



# BEYOND HOLLYWOOD

The TOP Independent Creators of 2024

FILMMAKERLIFE



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HOLLYWOOD**  
The TOP Independent Creators of 2024

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## FILMMAKERLIFE

### **Title:**

Beyond Hollywood  
The Top Independent Creators of 2024

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Visual Maniacs  
World Citizen

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# Introduction

In the vast expanse of cinematic history, storytelling has undergone a remarkable evolution. From the silent black-and-white era to the immersive worlds of today's cutting-edge technology, our journey through film has been nothing short of extraordinary. As we stand amidst this ever-changing landscape, we can't help but marvel at the boundless creativity and innovation that continue to shape our cinematic experience.

In recent years, the importance of the internet and social media has revolutionized how we consume and create content. No longer confined to the confines of traditional studios, independent creators, filmmakers and artists have risen, their voices resonating across the digital realm. In this age of connectivity, we have the unprecedented opportunity to discover and celebrate talents that transcend the boundaries of Hollywood and conventional industry norms.

It is within this backdrop of cinematic renaissance that **Beyond Hollywood: The Top Independent Creators of 2024** comes to life. This meticulously curated collection is not just a mere anthology; it's a testament to the untapped reservoir of creativity that thrives beyond the glitz and glamour of mainstream cinema and arts.

Each page is a portal into the minds of visionaries who dare to defy conventions, pushing the limits of storytelling with their audacious narratives and unparalleled craftsmanship.

As we embarked on the journey of assembling this compendium, we were struck by the sheer magnitude of talent that exists within the independent filmmaking and artists community. From bold new voices to seasoned veterans, each filmmaker showcased in this volume represents the pinnacle of artistic excellence in 2024.

But make no mistake—selecting the top independent creators was no easy feat. It required countless hours of deliberation, meticulous scrutiny, and unwavering dedication to ensure that only the *crème de la crème* made the cut. The result? A compilation of creators who not only captivate and inspire but also redefine the essence of cinematic artistry.

These creators have been carefully chosen for their deep commitment to the art of storytelling and their unwavering dedication to excellence in every project they undertake. Their discerning selection of projects and passionate approach to execution are evident in every aspect of their work. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of these remarkable individuals for entrusting us with their stories and generously sharing their expertise and time.

**The FilmmakerLife**



RADIO CITY

THE RAY

Happy Holidays  
1221

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RAISE FLOW

# NASSER ALDHAHERI

 Emirati


 Writer

 Producer


 Director

In the realm of cinema, Nasser Aldhaheri emerges as a guiding light, illuminating narratives that traverse boundaries and cultures with profound storytelling. His evolution as an esteemed filmmaker epitomizes a relentless pursuit of exploration, preservation, and homage to his Emirati roots and a universal love for humanity.

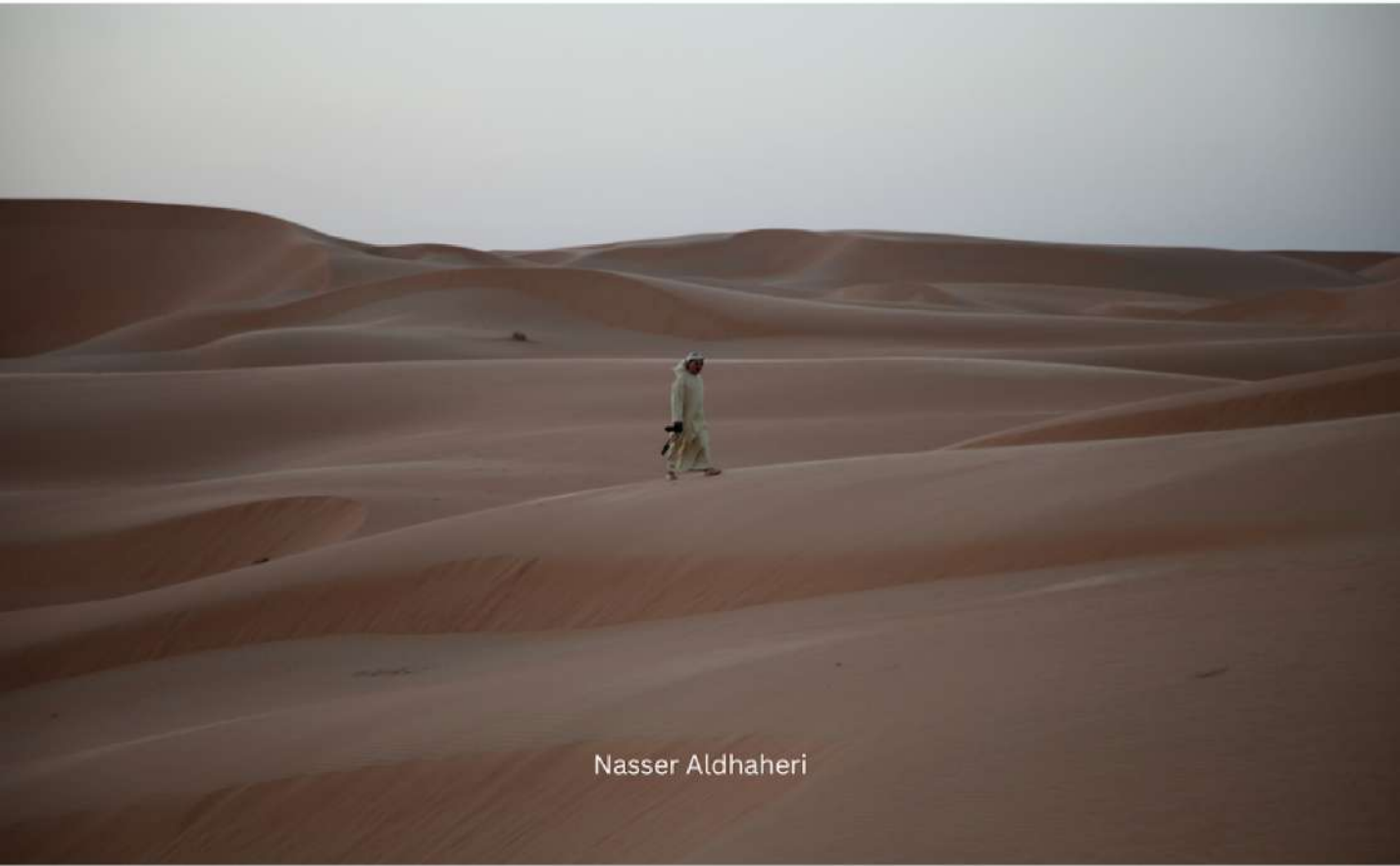
Aldhaheri's cinematic voyage commenced with his inaugural endeavor, "The Yellow Locust," a stirring portrayal delving into the essence of national identity and its vulnerabilities.

 [aldhaheri.ae](http://aldhaheri.ae)

 [NasserAldhahe18](https://twitter.com/NasserAldhahe18)

 [Nasser Aldhaheri](https://www.facebook.com/NasserAldhaheri)

 [@nasser.ad175](https://www.instagram.com/nasser.ad175)



This maiden venture sparked a fervent curiosity, propelling him towards a deeper examination of societal complexities while advocating for the safeguarding of cultural heritage. Subsequent creations, notably the lauded "A Tale of Water, Palm Trees, and Family," stood as monuments to his profound connection to the UAE, intricately weaving narratives of ancient civilizations and the enduring spirit of its people. In "Tolerance," Aldhaheeri chose to spotlight everyday individuals, infusing his narratives with an authentic and heartfelt sincerity. Through their stories, he eloquently underscored the virtues of tolerance and coexistence, fostering dialogues that transcend the confines of race, religion, and creed. His unwavering dedication to authenticity and human connection garnered global acclaim, solidifying his status as a luminary in the cinematic sphere. Beyond mere filmmaking, Aldhaheeri's commitment extends to the promotion of cultural understanding and artistic brilliance. His latest opus, "The Goddess of Time," embarks on a philosophical exploration of mortality, immortality, and the essence of



**"TO MY DEVOTED PARENTS, MY BELOVED CITY, AND MY CHERISHED FAMILY: MALIKA, ARWA, AL-HOUR, AND MANSOUR."**

—Nasser Aldhaheeri





human existence, inviting audiences into a realm of transcendence. As an independent filmmaker, Aldhaheeri recognizes the challenges of distribution but remains resolute in his mission to share his narratives with the world. His eclectic creative background spanning literature, journalism, and filmmaking infuses his work with a richness that captivates audiences and critics alike. In attributing his recent triumphs to his family, particularly his father, mother, wife, and children, Aldhaheeri acknowledges the unwavering support and inspiration that fuel his artistic pursuits. His cinematic odyssey continues to inspire, fostering unity, celebrating diversity, and leaving an indelible imprint on the tapestry of cinema.

# CHRISTOPHER M. ALLPORT

 American

 Actor

 Director

 Writer

 Allport Production  
Studios International

Christopher M. Allport, a native of Hollywood, is an influential artist whose expansive work spans the realms of story, film, and music. His career is marked by a unique ability to connect different forms of art, creating projects that blend rich narratives with powerful performances and a deep musical influence. Allport's work is known for its creativity, attention to detail, and involvement in high-profile collaborations with celebrities across several decades.

 [allportproductions.com](http://allportproductions.com)

 [senjachronicles.com](http://senjachronicles.com)



Christopher M. Allport

Allport's extraordinary command of the English language — coupled with extensive knowledge of music, film, and visual arts — position him as a gifted visionary who attracts the best from performers, collaborators and production teams alike. Envisioning narratives into captivating action, fascinating imagery, and crisp dialogue, his ability to develop compelling stories has earned the creator broad international respect. Consistently delivering excellence, a major hallmark of Allport's talent is the ability to tirelessly direct long-form projects into triumphant completion.

Recently, Allport co-authored Senja Chronicles with Fansu Njie, a novel that showcases his storytelling prowess. His directorial debut of the narrative feature Emily or Oscar premiered at the prestigious Grauman's TCL Chinese Theatre. In addition to his accomplishments in writing and directing, Allport is nearing the completion of a feature "rock-u-mentary" chronicling the impactful history of the legendary Gold Star Studio (Hollywood) from 1950 to 1984.



**"GLORY LIVES IN YOUR DREAMS, AND NOTHING IS GAINED FROM FEAR. THEREFORE, URGENTLY CONVERT YOUR DREAMS INTO ACTIONS."**

—C.M. Allport

The Sound of Gold is set to highlight the "soundtrack of our lives" and the cultural impact of the studio during those years.

Moreover, Allport's long-anticipated orchestral and vocal composition, Song of Solomon, featuring the esteemed Danielle Marcelle Bond, made its streaming debut on April 1. Allport's work demonstrates mystical ability to fluently blend various artistic forms, creating experiences that resonate with global audiences.

Christopher M. Allport's multifaceted talents continue to make waves in the industry, pushing the boundaries of storytelling, film, and music to new heights. His passion for connecting different artistic elements with a thoughtful and generous approach makes him a standout figure in the creative world.



# JULIANO ANGELIANO

 Puerto Rican/Mexican

 Executive Producer

 Screenwriter

Juliano Angeliano embarked on his journey into screenwriting with an insatiable curiosity, viewing it as an ongoing exploration that continually unraveled new delights. He found delight in manipulating words akin to crafting a sandwich, rearranging them like puzzle pieces to construct narratives teeming with originality, effortlessly sidestepping the realm of the mundane with a keen eye for innovation.

 Juliano Angeliano

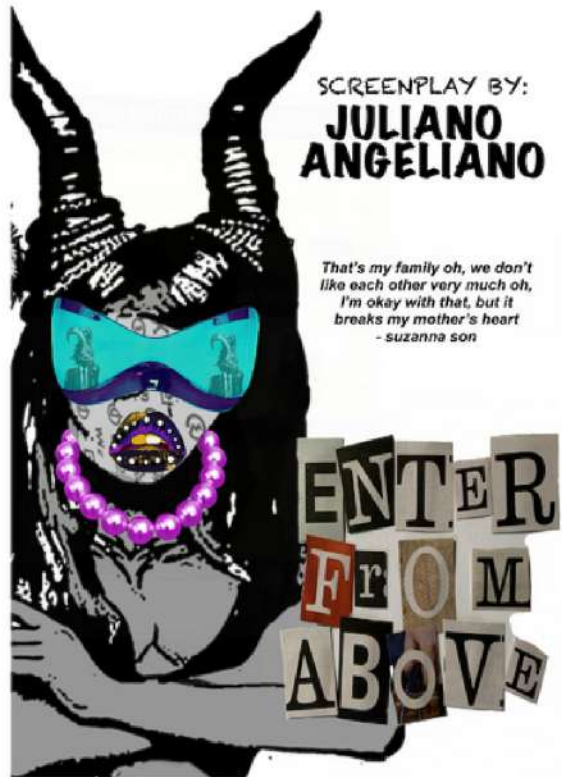
 @JAngeliano

 Juliano Angeliano

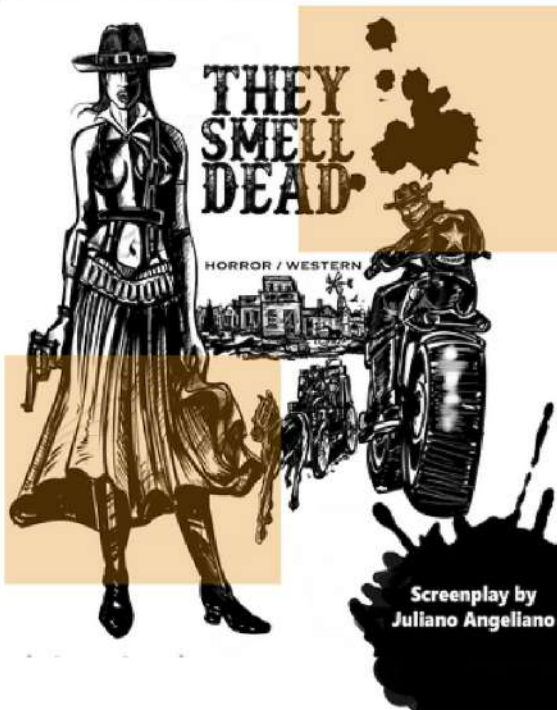


The fruits of his labor blossomed into a plethora of awards and accolades, adorning his desk like celestial guardians, their presence a testament to his prowess as a purveyor of worlds and souls. With each accolade reflecting sunlight, Juliano saw himself as a conduit, breathing life into characters and scenarios, sipping sparkling water from the fountains of France as if to toast his own creativity.

For Juliano, life revolved around three simple joys: the exhilarating rush of "FADE IN," signaling the start of a new cinematic journey; the satisfying conclusion of "FADE OUT," marking the culmination of his creative endeavors; and the spontaneous exuberance of stepping into the night air, channeling the spirit of "THIS IS SPARTA" with an infectious energy that defied the slumbering world around him.



A TOWN WITH ONE THEME, FUCK AROUND, FIND OUT



"SAVE THE TRUTH FOR YOUR LAWYER, YOU WANNA BE A SCREENWRITER, LEARN TO LIE, A LOT."

—Juliano Angeliano


Through his unique approach to storytelling, Juliano Angeliano carved a niche for himself in the realm of screenwriting, transcending the boundaries of convention to craft narratives that resonated with audiences on a profound level.


With each screenplay he penned, he not only captured imaginations but also left an indelible mark on the fabric of cinematic history, cementing his legacy as a master of his craft.


# MICHELLE ARTHUR

 American

 Actress


 Producer


 Director

 Writer

Michelle Arthur's journey into the world of Hollywood began at a young age, influenced by her second cousin Todd Miller, who graced the silver screen in classic films like "A STAR IS BORN." This early exposure ignited her passion for the entertainment industry, setting the stage for a remarkable career ahead.

During her high school years, Arthur distinguished herself as a talented gymnast, earning recognition as a 2-time "Most Valuable Player" and contributing to the Flag & Rifle Corp.

 Michelle Arthur

 Fate's Shadow



Michelle Arthur

Her dedication and discipline in athletics laid a solid foundation for her future endeavors in the performing arts. Arthur pursued her academic interests by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Indiana University. Additionally, she honed her craft through studies at prestigious institutions such as UCLA, Actors Edge Studios, Artist Theatre Group, and Studio 4, enriching her skills in acting and filmmaking. Transitioning from a successful magazine career, Arthur immersed herself in the heart of the entertainment industry, contributing to renowned publications like *COSMOPOLITAN* and *THE NEW YORKER*. Her relocation to Los Angeles marked a pivotal moment in her career as she ventured into acting, initially appearing as a Background Artist before making strides as a speaking Actress. Collaborating with legendary filmmakers, she made her mark in studio films and television shows, showcasing her talent and versatility on screen.




