for Social Change organizer and Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy and Ethics Scholar. He has co-written an adaptation of James Franco's book, *ACTORS ANONYMOUS*, directed many short films including *HAPPY BIRD*. Osahton studied management and played Division 1 football

at Georgia Tech. He specializes in telling soulful stories through uninhibited magical-realism and imaginative poetic cinema.

# STAR VICTORIA

Mentor: Loni Peristere



Star Victoria was born and raised in Syracuse, New York. She was drawn to the arts at a young age. She began acting at 13 years old. She later moved to NYC to pursue acting where she had the opportunity to be featured in several off-off Broadway shows. Upon realizing she was more equipped with drawing emotional performances from actors, Star began directing short films.

She has directed several award winning short films that are thought-provoking and inspiring. She was recently accepted into USC's prestigious MFA program for Film and Television production. During her first semester, she was the only fellow entrusted to direct three films. She has been enjoying honing her skills in episodic directing and tackling every challenge as she works towards obtaining her MFA. When she is not honing her skills at USC, she is a sought after 1st AD. She is an invaluable asset to every production she works on. She recently worked on a Film Independent's Project Involve film GET THE LIFE and a Doha Film Institute grantee MARJOUN and THE FLYING HEAD SCARF. Star's passion for storytelling runs deep, she is currently writing and developing her first feature film script based on her life experience as an award winning child Equestrian whose life is turned upside down, when she is ripped from her foster family and thrown into a tumultuous abusive life surrounded by drugs and alcohol, with her biological mother.

# SOFIA VYSHNEVETSKA

Mentor: Elodie Keene



Sofia Vyshnevetska was born in Donetsk, Ukraine, in 1987. Here she completed her first B.D. in Olympic Sport at The Kharkiv State Academy of Physical Culture and her second M.D. in Sound Production for Film and Television at The National Academy of Arts in Ukraine.

During her first educational years worked as a Sound Operator at Ukrainian TV Channel "Simon" and later at Music Channel "M1". Simultaneously, she was building a sports career, taking part at the international competitions. She received her last sports award in July, 2007- The Gold Medal for "The Polish World Gymnastic Championship". Afterwards, having already dedicated 15 years in the sport, she changed her direction from contention to training. Her "Static-Passive Flexibility Method in combination with PNF (Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation) and passive training", was approved by Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Ukraine in 2010.

At the beginning of 2011 Sofia got a spinal injury, which took away her ability to walk for the next 1.5 years. This accident helped her to take on another stage in her life with more passion and devotion. In 2012, she was invited to work as an assistant director on the Soap Opera OCEAN OF LOVE for the Russian television market. The show featured a female gymnast. Despite being limited to a wheelchair most of the time, Sofia helped to reproduce an atmosphere of the character's sports life. Being on the set gave her an opportunity to reconnect with her previous life again after the injury. Working with the director and production team inspired her to change priorities. Gradually returning to her feet, in 2015, she got an acceptance letter from one of the best film schools. Currently she is completing her Master's in Film Production at The University Of Southern California.

During the first year at USC, Sofia directed three short films: DAY 181, JOIN ME and CONFESSION. CONFESSION was accepted to the screening at the California Women's Film Festival and earned the Bronze Award at the FAME' US International Film Festival.

# STACY SPRUILL

Mentor: Gwyneth Horder Payton



Currently a fellow at the AFI Conservatory, Stacy recently won the most prestigious award the school offers: the China Story Fellowship which sent her to China for five weeks to do research on her next comedy screenplay.

Before attending AFI, she created and developed original scripted content for Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson (drummer and front man for The Roots); film and television producer, Cash Warren; and Sherri Shepherd, comedian, actress, and former co-host of ABC’s THE VIEW. She also had a script option with Jamie Foxx, the Academy Award, Golden Globe, and Grammy Award-winner.

An alumna of Warner Bros. Television Writers’ Workshop and Tribeca All Access, Stacy wrote and directed four award-winning short films that have screened in over 40 film festivals worldwide, from Cannes to East L.A. to Toronto to Zimbabwe. In her spare time, she volunteers to teach filmmaking and creative writing workshops to disenfranchised youth and shut-in Senior Citizens in South Los Angeles.

