

# RECRUITED



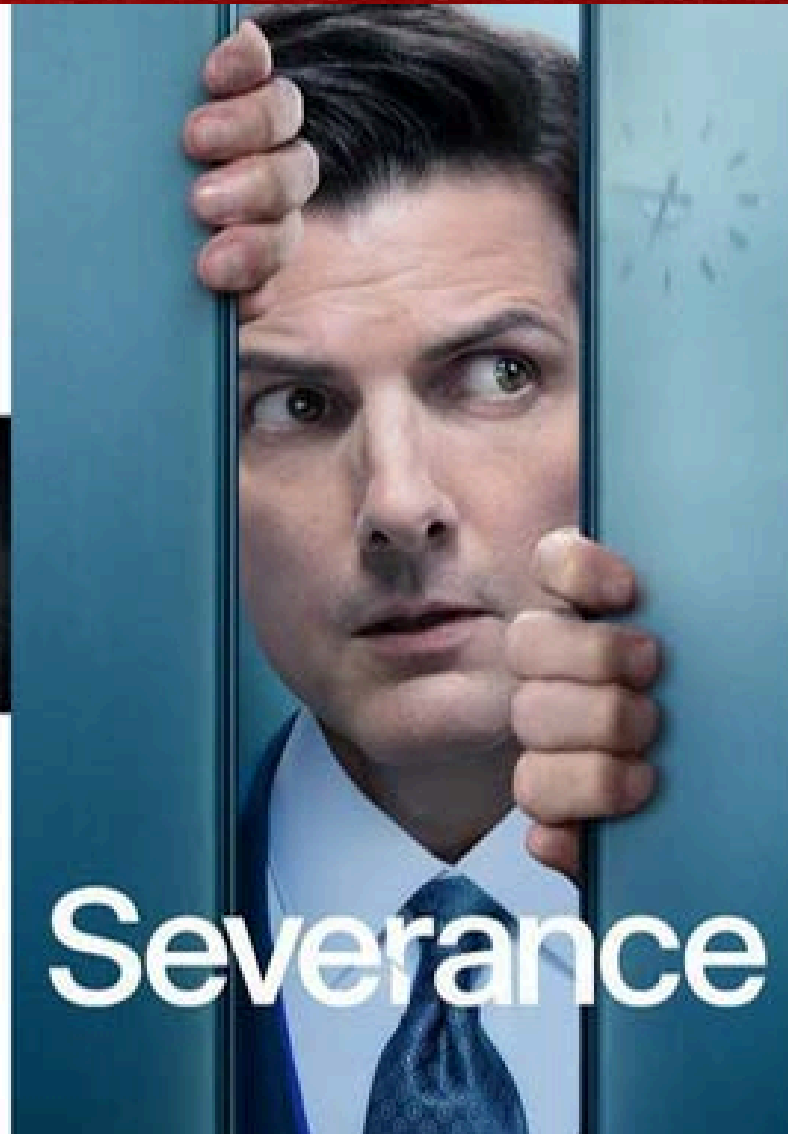
**FEATURE**  
**SOCIAL THRILLER with HORROR ELEMENTS**  
**CLIMBING THE CORPORATE LADDER**

**WRITTEN BY**  
**CONNOR AUSTIN JONES**  
**JAYE LADYMORE**  
**XAVIER J. ROE**

# LOGLINE

Strapped for cash, Janelle follows her friend Deja to an exclusive conglomerate's recruitment event, only to uncover a ruthless selection process that tests how much of herself she's willing to sacrifice in order to survive.

COMPS



FEATURE THRILLER

ASSIMILATION

CORPORATE CULTURE

MICROAGGRESSIONS IN  
THE WORKPLACE  
BETRAYAL

JOB SECURITY

SURVIVAL

Budget: \$2M

Filming: Louisiana



**JANELLE (F, 30s)**

*Attached: Jaye Ladymore (4400, Empire, Amadeus)*

A financially-strapped bartender who moved in with Deja approx. 1 year ago. Overly trusting of those closest to her.