**"GO THE EXTRA MILE.  
IT'S WORTH IT."**

—Michelle Arthur




Arthur's creative spirit and drive led her to explore various aspects of filmmaking, including writing, directing, producing, and acting. Her dedication bore fruit with the creation of five distinct projects, including three feature films: "FATE'S SHADOW: THE WHOLE STORY," "THE WISTERIA MANOR," and "RINGS OF THE UNPROMISED," along with two shorts: "V & F" and "FATE'S SHADOW" (the short film adaptation of the feature). These works earned her an impressive 142 wins and 44 nominations from film festivals worldwide, solidifying her reputation as a formidable force in the industry. Throughout her journey, Arthur draws inspiration from her unwavering passion for every aspect of filmmaking, whether behind or in front of the camera. Her relentless dedication to her craft continues to drive her to new heights, making her a true powerhouse in Hollywood.

# NATHAN BENHAM


 English

 Actor

 Filmmaker

 Director


Nathan Benham, a prominent figure in English cinema, was born in Norfolk, England, laying the foundation for a remarkable career as an actor and filmmaker. Beginning his artistic journey on the theatrical stage, Benham meticulously honed his craft, displaying an innate talent for performance. Transitioning seamlessly to the realm of film, he quickly garnered attention for his versatility and depth on screen.

 [tattsntalent.com](https://tattsntalent.com)

 [@benhammedia](#)

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Nathan Benham

In 2018, Nathan Benham marked his directorial debut with the captivating short film "Pulled into Focus," showcasing not only his prowess in front of the camera but also his adeptness behind it. This milestone solidified his position as a multifaceted artist with a keen eye for storytelling.

Benham's acting portfolio is a testament to his range, spanning across various genres and earning him accolades for his compelling portrayals and intricate character work. His dedication to his craft shines through in every performance, captivating audiences and critics alike.

Beyond his artistic endeavors, Nathan Benham is a passionate advocate for arts education, recognizing its pivotal role in nurturing budding talents.




### "TODAYS CEILING IS TOMORROWS FLOOR."


—Kevin Hart

Leveraging his platform and influence, he actively supports initiatives aimed at empowering aspiring creatives, embodying a commitment to fostering the next generation of storytellers.

As his career continues to flourish, Nathan Benham remains at the forefront of English cinema, breaking new ground and captivating audiences worldwide. With his captivating on-screen presence and innovative approach to filmmaking, he stands poised to leave an indelible mark on the industry for years to come.


# HALASIOUS BRADFORD

 Argentine/American

 Director

 Editor


 Writer

 High Blood Production  
Company

Halasius Bradford is an award-winning writer, video editor, and filmmaker known for his exceptional talent and diverse skill set. Coming from a marginal, low-income background in Argentina, Bradford's journey is one of perseverance and dedication. He was the first in his family to attain a higher education and excelled in his academic pursuits.

 [halasius.com](http://halasius.com)

 [hbproductioncompany.com](http://hbproductioncompany.com)

 @Halasius

 Halasius Bradford

 Halasius Bradford



Halasius Bradford & Laura Bollinger

Bradford holds multiple degrees from prestigious institutions. He graduated "Summa Cum Laude" from California State University, Northridge, with a Bachelor's degree in Arts in Cinema and TV and a Master's degree in Fine Arts in Screenwriting. He also has multiple associate degrees in Film, TV, and Broadcasting; Directing; Screenwriting; Postproduction; and Political Science from Los Angeles Valley College. Bradford also holds a degree in Spanish Literature from his home country, Argentina.

His academic achievements include membership in the esteemed Phi Kappa Phi society and the recognition of the "President's Distinguished Honors Award" in the United States.



**"CULTURE IS THE RESULT OF THE HUMAN SURVIVAL INSTINCT. WE ARE THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF HISTORY."**

—Halasius Bradford

Bradford's talent extends beyond writing and editing; he is a prolific writer of screenplays, poetry, and philosophy. His multifaceted career also includes acting with over two decades of experience and being a multi-instrumentalist songwriter.

One of Bradford's most notable works is his award-winning short film, "EDGES - the borders that define us," which sheds light on the civil rights of detained children at the US-Mexico border. His contributions to cinema and storytelling have earned him acclaim and respect in the industry, marking him as a prominent figure in contemporary filmmaking.

# BROOKE LEWIS BELLAS



American



Actress



Producer



Executive Producer



Philly Chick Pictures

Brooke Lewis Bellas is a distinguished actress and producer, recognized for her remarkable contributions to film and television. Born with a passion for the arts, she embarked on her journey in her hometown of Philly, where her dreams began to take shape. With an unwavering determination, she ventured to New York City, where she landed her breakthrough role as Donna Marsala in the Actors' Equity Association Off-Broadway sensation, *Tony n' Tina's Wedding*.



[brookelewisbellas.com](http://brookelewisbellas.com)



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Brooke Lewis Bellas



The allure of Hollywood beckoned, and Brooke made the pivotal decision to relocate, establishing Philly Chick Pictures in 2002. Her career gained momentum with notable performances in a variety of genres, including the mystery *iMurders* on STARZ, where she starred alongside luminaries such as Billy Dee Williams, Gabrielle Anwar, and Frank Grillo. She also showcased her talent in the mobster film *Sinatra Club*, captivating audiences with her portrayal opposite Michael Nouri, Danny Nucci, and Jason Gedrick, a production later featured on Netflix.

Brooke's impact extends beyond her on-screen accomplishments. In 2020, her contributions to the horror genre were immortalized in the best-selling historical commemorative book '1000 Women In Horror, 1895-2018'. Her legacy was further celebrated in 2021 with her induction into the Phillytainment 'PA Celebrity Hall Of Fame', cementing her status as a revered figure in the entertainment industry. With each role she undertakes and each accolade she receives, Brooke Lewis Bellas continues to captivate audiences worldwide with her talent, dedication, and undeniable charisma.


**"I DEDICATE THIS TO ALL CREATIVES WHO DARE TO DREAM... AND DO NOT APOLOGIZE FOR IT!"**

—Brooke Lewis Bellas


In 2007, Brooke's versatility shone through in the thriller *Kinky Killers* on SHOWTIME, where she shared the screen with esteemed actors Charles Durning and Michael Pare. This role marked a turning point in her career, earning her the title of 'Scream Queen.' Her prowess as an actress was further acknowledged in 2019 when she was inducted into The Carney Board, an esteemed honor from The Carney Awards Character Actor Hall Of Fame, established in tribute to the legendary Art Carney.



# TANNER BEARD

 American





 Writer

 Director

 Actor

 Silver Sail Entertainment

Tanner Beard is a multifaceted film and television actor, producer, and director who has made a significant impact in the entertainment industry. Born on September 16, 1984, in Big Spring Hospital near his hometown of Snyder, Texas, he was named Neal Tanner Beard after his father, Ricky Neal Beard. Tanner's heritage includes Irish, Scottish, Norwegian, English, French, Cherokee, Caddo, and Choctaw Indian descent, primarily from his mother Janice's side.

 [silversailentertainment.com](http://silversailentertainment.com)  [@tannerbeard](https://twitter.com/tannerbeard)  
 [@tannerbeardpage](https://www.facebook.com/tannerbeardpage)  [@tannerbeard](https://www.instagram.com/tannerbeard)



Tanner Beard

Beard's passion for film led him to attend the New York Film Academy in Hollywood shortly after finishing high school. His career began with the comedy television series "Valley Peaks," which he produced, wrote, directed, and starred in for two seasons.

Throughout his career, Tanner has worked in various aspects of motion pictures and television. As a director, he adapted his Western short film "Mouth of Caddo" into the feature film "Legend of Hell's Gate," featuring actors such as Kevin Alejandro, Summer Glau, Henry Thomas, and Glenn Morshower. He also produced and starred in the European Western "6 Bullets to Hell," shot on sets from Sergio Leone and Clint Eastwood classics in Spain, with music by Ennio Morricone.

Beard's acting credits include roles in "The Letter" alongside Winona Ryder and James



Franco, Robert Rodriguez's "From Dusk Till Dawn: The Series," and SXSW darlings "Sylvio" and "Barracuda" with Allison Tolman from " Fargo." His other works include "We Summon The Darkness" and "I Wanna Dance With Somebody."

As a producer, Tanner has made a name for himself with major films featuring stars such as Aaron Paul, Juliette Lewis, Cate Blanchett, Brad Pitt, Christian Bale, Natalie Portman, Antonio Banderas, Ryan Gosling, Michael Fassbender, Val Kilmer, and Brad Pitt.


Tanner Beard is also the CEO of Silver Sail Entertainment and Co-Founder of Mammoth Film Festival. His contributions to the industry over the decades have solidified his reputation as a creative force in film and television.



# DEE BROWN

 United States Of America

 Writer


 Director

 Producer

 Self Made Entertainment, Inc.


Dee Brown is a multifaceted entrepreneur who has made significant contributions across various fields such as real estate, entertainment, and philanthropy. As the Founder and CEO of The P3 Group, Inc., he leads the nation's largest African American-owned public-private partnership real estate development firm, demonstrating a strong commitment to economic development and community revitalization.

 [thep3groupinc.com](https://thep3groupinc.com)

 [DeeBrownCEO.com](https://DeeBrownCEO.com)

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 [@DeeBrownCEO](https://twitter.com/DeeBrownCEO)

 [Dee Brown](https://www.facebook.com/DeeBrown)



Dee Brown

In addition to his accomplishments in the real estate industry, Dee Brown is also deeply involved in the entertainment sector. He serves as the President and CEO of Self Made Entertainment, Inc., a music and film production company that focuses on producing quality content. His streaming channel, Self Made TV, offers a platform for diverse voices and stories in the entertainment world.

Beyond his entrepreneurial pursuits, Dee Brown is a dedicated philanthropist. He founded and serves as Chairman Emeritus of the Brown Foundation Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization that aims to enhance community development and improve the lives of others. Through this foundation, Brown supports various initiatives and programs that contribute positively to society.



**“WE USE OUR CAMERAS TO TELL SOULFUL, EDUCATIONAL STORIES THAT INSPIRE ACTION FOR A MORE UNDERSTANDING, COMPASSIONATE WORLD.”**

—Dee Brown

Dee Brown’s versatility extends to his work as a producer, director, writer, and author, showcasing his ability to excel in different creative areas. His work has earned him numerous awards and recognition, further establishing his reputation as a leader in his fields of expertise.




Throughout his career, Dee Brown has demonstrated a strong commitment to creating opportunities for others and giving back to his community. His multifaceted approach to business, entertainment, and philanthropy makes him a notable figure who continues to make a lasting impact on various industries and the lives of many people.



# SILVIA BUSACCA

-  Italian
-  Actress
-  Producer
-  Director

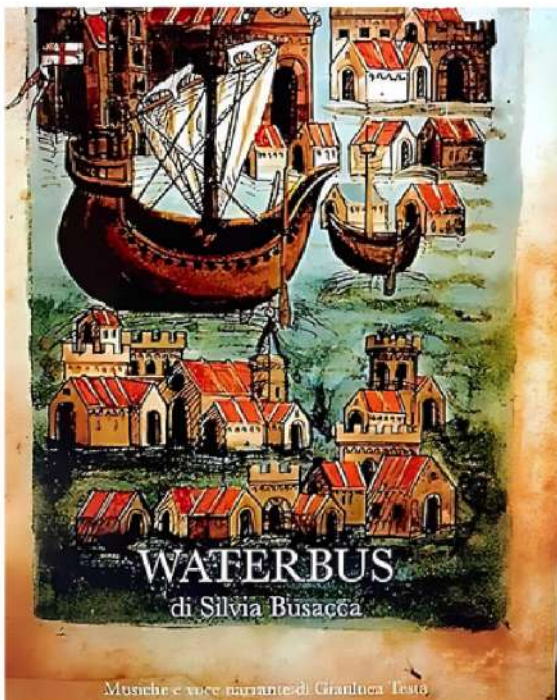
Silvia Busacca, an emerging force in the world of filmmaking and acting, was born in Ragusa, Italy. Her journey is marked by resilience and determination, as she navigated personal tragedy to carve out an international career. Following the loss of both her parents, Busacca found purpose as a diplomatic spokesperson for the UNITED Nations youth. Her artistic journey began with a brief period of study at the Accademia Artisti in Rome, where she immersed herself in the craft of filmmaking.

-  busaccasil
-  Silvia Busacca
-  @silviabusaccaattrice



Silvia Busacca

Through participation in masterclasses led by both Italian and international directors, Busacca refined her skills and broadened her artistic horizons. Her collaboration with the International Center for Generative Expressive Studies in Rome further enriched her understanding of the creative process. In 2017, Busacca's talent caught the attention of audiences and critics alike at the Venice Film Festival, propelling her career to new heights. This pivotal moment served as a catalyst for her subsequent endeavors in both acting and directing. As a filmmaker, Busacca has crafted poignant narratives that resonate deeply with audiences. Her short films, including "RUMORS" set in the picturesque Marche region and "WATERBUS" dedicated to the iconic city of Venice, have garnered international acclaim and accolades. In 2019, Busacca took on the role of protagonist in "IN LIMINE," earning recognition at Italian festivals and receiving an honorary award from the Centre for Generative Expressive Studies Rome.



**"IN ITALIAN CINEMA, THE SOUL OF WOMEN SHINES LIKE STARS, BRINGING LIGHT AND DEPTH TO EVERY SCENE."**

— Silvia Busacca

In 2022, Busacca transitioned into directing, making her debut with "RUMORS," followed by the release of "WATERBUS" in collaboration with the International Centre for Generative Expressive Studies. The latter film garnered significant recognition, including nine category awards at the Good Vibes International Film Festival in India.

Busacca's dedication to her craft and her ability to seamlessly transition between acting and directing have solidified her position as a rising star in the film industry. With each project, she continues to captivate audiences and earn accolades, cementing her legacy as a versatile and talented filmmaker and actress.

# CHRISTIAN CANDIDO



Italian



Director



Writer



Vision in Motion

Christian Candido, a visionary screenwriter and filmmaker, embarked on his creative journey at the tender age of 14, penning his first screenplays. Hailing from Turin, Italy, he honed his craft by immersing himself in the study of Semiology of Cinema, laying the groundwork for a prolific career ahead.

Collaborating with independent filmmakers early on, Christian's passion for storytelling flourished effortlessly.



vision-in-motion.net



@christian\_candido



Christian Candido



Drawing inspiration from a diverse array of sources, he delved into the works of visionary directors like Chris Cunningham, Anton Corbijn, and Michel Gondry. His fascination extended to anime masterpieces such as "Ergo Proxy," "Evangelion," and "Full Metal Alchemist." Christian's artistic vision was further shaped by the cinematic landscapes of Japan, drawing from the elegance of Ozu, the precision of Kurosawa, and the poetry of Miyazaki.

**"CINEMA FOCUSES ON BONDS, CLASHES, AND DIFFERENCES THAT EXPLODE WITHIN THE CHARACTERS."**

— Christian Candido

Yet, he also found inspiration in the grittiness portrayed by directors like Anno, Tsukamoto, and Fukasaku. His acclaimed short films, including "REDSHIFT," "BOOMBOX (THE GOD OF THE DANCE)," and "DREAMING VINCENT" (2024), have garnered an impressive tally of 50 international awards.


These works explore the intricate interplay between technology's intelligence and human emotions, a recurring theme that forms the cornerstone of Christian's storytelling.


Looking ahead, Christian's creative pursuits are poised to expand with the development of the "BOOMBOX" TV series and upcoming film projects.


Through his unique blend of influences, which meld the styles of Cassavetes and Malick, Burton and del Toro, Fellini and Linklater, Christian Candido continues to carve his niche in the realm of magical realism, leaving an indelible mark on the cinematic landscape.



# YIWEN CAO

 Chinese

 Screenwriter

 Director

 Actress

 Novelist

Yiwen Cao, a pioneering filmmaker from Hong Kong, China, stands at the forefront of the contemporary Chinese cinema scene. Her latest animation short, "Release" Nuclear Contaminated Water, is set to debut at the prestigious Festival de Cannes on its Animation day in May 2024. Born out of a desire to shed light on humanity's future crises post-Japan Fukushima disaster, the film serves as a poignant fable aimed at awakening environmental consciousness. Selected by the Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival, this project further solidifies Yiwen's reputation as a filmmaker with a profound message.

