The 55th Chicago International Film Festival Presents:

INDUSTRY DAYS

OCTOBER 17-20, 2019
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WELCOME TO INDUSTRY DAYS!

As Chicago becomes a hotbed of film, TV, commercial and web-series production, Industry Days has become an important meeting place for our multiple entertainment communities and film festival guests to come together with each other and major decision-makers from around the U.S.

Anthony Kaufman
Industry Days Programmer

The Chicago International Film Festival’s hub for filmmakers and industry professionals to connect, share ideas and inspire each other, Industry Days includes panels and workshops, as well as roundtable meetings, networking events, and a competitive pitch session.

Since its inception in 2015, Industry Days has hosted an impressive lineup of film executives, creatives, and entertainment professionals, including Oscar®-winning director Steve McQueen (12 Years a Slave), Michael Barker (Sony Pictures Classics) and Charles D. King (Macro), Hollywood producers Gigi Pritzker, James D. Stern, and Albert Berger, and award-winning and celebrated independent filmmakers, including Stephen Cone, Sam Pollard, and Joe Swanberg.

Most events take place at the Festival’s main venue, the AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois St.), Theater 16, unless otherwise noted.

All events are open to registered Industry Days badge-holders only unless otherwise noted.

For full schedule information, registration, and other updates visit: www.chicagofilmfestival.com/industrydays

The full schedule is below. Speakers are subject to change.
INDUSTRY DAYS IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE HELP OF OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS:

IN ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. This program is partially supported by a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 17

4:30PM-5:45PM | THEATER 4
CHICAGO INDUSTRIES: BREAKING THROUGH TO THE MAINSTREAM

The Windy City's entertainment sector is blowing up, from TV shows to commercials, independent feature films to web series. Experts from diverse sections of the business discuss the widening options for media careers in Chicago and how to sustain the rise.

PANELISTS:
Betsy Steinberg (moderator)
Kwame Amoaku (Chicago Film Office)
Carrie Holt de Lama (Unit Production Manager for Hala)
Lisa Masseur (Tessa Films)
Jennifer Reeder (Knives and Skins)

6:00PM-9:00PM
INDUSTRY DAYS HAPPY HOUR

Cocktail reception with hors d’oeuvres at Lucky Strike Lounge, 322 E. Illinois St. Open to Industry Days and Industry Days Plus badges only

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:30AM | BY THEATER 16
NETWORKING BREAKFAST
Open to all Industry Days badge holders

10:00AM-11:00AM | THEATER 20
CAPTURING THE REAL: DOCUMENTARY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

A panel of nonfiction experts offer the skills needed to develop documentary projects and offer feedback and encouragement to participants.

PANELISTS:
Michael Caplan (moderator)
Jolene Pinder (Kartemquin Films)
Diane Quon (Minding the Gap)
Debra Tolchinsky (Fast Talk)
10:00AM-11:00AM | THEATER 16
FROM SCRIPT TO NUTS: FICTION DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Join industry pros for a discussion on the development process, and why your film needs it more than you think it does—especially when it comes to the script. With a diverse professional panel, we’ll discuss all the different elements you need to pull together before you start making that shot list, some key DOs and DON'Ts, and why development is actually the most important stage of production.

PANELISTS:
Angie Gaffney (moderator)
Eugene Sun Park (Full Spectrum Features)
Bob Teitel (The Hate U Give)
Brittani Ward (Casting Director)

CO-PRODUCED BY:

11:30AM-12:30PM | THEATER 16
MONEY TALKS: THE MANY WAYS TO FINANCE YOUR PROJECT

Making media requires capital, but there are many ways to fund a project, from grants and donations, to tax incentives and private equity. These experts will show you the various avenues to take.

PANELISTS:
Nicole Bernardi-Reis (moderator)
Julie Goldman (Motto Pictures)
Brian Hieggelke (Newcity)
Cesar Lopez (Illinois Film Office)
Yvonne Welbon (Sisters in Cinema)

1:30PM-2:30PM | THEATER 16
THEY ARE THE CHAMPIONS: ACCESSING LAWYERS, AGENTS AND MANAGERS

“It’s all about who you know”—which is why having representatives who can help advocate on your behalf is so important. How do you find reps and how do you get them to most effectively work for you?

