

PRODUCING PITCH POINT

The New York Film Academy Producing Department, **Los Angeles**, focuses producers on both:

Creative Producing - Story development, packaging, finance, legal, marketing and distribution; developing business plans, television show bibles, look books and the art and craft of pitching projects and get the film greenlit.

Line Producing - Covering all aspects of production management –including scheduling and budgeting feature scripts utilizing industry standard Movie Magic Software..

Producers will have extensive exposure to feature film and television series development, transmedia programming (web-series, etc.) as well as documentary films, covering **all media formats in a wide variety of budget ranges**.

The One-year students will receive a two-semester (three-semester from Spring 22) hands-on training that matches the MFA level and participate in producing **3 assigned films**: 2 Universal Backlot projects, and a Short Film collaboration.

The AFA students will prepare for their undergraduate program and receive a balanced mix of academic and hand-on courses during a four-semester program where they will participate in producing **6 assigned films**, 2 Universal Backlot projects, a group Documentary, Web Series Pilot, Individual Short Film, and a collaboration with a NYFA Filmmaker. **(We haven't run this program in several years)**

The BFA students will receive an eight-semester undergraduate education that integrates Liberal Arts & Science curricula and hands-on–beginner to advanced–producing skills, in progression. The students will participate in producing **6 assigned films**, 2 Universal Backlot projects, a group Documentary, Web Series Pilot, Individual Short Film, and a collaboration with a NYFA Filmmaker.

The MA students will receive a two-semester Academic training that prepares them to research, write about and fully understand the theoretical creative and business principles of producing for the entertainment industry. Students will prepare a Business Plan. **This Program does not include participating in any film projects.**

The MFA students will experience the most comprehensive hands-on, accelerated five semesters program that prepares them with workplace skills. Students will participate in producing **6 assigned films**, 2 Universal Backlot projects, a group Documentary, Web Series Pilot, Individual Short Film, and a collaboration with a NYFA Filmmaker. Students will also have the option to shoot a short for their Thesis project. In addition, the students will participate in a Pre-production Project where, along with several instructors, they will prep a 100-million-dollar Feature Film. **Only MFA students** have the option to enroll in the Feature Track program (with an additional semester) to produce a Feature-Length Thesis Film.

Students are immersed in a **rigorous, hands-on environment** where **collaboration with other departments is always encouraged**, and even built into the curriculum for several programs, providing students with an experience beyond theoretical learning and an exploration of ideas, but specific workplace skills, preparing the students to excel in the real world.

Students graduate having produced several group and individual projects, as well as having **completed business plans and treatments** for a feature film and a TV show pilot. Students in the MFA, BFA and AFA programs will also have completed a **first draft feature film script** and a **first draft TV pilot script**.

STUDENTS OWN THE COPYRIGHT OF THEIR OWN PROJECTS and can, at their own discretion, enter in film festivals or seek any other type of distribution.

All full-time producing students in the MFA, BFA and AFA programs will participate in **internships** with professional LA area production companies, agencies or studios.

Producing is producing, regardless of the budget range. We will give students the tools and knowledge to produce in any medium, on any budget scale.

At the end of the program, **eligible** producing students will participate in **“Pitch Fest”**, where they will pitch their projects to a variety of industry professionals and receive straightforward feedback and critiques.

Post Graduation

NYFA LA'S Chair of Industry Outreach, Barbara Weintraub, works with each student before they graduate to create a **professional resume** and a **post-school career game plan**.

Students are encouraged to keep in contact with Barbara Weintraub & NYFA after graduating, for **industry opportunities**.

FACULTY BIOS

ROBERTA COLANGELO | *Faculty Chair of the Producing Department*

Roberta Colangelo-Zawinul received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the Academy of Fine Arts, Milan, Italy, and holds an ABA-approved Paralegal certification from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has taught at the New York Film Academy for the past six years for both the Producing and Documentary departments.

Colangelo-Zawinul was the founder and president of Focus Documentaries, a production, distribution and legal services consulting company in Milan, Italy. From 2000 to 2005 she managed the worldwide exclusive catalog of the Vatican and coproduced a documentary entitled *The Vatican – How the Smallest Kingdom in the World Works*, making her the first female producer to work with the Vatican.