*Self-doubting contender → Instinct-driven tactician*



**DEJA (F, 30s)**

*Comps: Keke Palmer, Jayme Lawson*

A ruthless ladder climber who lures Janelle into the recruitment gauntlet. She's in line for a promotion if they survive the night.

*Trusted confidante → Devout corporate loyalist*



**THE USHER (F, 50s)**

*Comps: Karen Aldridge, CC Pounder*

A multi-decade employee of the energy conglomerate. Recently demoted, she knows that when the day ends, she will be *let go*.

*Silent witness → Traumatized dissenter*



**CHARLESTON (M, 30s)**

*Comps: Patrick Schwarzenegger, Hudson Williams*

Deja's former partner with some feelings still lingering. Invited his business frat brother, Charles, to game the event together.

*Devious finance bro → Corporate golden boy*



**CHARLES (M, late 20s)**

*Attached: Xavier J. Roe (Macbeth, Nickelodeon)*

Charleston's business frat little bro, who finds himself drawn into [BLANK]'s methodology. He indulges in the violence.

*Naïve protégé → Morally compromised aggressor*



**MR. HARRISON (M, 50s)**

*Comps: John Hoogenakker, Courtney B. Vance*

The institutional enforcer in direct connection with the boss. Almost like a warden. Executing recruits with a smile.

*Seasoned enforcer → Disposable executive*

# KEY CHARACTERS



## JANELLE NEEDS A JOB

Passed over for yet another job and unwilling to move in with her mama – Janelle is reaching her wits end. Rent's due. Period.

Against her better judgement, Janelle accepts an offer from her faast friend and current roommate, Deja, to attend a corporate recruitment event for the world's preeminent multi-trillion dollar energy conglomerate.

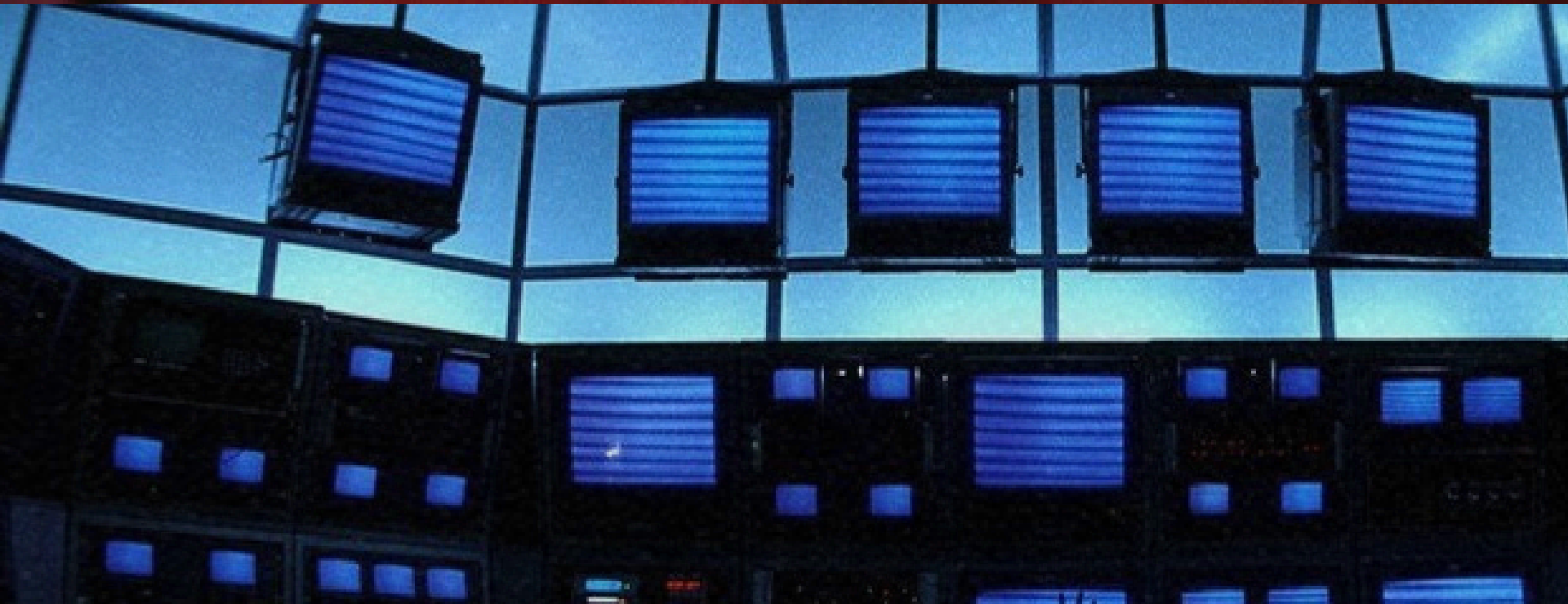
Janelle accepts... despite her many qualms with the company in question.