PANELISTS:
Laverne McKinnon (moderator)
Jeffrey Becker (entertainment attorney)
Nick Ogiony (CAA)
Ross Putman (Verve)

SPONSORED BY: SWANSON, MARTIN & BELL, LLP
3:00PM-4:00PM | THEATER 16
CAREER BUILDING THROUGH DISTRIBUTION

Don’t just throw your project on a platform or at a film festival: Be strategic. Find out how to work with exhibitors and distributors that help you sustain your career over the long term.

PANELISTS:
Aymar Jean Christian (moderator)
Chris Charles (Throughline Films)
Sarah Colvin (Neon)
Ryan Oestreich (Music Box Theatre)

4:30PM-5:30PM
THEATER 16
KEYNOTE CONVERSATION: FROM THEATRICAL CAMPAIGNS TO THE STREAMING WARS WITH BOB BERNEY

A preeminent force in the film world for more than two decades, Berney was most recently Head of Marketing & Distribution at Amazon Studios, where he oversaw theatrical distribution for a vast array of critically acclaimed titles, including Manchester by the Sea and The Big Sick. Prior to joining Amazon Studios, he released some of the biggest indie films of all time, including Insidious, My Big Fat Greek Wedding, and Memento. Berney will discuss surviving the streaming wars and the seismic shifts in the entertainment landscape.

MODERATOR:
Anthony Kaufman

SPONSORED BY: DePaul University

7:00PM-9:00PM | CHEZ (247 E. ONTARIO ST.)
INDUSTRY DAYS PARTY

Cocktail reception with hors d’oeuvres
Open to Industry Days and Industry Days Plus badges only

SPONSORED BY:
Clemency seemingly came out of nowhere to win the Grand Jury Prize at this year’s Sundance Film Festival. What was the secret to their success—and how did the filmmakers develop, finance, and produce this low-budget, female-driven Oscar® contender?

**Panelists:**
- Darrien Michele Gipson (moderator)
- Chinonye Chukwu (director)
- Bronwyn Cornelius (producer)

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Cinematographers talk the tools of their craft, break down their most impressive sequences, cameras, lenses, and gear, and discuss best practices for collaborating with directors and crew.

**Panelists:**
- Megan Donnelly (moderator)
- Christopher Rejano (Knives and Skin)
- Scott Thiele (Girl on the Third Floor)
- Tommy Maddox-Upshaw (On My Block, Snowfall)

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Steven Conrad is the writer of The Pursuit of Happyness, The Weather Man, The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, and wrote and directed the Amazon series Patriot and the Epix series Perpetual Grace, LTD.

**Moderator:** David Wolinsky
4:00PM-5:00PM
CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER,
Claudia Cassidy Theater, 2nd floor
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MASTER CLASS IN PRODUCTION
DESIGN WITH OSCAR®-WINNER
HANNAH BEACHLER

Hannah Beachler made history this year as the first African American to win the production design Oscar® for her visionary work on Marvel’s blockbuster Black Panther. Previous credits include Oscar®-winner Moonlight, Creed, Fruitvale Station, and Beyoncé’s Lemonade.

MODERATOR: Jacqueline Najuma Stewart (University of Chicago)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

6:00PM-9:00PM
INDUSTRY DAYS HAPPY HOUR
Cocktail reception with hors d’oeuvres at
Lucky Strike Lounge, 322 E. Illinois St.
Open to Industry Days and Industry Days Plus badges only

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

12:00PM-1:00PM | THEATER 3
MASTER CLASS IN PRODUCTION
DESIGN WITH OSCAR®-WINNER
ADAM STOCKHAUSEN

Oscar®-winning production designer Adam Stockhausen’s long-standing collaboration with filmmaker Wes Anderson has yielded some of the most mesmerizing design in recent memory, including The Grand Budapest Hotel, for which he won the Academy Award®. Other credits include Steven Spielberg’s Bridge of Spies and Ready Player One, and Steve McQueen’s 12 Years a Slave and Widows.

Show your badge at the box office for a free ticket 20 minutes before start time. Seating is based on ticket availability and theater capacity. Admission is not guaranteed.
1:30PM-4:30PM | CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER  
Millennium Park Room, 5th floor  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
THE PITCH

A curated selection of filmmakers with new narrative projects in active development will take part in a competitive pitch session. The winning pitch, selected by a jury of film experts, will receive an award of in-kind services from Chicago Production Facilities and Consultation Services, including Keslow Camera, Stage 18, Chicago Media Angels, Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP, and the Tribeca Film Institute, worth over $20,000.

