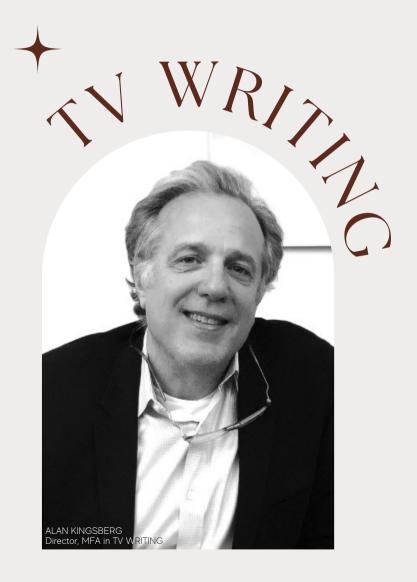
VOL.18 | APRIL 2024



MFA IN FILM & MFA IN TV WRITING

Manhattan Center





OPEN HOUSE +

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY: The TV Writing MFA, located in the heart of Manhattan, is hosting a Zoom Information Session on April 29 at 6:00 PM for applicants interested in Fall 2024. Learn about our one-of-a-kind TV Writing curriculum and meet faculty and students. Some new funding is available. RSVP at mfamanhattan@stonybrook.edu It's not too late to Write Yourself Into Your Dream Job.

APRIL 2024

TV WRITING INCUBATOR

INTRODUCTION

The MFA in TV Writing is launching a Post Graduate Incubator designed to nurture, inspire, and develop three to four TV series so that they can advance toward production. **Open to MFA in TV Writing Grads**, the program is set to begin in the fall of 2024. Ideally, one project will be **fully funded up to \$50,000 for production in the Fall of 2025**. Other projects will aim to be successfully pitched and funded from outside sources. The Incubator initiative is led by Alan Kingsberg and Kris Lefcoe and will involve industry advisors and mentors including NY Showrunners. The **deadline for applications is June 3.**





We are excited to announce

That two of our TV Writing MFA students have been chosen as finalists for the prestigious TV Academy Fellowship. First-year Haley Sakamoto and second-year Cassie Rubio.

The winner of this paid fellowship is placed in an active Writers Room for the summer. The fellowship is more than just a contest, it is a bridge between the MFA program and the industry and has launched the careers of many past participants. "What better experience than being thrown into the trenches," says Sakamoto. "Going behind the scenes and seeing how stories get broken feels invaluable," says Rubio.

Above all else, being chosen is proof for these two writers that they are on the right path. "It shows that my writing is progressing craft-wise. And, it is a nice ray of hope for this industry post-strike," says Rubio. These two writers are both looking towards the future of television writing, both as storytellers and organizers.

Finally, because you're likely as curious as we were, here are the loglines for their pilots.

Haley Sakamoto Da Locals



Sakamoto's **Da Locals**. When Poai, the everdutiful daughter and exhausted leader of her family of misfits, discovers her father hasn't made a mortgage payment in years, she must reunite her siblings to transform their Waimānalo home into a profitable hotel to avoid being forced off-island.



Cassie Rubio Primas

Rubio's *Primas*: A family drama that follows the Cruz cousins, four young women who must learn to work together as they balance running a family business, romantic relationships, and now caretaking duties of their ailing and headstrong grandmother.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNA

Kareema Bee

WFA IN FILM

Alumna <u>Kareema Bee</u>, in partnership with <u>The Big We Foundation</u>, is embarking upon producing her first docu-series, "The Self Love Act," a complex examination of the realities of self-love, aiming to specifically highlight the experiences of women of color. The project stems from a belief that love looks different for everyone, and self-love shouldn't be put in a box.



Kareema credits her time at Stony Brook with preparing her to take on this series. Having participated in the first cohort, she believes all of the hands-on learning provided her with the skill and experience to pitch and execute her vision. For the students coming behind her, **she advises them to never put yourself in a box.** Get to know every role in production while you're in school because you have the opportunity to learn without pressure.

Past her filmmaking, Kareema's creative passion serves as the spark for <u>The HiveMind Unified</u>, a resource sharing collective. A project born in the pandemic, she dedicates her time to connecting early-career filmmakers of color with opportunities and resources to help launch their careers. A storyteller to her core, her endeavor allows Kareema to spread that gift to everyone she comes across.

SPOTLIGHT

2017 Alumna -Juhyoung Ra's first feature, Atlantic City screened at the Jeoniu International Film Fest in Korea and also in France. From there she received local film funding to make her second feature.



Juhyoung Ra

Last year, she received the 2023 Korean Film **Council Independent** Film Production Fund,

the largest Korea has to offer, and filmed her third feature, Songbird in the New York area. All of us can't wait to see the finished project!! Congratulations Juhyoung!!

MANHATTAN CENTER

Yasmine Gomez



Phoenix, Arizona. Join in us in sending a big congratulations Yasmine's way!



Next up -- Party Favor's New York Premiere at Queens World Film Festival on April 23rd, 7pm, at the Kaufman Astoria Zukor Theatre. It will also screen at NewFilmmakers LA on May 4th in a shorts program titled, "In Focus: Asian Cinema." Everyone in the SBU family is sending encouragement her way!

ISSUE N.18

STUDENT PRODUCTION



"IT WAS CRUCIAL FOR ME TO HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER THE LOCATION, AND I EXTEND MY IMMENSE GRATITUDE TO THE SBU ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSORS WHO ALLOWED US TO CONSTRUCT OUR SET. SPECIAL THANKS TO MY PRODUCTION DESIGNER, LINA SARELLO, WHO OVERSAW THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF CREATING THIS STAGE."

--- OLESIA TYMOSHENKO

2ND YEAR SHORT - "PHILOSOPHY: UKRAINIAN THEATER - LOVE, DEATH, AND LES KURBAS"

FOR UKRAINIAN STUDENT **OLESIA TYMOSHENKO'**S SECOND YEAR SHORT FILM PHILOSOPHY: UKRAINIAN THEATER - LOVE, DEATH, AND LES KURBAS, SHE AND HER TEAM CONSTRUCTED A THEATER STAGE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE STONY BROOK MANHATTAN BUILDING.

RECREATING THE LIFE OF LES KURBAS, ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT UKRAINIAN THEATER DIRECTORS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, OLESIA FELT IT PRUDENT TO HAVE THE EVENTS OF HER FILM TAKE PLACE ENTIRELY WITHIN A THEATER, AS "THE THEATER STAGE ITSELF BECOMES A CHARACTER IN THE FILM.



FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2024

Time is running out to join the upcoming cohort of writers, directors, producers, and visionaries. Whether you are interested in the MFA in Film of the MFA in Television Writing, send in your applications soon! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to MFAManhattan@stonybrook.edu.



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