

## SCREENWRITING PITCH POINT

NYFA has **four, five, and eight semester degree programs**, plus **one year Conservatories** and **short-term 8 and 12 Week programs**. NYFA's degree programs run three semesters each calendar year.

- NYFA's **five semester Master of Fine Arts Degree** is an intensive and hands-on program, which focuses on the craft of writing across multiple media.
- Writing instructors have **real world Hollywood experience and credentials**, and most are currently working writers in TV & film, comics, video games and new media.
- No matter what your skill level, our **intensive workshops** help you develop a mastery of story craft and help you discover your unique style and voice.
- For the Fine Arts degrees and the one year, you'll have an extensive portfolio of work to show agents & managers.
  - 1YR program (Los Angeles): you'll complete **two feature film screenplays**, and **two television scripts**. You'll also write an original **short film script**
  - AFA: you'll complete **two feature film screenplays**, and **two television scripts**, and an additional script (**TV pilot or feature**) as your capstone script. You'll also write an original short film script and a one-act or short play
  - BFA: you'll complete **two feature film screenplays**, and **two television scripts**, and an additional script (**TV pilot or feature**) as your thesis. You'll also write an original **short film script**, a **one-act or short play**, a **web series proposal and pilot script**, and either a **comic book proposal and script** or a **proposal for a game**
  - MFA: you'll complete **two feature film screenplays**, and **three television scripts**, and an additional script (**TV pilot or feature**) as your thesis. You'll also write an original **short film script**, a **franchise proposal**, a **web series proposal and pilot script**, and either a **comic book proposal and script** or a **proposal for a game**, and additional material for a writing elective.

Plus additional treatments and story ideas for all programs

- In their Final year, BFA and MFA students write a **thesis project** while AFA students work on a **final project**. In all cases, students choose either TV or Feature Film, and spend one full academic year (the final two semesters of MFA and AFA, the final three semesters of BFA) developing and polishing their thesis screenplay. TV students write a **series bible**, in addition to the pilot script.
- Skill-building courses teach **character, dialog, story structure, idea generation, and more** – helping you master all the tools of storytelling craft for all genres of film & TV.

- The **MFA** offers additional electives in **World Building** or **Comedy Writing** as well as other skill or medium based electives.
- The **MFA and BFA** programs offer intensive training in **story pitching, story analysis, and the business of screenwriting** to help you better navigate the entertainment business and develop career strategies. The **AFA program** has an introductory course in business and a course in Pitching to **learn the basics** of these same skills.
- All fine arts degree students have the opportunity to participate in **internships at Hollywood production and management companies** to create relationships and gain real world experience. (This is extra credit for AFA students. For BFAs and MFAs, if they don't land an internship, or choose not to partake, they're then required to do a 10-15 pg. research paper on a screenwriter or screenwriting topic)
- **L.A. one-years and AFA students only:** there is a **staged reading** at the end of year one where actors read scenes from each student's script in front of a live audience.
- The MFA and BFA programs have a **pitchfest at the end of the program** where students whose pitches are ready, get to pitch their thesis to Hollywood agents, managers, producers and executives.
- MFA & BFA include a groundbreaking **transmedia** track, helping you explore and master the new media of **comic books, web series, & video games**. MFA students will build their own franchise and study **podcasts**.
- In Script to Screen, one year students and fine art degree students are exposed to workshops in directing, editing, & acting to round out their filmmaking knowledge. They will **shoot their own short film**, casting, directing and editing it.

## 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 **postschool career game plan**.

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

The Screenwriting Program has a **strong alumni network**, which degree program grads can use to network with other grads, stay in touch with classmates and instructors, and continue to take NYFA-instructor led screenwriting **workshops**, post-graduation.

## FACULTY BIOS

**Nunzio DeFilippis** | *Chair of Screenwriting, teaches Thesis Workshop, Genre Studies, and Sequential Art*

**Christina Weir** | *Character, Writing For Television, Story Generation*

Nunzio and Christina are a writing team who were writer/producers on HBO's **ArliSS** and wrote for the Disney Channel series **Kim Possible**. They've had features optioned at **Hollywood Pictures, Process Media** and **Humble Journey**

**Films.** They **developed a video game** at Sony, and a **TV movie** at Oxygen. Their **comic work** includes **New X-Men, Adventures of Superman, Batman Confidential** and **Dragon Age**. Their **creator-owned comics** include **Bad Medicine** (in development at Closed On Mondays and NBC), **The Amy Devlin Mysteries** (developed as a TV series at E!) and **Frenemy Of The State** (co-written with Rashida Jones and optioned as a feature film by Imagine Entertainment/Universal Pictures). They helped introduce Transmedia and Sequential Art to NYFA and Nunzio became Director of Curriculum Development for the Screenwriting Department in 2013 before becoming chair in 2014 and then becoming Dean of Faculty in 2016. Nunzio earned his MFA in Screenwriting from USC. Christina earned her MA in Television Production at Emerson College.

**Colette Freedman** | *Feature Film Workshop, Playwriting*

Colette has written the Lifetime film **Sister Cities** (with Jacki Weaver, Alfred Molina and Stana Katic) as well as three other made for television films. Feature films include **And Then There Was Eve** (2017 LA Muse Jury Prize Winner at LA Film Festival) and **Miles Underwater**. She is an internationally-produced playwright with over 35 produced plays, voted "One of 50 to Watch" by The Dramatists Guild. Plays include **Serial Killer Barbie, The Affair**, and **Blind Spots** (Encore Award 2018 Hollywood Fringe fest). She has written **nine published novels**, has co-produced several independent films, and as an actress, has worked on many television shows, including **That '70s Show, The Young and the Restless**, and **JAG**, as well as several independent films.

**Laura House** | *Writing The TV Spec, Writing The TV Pilot, Comedy Writing*

Laura has written on the WB series **Blue Collar Television**, the CBS series **Mom**, among other television shows. She worked most recently on the BBC series **The Secret Life of Boys**. She also works in stand-up comedy.

**Stephen Langford** | *Elements Of Screenwriting, Writing The TV Spec, Feature Film Workshop*

Stephen has worked in Hollywood since the mid 1980s, starting out as an assistant on the series **Silver Spoons**. He has since written in television on series like **Malcolm & Eddie** and **Family Matters**, as well as writing films like **Warm Blooded Killers** and **Lovewrecked**. Most recently, he has worked on the series **Creepshow**.

## **SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Screenwriting graduate Angela Ruhinda sold her **thesis script, "Iman & Andy"**, as a **pilot to ABC** with Whoopi Goldberg & Ben Silverman attached as producers.

Screenwriting graduate Melissa Palazuelos is currently working as **head writer on "Gossip Girl Acapulco"**.

Josefine Klemm (January 2010 AFA) is a **Story Producer on "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette"**.

RJ Thieneman (Sept 2009 MFA) currently works in **Development at Conan O'Brien**.