HOSTED BY:  
Nicole Bernardi-Reis and Jonah Zeiger

PITCH JUDGES:  
Bryce Norbitz (Tribeca Film Institute)  
Josh Foster (Cinetic Media)  
Stephen Cone (Princess Cyd)

PITCH MENTORS:  
Nicole Bernardi-Reis  
Jonah Zeiger  
Ericka Frederick  
Anna Hozian

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

4:30PM | THEATER 7  
STACY SMITH: MAKING HOLLYWOOD MORE INCLUSIVE

Dr. Stacy L. Smith, Founder and Director of the Media, Diversity, and Social Change Initiative at U.S.C.’s Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, is one of the premiere experts and researchers on the underrepresentation of women, racial and ethnic groups, the LGBTQ community and people with disabilities in Hollywood films, the music industry, and film criticism. In this inspiring discussion, Smith examines how we can work together to create sustainable industry change.

Show your badge at the box office for a free ticket 20 minutes before start time. Seating is based on ticket availability and theater capacity. Admission is not guaranteed.
In 1979, on a warm summer night in Chicago, a middle-class family teetering on the brink of divorce is forever changed when actor John Belushi — who just so happens to be filming a scene for THE BLUES BROTHERS down the street — knocks on their front door and invites himself in for dinner.

**Director/Writer/Producer:** Justin Shady

**CARRIE ON**

Carrie moves to Chicago to start over, but gets herself entangled in a messy affair with an ex-boyfriend and his new girlfriend instead.

**Director/Writer:** Tayler Vee Robinson

**Producer:** Eugene Sun Park

**HOMESICK**

Following a traumatic breakdown, a bratty young art student is forced to recover in the isolation of her father’s mid-construction home. But as she works to rebuild her world, she stumbles across a dark, decades-old mystery.

**Director/Writer/Producer:** Jim Vendiola

**Writer/Producer:** Shelley Gustavson

**LOTÉRÍA**

An undocumented bathroom attendant at a seedy vaudevillian nightclub longs to be a famous singer and strikes a deal with the devil to make her dreams a reality.

**Director/Writer:** Emily Esperanza

**Producers:** Brian Khan, Eugene Sun Park

**THREE HOURS**

A single mother living on the edge in Chicago’s Humboldt Park has three hours to find someone, anyone to care for her child, or risk losing the job that keeps both of them from losing their home.

**Director/Writer:** Aemilia Scott

**Producer:** Holli McGinley
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Chicago Industries: Breaking Through to the Mainstream

Lisa Masseur
As a 20 year veteran of the Chicago production scene, Lisa is widely known as a trusted Executive Producer who has an eye for talent. She was an Executive Producer at Ebel Productions, Radar Studios and One at Optimus. As the founder of Tessa Films, her company can easily manage cross platform productions that capture commercial, online, and social content with ease. Tessa has produced work for clients Microsoft, T-Mobile, Kraft, and Chevy. Tessa Films also produced the TV pilot “Work in Progress” that screened at Sundance this year and which will premiere on Showtime this December.

Jennifer Reeder constructs personal fiction films about relationships, trauma and coping. Her films have shown consistently around the world, including the Sundance Film Festival, The Berlin Film Festival, The Tribeca Film Festival, The Rotterdam Film Festival, The London Film Festival, SXSW, The Venice Biennale and The Whitney Biennial. She was a USA Artist nominee for 2008, 2015, 2016, and 2017. She was a Herb Alpert Film Award nominee in 2018. She is the 2019 recipient of the Alpert Film Award residency at the MacDowell Colony. Her most recent film, Knives and Skin will be theatrically released in France in November through UFO and in the US in December through IFC Midnight.

Kwame Amoaku is the Director of the Chicago Film Office. He has 25 years of experience as an executive producer, director, assistant director, production manager, location manager, actor, and writer. Prior to joining the Chicago Film Office, Amoaku was location manager for the NBC series, Chicago Fire (since 2014) and for the Netflix movie based on Chicago’s hip-hop scene, Beats (2019). His acting credits include Chicago Fire, ER, and Prison Break. He attended Southern Illinois University.