## *ADAPTABILITY*

Together- Deja, Janelle, and a group of ten other recruits journey to an undisclosed location hidden deep in the forest... something's off... but only Janelle seems to notice.

She brushes it off, as the event festivities begin... starting with an icebreak game of Twister. By game's end, she realizes the stakes are life or death as two losing recruits are swiftly eliminated.



## *INTROSPECTION*

The group is then led inside the company's facility and directed to a secret bunker for the next activity. Janelle tries to get a call out, but she has no signal. She tries to get Deja to run with her... but Deja calms her down. Focuses her. The only way through is forward.

The bunker presents a challenge where Janelle must assess what success looks, dresses, and sounds like... each pushing her to accept a corporatized version of herself... void of her cultural background... assimilated.

Each game eliminates two recruits.



## TENACITY

As the company's motives become clearer, Janelle takes it upon herself to fight back. She discovers the company's main electric-data grid, powered by A.I. programming fed through human conduits, including the "eliminated" recruits from earlier (who were implanted with a microchip, not killed).

Deja fights Janelle on behalf of the company, but Janelle gets the upper hand and burns it all down. As she drives away, the company takes note... she won the battle. Not the war.

## XAVIER ROE



A classically trained actor from Chicago’s South Side, Xavier has delivered acclaimed performances with the Goodman Theatre, American Players Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. With national commercial work for Dos Equis and Nickelodeon and film credits including *Craving*, *Each Lovely Thing*, and *The Activated Man*—in which The Independent Critic called him a “powerhouse”—he now expands into writing and directing, championing radical inclusion and elevated genre storytelling.

## CONNOR JONES



## CONNOR AUSTIN JONES

A former elite gymnast and Big Ten champion, Connor shifted from athletics to filmmaking after training in directing at Yale’s Geffen School, showrunning with The Gotham, and screenwriting at Rideback Ranch. His films have screened at international festivals with a Cannes Shorts cinematography nomination, and his scripts have earned multiple accolades. He is currently collaborating with Startling, Inc. (*Game of Thrones*) on the adaptation of the YA sports-drama novel *Every Variable of Us*.

## XAVIER JAMOR ROE

## Ameenah Kaplan

**Board Chair (Creative Steward)**

*Seasoned Disney Creative whose experience anchors AURA*

Ameenah Kaplan is an acclaimed director and choreographer whose career spans The Lion King (Broadway National Tour), the original American cast of STOMP, Marvel’s Avengers films, and celebrated work across The GRAMMYS and network television. A multi-award-winning creative with NAACP, Ovation, LA Weekly, and Gregory honors, she is known for rhythm-driven movement and emotionally resonant ensemble storytelling. She brings executive-level insight from years inside Disney’s creative ecosystem, grounding AURA with seasoned board leadership.



## ILYSSA GOODMAN

**Advisory Board Member (Distribution Consultant)**

*Commercial Storytelling Strategist*

A veteran filmmaker and former studio exec, she brings extensive commercial and distribution expertise. Having produced the *A Cinderella Story* franchise and managed releases across Warner Bros., Miramax, and Universal, she strengthens AURA’s development-to-distribution strategy.