 Yiwen Cao

 Yiwen Cao



Yiwen Cao

A director, screenwriter, and actress, Yiwen Cao's commitment to crafting thought-provoking narratives distinguishes her in the industry. Her diverse body of work includes acclaimed films such as "Chubby Café" (2019), "Graduation" (2023), and the recently selected "Invader and Defender" (2023). Through suspenseful plots and authentic scenes, Yiwen immerses audiences in the emotional worlds of her characters, encouraging reflection on universal human experiences.

In "Invader and Defender," a single-take film about two pigeons, Yiwen delves into themes of conflict, possession, and perspective. Meanwhile, "Graduation" offers a poignant exploration of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on layoffs, prompting empathy and reflection. With "Chubby Café," Yiwen delivers humorous and insightful commentary on the diversity of human experiences, showcasing her versatility as a filmmaker.



**"A TRAILBLAZING FILMMAKER  
REDEFINING CINEMA WITH  
PURPOSE."**

Yiwen's filmmaking philosophy centers on healing and inspiring viewers facing life's challenges. Through her work, she challenges conventional norms, particularly exploring gender ambiguity in her latest project, to foster understanding and empathy. Drawing inspiration from real-life experiences and a commitment to feminism, Yiwen aims to empower women to pursue education and dreams without inhibition.

Yiwen Cao's vision extends beyond entertainment; she believes in the transformative power of storytelling to address societal challenges and shape a better world. Guided by ethical principles and supported by her loved ones, Yiwen is dedicated to her craft, continually learning, and striving to fulfill her ambitious dreams. As a filmmaker committed to authenticity and meaningful storytelling, Yiwen Cao stands as a beacon of inspiration in the global cinematic landscape.






# MAYLEN CALIENES

-  Cuban/American
-  Director
-  Producer
-  Writer
-  MayCal Productions

Maylen Calienes is a Cuban-American multi-talented artist in the entertainment industry, excelling as a producer, writer, director, and actor. Her career began in theatre, where she honed her skills in writing, directing, and acting. As she transitioned into the indie film scene, she gained recognition for her unique storytelling and impactful work.

Her films and TV pilot have been showcased at top film festivals worldwide, demonstrating her versatility and commitment to quality.

-  @Maylen\_Calienes
-  @the\_MayCal
-  Maylen Calienes



Maylen Calienes

Calienes has made significant contributions to the industry, including Executive Producing the Student Academy Award-winning film "Esta es tu Cuba" and "The Shadow of the Sun," which was Venezuela's official selection for the 96th Academy Awards.

Her comedy, "The Three Bilinguals," has gained both domestic and international acclaim for its universal story that amplifies the American Latino voice.

As an advocate for diversity and inclusion, Maylen founded the Latino Filmmakers Network in 2015 at the Sundance Film Festival. This nonprofit organization aims to bring visibility, opportunity, and proper representation to the Latiné community within the entertainment industry.



**"STORYTELLERS HAVE THE SUPERPOWER TO INSPIRE AND CREATE A POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE WORLD."**





— Maylen Calienes

Her entrepreneurial spirit led her to establish MayCal Productions, focusing on indie films, and co-found QueEyeTV.com, a platform that features bilingual (English/Spanish) voices to expand the narrative.

Additionally, she co-founded Multi-Studios, a film studio that produces long and short form content specializing in commercially viable and diverse stories with impactful, lasting social messages.

Maylen Calienes's dedication to creating meaningful content and advocating for diversity has positioned her as a leading voice in the entertainment industry. Her commitment to elevating underrepresented voices continues to make a positive impact in the world of film and television.


# SAMANTHA CASELLA

-  Italian
-  Actress
-  Screenwriter
-  Director

Samantha Casella is a distinguished filmmaker with a diverse portfolio that spans short films, documentaries, and feature films. Her journey in the film industry began with formal education in screenwriting, directing, and acting in both Italy and the United States. Her passion for storytelling quickly translated into successful projects.

 [samanthacasella.com](https://samanthacasella.com)

 [Samantha Casella](#)

 [@samanthacasella](#)



Samantha Casella

Casella's early works include notable short films and documentaries such as *Mediterraneo*, which was presented at the Venice Biennale, and *Via Crucis al Pantheon*, a documentary exploring the creation process of the Via Crucis installed at the Pantheon in Rome. Another significant work, *Self-portrait with Pope*, documented a gift given to Pope Benedict XVI. In 2019, Casella directed the short film *I Am Banksy*, which premiered at the TCL Chinese Theater in Los Angeles during the Golden State Film Festival. The film received critical acclaim, winning Best International Short. In 2020, she directed *To A God Unknown*, a short film that won 228 awards at international festivals, further establishing her reputation as a talented director. Casella also demonstrated her versatility by receiving several best actress awards for her performance in the short film *The Antithesis of Love*. Casella's debut feature film, *Santa Guerra*, was previewed at a special event during the 79th Venice International Film Festival.



**"THANKS TO INGMAR BERGMAN, TERRENCE MALICK AND DAVID LYNCH FOR SHOWING ME ANOTHER WORLD. THANKS TO MY PARENTS FOR GIVING ME LIFE."**

— Samantha Casella


The film's success was evident as it secured over 600 awards at festivals across 55 different countries. This achievement solidified Casella's status as a prominent filmmaker on the international stage.

Looking ahead, Casella's second feature film, *Katabasis*, is set to be released in 2024. She not only directs the film but also takes on an acting role, showcasing her multifaceted talents within the industry. With a remarkable career trajectory and a clear passion for her craft, Samantha Casella is poised to continue making a significant impact on the world of cinema.



# MIKE CHASE

 United Kingdom

 Screenwriter

Mike Chase stands as a testament to the transformative power of passion, dedication, and talent in the dynamic realm of screenwriting. As a self-taught wordsmith, he has meticulously crafted his storytelling prowess over the span of six years, with an unwavering commitment to his craft. Inspired by the visionary works of Quentin Tarantino, Steven Spielberg, Sylvester Stallone, and Andy Serkis, Chase has delved into various genres, each serving as a canvas for his creative expression.

For the past four years, Chase has immersed himself in the intricate art of writing, honing his skills and refining his



Mike Chase

narrative voice. His journey, however, extends beyond the solitary act of creation; it extends to the global stage of film festivals and competitions. Leveraging platforms like FilmFreeway, he has actively submitted his work to countless events worldwide, eager to share his stories with diverse audiences.

The fruits of Chase's labor are evident in the myriad accolades he has garnered. With Forty-Four Awards, four Finalist Awards, one Semi-Finalist Award, Six Quarter-Finalist Awards, Thirteen Honourable Mentions, Five Nominations, One Critics Choice Award, and One International Cinema Community Incentive Award under his belt, his talent has been recognized and celebrated across continents.

From the bustling streets of New York to the serene landscapes of Japan, Chase's work has resonated with audiences and industry professionals alike. His screenplays have traversed borders, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of viewers from Canada to Turkey and everywhere in between.

What sets Chase apart is not just his ability to craft compelling narratives but also his knack for forging meaningful connections within the industry. Festival scouts and directors have taken notice of his talent, often reaching out directly to feature his screenplays in their events.

This personal validation serves as a testament to the impact of his storytelling prowess and underscores his burgeoning reputation as a formidable force in the world of cinema.

As Chase continues to embark on his creative journey, the future holds boundless possibilities. With each new script, he pushes the boundaries of storytelling, captivating audiences and cementing his legacy as a visionary screenwriter. In an industry fueled by innovation and imagination, Mike Chase stands as a shining example of the transformative power of passion, dedication, and talent.



**"NEVER BE AFRAID TO BE YOURSELF. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT UNIQUE PEOPLE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE CHANGED HISTORY."**

—Mike Chase

# FLORENCE CAZEBON-TAVEAU

 French

 Actress

 Writer

Florence Cazebon-Taveau, a multi-faceted artist hailing from France, embodies the essence of creativity across various mediums. Her journey spans a rich tapestry of endeavors, blending historical research, writing, acting, and spiritual exploration.

For over 15 years, Florence has delved into historical mysteries, producing more than ten books on subjects ranging from the enigmatic treasure of Abbey Sauniere of Rennes-le-Château to the sacred Grail of the Templars.



Florence Cazebon-Taveau

Notably, her screenplay "Quand le mystérieux Prieuré de Sion s'invite à Rennes le château" has garnered acclaim, boasting 193 awards on Filmfreeway for Best Screenplay. Blending historical facts with her mediumistic insights and automatic writing, Florence's work transcends boundaries, captivating audiences with the power of words.

Beyond her literary pursuits, Florence is a prolific writer with twenty published books, exploring figures such as Van Gogh, Cocteau, Cézanne, and Camille Claudel. Not content with mere prose, she brings her characters to life on screen, starring as Camille Claudel in a pilot sequence available on YouTube.

Her artistic expression extends to the visual realm as well, with her paintings showcased on platforms like YouTube and the European Art Museum.



## Florence Taveau

Préface de Laurent Louchet

Quand le mystérieux prieuré  
de Sion s'invite à Rennes-le-Château



*Long métrage fiction*


Edilivre

Florence's contributions to the Gazette de Rennes Le Château further solidify her presence in the artistic and historical communities.


Influenced by the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock, Florence's work often revolves around themes of mystery and suspense, captivating audiences with her intricately woven narratives.

Florence Cazebon-Taveau's legacy is one of boundless creativity and relentless exploration. Through her writing, acting, and spiritual endeavors, she continues to push the boundaries of art and knowledge, inviting audiences to journey with her into the depths of history and imagination.

# JUDE PETER DAMIAN

 Indian

 Writer

 Producer

 Director

Jude Peter Damian is a distinguished Fellow Chartered Accountant (CA) hailing from Chennai, India, boasting an impressive professional tenure spanning over 30 years in corporate work related to the CA profession. While his expertise lies in the domain of finance, Damian's passion extends beyond balance sheets and ledgers.

In 2020-21, Damian embarked on a creative journey by enrolling in a course on Film Direction at the renowned "LV Prasad Film & TV Academy" in Chennai.

 [cathyrphy.com](http://cathyrphy.com)

 Jude Damian



Jude Peter Damian

This decision marked a pivotal moment in his career trajectory, steering him toward the realm of filmmaking. His debut venture into cinema, "SHASHTHI," emerged in early 2022 as a short film with a runtime of approximately half an hour. This poignant creation garnered widespread acclaim, clinching over 75 awards, including nominations, from more than 35 international film festivals. The accolades testify to Damian's innate talent and dedication to the craft. "SHASHTHI" has since been made available on prominent streaming platforms like Apple TV and Google TV, further solidifying Damian's presence in the cinematic landscape. Undeterred by his initial success, Damian continued to push creative boundaries. In early 2023, he unveiled his second short film titled "SARAS," boasting a runtime of fifteen minutes.




**"EVERY MEANINGFUL ACT CONTRIBUTES TO THE SOCIETY POSITIVELY. SO DOES THE ART OF FILMMAKING."**

—Jude Peter Damian

Once again, Damian's directorial prowess shone through as "SARAS" amassed over 70 awards, including nominations, from 20 international film festivals. Both "SHASHTHI" and "SARAS" bear testament to Damian's multifaceted talents as he not only directed but also wrote and produced these cinematic gems. As Damian looks ahead to 2024, he harbors ambitious plans to elevate his craft further. With a resolve to create at least two short films of superior quality, Damian aims to make significant contributions to Indian cinema. His unwavering commitment to artistic excellence and storytelling promises to leave an indelible mark on the cinematic landscape, cementing his status as a visionary filmmaker.

# CLAUDIA DATO

 American


 Screenwriter

Claudia Dato, a seasoned professional in both government service and the creative realm, boasts a rich tapestry of experiences that define her multifaceted persona. Graduating from Chico State University in California with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, Claudia's academic journey was underscored by her deep dive into criminology and victimology, laying the groundwork for her future endeavors.

With an impressive career spanning over three decades within various governmental capacities, Claudia's contributions have been both diverse and impactful.

Notably, she served as a County sexual assault response team coordinator, showcasing her commitment to advocacy and support for victims of such heinous crimes.

 [cddato.wixsite.com/clauidadato](https://cddato.wixsite.com/clauidadato)

 Claudia Sigona Dato

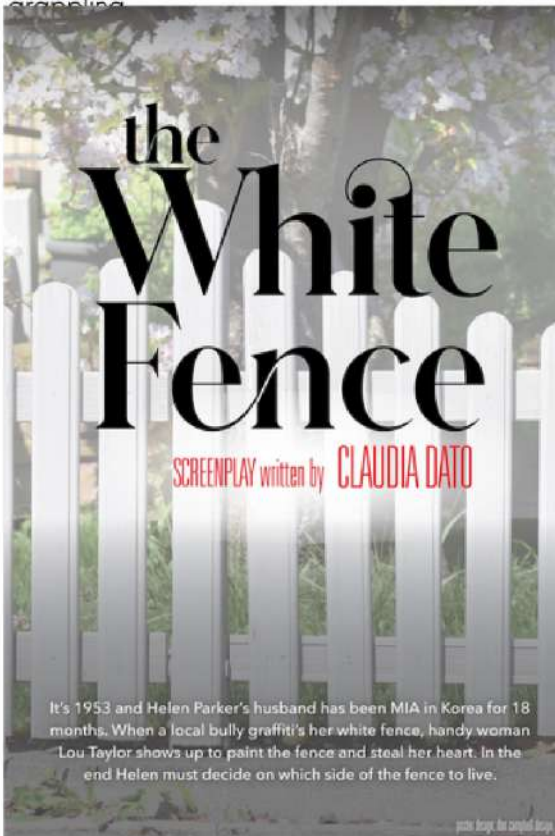
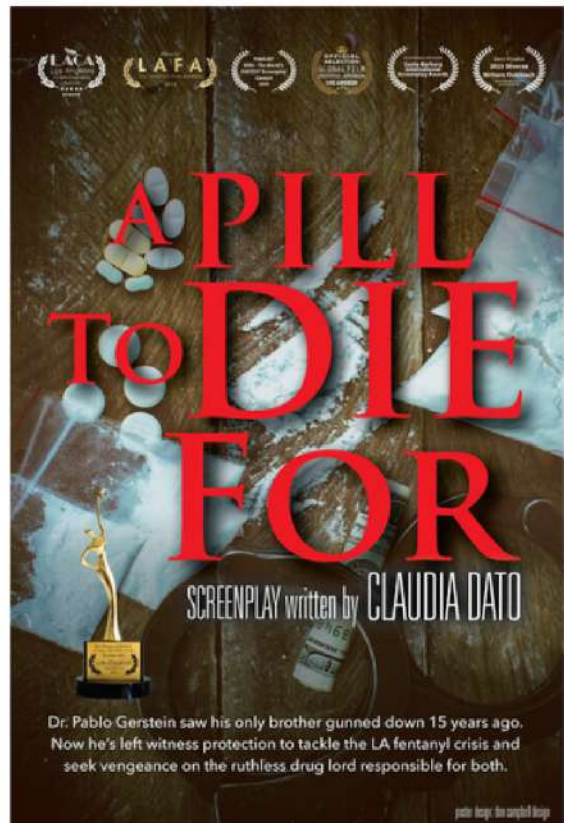


Claudia Dato

Despite her extensive governmental tenure, Claudia harbored an enduring passion for writing and cinema, passions she cultivated throughout her life. It wasn't until the age of 55 that she boldly leapt into the realm of screenwriting, demonstrating an indomitable spirit and an unwavering pursuit of her dreams. Her debut feature screenplay, "A Pill to Die For," garnered widespread acclaim and numerous awards, offering a fictionalized narrative that delved into the harrowing depths of the Los Angeles fentanyl crisis and one man's relentless quest for justice against a merciless drug lord.

Building on this success, Claudia's subsequent screenplay, "The White Fence," resonated with audiences, particularly within the LGBTQ+ community, earning accolades at prestigious film festivals.