She has extensive experience in contract administration, has liaised directly with business and legal affairs professionals, mediated contract negotiations, and represented clients' projects at the most important industry markets.

ASHLEY BANK | *Producing Documentary, Acting for Producers, Thesis Advising*

Ashley Bank has been working in the entertainment industry virtually her entire life, as an actress, producer, stand-up comedian, and writer. She is a graduate of New York University, with a B.A. in Film, Journalism, & Political Science. She is also a graduate of The Second City Conservatory.

As an actress, Bank has appeared in over 40 commercials, and has guest starred on TV shows like Family Ties, My Two Dads, Frasier, and The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. She's also appeared in numerous TV movies, working with greats like Henry Winkler, Dolly Parton, and Raquel Welch, as well as in the film The Monster Squad.

Bank has produced several award-winning short films, one of which won the prestigious NYU Wasserman/King Award, and another of which was sold to the IFC Channel. She also worked as a producer for CBS News/48 Hours, and later for CBS News' documentary department, working on documentaries for The History Channel, The Food Network, A&E, Discovery, and ESPN.

Ashley continues working as an actress and a writer, recently appearing with her sketch comedy group at the LA Comedy Festival and in several plays, as well as performing stand-up at The Improv and The Comedy Store. She recently appeared in a production of The Country Club and directed Don't Dress for Dinner with her theater company Accidents Happen.

BETH BIGLER | *Alternative Media, Producing Reality Television*

Beth Bigler is a producer, writer and developer and has worked for such companies as ABC Daytime, CBS television, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Lionsgate, Machete Productions and True Entertainment/Endemol in scripted and unscripted development.

Beth has a strong track record of executing pilots and presentations across genres and platforms.

As a development consultant, she has shepherded series for numerous clients, including Fremantle Media, Magical Elves, Relativity Media, and Carnival Cruise Lines. Beth holds an MFA in dramatic writing from Goddard College and a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

As an educator, Beth has taught elementary, middle, high-school, college, and adults at a variety of institutions with diverse populations, including the University of Illinois-Chicago, Interlochen Arts Academy, and Goddard College. Some of her career highlights include Bravo's The Real Housewives of Atlanta, Discovery's Wreckreation Nation, A&E's Very Superstitious With George Lopez, CNBC's Back In The Game, Logo's The A-List, Discovery Science's Catch It, Keep It.

JOSEPH BONIER | *Production Sound, Post Sound*

An active sound mixer and sound designer, Joseph graduated with a B.A. from the University of Maryland. Joseph also has a degree in Recording Engineering from the Recording Connection.

He has worked as boom operator and sound mixer for numerous features, TV shows and shorts. He also worked as an engineer at Avalon studios in Washington D.C. and Matrax productions in Philadelphia.

DENISE CARLSON | *Producing, Thesis Advising, Advanced Pitching*

Former Disney executive, overseeing more than 40 Disney Channel movies, including the mega hit HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL. BFA Rollins College, Master's in Counseling Psychology from Ryokan College.

LYDIA CEDRONE | *Feature Track*

Lydia Cedrone is a former executive at The Walt Disney Co., Trimark Pictures and Savoy Pictures. She managed finances on more than two-dozen studio films, and oversaw company operations for Michael Man and the film Ali, starring Will Smith.

She produced two films, including the MGM release, The Betrayed. She earned her MBA at NYU Stern School of Business and her BA at Boston College.

JIM COANE | *Producing Reality Television*

Jim Coane is an Emmy award winning television producer, writer, director and development executive. He is credited as executive producer, developer and director on many network, syndication and cable series, including Dragon Tales, Walking the Bible, America's Most Wanted, Totally Hidden Video and Futurequest.

Coane has executive produced hundreds of series' episodes, specials and pilots for all the networks as well as cable and international broadcasters. He is the creator and Executive Producer of the multi-award-winning animated PBS series Dragon Tales. He worked on staff in overall producer deals at Sony Pictures Television, Fox Television Studios and was president of the production division of Unapix Productions.

JAMES COBURN | *Production Sound*

James H. Coburn IV, C.A.S., has been working in production sound for over 20 years, mixing such independent features as Free Enterprise (1998) with Eric McCormack and William Shatner, All's Faire in Love (2009) with Christina Ricci and Ann Margret, and The Bronx Bull (2013) with William Forsythe and Joe Mantegna.