Carrie Holt de Lama is a production manager and producer. She has collaborated on successful film, stage and video projects across all media platforms for more than a decade. In addition to a full list of short film, television, video and stage credits, she co produced The Last Rites of Joe May and line-produced several full-length features, including A Light Beneath Their Feet, Of Boys and Men and 23 Blast. Carrie managed the Chicago production for the Bollywood action film Dhoom 3 filming months of astonishing, nail-biting stunts. She also co-produced Kubuku Rides, the first short film by Steppenwolf Films, where Carrie is a company member. Carrie is President Emeritus of IFP/Midwest, a Trap Door Theater board member and a member of the Director’s Guild of America.

Betsy Steinberg (moderator) is a long-time independent film producer. She is the former head of Kartemquin Films, and in that capacity served as Executive Producer on projects such as Minding the Gap, Abacus: Small Enough to Jail and the TV Series America to to Me. Steinberg was also Managing Director at the Illinois Film Office, where she helped the passage of the Illinois Film tax credit and helped the state dramatically grow the film industry.
Capturing the Real: Documentary Development Workshop

Diane Quon is an Academy Award®-nominated producer who worked as a marketing executive for 17 years at NBC and at Paramount Pictures before moving back to her hometown of Chicago. Diane is producing Kartemquin Films documentaries including the Oscar® and Emmy nominated, Minding the Gap, Left-Handed Pianist, The Dilemma of Desire, and Finding Yingying. Diane is a 2017/2018 Film Independent Fellow, a 2019 IFP Cannes Producer Fellow and a 2019 Sundance Creative Producing Fellow. She is also developing a fiction film based on a New York Times bestselling novel.

Jolene Pinder is the Executive Director of Kartemquin Films. She is a documentary producer and arts administrator with 15 years of experience in the independent film space. Jolene helmed the New Orleans Film Society (NOFS)—the producer of the Oscar-qualifying New Orleans Film Festival (NOFF)—for six years during a period of unprecedented growth. For four years prior, Jolene worked at Arts Engine / Big Mouth Productions in NYC as a documentary film producer and Director of the Media That Matters Film Festival. She currently serves on the board of Court 13 Arts, was a founding member of the Film Festival Alliance and the Alliance for Louisiana Filmmakers, an inaugural fellow in the UnionDocs Collaborative Studio, and has juried film festivals across the country.

Debra Tolchinsky is a documentary director/producer and an associate professor at Northwestern University in the Department of Radio-TV-Film. She was the founding director of Northwestern’s MFA in documentary media and currently owns Cross X Productions. Debra received an AB from USC’s School of Cinematic Arts and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her films have screened at the Sundance Film Festival, The John F. Kennedy Center, and the Supreme Court Institute. In 2017, Debra garnered an Alice B. Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Fellowship, and in 2018 she won a Kartemquin Partner Program Sage Fund grant. Debra’s in-process feature, True Memories and Other Falsehoods is in development with Kartemquin Films.

Michael Caplan (moderator) is an Associate Professor in the Cinema and Television Arts Department, specializing in Documentary and Producing. He is an award-winning independent film director and producer. He has directed a feature-length documentary that explores the life and legacy of Nelson Algren, the National Book Award-winning author of The Man with the Golden Arm. Algren premiered at the Chicago International Film Festival in 2014. He received an MFA in Film Directing from Northwestern University and a BA in History from Carleton College.

From Script to Nuts: Fiction Development Workshop (co-produced by Stage 18)

Eugene Sun Park is the Executive Director and Founder of Full Spectrum Features. He is a filmmaker and producer working in narrative and experimental forms. His films have screened at over 400 festivals, micro-cinemas, museums, galleries, and alternative screening venues.
around the world, including SXSW, BAMcinemafest, Outfest, Frameline, NewFest, Chicago International Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival, Chicago Underground Film Festival, Athens International Film + Video Festival, and Antimatter (Victoria, Canada).

Brittani Ward
For the past ten years, Brittani has maintained a prolific casting career, considering countless actors worldwide. As either a Casting Associate or Casting Director, she has worked on projects of every size – from a billion-dollar studio franchise and hit television shows, to award-winning features and prestigious mentorship programs. She is also the owner and sole acting coach of Accomplished On Camera, LLC - a new (opened in July 2019), high-level training center for TV/film actors in Chicago.

Robert Teitel (Bob) is a native of Chicago and graduated from Columbia College. Bob and his partner George Tillman formed State Street Pictures where he produced hit films such as Soul Food, Men of Honor, Southside With You, and the Barbershop franchise. He served as an Executive Producer on the four-time Academy Award nominated film, Mudbound. He produced the big-screen adaptation of the New York Times bestselling book The Hate U Give for Fox 2000 and in June 2019, Bob produced Beats for Netflix.