Set against the backdrop of the Korean War era, the story intricately weaves themes of love, loss, and resilience as it follows a woman



**"THANKS TO MY WIFE BEANNE FOR HER LOVE AND SUPPORT, AND TO KEITH FOR ENTRUSTING HIS LIFE STORY TO ME."**


—Claudia Dato

grappling with her husband's disappearance amidst societal pressures and her burgeoning affection for a local handywoman. Currently engrossed in her third screenplay endeavor, "White Hawk Rising," Claudia continues to explore poignant narratives that confront societal injustices. Centered around a Native American man ensnared in the quagmire of a life sentence, the screenplay promises to shed light on issues of systemic oppression and redemption.

Claudia Dato's journey epitomizes resilience, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to storytelling that transcends boundaries and inspires audiences worldwide.

# MATTHEW DAVIS

 American

 Director

 Actor

 Producer

Matthew Davis, affectionately known by his artistic moniker No Juliet, emerges as a dynamic and multi-talented creative force, transcending traditional boundaries to leave an indelible mark on the cultural landscape. With a repertoire that spans music, wearable art, film, fashion, and beyond, Davis's journey is a testament to the transformative power of creativity, resilience, and the human spirit.

 nojuliet.com  Matthew Davis (No Juliet)

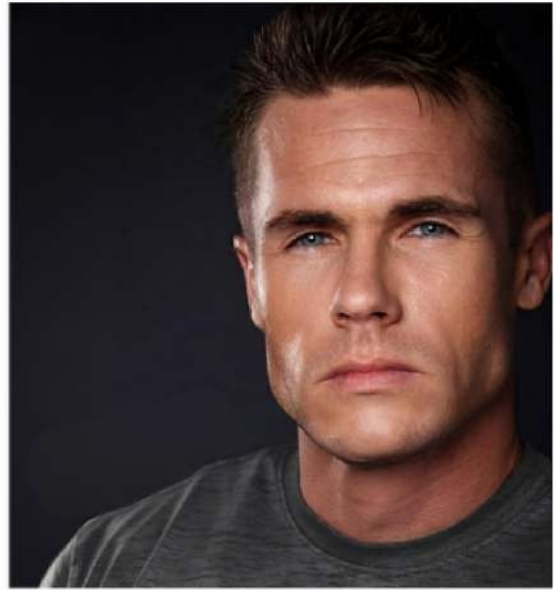
 @nojuliet  @no\_juliet

 @bornstrangr  @born\_strangr



Matthew Davis

At the heart of Davis's artistic expression lies his music—a soul-stirring amalgamation of heartfelt lyricism, evocative melodies, and raw emotion. Through his music, Davis delves fearlessly into the depths of his own psyche, baring his soul and laying bare the struggles and triumphs that have shaped his journey. From the haunting echoes of past traumas to the soaring crescendos of newfound liberation, each song is a deeply personal testament to the transformative power of self-expression and the catharsis it brings. But Davis's creative vision extends far beyond the realm of music. As a visionary artist and designer, he channels his boundless imagination into wearable art, crafting visually stunning pieces that blur the lines between fashion and fine art. From intricately embroidered garments to avant-garde accessories, each creation is a testament to Davis's unparalleled artistic vision and his relentless pursuit of innovation and originality. In addition to his musical and sartorial endeavors, Davis is also a consummate storyteller, exploring the complexities of the human experience through the medium of film.



**"DON'T LET THE WAY YOU SEE YOURSELF BE THROUGH OTHER'S EYES."**

—Unknown


With a keen eye for detail and a flair for the dramatic, he brings stories to life on the silver screen, captivating audiences with his unique blend of visual flair and emotional resonance. As a public figure, Davis defies categorization, embracing the fluidity of creativity and the boundless possibilities it offers. His message is clear: in a world of conformity and convention, the truest expression of self lies in breaking free from the constraints of societal expectations and following the call of one's own heart. With an unwavering commitment to personal well-being and artistic integrity, Matthew Davis, aka No Juliet, serves as an inspiration to aspiring creatives everywhere, urging them to cultivate their passions, nurture their talents, and prioritize their mental and emotional health. In a world often governed by conformity and convention, Davis stands as a beacon of individuality and authenticity, reminding us all to embrace our inner artists and chart our own paths towards fulfillment and self-discovery.


# ALAIN DESLONGCHAMPS

 Canadian

 Director

 Producer

 Writer

 Imagine Films  
Communication

Alain Deslongchamps, a native of Montreal, Canada, embarked on his journey into the realm of filmmaking while studying at the Faculty of Communication at UQAM. Armed with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication, he honed his skills in filmmaking and screenwriting in Montreal before venturing to the New York Film Academy in 2004 to further refine his craft. His dedication to his passion led him to Europe, where he immersed himself in the art of filmmaking from 2000 to 2008, gaining invaluable experience in both fiction and commercial films.

 [alaindeslongchamps.com](http://alaindeslongchamps.com)  [filmsimagineart](#)

 [Alain Deslongchamps](#)  [Alain Deslongchamps](#)



Alain Deslongchamps



Deslongchamps' talent behind the camera began to gain recognition with his latest short fiction films, "Good Vibes" and "Le Choix de Sofia." These works garnered critical acclaim, with "Good Vibes" being distributed by ShortsTV and screened over 100 times across the USA and Europe. Meanwhile, "Le Choix de Sofia" made its mark in top-tier film festivals, accumulating numerous awards and accolades along the way.

**"IT IS NOT BECAUSE WE ARE DREAMERS, THAT WE ARE ASLEEP!"**


—Alain Deslongchamps


As an accomplished director, writer, and producer, Deslongchamps is dedicated to weaving global narratives through a unique lens. Drawing from his two decades of experience in the industry, he delves into profound themes such as the quest for meaning, climate change, and the complexities of human choices. His films serve as thought-provoking pieces of art that resonate deeply with audiences, sparking introspection and dialogue.


Currently, Deslongchamps is channeling his expertise and creativity into co-preparing his first feature film, titled "Roads Less Traveled." With this project, he continues to push boundaries and illuminate the human experience through his distinct cinematic vision. Alain Deslongchamps stands as a testament to the power of storytelling, using his talent to craft narratives that leave a lasting impact on viewers worldwide.



# ZONGYUAN FU

 Chinese

 Director

 Screenwriter

Zongyuan Fu is a talented young film director, screenwriter, and editor who has made a significant impact in the film industry at a young age. Born with a passion for films, Fu pursued his dreams by enrolling in and graduating from the prestigious Shanghai Theatre Academy with a major in film directing. His creative mind and keen observation of human relationships and life's intricacies are reflected in his works, which skillfully blend these elements to create captivating films.



Zongyuan Fu

Fu's exceptional talent and dedication have earned him numerous accolades across international film festivals. His representative works have been recognized and celebrated at various festivals, highlighting his exceptional abilities as a filmmaker. At the Serbest International Film Festival, Fu was a semi-finalist, demonstrating his potential as a rising star in the industry. His work continued to gain acclaim, earning him the title of Best First Time Director at the Goa Short Film Festival. Further solidifying his reputation, Fu's works have received recognition at prestigious events such as the Indian International Short Film Festival Awards, where he won the award for Best Short Film. His talent continued to shine on the global stage, receiving accolades at the Global Independent Film Festival of India for his short film.

Fu's remarkable debut as a director was honored at the Alibag Short Film Festival, where he was recognized as the First Time Director.



**"I WRITE PEOPLE, TIME, AND SPACE INTO THE WORLD, AND THEY HAPPEN, AND THEN THEY GO FROM MEMORIES TO SENTIMENT, AND THAT'S MY FILM."**

—Zongyuan Fu

His film was also celebrated at the Seoul Art Film Festival, where he won the award for Best Asian Short Film. His international acclaim extended to the South Asian Independent Film Festival, where he was recognized with the titles of Best International Short Film and Best Director.

Fu's achievements also include winning the Best Debut Short Film at the Gona Film Awards and the Thailand Independent Film Festival. These accolades are a testament to his incredible talent and bright future in the world of cinema. With his passion and dedication, Zongyuan Fu is poised to continue making significant contributions to the film industry.

# HENRY GONZÁLEZ BURGOS



Cuban




Director



Cinematographer

Henry González Burgos is a prominent new director and filmmaker based in Miami, Florida. His journey in the performing arts began in his adolescence, when he developed a passion for cinema. This passion led him to pursue his dreams of becoming a filmmaker. In 2022, he achieved an important milestone by training at the prestigious NYU Tisch Film & TV Industry Essentials program.

His talent and avant-garde approach have established him as a significant figure in the world of cinema, particularly in the seventh art.

 @hgbfilms27



Henry González Burgos

Henry's body of work encompasses music videos, TV commercials, and short films, as well as short documentaries. His artistic vision and innovative style have garnered attention and accolades within the industry.

Henry González Burgos made his debut in filmmaking with two notable films, *Grief* and *Dade Cook*. These films have been recognized for their exceptional storytelling and visual aesthetics. Over the course of two consecutive years, they earned him eleven nominations and three awards at the New Jersey Awards, showcasing his exceptional talent and skill in the craft.

In addition to his success at the New Jersey Awards, Henry's work has also been acknowledged on an international scale. His achievements include winning an award at the Toronto International Filmmakers Festival, further cementing his reputation as an accomplished and influential director.



**"JUST PLAY WITH THE CAMERA  
PRACTICE AND YOU WILL SEE  
PROGRESS, NEVER BE AFRAID OF  
THE CAMERA NEVER."**

— Henry González Burgos

Henry's distinctive style and dedication to his craft have made him a sought-after director in the industry. He continues to push boundaries and explore new possibilities in the world of cinema. His work is characterized by its emotional depth, striking visuals, and compelling narratives, making him a notable figure in the field.

As Henry González Burgos continues to evolve as a filmmaker, his unique approach to storytelling and commitment to excellence promise a bright future. His contributions to the world of cinema will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on the industry, and he is poised to become one of the most influential directors of his generation.



# NADIA GUO

-  Chinese
-  Producer
-  Director
-  Screenwriter
-  AIGC Artist

Nadia Guo, a versatile talent in cinema, dons the hats of director, screenwriter, and producer. Her debut films, "Wish You Well," "Run, Chad Run," and "The Film," mark her entry into the industry with a unique flair. Reflecting on the essence of great filmmaking, Nadia underscores the importance of observation, life experience, and a deep understanding of scripts. She emphasizes the distinct focal points for actors, directors, and screenwriters.

Nadia's cinematic influences include classics like "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Blade Runner," alongside contemporary marvels like "Blade Runner 2049."

 @guo\_nadia47891



Nadia Guo

Her journey into filmmaking began in her thirties, transitioning from a corporate career to pursue her passion. For Nadia, a film serves as a mirror, reflecting the complexities of the human experience.

In the throes of creation, whether acting, directing, or writing, Nadia finds herself consumed by excitement, energy, and sleepless nights. Her dream cinematic outing would involve luminaries like Ridley Scott, Denis Villeneuve, and Christopher Nolan, exploring the realms of science fiction and intricate storytelling. Nadia's ethos echoes Audrey Hepburn's mantra—"Nothing is Impossible." As an independent filmmaker in China, she embraces patience, resilience, and unwavering determination. Passion fuels her journey, but she acknowledges the need for honed skills and empathy to navigate the industry's terrain. Nadia views talent and luck as complementary forces, intertwined with a deeper understanding of the human condition.



### "IN FILM WE TRUST"

—Nadia Guo

Asked to distill her cinematic essence to a film, she chooses "Dune" (2021), a testament to Denis Villeneuve's directorial prowess. Throughout her career, integrity remains paramount. Nadia has never compromised her artistic vision, cherishing profound connections with audiences who see themselves in her work. Satisfied with her journey, Nadia embraces "Content is happiness," ready for new cinematic odysseys. With her Sagittarian luck charm, she navigates challenges gracefully, turning adversity into opportunity. For Nadia Guo, every film set is a canvas of possibilities, where bans on shooting locations spur innovation. As projects end, she anticipates the fruits of her labor and the next creative endeavor. In triumph, she thinks of her father, the architect of her being—a testament to familial support's impact on her cinematic voyage.



# RYOSUKE HANDA



Japanese



Director



Cinematographer



Artist




Writer

Ryosuke Handa, a prolific figure in the realms of literature, cinema, and visual art, was born in the serene environs of Kyoto, Japan. Growing up amidst the lush landscapes of his hometown, Handa developed a deep appreciation for nature, finding inspiration in its myriad sights and sounds. This early connection with the natural world would later inform much of his creative work.

Since the onset of his career in 1990, Handa has distinguished himself as a versatile author, penning an eclectic array of books encompassing art, photography, novels, picture books, and essays.

 [ryosukehanda.com](http://ryosukehanda.com)

 [neugetsu007.jimdofree.com](http://neugetsu007.jimdofree.com)



His literary pursuits have showcased his keen eye for detail and his ability to craft compelling narratives that resonate with audiences worldwide. In addition to his literary endeavors, Handa has made significant contributions to the world of cinema. In 2012, he ventured into the realm of film direction with the short film "Alicematonika," showcasing his emerging talent behind the camera. However, it was his subsequent forays into feature filmmaking that truly solidified his reputation as a visionary filmmaker.

In 2022, Handa directed the acclaimed feature film "Forest Island," a mesmerizing cinematic journey that captivated audiences and critics alike. The film garnered numerous accolades, including several Best Feature and Best Director awards at international film festivals, cementing Handa's status as a directorial force to be reckoned with.



**"NATURE IS THE SOURCE OF ALL TRUE KNOWLEDGE. SHE HAS HER OWN LOGIC, HER OWN LAWS, SHE HAS NO EFFECT WITHOUT CAUSE NOR INVENTION WITHOUT NECESSITY."**

—Leonardo da Vinci

Building upon the success of "Forest Island," Handa continued to push the boundaries of his craft with the release of "Passacaglia" in 2023. Once again, his film received widespread acclaim, earning accolades for its innovative storytelling and masterful direction.

Beyond his accomplishments in literature and filmmaking, Handa is also recognized as a talented visual artist under the pseudonym Ugetsu. His paintings, printings, and large-scale byobu (folding screens) have been exhibited on numerous occasions, showcasing his distinctive aesthetic vision.


In his films, Handa seamlessly integrates his artistic sensibilities, often featuring Ugetsu's artworks in pivotal scenes. As he embarks on his latest directorial venture, slated for release next season, Ryosuke Handa continues to captivate audiences with his unparalleled creativity and boundless imagination.




Ryosuke Handa

# BARBARA BECKER HOLSTEIN


 American

 Director

 Writer

Barbara Becker Holstein is a renowned Positive Psychologist who has dedicated many years to helping individuals, particularly girls and women, unlock their potential and lead lives filled with happiness and purpose. Over the past decade, her career has taken a remarkable turn, propelling her into the realms of authorship, playwriting, and filmmaking, where she has achieved notable success.

 [enchantedself.com](http://enchantedself.com)  Barbara Becker Holstein

 @truth4girls



Barbara Becker Holstein

Dr. Barbara Becker Holstein's journey into filmmaking has been particularly transformative. Embracing a unique approach, she pioneers a selfie concept, wherein girls featured in her coming-of-age films take charge of their own storytelling using smartphones. This innovative method not only empowers the subjects but also offers audiences an authentic and relatable narrative experience. With nearly 200 acceptances at various festivals and platforms, Barbara Becker Holstein's films have garnered widespread acclaim, earning numerous awards along the way. Beyond the festival circuit, her work reaches audiences through platforms like RoKu and Vimeo, where her series addresses crucial issues surrounding adolescence, shedding light on the challenges and dangers that often accompany the teenage years. Barbara Becker Holstein's contribution to the field extends beyond mere entertainment; she sees her filmmaking as a means to promote mental health and well-being.



**Secrets: A Coming Of Age Selfie Film**

Directed and Written by Barbara Becker Holstein, Psychologist:  
Megan Brown as the 'Girl'  
A Selfie Film about the angst and pleasures of coming of age while dealing with falling in love and secrets.

Wednesday/ January 24/ 6:00 PM  
Anthology Film Archives  
32 Second Ave @ 2nd Street  
New York, NY 10003

**"SELFIE FILMMAKING WILL RESHAPE THE WORLD."**

—Barbara Becker Holstein



As a visionary Positive Psychologist, she harnesses the power of storytelling to foster resilience and emotional growth among viewers, particularly those navigating the complexities of adolescence. In recent years, Dr. Barbara Becker Holstein's creative endeavors have expanded to encompass themes of romance, fun, and enchantment, adding new dimensions to her repertoire. With each project, she continues to evolve as a filmmaker, captivating audiences with her compelling storytelling and innovative approach to addressing universal themes. Barbara Becker Holstein's remarkable journey from Positive Psychologist to acclaimed filmmaker underscores her unwavering commitment to uplifting and inspiring others. Through her transformative work, she leaves an indelible mark on the world, illuminating the path to self-discovery, empowerment, and joy.