## ROBIN HUMBERT

**Advisory Board Member (Compliance Consultant)**

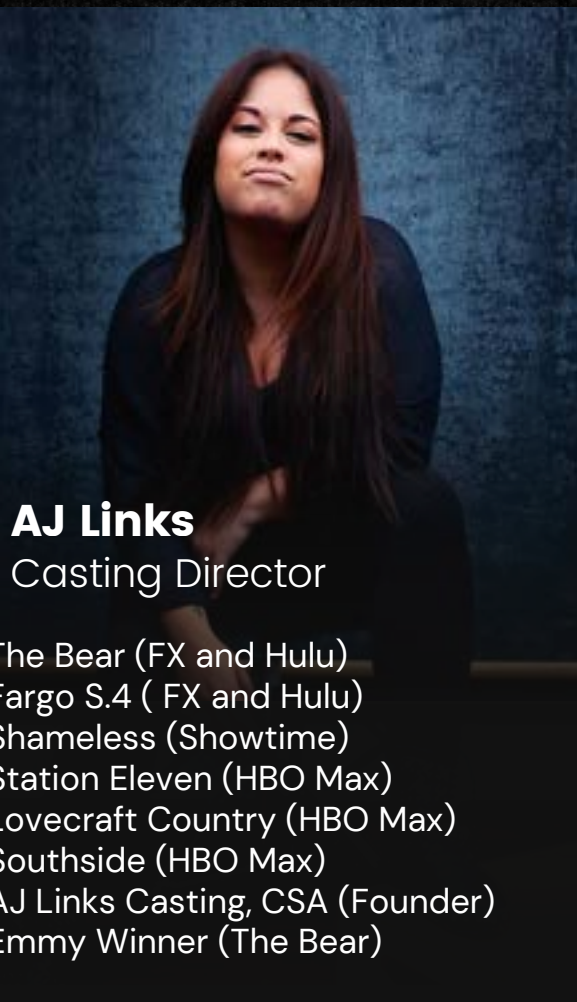
*Systems-Driven Producer with Cross-Format Range*

With 15+ years producing major film, TV, and live-event projects: including Lollapalooza, MARVEL Universe: Live, and Blue Origin. She is a Meta-certified digital media manager who brings Telly award-winning production discipline and scalable operational expertise to AURA.



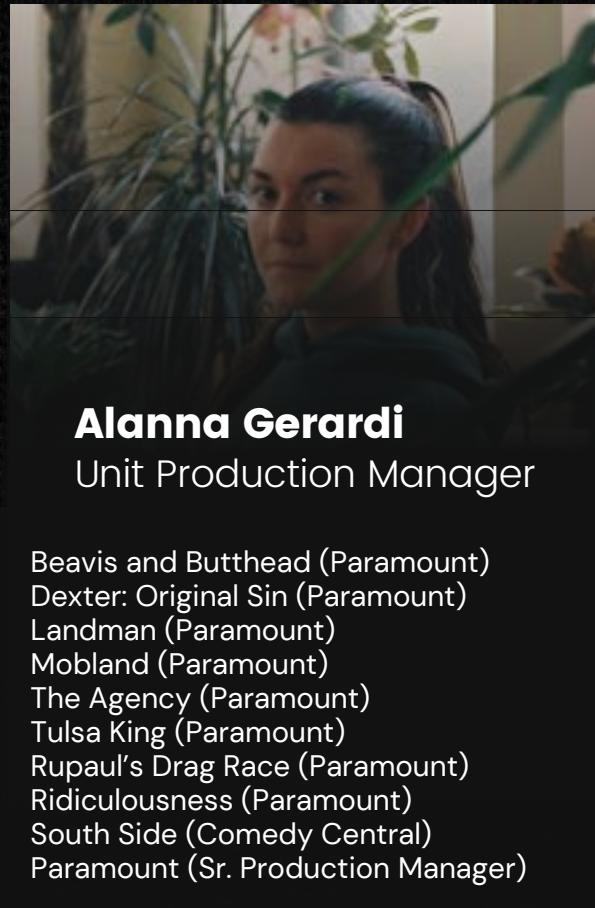
# TEAM

# COLLABORATORS



**AJ Links**  
Casting Director

The Bear (FX and Hulu)  
 Fargo S.4 ( FX and Hulu)  
 Shameless (Showtime)  
 Station Eleven (HBO Max)  
 Lovecraft Country (HBO Max)  
 Southside (HBO Max)  
 AJ Links Casting, CSA (Founder)  
 Emmy Winner (The Bear)