Angie Gaffney (moderator) is an Entrepreneur, Film Producer, and Life Coach based in Chicago, Illinois. She is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Stage 18 Chicago, and local film credits include Monuments, Killing Eleanor, Signature Move, Public Housing Unit, The Onion and upcoming feature film Adult Children and Lucky Star.

Money Talks: The Many Ways to Finance Your Project

Julie Goldman is an Oscar®-nominated and Emmy Award-winning producer and executive producer of documentary features and series, including One Child Nation, Ringside, Abacus: Small Enough to Jail, Life, Animated, Weiner, Humans of New York, Murder in the Bayou, God Loves Uganda, Buck, Sergio, Art and Craft, Solitary, and Best of Enemies.

Brian Hieggelke and Jan Hieggelke are the founders of Newcity. In 2014, they launched a sister film production and boutique distribution company, Chicago Film Project, to pursue opportunities that have three characteristics: superior quality, commercial viability and some kind of Chicago DNA. Their second film, Jennifer Reeder’s Knives and Skin, had its world premiere at the Berlinale in 2019, followed by its North American premiere at Tribeca in spring 2019 and is having its Chicago premiere at Chicago International Film Festival.

Cesar Lopez is the Tax Credit Manager at the Illinois Film Office.

Yvonne Welbon is Founder & CEO of the Chicago-based non-profit, Sisters in Cinema and a Senior Creative Consultant at Chicken & Egg Pictures. She is an award-winning independent filmmaker and has produced and distributed over 20 films in more than 100 film festivals around the world. Welbon has taught at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University and chaired the Journalism and Media Studies Department at Bennett College.
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She completed an M.F.A. in Film/Video at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a Ph.D. in Radio/TV/Film at Northwestern University and is a graduate of the American Film Institute’s Directing Workshop for Women.

Nicole Bernardi-Reis (moderator)
A producer and director, Nicole Bernardi-Reis’s work spans narrative shorts and feature film, documentary features, and television series. She has produced two documentaries that screened at the Chicago International Film Festival: Michael Caplan’s Algren (2014) and Radical Grace (2015). Under her leadership at IFP Chicago, the organization launched innovative artists services and development programs. She is a co-creator of The Pitch at Industry Days.

They Are the Champions: Accessing Lawyers, Agents and Managers

Nick Ogiony is a CAA Media Finance Agent at leading entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Ogiony is based in the Los Angeles office and represents many of the world’s leading producers, directors, and independent films. Following his passion for independent and international cinema, he became the assistant for the co-heads of William Morris Independent, Cassian Elwes and Rena Ronson. He joined CAA in 2009. Ogiony graduated from Boston University with a degree in Film.

Jeff Becker is Chair of Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP’s Entertainment and Media Law Practice Group. Among his clients are Grammy-awarding winning musicians, producers and songwriters, publishers and record labels, professional athletes, authors, independent filmmakers and other creative individuals and entertainment-related businesses. He is an Adjunct Professor at DePaul University College of Law, where he teaches Music Law, and has guest lectured on entertainment-related topics at various colleges, law schools and conferences across the country.

Ross Putnam
After graduating from USC’s School of Cinematic Arts, Ross Putman started his career as a development executive before transitioning to independent film production. The company he co-founded, PSH Collective, went on to produce the Sundance award winning drama First Girl I Loved and the Emma Roberts rom-com In a Relationship. His latest film, Plus One won the audience award at the Tribeca Film Festival. Ross recently transitioned to a job at the literary and talent agency Verve, working in their independent film sales and finance division.

Laverne McKinnon (moderator) is the Executive Producer of the Netflix series GIRLBOSS, and the co-founder of K&L Productions. Laverne is also a leadership and personal coach, certified grief counselor, and an adjunct professor at Northwestern University’s MS Leadership for Creative Enterprises program. For a significant part of her career, she was a successful programming executive with stints as SVP Drama Development at CBS and as EVP Original Programming & Development at EPiX. Laverne holds a Masters in Business Administration from Pepperdine University, is the former Co-Chairman of the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment.
Career Building
Through Distribution

Ryan Oestreich is a veteran of film exhibition. For the past 14 years, Ryan has worked in not-for-profit film societies, large-scale movies, theater chains, nationally and internationally known film festivals, as well as independently-owned movie houses. Ryan is currently the General Manager of the historic Music Box Theatre. Ryan also works with Music Box Films distribution company on a number of film releases, as well as other business management needs for the company.