# I-JIEN JANE KOU



American



Director



Animation



Music Composer



Rabbit Well

I-Jien Jane Kou is a multi-talented individual whose career encompasses both technology and the arts. Kou holds a B.A. in Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as a B.F.A. in Fine Art from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Additionally, she has obtained three Computer Information System and Application certificates from UCLA Extension. Before embarking on her journey in fine arts, Kou worked as a software engineer in Silicon Valley, showcasing her diverse skill set and passion for technology.



RabbitWell.com



I-Jien Jane Kou



Despite her early success in the tech industry, Kou's true calling lay in the arts. She pursued her passion by earning a fine arts degree and creating impactful works. One notable project is her social sarcasm web series *Rabbit Well*, an animated comedy that humorously portrays superheroes saving the City of Boredom from zombies. Through her work, Kou infuses wit and satire, making poignant social commentary.

Kou has faced various personal challenges along her journey, including fears of financial instability, social judgment, loneliness, language barriers, and taking risks. These fears initially held her back from fully embracing her passions and pursuing her dreams. However, Kou has found the strength to confront these fears and transform her life.



**"GRATEFUL FOR SUMITHRA JONNALAGADDA AND PROFESSOR CATRINA MAGEE'S INSPIRATION AND CRITIQUE. PURSUE DREAMS WITH COURAGE; AVOID REGRETS."**


—I-Jien Jane Kou


Her recent short film *Soul* exemplifies her growth and creative vision. Inspired by a requiem, the film tells a touching story of a soul being summoned by a spirit, delving into themes of connection, passion, and love. Through her work, Kou continues to explore profound human experiences and emotions.

Kou's journey is a testament to the power of resilience and self-discovery. By overcoming her fears and embracing her true passions, she has become a successful and impactful artist. Her work continues to inspire others to pursue their dreams and embrace their authentic selves.

# SYBIL D. JATTA

 African/American

 Actress

 Director

 Writer

 Champion Club  
Productions LLC

Sybil D. Jatta's journey has been marked by resilience, talent, and a deep-rooted faith. As the eldest among nine siblings, with seven sisters and two brothers, Sybil took on roles of caregiver, mentor, and protector from a young age. Despite the weight of responsibility placed upon her shoulders, her unwavering faith in Jesus Christ sustained her through even the most challenging times, beginning as early as age 10 when she was tasked with shouldering additional burdens within her family.

 [championclubproductions.com](http://championclubproductions.com)

 [AKWAABA:The Awakening](https://www.facebook.com/AKWAABA:TheAwakening)

 [justletmesing1](https://www.instagram.com/justletmesing1)



Sybil D. Jatta

Sybil found solace and expression through her talents in singing, dancing, and acting. Despite facing opposition from her mother, who disapproved of her artistic pursuits, Sybil's inherited gift from her father, a singer, artist, and musician, could not be suppressed. She clandestinely pursued her passions, participating and excelling in talent shows throughout middle and high school.

Her talents eventually led her to the stage, where she toured with productions such as "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Sang Sista Sang," portraying the iconic Billie Holiday. Undeterred by obstacles, Sybil took the reins of her own destiny, producing her one-woman show titled "Billie Holiday Front and Center," which garnered critical acclaim, including a nomination for an NAACP Theater Image Award.

Venturing beyond the stage, Sybil embarked on a transformative journey to Africa, particularly Ghana, where she connected with her ancestral roots.



**"I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO JESUS CHRIST, WHO CONNECTED ME TO MY SOUL MATE"**


—Raul F. Jatta

This experience inspired her to co-create the award-winning documentary feature film "Akwaaba: The Awakening," which has received widespread recognition, including numerous awards from international film festivals and a nomination for the African Academy Awards.

Transitioning into education, Sybil now serves as an administrator in a South Los Angeles middle school, bringing her wealth of experience and passion for empowering youth to her new role. Despite her humble beginnings, Sybil's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed, as her name has become synonymous with success and inspiration, proving that with faith, determination, and talent, one can overcome any obstacle and leave an indelible mark on the world.



# ROBIN KIRWAN

 British

 Actor

 Director


 Writer

Robin Kirwan, a London-born actor, is synonymous with the realm of independent cinema. Immersed in the craft, he honed his skills in the heart of London under the tutelage of the Impulse Company, where he distinguished himself, and with a select cohort trained at The Meisner Center, the revered sanctuary of Sanford Meisner's teachings.

In 2021, Kirwan showcased his multifaceted talent, stepping into the realm of filmmaking as a writer and director with his debut feature, "Dragunov."

 [robinkirwan.com](http://robinkirwan.com)

 [kilgorefilms.com](http://kilgorefilms.com)

 [@RobinKirwan](https://twitter.com/RobinKirwan)

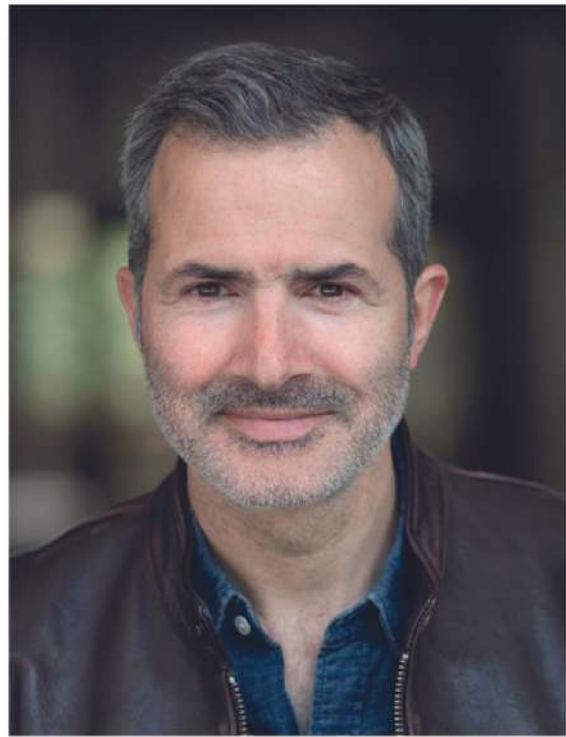


Robin Kirwan

Set against the backdrop of war-torn Afghanistan, the film delves into the harrowing tale of two stranded mercenaries and the indigenous hunter who holds their fate in his hands. "Dragunov" garnered widespread acclaim, clinching coveted awards for 'Best Short' and 'Best First Time Director' at prestigious international film festivals.

Building on this success, Kirwan ventured into narrative storytelling with "You Are Loved" in 2022. Inspired by true events, the film delves into the aftermath of a racially motivated murder, encapsulating the profound humility displayed by those thrust into the turmoil of such tragedy.

Remarkably, Kirwan condensed the poignant narrative into a succinct one-minute masterpiece, underscoring the potency of cinema to evoke emotions and provoke contemplation.




**"I LOVE BEING IN FRONT OF CAMERA BUT CURIOSITY TOOK ME TO THE OTHER SIDE."**


—Robin Kirwan

Even amidst his burgeoning career as a filmmaker, Kirwan remains committed to his craft as an actor, seamlessly navigating between roles on screen. Fuelled by his passion for storytelling, he has penned several feature-length scripts, each brimming with the potential to captivate audiences and resonate with the human experience.

With unwavering determination, Kirwan embarks on a journey to bring these narratives to life, poised to leave an indelible mark on the landscape of independent cinema.

# IOANNIS KOUTROUBIS

 Canadian

 Director


 Producer

 Writer

 Owner Cinemagi  
Productions

Ioannis Koutroubis is a luminary in the realm of visual media, renowned as the founder of Cinemagi Productions and Alioan Creations. His prowess encompasses a multitude of roles within the industry, including producing, directing, writing, cinematography, and editing. With a portfolio boasting over 700 productions across various media platforms, Koutroubis has left an indelible mark on the landscape of contemporary media.

 Cinemagi Productions

 koutroubisioannis



Ioannis Koutroubis



In the past 14 months alone, Koutroubis has witnessed his creations grace the screens of over 90 film festivals, garnering an impressive tally of more than 60 awards. These accolades span a spectrum of categories, from Best Producer and Best Director to Best Film, Best Script, Best Cinematography, Best Music Video, and Best Dance Video.

**“UNLOCK THE MAGIC WITHIN EVERY FRAME, FOR IN THE LANGUAGE OF VISUALS, WE DISCOVER THE TRUE POETRY OF STORYTELLING”**

— Ioannis Koutroubis

In a recent endeavor, Koutroubis inaugurated the Cinemagi Productions YouTube Channel, poised to showcase more than 10 talk shows in multiple languages, featuring diverse artists. Additionally, the channel will host his web series in 2024, alongside a collection of short films, culminating in over 20 productions for the year. This signals 2024 as a pivotal period for the growth and expansion of his company.

Drawing from over a decade of instructional experience at Trebas Institute Montreal, Koutroubis not only manifests an unwavering passion for filmmaking but also imparts invaluable technical expertise to the students under his tutelage.


His commitment to nurturing the next generation of filmmakers underscores his dedication to advancing the art and craft of visual storytelling.

In essence, Ioannis Koutroubis stands as a beacon of innovation and excellence in the field of visual media, shaping narratives that captivate audiences worldwide while nurturing talent for the future of the industry.



# TAN KAZAZI

 Albanian

 Director

 Producer

 Writer

Emerging from the cultural landscape of Tirana, Albania, a budding filmmaker, Tan Kazazi, embarked on a journey of cinematic exploration that would shape his destiny. With a Master's degree in Film and TV Producing from the renowned Academy of Art at Tirana University, he delved deep into the realms of Anthropology, augmenting his understanding of cultural nuances and narrative dynamics.

 Tan Kazazi  
 blackbox.al  
 black\_box\_films  
 cinespia67



With a multifaceted educational background, Tan Kazazi's artistic vision extends beyond the boundaries of conventional storytelling. Delving into the intricacies of documentary filmmaking, he embarked on a creative odyssey, crafting a series of impactful documentaries and feature films that resonate with audiences worldwide. His oeuvre includes notable works such as "BLOODLANDS," "A LIFE WITH YOU," "SOFIA," "SKYDANCER," "RIKARD," "CINEMA IS MAGIC," and "BOARDING PASS."

In 2014, Tan Kazazi founded Black Box Films, a pioneering production company aimed at revitalizing the Balkan film industry. Through innovative approaches and unwavering dedication, he seeks to cultivate fresh perspectives and foster a vibrant cinematic landscape in his homeland and beyond. A testament to his commitment to fostering cinematic culture, Tan Kazazi initiated the groundbreaking project CINESPIA67, a dynamic platform designed to unite film enthusiasts and creators in a celebration of cinematic artistry.



Tan Kazazi

**"THROUGH THE LENS, WE UNVEIL THE ESSENCE OF HUMANITY, EACH FRAME A TESTAMENT TO THE BOUNDLESS DEPTHS OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE."**

—Tan Kazazi

Set against the backdrop of Tirana's cultural tapestry, CINESPIA67 promises to be a beacon for cinephiles and industry professionals alike, offering a space for dialogue, collaboration, and artistic exploration.

Born on November 29, 1986, Tan Kazazi embodies the spirit of creativity and resilience. With a profound mastery of producing, film directing, and post-production supervision, he continues to push the boundaries of storytelling, captivating audiences with his compelling narratives and visionary approach to filmmaking. As he continues to chart new territories and expand the horizons of Albanian cinema, Tan Kazazi remains an influential figure in the global cinematic landscape, enriching the medium with his distinct voice and unwavering dedication to the craft.

# ALAN LAMBERT



Irish



Director




Cinematographer



Editor

Alan Lambert is an innovative Irish filmmaker, artist, and curator whose work spans various artistic mediums, including experimental films, music videos, and live visual mixes. Born in the 1970s, Lambert began his artistic journey in 1996 by making music videos and visual mixes for live events. His interest in experimental film led him to co-found platforms for Irish experimental film in the 2000s and curate for festivals across different continents, including Africa, the Middle East, North America, Russia, and the Caribbean.

 [metaldragon.net](http://metaldragon.net)

 [@Meta\\_Dragon\\_](https://twitter.com/Meta_Dragon_)

 [@alan\\_lambert\\_artist](https://www.instagram.com/alan_lambert_artist)

 [Alan Lambert](https://www.facebook.com/AlanLambert)



Alan Lambert

Lambert's debut feature film, *Ouroboros: Ocean Dreams* (2009), is a compilation of ghost stories from around the world, reflecting his diverse experiences and interests. The film premiered at the 54th Cork Film Festival and demonstrated Lambert's unique approach to storytelling.

His third feature film, *Pushtar* (2015), is a post-climate-change sci-fi set in India but filmed in Australia and Ireland. The film's innovative approach and narrative earned it the 'Spirit of IndieCork' Award and high praise from Film Ireland, which described it as 'an outstanding contribution to Irish cinema.' This non-narrative film was largely improvised and laid the groundwork for his subsequent project, *Remat* (2024), a silent post-historic survival story featuring specially designed sign language.



### "LOOK! DO YOU SEE IT?"

—Orson Welles

Lambert's creative talents extend beyond filmmaking into the art departments of commercial productions. He contributed to Virginia Woolf's art collection in *Vita and Virginia* (2017), the heraldry for battle scenes in Ridley Scott's *The Last Duel* (2021), and created a portrait for the Oscar-winning *Poor Things* (2023).

Lambert's work continues to challenge conventional boundaries in cinema, art, and storytelling, exploring themes of history, environment, and human survival. His contributions to Irish cinema and his innovative approach to filmmaking make him a notable figure in contemporary cinema. Lambert's passion for blending various artistic disciplines has made him a respected and influential artist in the international film industry.

# MATTHEW LUPPINO



Canadian



Director



Cinematographer




Actor



Luppo Studios  
Productions Inc.

Matthew Luppino is an accomplished and versatile figure in the film industry, known for his exceptional work as a writer, director, producer, editor, cinematographer, actor, and president of Luppo Studios Productions Inc. Specializing primarily in the drama and romance genres, Luppino's portfolio boasts numerous award-winning short films such as "Fragments," "H.O.P.E. (Hold On Pain Ends)," "Love Drunk," and "The Blink Of An Eye." His storytelling prowess and creative vision have made him a celebrated and respected name in the world of independent filmmaking.

 @luppostudios

 luppostudios.weebly.com

 Matthew Luppino



Matthew Luppino

A graduate of the Toronto Film School in 2015, Luppino earned High Honours and Distinction, a testament to his dedication and passion for the craft. Since then, he has pursued a successful career in the film industry, working independently across various facets of filmmaking, including writing, directing, producing, editing, and cinematography.

Matthew Luppino's expertise extends beyond traditional filmmaking. He has demonstrated talent in music video creation and songwriting, showcasing his ability to tell captivating stories through different artistic mediums. His love for storytelling and creative expression is also evident in his photography work, where he employs his keen eye to capture moments that resonate with viewers.



**"NEVER STOP BELIEVING IN WHO YOU ARE AND WHO YOU'RE MEANT TO BE."**


— Matthew Luppino

Luppino's diverse talents have garnered him over 70 awards for his films on a global scale, affirming his status as a skilled and celebrated artist. Though he has already achieved significant recognition in drama and romance, he remains committed to expanding his horizons by exploring new genres and narratives.

In summary, Matthew Luppino is a multifaceted filmmaker whose passion, creativity, and dedication have established him as a prominent force in the independent film industry. His continuous pursuit of artistic excellence and his broad range of talents ensure his ongoing success and influence in the world of storytelling.

# ALESSIA MANDANICI

 German-Italian

 Director


 Writer


 Editor

 Designer

Alessia Mandanici, a filmmaker hailing from the vibrant cultural hub of New York City, embodies a fusion of German and Italian heritage. Her creative journey began in Mainz, Germany, where she unearthed her fervor for the cinematic arts amidst her pursuit of a BA in Communication Design. It was during this formative period that Alessia's passion for storytelling burgeoned.

Her academic pursuit led her to the prestigious NYU Tisch School's Graduate Film program, where she honed her craft in writing and directing, earning her MFA.