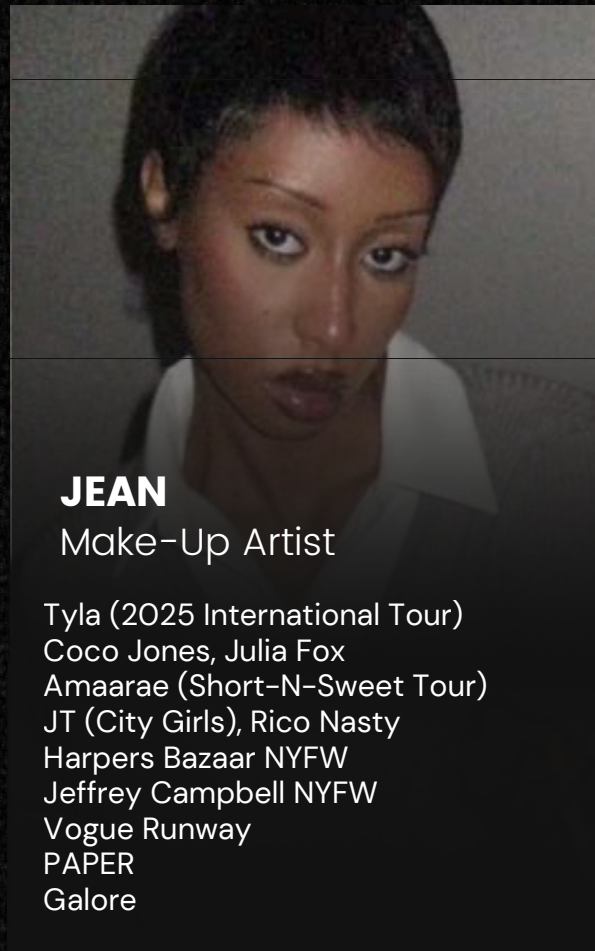
**Alanna Gerardi**  
Unit Production Manager

Beavis and Butthead (Paramount)  
 Dexter: Original Sin (Paramount)  
 Landman (Paramount)  
 Mobland (Paramount)  
 The Agency (Paramount)  
 Tulsa King (Paramount)  
 Rupaul's Drag Race (Paramount)  
 Ridiculousness (Paramount)  
 South Side (Comedy Central)  
 Paramount (Sr. Production Manager)



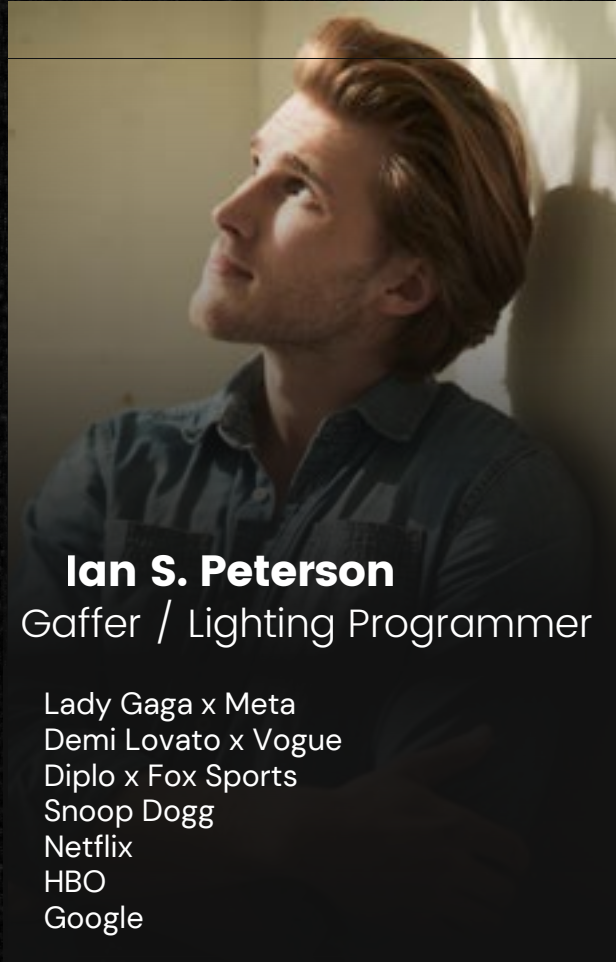
**Tiffany Safronoff**  
Stunt Coordinator