His TV work includes Black Scorpion produced by Roger Corman, and reality show Guru2Go on Discovery Networks channel Health TV. He served on the Board of the Cinema Audio Society for seven years and was instrumental in creating the CAS Technical Achievement Awards honoring innovation in the equipment and software used by production and postproduction sound mixers.

Before moving to NYFA, from 2008-2015 James shared his enthusiasm for sound with students at LAFS. He teaches the fundamentals of production audio — utility sound, booming, recording & mixing — emphasizing capturing performance, and the importance of production sound in enhancing and supporting the director's artistic vision.

KEVIN DINOVIS | *Screenwriting*

Kevin DiNovis studied dramatic craft with Pulitzer Prize winning absurdist playwright Edward Albee.

His first feature film, SURRENDER DOROTHY (1998), won the Grand Jury prize for Best Feature at Slamdance, Chicago Underground, and New York Underground Film Festivals. DiNovis has also adapted the bestselling thriller LOVES MUSIC, LOVES TO DANCE for USA Networks, wrote DEATH & TEXAS with Academy Award nominee Charles Durning, and teamed up with former Paramount President, Frank Yablans on the adaptation of bestseller, SOUL SURFER.

Has served as a long-term judge for the Slamdance Screenplay Competition, discovering the scripts THE WOODSMAN AND MARIA, FULL OF GRACE. First writer selected to inaugurate Marvel Studio's Writers Program.

RICK GREENWOOD | *Cinematography, Directing*

As a writer, director, producer and cinematographer his works have appeared in over 50 film festivals and earned 13 awards. Currently in pre-production for his directorial feature debut with Therapy Pictures. MFA in Filmmaking, New York Film Academy; BFA in Fine Art, University at Albany, NY.

DENISE HAMILTON | *Producing Documentaries*

Denise Hamilton is a writer-producer for TV, whose work has been produced for NBC and CBS affiliates in New York and Boston, the Discovery Channel, the Fox Family Channel, E! Entertainment, de Passe Entertainment, and Quincy Jones-David Saltzman Entertainment. Ms. Hamilton wrote and produced the documentary Ngone's Story: A Tale of Africa's Orphans for the NBC/IBC series Horizons of the Spirit.

Ms. Hamilton was coordinating producer for both the ABC-TV documentary Motown 40: The Music is Forever, and WNBC-TV's For Peace Sake: Youth Speaks Out, which won three local Emmys. She also was the writer and field producer of two hour-long documentaries on Rwandan refugees for GBGM Productions: A Harvest of Love and Refugee Camps of Zaire, which aired on the Odyssey Channel; as well as Nicaragua, a one hour documentary on missionary work in that country.

For the past eleven years she has served as co-chairperson of the Black Association of Documentary Filmmakers-West. B.F.A. Theater, Howard University, M.A. Education, NYU.

MARK HOROWITZ | *Marketing, Distribution*

Mark Horowitz is a freelance consultant, lecturer, and teacher specializing in helping film makers successfully navigate the world of independent film and television from early stages of development through commercial release and beyond. He has over thirty years of experience in the international distribution, marketing, and financing of feature films. His experience ranges from commercial big budget films with high profile cast to independent art house movies from burgeoning directors.

Films that Mr. Horowitz has distributed have been nominated for Academy Awards, Golden Globes, and European Film Awards, and selected for festivals including Cannes, Venice, Berlin, and Toronto. In addition, Mr. Horowitz is involved in the development and acquisition of films from script stage to completed projects.

SUZANNE KENT | *Acting for Producers*

Series regular on "Pee-Wee's Playhouse," "St. Elsewhere," "The Garry Shandling Show," and "Brotherly Love." Voice actor on "Rugrats," "The Wild Thornberrys," and "Rocket Power." Over 30 film credits, including "Middle Men," "Honey, I Blew Up the Kid," "Nuts," "The Boost," and "History of the World: Part I."

SEAN KOHNEN | *Thesis Development*

Sean Kohnen took a circuitous and meandering route into the entertainment business. He began as a playwright and musician in Chicago, steeped in the city's vibrant arts scene but one fateful weekend out west made him fall in love with the majestic granite of Yosemite and the Sierras.