 [alessiamandanici.com](http://alessiamandanici.com)

 [schwarzmol](https://www.instagram.com/schwarzmol)



Alessia Mandanici

Prior to her academic endeavors in New York, Alessia cultivated her visual prowess in Berlin, refining her skills as a cinematographer, editor, and designer. Her talents garnered her opportunities to work with esteemed clients such as Google, ARD EinsPlus, and the Berlin State Ballet, enriching her understanding of the multifaceted landscape of production.

Alessia's cinematic oeuvre spans across award-winning narrative films showcased at renowned film festivals globally, including the esteemed Berlin International Film Festival and the revered Austin Film Festival. Her storytelling prowess intertwines with her explorations of intra-family and inter-generational dynamics, imbuing her work with depth and resonance. In 2022, Alessia was honored as a fellow of the NYU Production Lab, a testament to her burgeoning influence within the industry.



**"ABOVE ALL, BE THE HEROINE OF YOUR LIFE, NOT THE VICTIM. "**

—Nora Ephron

Presently she is immersed in the development of her debut feature film, 'Wiegenlied' ('Lullaby'), delving into the profound emotional terrain of childhood trauma and abuse.

Her artistic vision is a mosaic of influences, shaped by her diverse background as a designer and musician from an early age. Alessia Mandanici stands as a testament to the power of storytelling, seamlessly weaving together her myriad influences into captivating narratives that resonate with audiences worldwide.

# DAMIAN MATYASIK



Nationality



Director



Screenwriter

Damian Matyasik's journey into the realm of creativity began with a childhood fascination for video games. Introduced to the world of gaming at the tender age of 7 through his first computer, the C-64, he was instantly hooked. As he grew older, his passion expanded to include cinema, sparked by the iconic film "Terminator 2" when he was just 12 years old.

By the age of 15, Matyasik embarked on his professional path, landing his first job as an editor for the countrywide video games magazine 'Playstation Plus'.



corpseinthebasement.com



@damianmatyasik



mamaumierawsobote.pl



Damian Matyasik



This early experience solidified his commitment to the world of gaming and laid the foundation for his future endeavors. At 22, Matyasik transitioned into game design, securing a position in a Polish-American company. Over the next 15 years, he honed his skills, delving into various creative pursuits, including shooting commercials and hosting the popular video games TV show, "Game Time".

### "THERE IS NO SPOON"

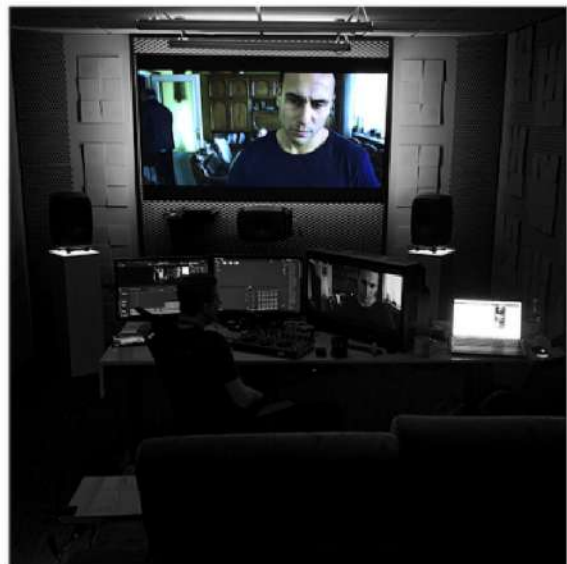
FAVORITE QUOTE

—Damian Matyasik

Despite his success in the gaming industry, Matyasik harbored a long-standing dream of filmmaking. After years of contemplation, he made the bold decision to pursue this passion wholeheartedly. With determination and perseverance, he secured financing for his debut film, "Mom Dies Saturday", in collaboration with Rafał Niemczyk. The film proved to be a resounding success, garnering an impressive 36 awards at international festivals.

Undeterred by the challenges of the film industry, Matyasik continued to push boundaries, completing his second short film, "Corpse in the Basement".


Encouraged by his initial success, he embarked on his most ambitious project yet—a feature film slated for release in cinemas in early 2025. With the support of producer Przemek Waszczuk, Matyasik's dream of bringing his cinematic vision to life is finally becoming a reality. For Matyasik, the journey from gaming enthusiast to acclaimed filmmaker has been marked by unwavering passion, determination, and a steadfast belief in the power of creativity. With each project, he continues to defy expectations and carve out his own unique path in the world of entertainment.



# YUUKI O.T.

 Japanese


 Artist


 Dancer

 Actress

Yuuki O.T. is a renowned artist known for her work in traditional Japanese Kamigata dance, a dance form characterized by its minimal motion and expressive power. Through her performances, films, and photography, she conveys contemporary images using traditional Japanese fans and kimonos, bringing her unique interpretation to audiences around the world.

 [artist.yuuki-gallery.net](http://artist.yuuki-gallery.net)

 [@yuu\\_ki.jp](https://www.instagram.com/yuu_ki.jp)

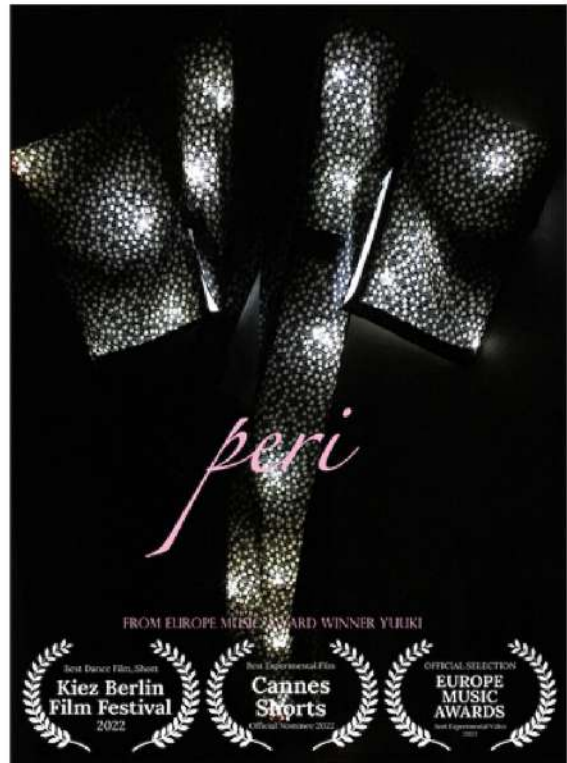
 [@u0\\_yuuki](https://twitter.com/u0_yuuki)



Yuuki O.T.

Yuuki began her journey in the arts from an early age, studying dance and tea ceremony in her childhood. She further honed her skills by pursuing a master's degree in art at the Graduate School of Fine Arts at Tokyo University of the Arts. Her body of work includes various acclaimed pieces such as the performance "tears of Eos" (2009) at Tokyo Asahi ArtSquare and the performance "camellia" (2012) at the Beppu Contemporary Art Festival. Yuuki's dance film "aquarium" (2013) was screened at prestigious international film festivals in 12 countries, including the Sculpture Garden in New York, the Ludwig Museum in Germany, the Freiburg Theater, and the Miró Museum in Mallorca, Spain.

Yuuki's more recent work includes the film "peri" (2021), which was featured at the Screen Dance Festival at Dansmuseet in Stockholm, Sweden.



**"WE ORIENTALS CREATE SHADOWS WHERE THERE IS NOTHING, IT CREATES BEAUTY."**

—Junichiro Tanizaki

This film earned several awards, including Best Dance Short Film at the Kiez Berlin Film Festival in Germany, Best Experimental Film at the Slovak film festival "EUROPE MUSIC AWARD," and an Honorable Mention at the Budapest Film Festival in 2023.

Yuuki O.T.'s dedication to her craft and her ability to blend traditional elements with modern interpretations make her a significant figure in the world of dance and visual arts. Her work continues to captivate audiences worldwide, showcasing the depth and beauty of Japanese culture through her unique artistic lens.

# JULIA ROSENGREN



Brazilian



Actress



Producer



Executive Producer



ManoelFerreira  
Productions, LLC

Julia L. Rosengren's life journey epitomizes resilience, determination, and creative innovation. Born into poverty as the middle child of four siblings in Timbaúba, a small town in northern Brazil, Julia faced formidable challenges from an early age. Despite the hardships of living without electricity or running water, her upbringing instilled in her a fierce ambition for a better future.

 [julialrosengren.com](http://julialrosengren.com)

 [Julia L Rosengren](#)

 [julialrosengren](#)



Julia Rosengren

As she matured, Julia found her path in the competitive world of modeling, a career that not only provided opportunities to travel extensively but also fueled her curiosity for diverse cultures. Fluent in Portuguese, English, Japanese, Spanish, Italian, and French, she immersed herself in the intricacies of each country she visited, broadening her perspective and understanding of the world.

Transitioning from modeling to filmmaking, Julia ventured into writing and producing, demonstrating her versatility and passion for storytelling. Her production credits include "Before Sunrise" (2020), while her screenwriting and acting debut came with "LEAVES" (2021), a poignant short film addressing environmental issues such as climate change, wildfires, and deforestation. In "LEAVES," Julia's portrayal of an introspective woman finding solace in nature resonated deeply, marking the beginning of a purpose-driven creative phase in her career.




**"CURRENTLY CRAFTING 'ALORNOMORE,' TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, EARNED 'PREMIO LUIZA BRUNET' IN LONDON LAST SEPTEMBER."**

Continuing her commitment to social advocacy through art, Julia is currently working on her latest project, "ALORNOMORE," a film confronting the pervasive issue of violence against women. Her dedication to this cause earned her the prestigious "Premio Luiza Brunet" award in London, underscoring her impact as both an artist and a humanitarian.

Julia L. Rosengren's story is one of transformation and empowerment, showcasing the indomitable spirit of a trailblazer who transcends barriers and uses her platform to effect positive change. From humble beginnings to global recognition, she remains a beacon of inspiration for aspiring creatives and activists alike.

# ARLENE RUSSELL

 American

 Director

Arlene Russell's illustrious career is a tapestry woven with threads of creativity, passion, and a relentless dedication to storytelling. While documentaries became her enduring love, her journey commenced in the realm of sports journalism, covering iconic teams and athletes like the Houston Astros, NBA stars, and NFL legends.

In 1997, Arlene embarked on her television career with Access Houston Channel, where she swiftly ascended from a producer to a director, pioneering captivating community awareness programs like "The Shampu Show" and "Thrive 360."



Arlene Russell

Through these shows, she not only addressed critical community issues but also showcased her ability to captivate audiences with diverse and compelling content.

However, it was with her talk show "Generation 2000" that Arlene's passion for storytelling found its true voice. This pivotal moment propelled her into the realm of documentary filmmaking. Her directorial debut in 2018 with "The World Famous, Debate Coach, Dr. Thomas Freeman" underscored her prowess as a director and her commitment to shedding light on powerful real-life narratives.

Presently, Arlene helms projects such as "The James Harrell Story" and "The Honorary Mayor, Sandra Massie Hines of Sunnyside, Texas," showcasing her unwavering dedication to capturing compelling stories that resonate deeply with audiences.

Beyond filmmaking, Arlene wears multiple hats, serving as an Integrated Account Executive at CW39 and sharing her expertise as a part-time film instructor at Media Tech Institute.



**"THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO PRODUCE MY VERY FIRST TALK SHOW. DR. CONTE SPEAKS!"**


— Arlene Russell


Her community leadership roles include serving as a Chapter Leader for the Upward Women Organization and contributing to the BMA Houston Chapter media board, all while actively participating in empowering initiatives like the Houston Media Source Filmmaker Project.

Arlene's talent has garnered widespread acclaim, earning her numerous awards and features in esteemed platforms such as Toronto Film Magazine and LA Film Magazine. Her recent election as the president of Women Film and Television further cements her legacy as an inspiring figure in the world of filmmaking, leaving an indelible mark on the industry and beyond.



# UWE SCHWARZWALDER

 Swiss

 Director

 Writer

 Actor

Uwe Schwarzwaldler, a versatile actor of German and Bulgarian descent, has carved his mark in both American and European film and television industries. Based in Zurich, Switzerland, he has showcased his talent in numerous productions, spanning from short films to feature-length projects.


 [uweschwarzwaldler.com](http://uweschwarzwaldler.com)

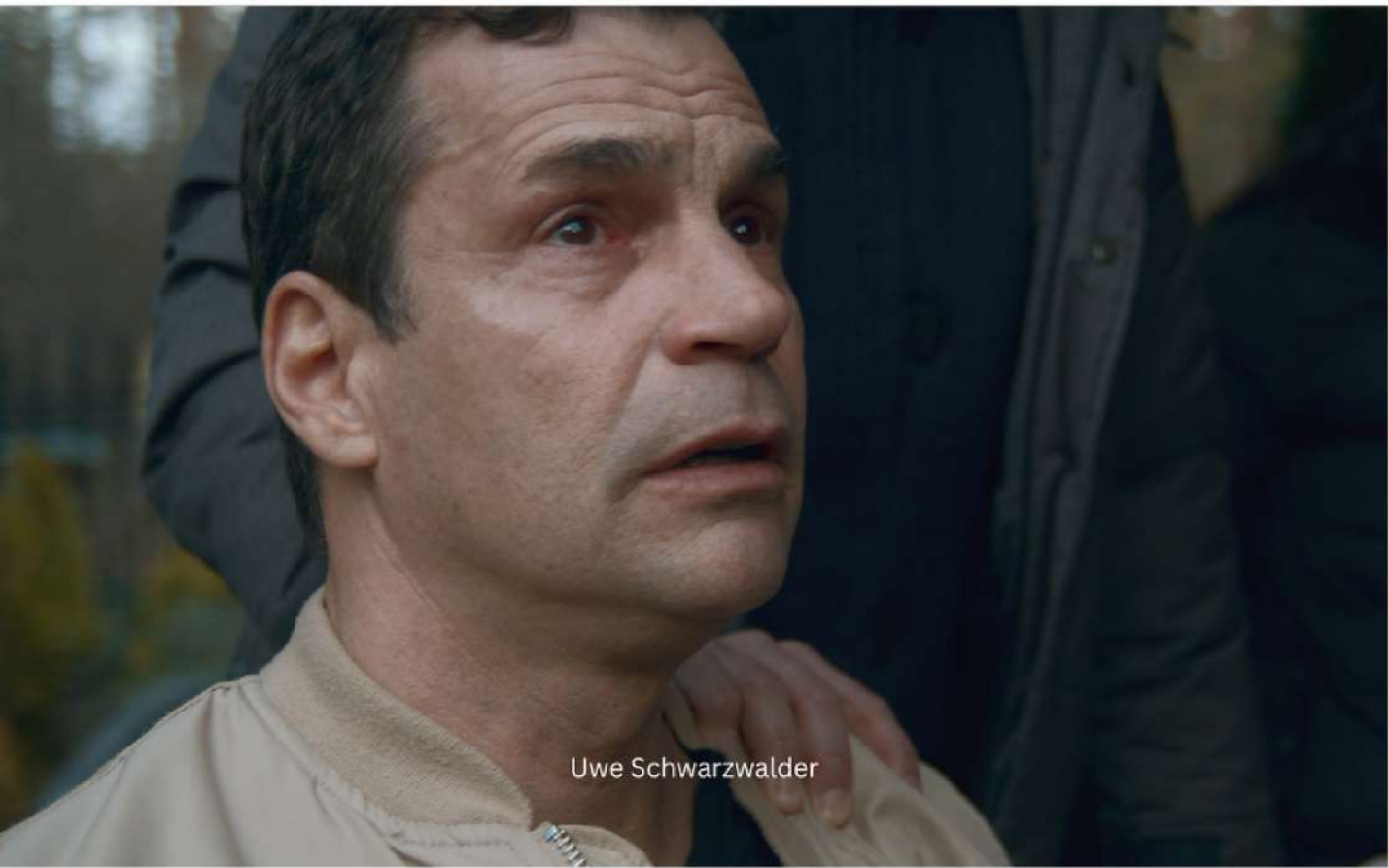
 @karluwes

 @theradicalizationofjeffboyd

 @tsojbfilm

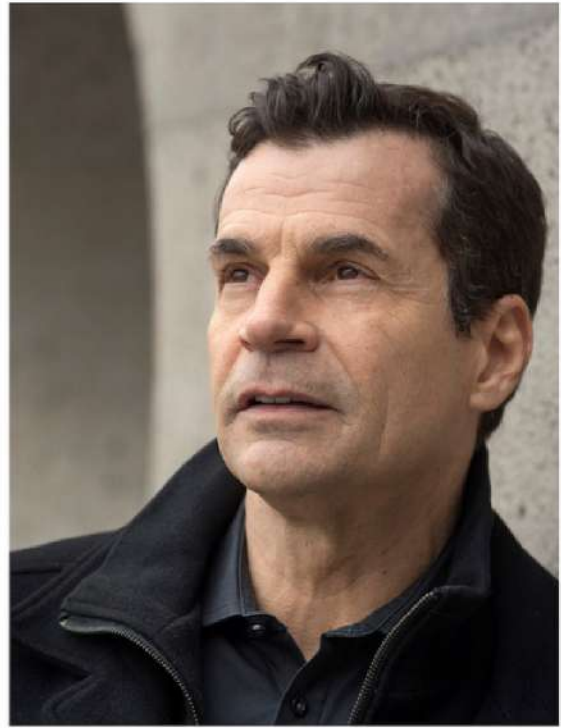
 Uwe Schwarzwaldler

 @thesafefilm



Uwe Schwarzwaldler

Among his notable roles, Schwarzwaldler portrayed Jeff Boyd in "The Radicalization of Jeff Boyd," a critically acclaimed film where he not only starred but also wrote and directed. The movie delves into the transformation of Boyd from a victim of the corporate world to a perpetrator seeking revenge through a kidnapping plot. Additionally, he appears in "The Safe," another thriller where he not only acts but also takes on the roles of writer and director. In television, Schwarzwaldler is recognized for his portrayal of Alfred Marek in "Swiss Connections," a German crime series where he embodies the character of a detective solving cases within high society circles. Furthermore, he joins the esteemed cast of "Tatort - Blinder Fleck" as Jakob Bachmann, bringing to life a banker with a shadowy past.