Avatar: Fire and Ash (Disney)  
 Star Trek: Picard (Paramount)  
 American Ninja Warrior  
 Taylor Swift (Eras Tour)  
 Beyoncé (Spirit Music Video)  
 New York Mets  
 High End Rigging (Founder)



**JEAN**  
Make-Up Artist

Tyla (2025 International Tour)  
 Coco Jones, Julia Fox  
 Amaarae (Short-N-Sweet Tour)  
 JT (City Girls), Rico Nasty  
 Harpers Bazaar NYFW  
 Jeffrey Campbell NYFW  
 Vogue Runway  
 PAPER  
 Galore



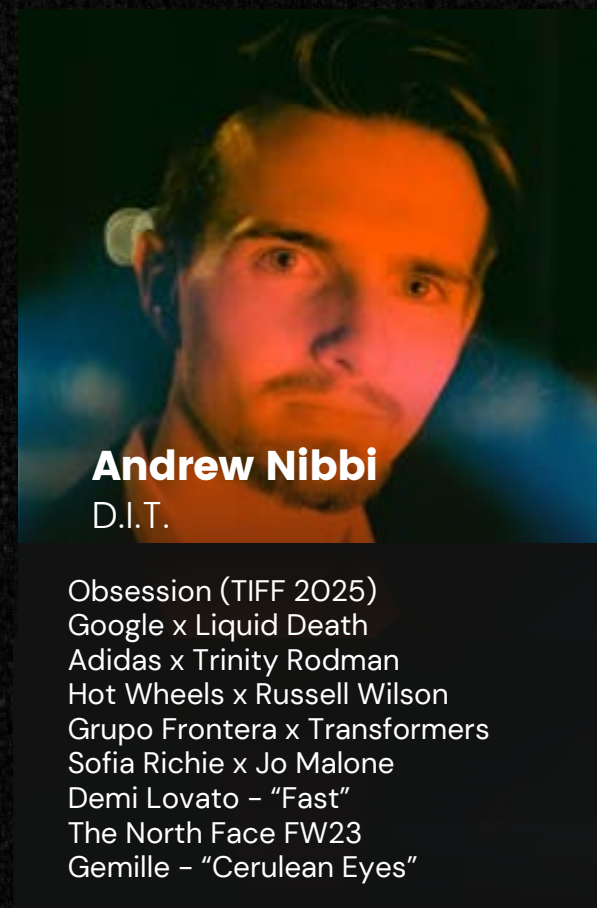
**Ian S. Peterson**  
Gaffer / Lighting Programmer

Lady Gaga x Meta  
 Demi Lovato x Vogue  
 Diplo x Fox Sports  
 Snoop Dogg  
 Netflix  
 HBO  
 Google