# AMY WANG

Mentor: Brad Buecker



Amy Wang was born in China and raised in Sydney, Australia where she developed her skills as a filmmaker. Her unique perspective often as an outsider fuels her passion for stories about social isolation and human struggle. Her graduate film (BLIND LUCK, 2010) received an honorable mention at the LA Reel Film Festival and screened in numerous festivals around the world. She placed 2nd at the 48hr Film Festival (2013) and was chosen to represent Australia in the Parrot AR Drone Film Festival in

Paris. Since then, she's been a promos producer at the largest television network in Australia, where she directed shoots for X Factor Australia and worked on shows such as CRIMINAL MINDS, DOWNTOWN ABBEY and MARVEL'S AGENTS OF SHIELD.

Amy is currently completing her Master's as a directing fellow at The American Film Institute Conservatory where she was awarded a scholarship. She will continue writing and directing her thesis and developing a feature and television pitch aimed at humanizing social pariahs.

# ERICA WATSON

Mentor: Marita Grabiak



Erica A. Watson is a writer / director from Detroit, Michigan. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, with an MFA in Film and TV Production. She also holds a Bachelor of Music from Wayne State University and is a classically trained harpist and pianist. She is a 2014-2015 directing fellow for FILM INDEPENDENT's Project Involve.

She was also one of four people selected for the Sundance Knight Fellowship and was an artist-in-residence at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. Most recently, she was hand selected for the Ryan Murphy Mentorship Program and is currently shadowing on *AMERICAN HORROR STORY*. Her latest short film, *ROUBADO* was shot in Cannes, France and has been featured in over 50 film festivals, internationally, to date in countries such as: France, Romania, Cameroon, Germany, Mexico, Greece, India, Ukraine, Antigua and Barbados, and Canada. She is a part-time professor at Loyola Marymount University's School of Film & Television in Los Angeles, California.

# EMILY MOSS WILSON

Mentor: Jamie Lee Curtis



Originally from Louisiana, Emily moved to Los Angeles after earning a film degree from TCU. She spent two years at 20th Century Fox Television learning the ins-and-outs of TV development and production. She then became a Feature Film Coordinator where she developed skills in filmmaking logistics such as budgeting, scheduling, and liaising with film commissions all over the world. Her eye for talent brought her into the world of commercial casting where she worked as a session director for major

brands such as American Airlines, Toyota, Burger King, and Ford. It was here that the seed of becoming a director was first planted.

Emily's desire to direct led her to work alongside one of Hollywood's biggest creative forces- the late-great actor / writer / director Garry Marshall. She worked as Mr. Marshall's on-set script coordinator for his films VALENTINE'S DAY and NEW YEAR'S EVE and experienced a masterclass in directing each day on set. Mr. Marshall was one of Emily's first mentors.

Emily has produced two award-winning short films, GRAND DRIP and KNIGHT TO D7. Her directorial debut, THE TWILIGHT ZONE inspired thriller, DRINK, premiered at the Dances With Films Festival in Hollywood to rave reviews. The film has over 800,000 views on YouTube (and counting!). She has had the opportunity to shadow many notable television directors including Allison Liddi-Brown on ABC's Scandal, Joel Zwick on Disney's Girl Meets World and Christine Gernon on Fox's The Grinder. Emily is attached to direct two feature films, Inheritance and No Such Thing As Monsters, and is developing a television series inspired by her short film, DRINK. Commercial work includes directing actress Kerry Washington (Scandal) in a spot for the Allstate Purple Purse Foundation and a comedic spot for Cricket Wireless.

Emily currently serves as Creative Executive for the ATX Television Festival in Austin, TX where she is involved in festival programming and film / video content production. She has directed the festival's yearly opening videos which have included TV actors such as Henry Winkler (HAPPY DAYS), Mae Whitman (PARENTHOOD), Matt Lauria (FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS), Scott Porter (HART OF DIXIE), Lamorne Morris (NEW GIRL) and Katie Lowes (SCANDAL). Emily was selected as an "Emerging Female Director" for the WeForShe DirectHer Program and is currently shooting her first feature film, MISSING DAUGHTER, starring Austin Highsmith, Wes Brown, Valerie Azlynn, & Erin Cahill.



# EVA YE

Mentor: Maggie Kiley



Eva was born and bred in Southeastern China, a scenic town of Hangzhou. She began preprofessional ballet training at the age of 9 and it has taken a special place in her heart ever since. She moved to the US in 2007 in pursuit of her B.S. in Finance and Math at University of Maryland, and she relocated to Los Angeles in 2012 to pursue her dream as a filmmaker at University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. She wrote and directed her graduation thesis *THE BALLERINA, HER SHOEMAKER AND HIS APPRENTICE*, which is currently in the festival circuit around the globe.



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