**"LIVE THE STORY, BELIEVE IT, AND LET IT HAPPEN!"**

— Uwe Schwarzwaldler

Beyond his on-screen endeavors, Schwarzwaldler is known for his ongoing project, "The Spiritualization of Jeff Boyd," currently in post-production and slated for release in 2024. This project reflects his dedication to storytelling and filmmaking. Schwarzwaldler's journey into filmmaking was inspired by his involvement in short films, which provided him with opportunities to explore his creativity with a modest crew. His commitment to honing his craft through continuous training ensures that he remains prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. With his dynamic performances and multifaceted skills both in front of and behind the camera, Uwe Schwarzwaldler continues to captivate audiences, leaving an indelible mark on the world of cinema.

# SANDRA DIVINE GRACE SHOWE

-  American
-  Director
-  Producer
-  Writer
-  Time For School

Sandra Divine Grace Showe is a multifaceted artist renowned for her work as a director, producer, writer, and creator of the popular children's cartoon series Time For School. Her journey in the performing arts began with a passion for dancing, skating, and singing. Her love for the arts led her to a career in directing and producing musical theater for children, where she organizes six stage shows annually.

-  [timeforschool.net](http://timeforschool.net)
-  [@Sandradivinegrace](https://www.instagram.com/Sandradivinegrace)
-  [@Sandradivinegeace](https://www.tiktok.com/@Sandradivinegeace)



Sandra's distinctive childlike voice became her trademark as she transitioned from a small town in Wisconsin to California. Her experiences directing dance and theater for children inspired her to start writing children's books. She self-published notable works such as *Don't Be A Bully* and *Show and Tell*, as well as holiday-themed books *Friendsgiving* and *Happy Holidays*. A chance encounter with her old friend, Lawrence Darnell, a comedian and working actor, sparked the idea of transforming her books into children's cartoons. Darnell's enthusiasm motivated Sandra to immediately begin creating *Time For School*. Lawrence now lends his voice to the cartoon series as the robot and principal Bell.

Sandra's work with talented children made casting the show effortless, as she could draw inspiration from her students.



**"CHILDREN INSPIRE ME WITH THEIR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND IMAGINATION. THEY TEACH US PATIENCE, KINDNESS, AND EFFORTLESS CREATIVITY."**

—Sandra Divine Grace Showe

The series features characters like Jack, portrayed by Jack Wickersham, and Cupcake Kate, played by Camilla Maib. Another character, Eli, is played by Austin Kim, a young African American inventor who designs robots in the show. Sandra herself takes on the role of Miss Tulip, the teacher. *Time For School* has gained recognition for its Disney and Nickelodeon-ready quality and was invited to the Le Femme International Film Festival. Sandra, her cast, and crew enjoyed the experience, including an interview with Korean reporter and YouTube star Sara Hong. Sandra Divine Grace Showe looks forward to the continued success of *Time For School* as they create new episodes and pursue international acclaim.

# JAMES STORM



Caucasian/Panamanian



Producer



Director



J.S. Co. PRODUCTIONS  
Digital Video Studios

James M. Storm, a pioneer in guerrilla filmmaking and a recipient of multiple awards, has been immersed in the art of cinema since childhood. From the tender age of six, he embarked on his cinematic journey, crafting epic backyard adventures that laid the foundation for his illustrious career. His passion for storytelling propelled him to establish J.S. Co. PRODUCTIONS Digital Video Studios in 1999, equipped with a burgeoning repertoire of low-budget yet grand indie films.



[jscompanyproductions.com](http://jscompanyproductions.com)



[wherethedragonssleep.com](http://wherethedragonssleep.com)



[electriccyclerracingleague.com](http://electriccyclerracingleague.com)

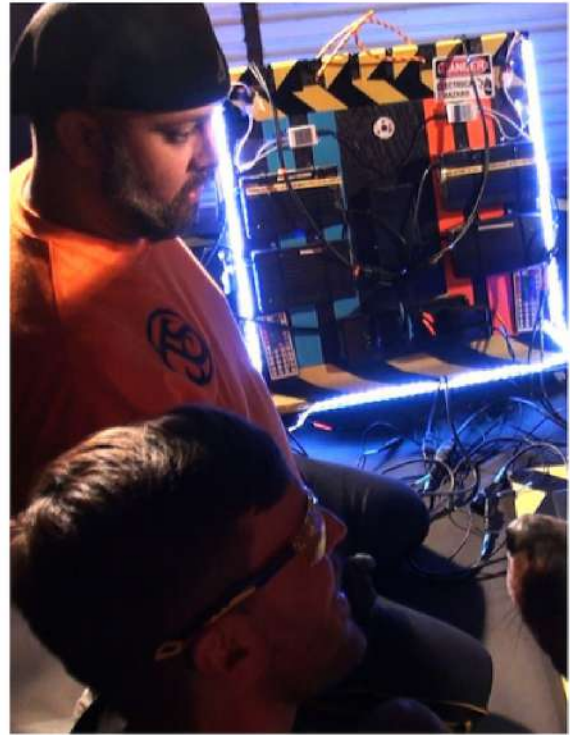


James Storm

Throughout his career, Storm has remained steadfast in his commitment to preserving cinematic integrity and retaining creative autonomy. Disenchanted by the volatile nature of the Hollywood establishment, he resolved to self-produce his projects, eschewing the allure of big studio budgets. Despite the challenges, this decision allowed him to realize his artistic vision without compromise.

With a plethora of indie and documentary films under his belt, Storm's work has garnered widespread acclaim, earning him numerous accolades. His dedication to storytelling and his unwavering resolve have positioned him as a trailblazer in the world of independent cinema.

Currently based in San Diego County, Storm is firelessly engaged in the creation of his highly anticipated project, "Where the Dragons Sleep" (2024).



**"I MAY NOT HAVE A HOLLYWOOD STUDIO BUDGET BUT I MAKE UP FOR IT WITH EXCEPTIONAL CINEMATIC STORYTELLING."**

—James M. Storm






This endeavor promises to be a testament to his creativity and innovation, showcasing his ability to captivate audiences with compelling narratives and visually stunning cinematography.

Driven by a passion for his craft and an indomitable spirit, James M. Storm continues to defy conventional norms in filmmaking.

His unwavering commitment to artistic integrity serves as an inspiration to aspiring filmmakers worldwide, cementing his legacy as a true iconoclast in the realm of cinema.



# ANDREA TORRESANI

-  Italian
-  Screenwriter
-  Actor
-  Director
-  Video Editor

Andrea Torresani is a filmmaker whose positive streak with the film "Solo" continues to captivate audiences worldwide. Directed by Torresani, "Solo" has garnered recognition at numerous esteemed international film festivals, including the Bridge fest in Vanco, where it received awards for Best Experimental Film and Best Actress for Francesca Cavallo, along with Best Supporting Actor for Massimo Pietropoli.

The film, titled "Solo: Primordial Duel," intertwines action-packed sequences with a poignant love story. It begins with a startling scene in the forest, setting the stage for a gripping narrative.

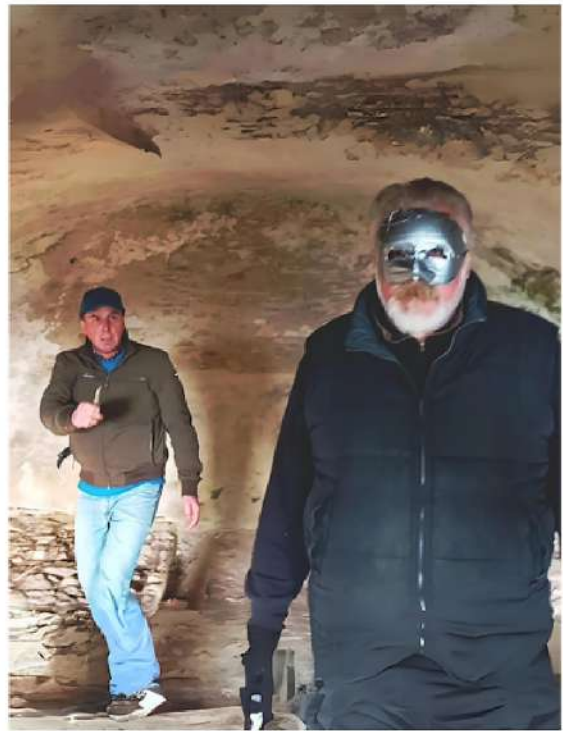
 [SOLO-duello primordiale](#)



Andrea Torresani

When Francesca, played by Cavallo, learns of her ex-boyfriend's disappearance in the mountains near Garda, she embarks on a perilous quest to find him, despite her friends' indifference. As the story unfolds, Torresani himself takes on the role of Claudio, the protagonist, who finds himself facing the wilderness and a masked killer. Amidst the chaos, the relationship between Claudio and Francesca strengthens, symbolized by their struggle against nature and external threats.

The film explores themes of man-animal conflict, portraying a surreal battle for survival in the wilderness. Surrounded by danger, Claudio and Francesca seek refuge in a stable, which serves as a metaphor for familial bonds and protection against the harsh realities of the jungle.



**SOLO** *Dueto primordiale*



*"Nella notte più oscura i sogni si aggirano in un arco misterioso. L'anima è sola in questa foresta selvaggio preda della bestia. Una lotta primordiale per la vita. Dueto di sensi. Dueto di amore per sopravvivere...  
Nata un abbraccio. Per sempre..."*

**REGIA, SOGGETTO E SCENEGGIATURA di ANEETA TORRESANI**

**Interpreti**

Andrea Torresani, Francesca Cavallo, Massimo Fierrochi, Ivan Falcucci, Enrico Ferrell, Fede Fattacci, Raffaello Siliani, Michele Riczzi, Alessandra Muzzi Ercante, Fabio Lombardi, Eraldo Erli e Terella Martini

Consulenza artistica: Luca Finato

Una produzione *Carriere della Stampa*, Italian Gramophone  
In collaborazione con Acrobat Film  
Distribuzione: Ritornale, La Loggia, Bombelli (Brescia) - Puffino, Mario Gollati (Garda)

**"WE DON'T WANT TO JUDGE WHO IS RIGHT, TIME WILL TELL WHO IS UNFAIR."**


— Andrea Torresani

Throughout the narrative, Torresani skillfully delves into the primal instincts of humanity, questioning the thin line between civilization and savagery. As Claudio remarks, "we have entered the food chain, we are tearing each other apart," highlighting the brutality inherent in human nature. Ultimately, "Solo" challenges conventional notions of heroism and sacrifice, as the line between predator and prey blurs. In a twist of fate, it is the boar, initially perceived as aggressive, that defends humanity, while humans succumb to their basest instincts.

Andrea Torresani's "Solo" is not just a film; it's a thought-provoking exploration of human nature and the wilderness within.

# MAJIYE UCHIBEKE

 Nigerian

 Director


 Producer


Majiye Uchibeke's journey from Nigeria's rich storytelling traditions to Hollywood's film and television industry exemplifies the power of dreams and perseverance. Born and raised in Nigeria, known for its thriving Nollywood film industry, Majiye was surrounded by a culture steeped in storytelling, which sparked his passion for filmmaking at a young age.

His pursuit of excellence led him to the prestigious University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, renowned as the top film program in the world.

 @themajiye

 majiyeuchibeke.com

 @majshotit

 Majiye Uchibeke



Majiye Uchibeke

There, he earned a master's degree in Film and Television Producing and was mentored by industry giants such as three-time Oscar winner Mark Jonathan Harris and reality TV producer Scott Stone. These mentors provided Majiye with a strong foundation in the art and business of filmmaking.

Majiye's documentary, "I Am More Dangerous Dead," showcases his storytelling talent and dedication to social change through cinema. The film, which was nominated for a British Academy Film Award (BAFTA) and won the Directors Guild of America (DGA) Documentary Award, delves into the complexities of activism, legacy, and the pursuit of justice. Through evocative narrative and visual storytelling, Majiye illustrates the profound impact one individual can have on the world.



**"THANKS TO MY MOTHER FOR TEACHING ME TO FIGHT FOR MYSELF, MY FUTURE, AND MY BELIEFS AS A FILMMAKER."**

— Majiye Uchibeke

Uchibeke's journey has been marked by personal and professional challenges that tested his resolve. Just two weeks after arriving in America, he faced the loss of his mother. Her memory continues to inspire Majiye, motivating him to carry on her legacy of kindness, activism, and social change.

Despite the obstacles, Majiye's path has been one of resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to excellence. He believes that each film, each story told, and each impact made are well worth the effort. Majiye Uchibeke's transformative work continues to inspire and make a lasting impact on the world of cinema and beyond.

# GERHARD UYS



South African



Producer



Director



Writer



Nickelodeon Film & TV

South African film director Gerhard Uys stands as a maverick in the realm of cinema, defying the odds and challenging the status quo with his visionary film, "A Fire in Africa." Armed with a Ph.D. in Motion Picture Production and seven academic qualifications, Uys embarked on a daring journey to breathe life into high-art cinema, a genre often overshadowed by mainstream superficiality.

With a career that began as an SABC film editor and later as the head of the Pretoria Technikon Film School, Uys brought a wealth of experience and expertise to his directorial ventures.



[afireinafrica.com](http://afireinafrica.com)



Gerhard Uys

"A Fire in Africa" is more than a film; it's an intellectual odyssey. Crafted with precision, it uses motifs and metaphors to challenge even the most analytical critics. Director Uys, despite skepticism at home, pushed forward with his vision, earning global recognition for his directorial skill. The movie has been lauded with numerous Best Picture Awards, amassing 37 accolades worldwide, including 11 Best Picture awards in countries from Germany to Australia. It reached over 200 million viewers in 133 countries through video-on-demand services like Amazon's Prime Video and TUBI, thanks to distribution by Filmhub in Los Angeles. The casting was pivotal to its success, with Japan Mthembu's debut in the film launching him into stardom and leading to roles in other acclaimed movies like "Invictus." South African actor Rod Alexander also earned critical acclaim for his role, securing a Best Actor award at the Zagreb International Film Festival. This succinctly encapsulates the essence and impact of "A Fire in Africa."



**"WITH TV HAEMORRHAGING POPULAR-ART, CLASSICAL MOVIES LIKE "GONE WITH THE WIND" ARE TRULY GONE FOREVER."**

—Gerhard Uys



Even martial arts icon Billy Blanks made a memorable cameo appearance, adding an unexpected dimension to the film. Behind the captivating visuals and stellar performances lay the work of screenplay writer Emil Kolbe. Kolbe's exceptional script not only propelled the narrative forward but also earned recognition as the best screenplay at the Lemur International Film Festival in Portugal. Today, Gerhard Uys stands as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring filmmakers, proving that artistic integrity and cinematic excellence can transcend borders and captivate audiences worldwide. Through his visionary storytelling and unwavering dedication to the craft, Uys continues to leave an indelible mark on the world of cinema.