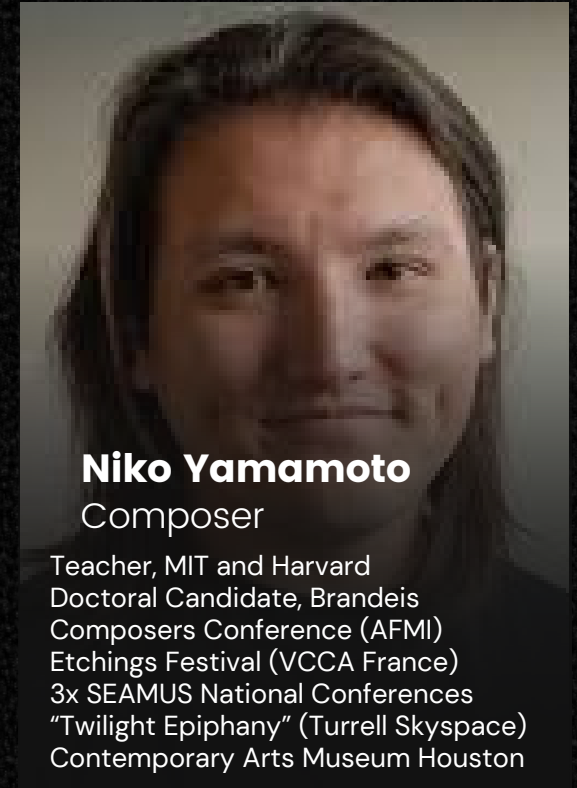
**Faith McGary**  
Costume Designer

Timothee Chalamet (Awards 2026  
 Campaign – International Premieres)  
 Designer, Ralph Lauren  
 Paris 2024, Team USA Uniforms  
 Macy's Red Dress Event on Fifth Ave  
 On The Line



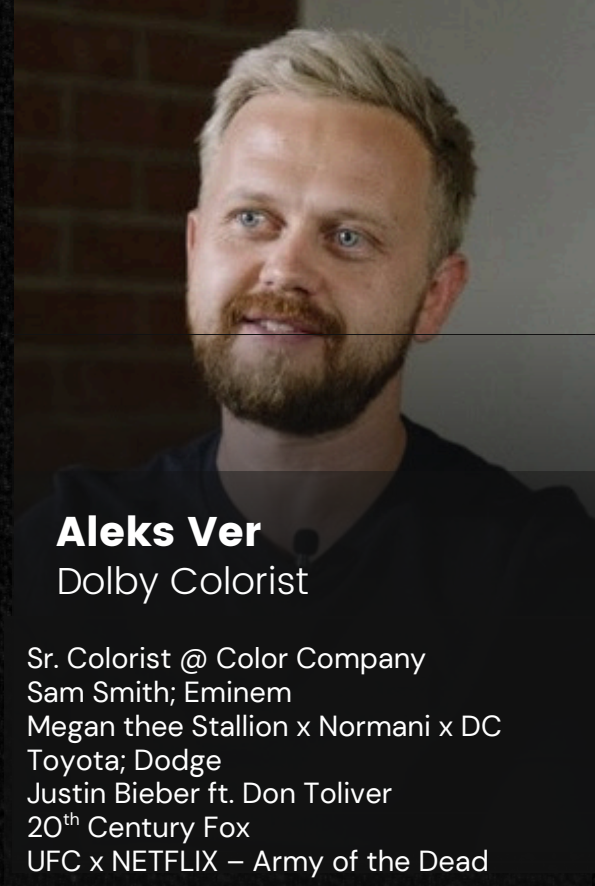
**Andrew Nibbi**  
D.I.T.

Obsession (TIFF 2025)  
 Google x Liquid Death  
 Adidas x Trinity Rodman  
 Hot Wheels x Russell Wilson  
 Grupo Frontera x Transformers  
 Sofia Richie x Jo Malone  
 Demi Lovato – "Fast"  
 The North Face FW23  
 Gemille – "Cerulean Eyes"



**Niko Yamamoto**  
Composer

Teacher, MIT and Harvard  
 Doctoral Candidate, Brandeis  
 Composers Conference (AFMI)  
 Etchings Festival (VCCA France)  
 3x SEAMUS National Conferences  
 "Twilight Epiphany" (Turrell Skyspace)  
 Contemporary Arts Museum Houston



**Aleks Ver**  
Dolby Colorist

Sr. Colorist @ Color Company  
 Sam Smith; Eminem  
 Megan thee Stallion x Normani x DC  
 Toyota; Dodge  
 Justin Bieber ft. Don Toliver  
 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox  
 UFC x NETFLIX – Army of the Dead



**Matthew Festle**  
Post Sound Editor

Teen Titans Go! (Cartoon Network)  
 Jurassic World: Chaos Theory (Netflix)  
 Batman Caped Crusader (WB, MGM)  
 Orion and the Dark (Netflix)  
 Sound Rebels (Company Member)  
 Emmy Winner (Orion and the Dark)  
 Emmy Winner (Creature Commandos)

# AURA STUDIOS, LLC

*Stories that move culture.*



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