Chris Charles studied Cinema and Television Arts and Theater at Columbia College Chicago. In 2005, Chris joined the team at Beverly Ridge Pictures, where he cast, directed, and produced a variety of award-winning commercials, short films, and features. Then in 2012, Chris and longtime collaborator John W. Bosher founded Throughline Films, a production and producer representation firm that specializes in arranging domestic distribution and international sales partnerships. Chris and John have produced and arranged worldwide distribution for dozens of projects. Most recently, Chris co-wrote the action thriller The Minuteman, which is being directed by three-time Academy Award nominee Robert Lorenz.

Aymar Jean “AJ” Christian (moderator) is an associate professor of communication studies at Northwestern University. He has juried television and video for the Peabody Awards, Gotham Awards, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. He leads OTV | Open Television, a research project and platform for intersectional television. OTV programs have received recognition from HBO, the Television Academy (Emmy Awards), New York

Cinespace Chicago Film Studios proudly supports the 55th Annual CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL and its mission to enhance the City of Chicago by exhibiting film from around the world.

Cinespace Chicago Film Studios
Television Festival, City of Chicago, Streamy Awards, and Independent Filmmaker Project (Gotham Awards). He received PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

Keynote Conversation: Theatrical Campaigns and Streaming Wars with Bob Berney

Bob Berney has been a preeminent force in the film world for more than two decades, bringing a multitude of smart, challenging and entertaining films to the screen. Most recently, Berney was Head of Marketing & Distribution at Amazon Studios (2015-19) where he oversaw the theatrical distribution and awards marketing campaigns for a vast array of critically acclaimed and filmmaker driven titles, ranging from documentaries (Gleason, City of Ghosts), foreign language films (The Handmaiden, The Salesman, Cold War) and box office successes such as Love & Friendship, Manchester by the Sea and The Big Sick.

Case Study: Clemency

Chinonye Chukwu
Born in Nigeria and raised in Alaska, Chukwu was a 2009 recipient of the Princess Grace Award. Her debut feature film, AlaskaLand, was screened at the Chicago International Film Festival and the New York African Festival at Lincoln Center. Her short film, The Dance Lesson, was a regional finalist for the 2010 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Student Academy Awards. Chukwu has served as an assistant professor of motion pictures at Wright State University. Her most recent film Clemency, which she wrote and directed, won the Grand Jury Prize at this year’s Sundance Film Festival.

Bronwyn Cornelius is a Sundance and SXSW Grand Jury Award-winning producer and ardent supporter of female content creators and diverse voices behind and in front of the camera. Her features have screened at festivals around the world, and enjoyed theatrical releases and critical-acclaim, with recent film Clemency premiering at and winning the 2019 Sundance Grand Jury Prize in the US Dramatic Competition.

Darrien Michele Gipson (moderator) is the Executive Director of SAGindie. An M.F.A. recipient from the Peter Stark Producers Program at the University of Southern California, was formerly the Vice President of Production for DEF Pictures. She is a frequent moderator and speaker on panels and production workshops, negotiates sponsorship agreements with film festivals around the country, spearheads SAGindie’s annual national advertising campaigns, oversees SAGindie.org, and throws several epic filmmaker parties. Darrien has traveled to over 55 film festivals in more than 25 states and 5 countries to consult with independent filmmakers.

Hit Me With Your Best Shot: Cinematographers’ Tricks of the Trade

Christopher Rejano
Born and raised in the shadows of Detroit, Christopher Rejano has forged an expansive career in feature film, commercials, and episodic television. Versed in early MTV, skateboard videos, and American independent film Rejano’s depth has brought his unique vision to award winning feature and short form films. Often cited for a
Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP proudly supports Chicago International Film Festival and the Chicago film community.

Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP’s Entertainment and Media Law Practice represents artists and businesses throughout the film industry. Our experienced entertainment attorneys regularly act as production counsel, clearance legal, and post-production legal for films of all genre and budgets. We regularly counsel filmmakers through complex legal issues, allowing them to focus on what they do best — create. From education to litigation, we provide the knowledge and trust that filmmakers require.