# CHARLIE JOHAN JAMES VJESTICA

-  British
-  Writer
-  Producer
-  Director
-  Legacy Cinema

Charlie Johan James Vjestica is a talented British filmmaker hailing from Manchester, UK. From an early age, he developed a strong passion for filmmaking that eventually led him to establish his own studio in 2021. Once he founded his studio, Legacy Cinema Productions, Vjestica's filmmaking capabilities truly began to flourish.

Vjestica first gained widespread recognition through his 2023 short documentary, *INSIDE: Narrative of Our Journey*.

 @legacycinemaproductions





This film earned him eight awards and counting, as well as numerous press appearances, including a podcast interview. His success with *INSIDE* solidified his reputation as a rising star in the industry.

**"THANK YOU TO ALL THE MANY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO'VE HELPED MAKE MY PROJECTS WHAT THAT ARE."**

— Charlie Johan James Vjestica

Building on his initial achievements, Vjestica transitioned into a more professional role with Legacy Cinema Productions. He produced the 2023 short thriller *Vigilant* and returned to the director's chair for a new short drama, *Mind Games*, and a forthcoming documentary titled *SIMO*.

These projects further showcased his versatility and creativity as a filmmaker. In addition to his work on independent projects, Vjestica has collaborated with various prestigious clients such as the BFI, NHS, Hallé Orchestra, and Britain's Got Talent winner John Courtenay. His collaborations demonstrate his ability to work across a diverse range of genres and mediums.


Vjestica's filmmaking journey is closely intertwined with his co-directors, Milly Elwell and Liam Goodwin. Together, they share ambitious plans to elevate their studio to new heights. As they continue to innovate and explore new projects, Vjestica's trajectory in the industry is set to reach even greater success and recognition.



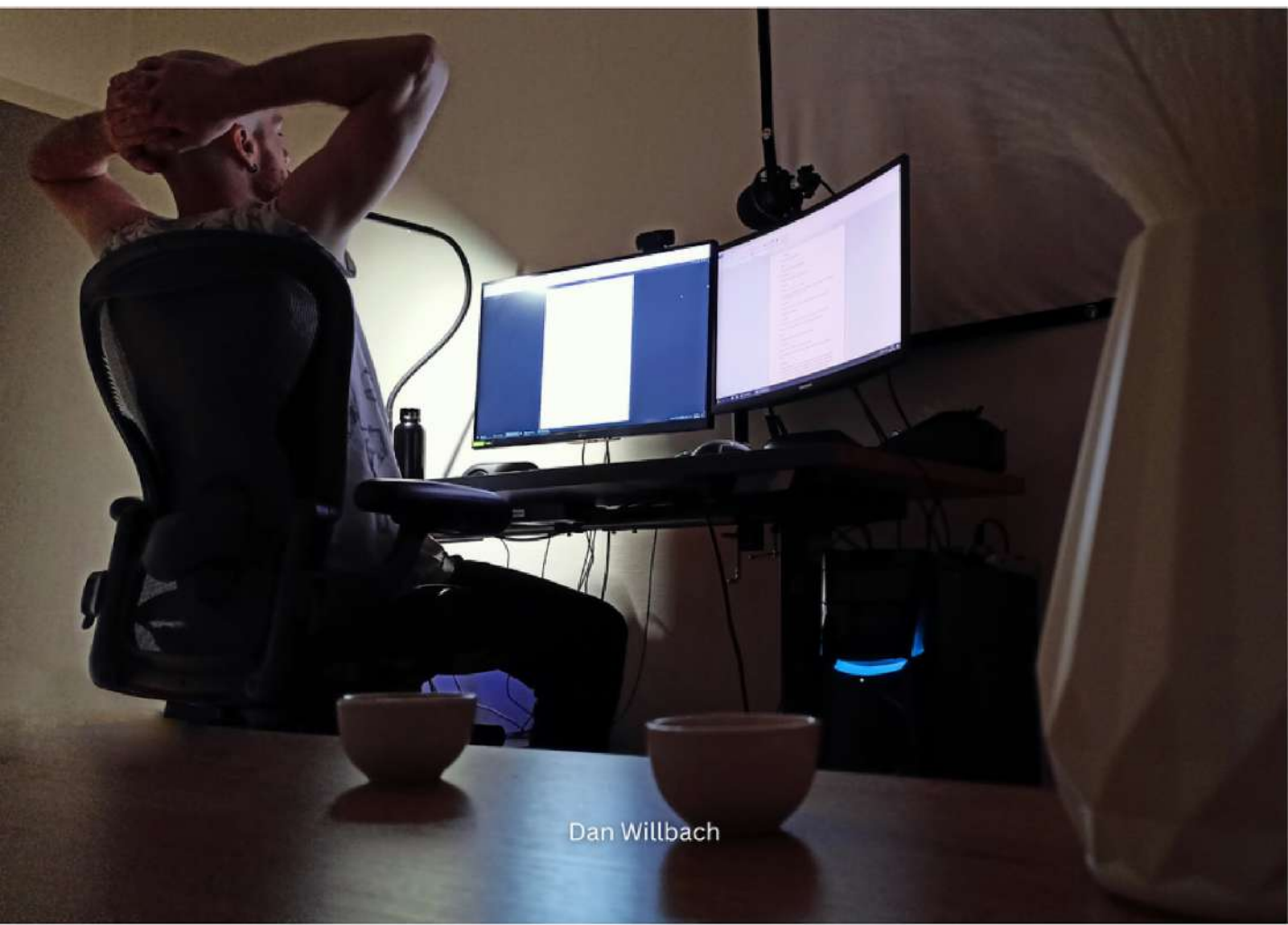
Charlie Johan James Vjestica

# DAN WILLBACH

 French

 Screenwriter

A dynamic force in the realm of creativity, embarked on his artistic odyssey 35 years ago, propelled by an insatiable hunger for expression across a myriad of mediums. Beginning his journey as a photographer, musician, and composer, Dan's trajectory led him through the intricate landscapes of video editing and graphic design, each facet enriching his craft with newfound depth and versatility.



Dan Willbach

In his formative years, Dan's deep immersion in the world of cinema ignited a fervent desire to carve his narratives. Immersed in a sea of series and films, he found himself inexorably drawn to the art of storytelling. Thus commenced his decade-long odyssey to birth his inaugural screenplay—a laborious yet profoundly enriching endeavor that tested his patience and resolve to their limits.

Undeterred by the complexities of his debut project, Dan ventured forth into uncharted territory with "Aedes." Departing from the intricate tapestry of his previous work, this script embodies a refreshing simplicity, blending the grandeur of science fiction with the irreverent humor of comedies past. With a cast of eccentric characters and unexpected plot twists, "Aedes" promises to enthrall audiences with its unique blend of wit and whimsy.

Residing in France, Dan Willbach, a 35-year-old male writer, channels his boundless creative energies into his craft.



**"IF YOU REALLY WANT TO DO SOMETHING, YOU WILL FIND A WAY. IF YOU DON'T, YOU WILL FIND AN EXCUSE."**

—Dan Willbach

Despite grappling with doubts about the marketability of his work, Dan remains undaunted, embracing humor as a guiding principle in his latest endeavor. His journey serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the limitless potential of artistic expression.

As Dan eagerly anticipates the moment to unveil his imaginative world to audiences, he stands as a beacon of inspiration for fellow artists, urging them to embrace complexity and celebrate the beauty of creative exploration. With each stroke of his pen, Dan continues to weave narratives that transcend boundaries, inviting audiences on a captivating journey through the depths of his boundless imagination.



# NILS A. WITT



German



Producer



Director



Cinematographer

Nils A. Witt is a distinguished filmmaker and cinematographer hailing from Germany. His career in the world of film and television began with his academic pursuit of Design in the field of Film and TV, leading him to graduate with a Diploma Designer (FH). His passion for the art of cinematography led him to further his education by taking a Masterclass in Cinematography at the ASC in Los Angeles, an experience that enhanced his skills and knowledge in the field.

 [nilswitt.com](http://nilswitt.com)

 [nilswittfoto.de](http://nilswittfoto.de)

 [@nils\\_a\\_witt](https://www.instagram.com/nils_a_witt)



Nils's dedication to the craft is evident through his membership in the BVK, the German Society of Cinematographers, showcasing his commitment to excellence in cinematography. Since 2014, he has worked extensively as a freelance cinematographer and editor, contributing his talents to various projects.

In recent years, Nils has ventured into creating his own experimental and fiction short films, showcasing his unique vision and artistic flair. Notable works in this realm include "The Awakening" and "Phoenix," both of which highlight his ability to bring compelling stories to life through his lens.

Nils's ambition and creativity culminated in his first feature film, a 90-minute fiction/mystery/sci-fi work titled "The Washer." The film represents a significant milestone in his career and a testament to his growth as a filmmaker.



Nils A. Witt

**"SEARCHING FOR MOMENTS AND LIGHTING, UNTIL EVERYTHING COMES FINALLY TOGETHER AND GETS ANOTHER LEVEL OF PERCEPTION."**

— Nils A. Witt

"The Washer" was completed in 2023 and had its world premiere at the esteemed Slamdance Film Festival in the United States in 2024. This achievement marks Nils's successful transition into feature filmmaking and establishes him as a notable talent in the international film scene.

Through his journey from a design student to a prominent cinematographer and filmmaker, Nils A. Witt continues to make a mark in the world of film with his innovative storytelling and technical expertise. His career serves as an inspiration for aspiring filmmakers and cinematographers looking to follow in his footsteps.




Loredana Linglauf

# SHELDON WOODSON


 American


 Writer

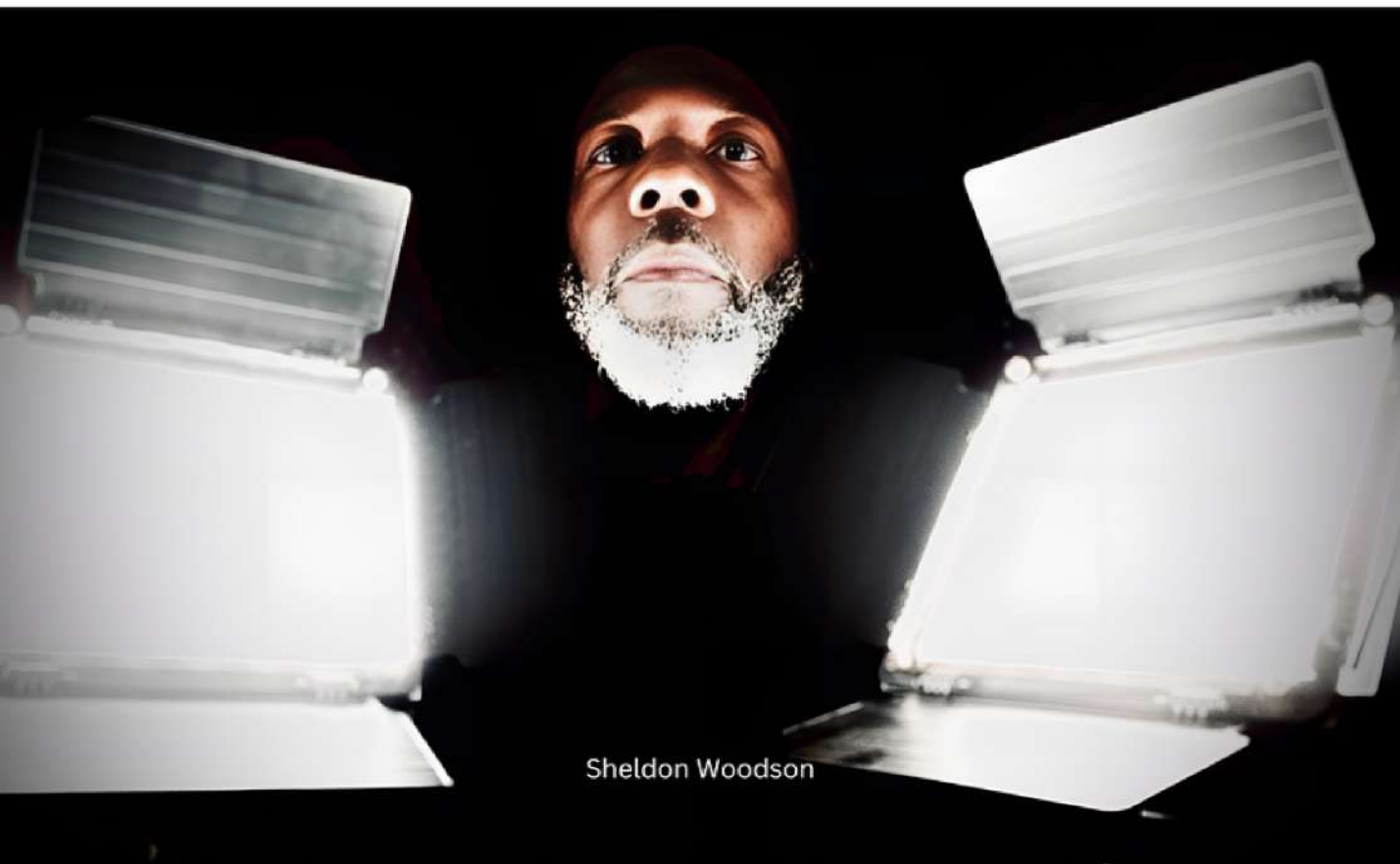
 Producer

 Director

Sheldon A. Woodson is a multifaceted individual known for his remarkable achievements across various domains. With an illustrious career spanning diverse fields, he has garnered numerous titles and accolades. Born with a penchant for excellence, Woodson's journey embodies perseverance, creativity, and dedication. Woodson's academic pursuits reflect his commitment to continuous learning and growth.

 Sheldon Woodson Sr

 woodsons.world



Sheldon Woodson

Graduating from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor's degree in Business Marketing, he later earned a Master's degree in Business Management, laying a strong foundation for his future endeavors.

His tenure in the United States Navy stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to service and duty. Over 24 years of military service, Woodson rose to the esteemed rank of Boatswainmate Chief Petty Officer, demonstrating leadership and proficiency in his role. Beyond his military career, Woodson's passion for storytelling found expression in his literary works. As an award-winning writer, producer, and director, he has captivated audiences with his compelling narratives. Woodson has authored three novels, including "DESTINATION - Sowing and Reaping," "SPIRITUAL EYES - Seeing is Believing," and "DARKNESS IN THE LIGHT - 12 Intertwining short stories," showcasing his versatility and imagination as a storyteller.



**"FROM TESTIMONIALS AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, WE HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO CONCLUDE, THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO DESIGN AND LIVE AND EXTRAORDINARY LIFE."**

— Sheldon Woodson

Sheldon A. Woodson has made significant strides in the film industry, producing acclaimed films like "TAKEN OVER" and directing noteworthy projects such as "VESSEL," which underscore his creative and directorial capabilities. His films, available on platforms like Amazon Prime Video and TUBI, reflect his narrative skill and have contributed to his global recognition, including receiving an Honorary Doctorate in Cinema and Television. Woodson's journey in both cinema and literature showcases his ability to engage and inspire international audiences, embodying the essence of creativity and perseverance in his multifaceted career.



**BEYOND  
HOLLYWOOD**  
The TOP Independent Creators of 2024





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I think when we wake up in the morning, we can choose between fear and love. Every morning. And every morning, if you choose one, that doesn't define you until the end... The way you end your story is important. It's important that we choose love over fear, because love is the answer.

**Guillermo del Toro**



# BEYOND HOLLYWOOD

The TOP Independent Creators of 2024

Creators, Filmmakers and Artists are the torchbearers of humanity's collective spirit, illuminating the path to boundless creativity and infinite possibility. Their creations transcend time and space, resonating with the depths of our souls and echoing through the annals of history. With strokes of brilliance and melodies of the heart, they paint the tapestry of our existence, weaving dreams into reality and guiding us towards the zenith of our potential. Their legacy is etched in the stars, inspiring generations to reach for the heavens and embrace the infinite possibilities that lie within.

Through unique biographies in alphabetical order showcasing some of the most remarkable independent creators of 2024, this book offers an immersive journey into the world of contemporary creative industry, showcasing the groundbreaking works and visionary talents that redefine storytelling.



THE  
**FILMMAKERLIFE**