He quickly moved to California to become a professional rockclimber (yes, that's actually a thing) and climbing guide. After years of living in tents and eating mostly dry crackers, he began to supplement his meager income by working with production companies that needed crew with specialized wilderness experience.

Sean capitalized on this work and formed a small commercial production company specializing in outdoor adventure and "extreme" sports, producing dozens of commercial spots throughout the world. After selling his company and relocating full time to Los Angeles, Sean ventured into film and TV, first working as a development executive before coming full circle and re-focusing on writing.

He has written and produced three award-winning features, with a fourth currently in preproduction. In addition, he's sold television pilots to NBC, FX and AMC and written feature and TV projects for clients including Lionsgate, Atlas, Grindstone, John Wells Prods, Double Feature, Escape Artists and Sketch Films. He continues to play in several terrible bands and tries to get to the mountains whenever he can.

JUSTIN LAREAU | *Producing, Thesis Advising, Feature Track*

LaReau founded Zoe and Pebbles Productions and developed *A Demon Within* which was acquired by Blue Fox Entertainment and Level 33 and released theatrically on Jan 12, 2018. The company, under LaReau's direction, produces high production value feature films while working within efficient budgets.

LaReau also works as a director and loves being on set specifically having the opportunity to work with talented actors. LaReau is currently in development of multiple projects. BS in Economics, Illinois State University, MAT in Teaching, Olivet Nazarene University and MFA in Producing, New York Film Academy.

EMERSON MACHTUS | *Business Affairs*

Emerson Machtus was born into the film business. He has lived extensively in Europe, South America and the Caribbean, speaks Spanish natively and has multiple passports. Emerson has been actively working in the International Film Business for over 15 years in different capacities including film production, creative development, acquisitions, international sales, film distribution and financing in Mexico, Spain, London and Los Angeles. He's produced and been involved at different stages of production on projects of many sizes and budgets from Studio to small indies.

He wrote and produced the documentary *From River to Sea*. He has acquired European and Latin American rights for multiple titles and bought movies like David Ayers's *Harsh Times* starring Christian Bale for the domestic US market. He has represented international film distributors, film buyers and media companies as well as multiple film producers and content creators world-wide.

He has consulted with a major internet company on development of digital content and media and is currently a principal of Foton Pictures.

ANNE MCCAFFREY | *Producing, Thesis Advising*

Anne McCaffrey is a Line Producer and has worked in production management in both Film and T.V. worldwide for over thirty years.

Her extensive credits include Powder featuring Sean Patrick Flanery, Can't Buy Me Love with Patrick Dempsey, Young Guns II featuring Emilio Estevez and Kiefer Sutherland, Nightjohn with Carl Lumbly, Asunder with Blair Underwood and Wildflower directed by Diane Keaton, as well as reality shows The Amazing Race, Survivor, America's Next Top Model, and LA Ink starring tattoo artist, Kat Von D.

Anne is currently in development on two new features, Ghostkiller and Pops.

DIONNA MCMILLIAN | *Editing*

Dionna McMillian is a film director, editor and writer. She is currently on the festival circuit with the digital series pilot, The Next Right Thing. Which was nominated for Best Pilot at two festivals, the 2018 NYC Webfest and the upcoming 2019 Miami Webfest. Prior to the success of The Next Right Thing, she was best known for her short comedy film, Love, New York which screened at multiple film festivals and was featured on Issa Rae's #ShortFilmSundays. She also directed five episodes of the broadcast series Plant Based by Nafsika for A&E's FYI Network.

In addition to directing Dionna has a background in freelance editing. She holds an M.F.A in filmmaking from American University. When she is not on set or editing, she teaches Avid Media Composer. She was previously Chair of Post-Production for New York Film Academy's NY campus. During her tenure as department chair she taught directing and editing for NYFA at their Beijing, Mumbai and Doha workshops. Dionna has several projects in development including another digital series, a short drama, and a feature film. She enjoys creating projects that explore identity through a comedic lens. She is currently in post for the short comedy, Such A Deal.

STEPHEN MIELE | *Entertainment Law, Business Affairs*

JD, Glendale University College of Law; BA, State University of New York, Albany.

A practicing lawyer for more than 25 years, with clients including songwriters, musicians, actors, business and personal managers, producing companies, banking institutions and manufacturers. Appointed and acted as judge pro tem for the Los Angeles Superior Courts.