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hearty midwestern work ethic has resulted in his work being featured at the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW Film Festival, Berlinale, and Tribeca Film Festival. Rejano is a member of International Cinematographers Guild Local 600. **Scott Thiele** has shot award winning films, including, *Girl on the Third Floor, Fools, An Evening with Emery Long,* and *Cicero in Winter,* and has lensed commercials, feature film title sequences, and music videos for a diverse range of clients including; Bose, Starbucks, Coach, Visa, Dolby, Aleve, Sargento, 13 Sins, Bare Naked Ladies, and 2nd unit on *Soundtrack, Red Line, APB,* and *Sirens.*

**Tommy Maddox-Upshaw**

Cinematographer Maddox-Upshaw is currently lensing the sixth season of Fox's hit series *Empire* for creators Lee Daniels and Danny Strong. He recently wrapped shooting the third season of FX’s Snowfall, chronicling the crack cocaine epidemic in 1980s Los Angeles. Previously, Maddox-Upshaw shot the second season of Netflix's breakout hit *On My Block* and the first season of FX’s 2017 Camerimage Festival.

**Megan Donnelly** (moderator) joined the AbelCine team in 2015 as the first Camera Technology Specialist based out of the company’s Chicago location. She developed the curriculum for the International Cinematographer’s Guild Digital Loader Workshops, which she taught nationwide. Megan is now the Technology and Education Development Manager at AbelCine and currently teaches phantom high speed, all digital motion picture cameras, Steadicam, AC, DIT, and lighting. One of her television pilots was a finalist in the New York Television Festival in 2013, while another television pilot won the Chicago Television Pilot Competition in 2014. Most recently one of her commercials won a Midwest Emmy in 2014. View her work at megandonnelly.net.

**Master Class in Screenwriting with Steven Conrad**

**Steven Conrad** is the writer of *The Pursuit of Happyness,* *The Weather Man,* and *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.* He wrote and directed the series *Patriot* on Amazon as well as his current series, *Epix’s Perpetual Grace LTD.*

**David Wolinsky** (moderator) is an author and entertainment journalist. David has served as an editor for NBC and an editorial consultant for Adult Swim. Over the years he has written for publications including *The New Yorker,* *Wired,* *Rolling Stone,* and *Slate.* His first book, *ALL THE RAGE* - about the internet, videogames, and online abuse - is due out spring 2020. It’s a spin-off of Don’t Die, an award-winning and popular interview series on videogames and what people think of them, which has been featured in *USA Today* and *VentureBeat.*
Master Class in Production Design with Oscar®-winner Hannah Beachler

Jacqueline Najuma Stewart (moderator) is a University of Chicago professor of cinema studies and director of the nonprofit arts organization, Black Cinema House. In September, 2019 she became the first African-American host of Turner Classic Movies, taking over as host for Silent Sunday Nights. Stewart received her BA in English with interdisciplinary emphasis from Stanford University. She earned her MA and PhD in English from the University of Chicago.

The Pitch

Joshua A. Foster
Joshua A. Foster is a graduate of the prestigious NYU Tisch MFA graduate film program. Joshua produced or directed sixteen short films while at NYU Tisch. He has over twenty years of experience in the financial sector trading futures contracts, M&A and managing high net worth clients’ assets. Currently, he resides in New York City working as an executive for Cinetic Media in the film finance and production department. He most recently represented Cinetic Media on the Ethan Hawke directed film, Blaze, and he was the UPM for the feature, Lost Holiday.

Bryce Norbitz is the Director of Scripted Programs at Tribeca Film Institute where she empowers filmmakers through grant programs, workshops, screenings and events. Bryce curates projects throughout TFI funding programs. She travels throughout the U.S. and abroad to work with new voices to provide connections and support through markets and film pitch training. Bryce is a founder Brooklyn-based production company UglyRhino. She has worked at Chicago Shakespeare, The Second City, The Public Theater, and Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment. Bryce is a New York area native is a graduate of Northwestern University.

Stephen Cone is a Chicago-based filmmaker whose film Princess Cyd appeared on multiple Best of 2017 lists including Vanity Fair, Vox and NPR, was an official selection of BFI London Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival (winner, Chicago Award), BAMcinemaFest, Frameline, as well as dozens of others worldwide, and is streaming on Netflix. Earlier films include Henry Gamble’s Birthday Party and New York Times Critics Pick The Wise Kids, both of which are available on VOD and DVD. Mostly recently, Cone directed two episodes of the acclaimed Sundance TV show This Close.

Industry Days

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