STEVEN PEROS | *Screenwriting*

Steven Peros is the writer of Lionsgate's The Cat's Meow, starring Kirsten Dunst and directed by Hollywood legend, Peter Bogdanovich. Recently, Steve sold original pilots to MTV and NBC/Universal and directed two features, one of which, Footprints, was hailed as "One of the 10 Best Films So Far This Year" by the Chairman of the New York Film Critics Circle.

He has written many features including Disney's Around the World In 80 Days, is a twice published Samuel French playwright, and was a staff writer on AMC's Emmy-winning halfhour comedy series, The Lot. Steven has written projects for such diverse talent as Dolly Parton, Jackie Chan and Eva Longoria.

He is a graduate of the Film/TV Program at New York University and has also taught Film/TV writing for UCLA Extension and The Writing Pad.

JENNI POWELL | *Alternative Media*

The Emmy Award-winning producer of THE LIZZIE BENNET DIARIES, WELCOME TO SANDITON, LONELYGIRL15, EMMA APPROVED and THE NEW ADVENTURES OF PETER AND WENDY. For two years, was Director of Content and Social Media for VidCon and was a producer at Felicia Day's YouTube Premium Channel Geek & Sundry, where she produced the Geekie Award-Winning Talkin' Comics Weekly. Most recently, was Head of Production for NewMediaRockstars before founding her own production company Discourse Productions.

JEN PRINCE | *Directing*

Jen Prince is an independent producer, director, editor and author. Jen produced and coedited the indie feature Quality Problems with Chris Mulkey, Mo Gaffney and Brooke Purdy, winner of Best Independent Spirit Feature at Sedona Film Festival, Best Feature at Women Texas Film Festival and Hell's Half Mile Festival, among other awards and critical acclaim. Jen recently produced the feature And Then There Was Eve with Tania Nolan, Karan Soni, Mary Holland and Rachel Crowl, together with Jhennifer Webberley (Metamorphic Productions), winner of a Jury Award at the 2017 Los Angeles Film Festival.

She produced the micro budget award-winning indie- road feature, Eve Of Understanding with Bellamy Young and Rebecca Lowman, distributed through Vanguard Cinema and screened at over twenty festivals worldwide.

Jen is currently in pre-production on her feature directorial debut, Miles Underwater which received a Hometown Heroes grant from the Duplass Brothers/Seed&Spark, teaming up again with the Metamorphic filmmakers who created Quality Problems. She is a graduate of the MFA Film Production Program at USC. She received her BFA in Acting and a BA in Liberal Arts in the Plan II Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin. Jen has also worked in post-production television. Credits include the Emmy Awards, The Contender (Mark Burnett Prods), and The Amazing Race (CBS).

MARK RITCHESON | *VFX Producing, Screenwriting*

Mark Ritcheson is a Visual Effects Producer, Writer and Story Editor who has worked in the industry for nearly 3 decades with top directors, producers and filmmakers. Mark headed the visual effects department of RIOT Santa Monica and Hollywood's Complete Post.

As a Visual Effects Producer, he has worked closely with top directors and visual effects supervisors including Mel Gibson and James Cameron to bring their vision to the screen. His credits include: Xmen 2, Failure to Launch, What's the Worst That Can Happen? and The Stepford Wives.

TONY SCHWARTZ | *Producing, Thesis Advising*

Longtime assistant director and line producer for television and films, including TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINES, FREAKS AND GEEKS, THE UNIT and CSI: NEW YORK. BA California State Fullerton. Served two years as Chair of Producing.

SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Paul Davidge (One Year Producing, Los Angeles) **Founder of Los Angeles based Feazer, LLC** ; former Chief Operating Officer of Exclusive Media's International Sales Division; former Vice President of International Business Development

at **Relativity Media** ("21 Jump Street," "Bridesmaids," and "The Fighter.") Completed the One Year Producing Program at New York Film Academy in Los Angeles.

Anton Lessine (One Year Producing, Los Angeles) **Leads Media Content Capital**, Los Angelesbased global media fund, including Covert Media, an independent feature production, financing and distribution company. Executive Producer credits include "**Fury**" and "**Dirty Grandpa**". Completed the One Year Producing Program at New York Film Academy in Los Angeles.