



NEW YORK CITY  
**PUBLIC  
SCHOOL**  
**FILM  
FESTIVAL**

HONORING THE DIVERSITY  
OF STUDENT VOICES

**April 29, 2025**

**#NYCPSFilmFestival**

Network: MoMI Events

Password: Mu53um3v3nt\$





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# SCHEDULE

3:00PM

**Check-in**

3:30PM

**First Screening: NYC Public School Film Festival**

**(68 mins)** *Recommended for Middle School Attendees*

4:00PM

**Media & Entertainment Expo Opens**

5:00PM

**Opening remarks**

Speaker Shua Alatraste, NYGPS Filmmaker Alumni

Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos, NYC Department of Education

Commissioner Patricia Kaufman, NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

5:15PM

**Middle School Family Programming: Panel on applying for specialized high schools: Film, TV & Animation**

Hannah Berson, Deputy Executive Director, NYC Public Schools Arts Office (*moderator*)

Emily Lemp, Teacher, Gramercy Arts High School, Manhattan

David Roush, Teacher, Harry S Truman High School, Bronx

Carlos Rentas, Teacher, Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School, Brooklyn

Hanan Harchol, Teacher, The High School of Art & Design, Manhattan

Jacquelyn Gutierrez, Film/CTE Teacher, Motion Picture Technical High School (Queens)



# SCHEDULE

**6:00PM**

**Media & Entertainment Expo Closes**

**6:15PM**

**Industry Fireside Chat**

Kwame Amoaku, Deputy Commissioner for the Film Office and Celine Song, Academy Award-nominated Writer and Director of *Past Lives* and the upcoming film *Materialists*

**6:30PM**

**Second Screening: NYC Public School Film Festival (68 mins)** *Recommended for High School Attendees*

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

*\*\*\*Please feel free to attend any of the programming, below is recommended key programming geared to Middle School students, teachers and families or High School students.*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

**3:00PM** Arrival/Snack

**3:30PM** Screening

**4:00PM** Expo

**5:00PM** Welcome Remarks

**5:15PM** High School Media Arts Pathways Panel

**6:15PM** Adobe AI Demo/Industry Fireside Chat

### HIGH SCHOOL:

**4:00PM** Arrival/Expo

**5:00PM** Welcome Remarks

**5:15PM** Snack/Adobe AI Demo

**6:15PM** Industry Fireside Chat

**6:30PM** Screening





Dear Student Filmmakers,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this new and expanded version of the NYC Public Film Festival, now in its 7th year, which looks to increase viewership of student films and open doors to those interested in pursuing a Film & TV related career. Congratulations to all the filmmakers on your great work! Nearly 150 films were submitted for the festival (15% over last year) from NYC middle and high school students spanning 43 schools throughout the five boroughs, including 19 schools who have never submitted to the festival before. A total of 22 short films have been selected for inclusion in the festival, which all showcase the talent and diversity of student voices.



Our agency, The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, is proud to work alongside NYC Public Schools and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation in offering students the opportunity to showcase their filmmaking talents through this annual festival, which includes special screenings, as well as a chance to meet industry professionals and learn more about potential careers in NYC's media and entertainment industries. Thanks to Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles Ramos, and her team, as well as the participating schools, teachers and families for their commitment to this program, which allows students to not only hone their skills but share their individual perspectives and voices. And thank you to Museum of the Moving Image for hosting us!

NYC is a global film and television hub supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, and home to many of the world's leading media and entertainment companies. Mayor Eric Adams and this administration are working hard to make NYC a "City of Yes" in regards to film production and to solve problems for creatives who want to film on our iconic streets. City-supported training programs such as the "Made in NY" Production Assistant Training Program, the "Made in NY" Post Production Training Program, the Animation Project and MediaMKRS are available to help young New Yorkers develop the skills needed to find jobs in front of and behind the camera, and encourage diversity in the field.

You can learn more about our training programs and stay connected through our website, [www.nyc.gov/MOME](http://www.nyc.gov/MOME), as well as our social platforms: X/twitter @MadeinNY, instagram @madein\_ny, and facebook.com/madeinny.

Once again, congratulations on this accomplishment! Enjoy the day!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Swinney Kaufman'.

Pat Swinney Kaufman, Commissioner  
NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment



Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the seventh annual NYC Public Schools Film Festival! I am thrilled and proud to recognize the budding filmmakers across our schools, along with their educators, families, and our arts partners.

This year, we had 147 students submit their work to the festival, with films representing a variety of genres. These students hail from 43 schools from across all five boroughs; nearly half of these schools submitted their work to the festival for the first time! Their films cover a wide range of topics, from public safety to technology to stories about their neighborhoods. I am also excited that this year's festival includes opportunities for middle school students, families, and teachers to learn about ways students can pursue film in high school.

I want to thank each and every one of the students who is participating in this festival, along with the educators, school leaders, and family members who have supported and nurtured our students' creativity. To our students: I'm amazed how you've used the medium of film to express yourselves, sharpen your imaginations, and tackle important issues in your communities. As young artists, you have bright futures ahead. To our educators, school leaders, and families: Thanks to you, our students' voices are being elevated and heard, and they are gaining valuable skills that will serve them well in their journey beyond New York City Public Schools.

Finally, this festival is a collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MoME) and our lead arts partner, Magic Box Productions, and I want to personally thank these partners for their leadership and for championing our students. Thank you as well to the many arts partners who support our students and schools to ensure arts education is thriving in our classrooms and after-school programs.

Together, across our school communities, we are fostering an ecosystem where artistic expression is encouraged, both empowering our students and strengthening our schools. Congratulations to our Film Festival participants, and I can't wait to see what you achieve in the coming years.

In partnership,

Melissa Aviles-Ramos  
Chancellor





## ANIMATION

### **Laundro-Mates (The Lost Sock)**

Like many other socks, our sock has been separated from its beloved partner.  
Will our sock be reunited with its beloved matching sock?

**Directors:** Lillian Wallace, Sarah Chrostowski, Rosalyn Sudworth

**School:** The Baccalaureate School for Global Education

**Teacher:** Kevin Helfenbein

### **Denny & Carl Jr. in: Chipocalypse!**

When a batch of chips turns everyone into zombies, swlacker best friends and roommates, Denny and Carl Jr. try to figure out how to save the world from an apocalypse.

**Director, Producer, Writer and Animator:** Mathias Sypher

**Key Cast:** Niko Espinal; **School:** Digital Arts & Cinema Technology High School

**Teacher:** Naomi Barak

### **The Color Inside US**

Life's awkward moments bring out our hidden beauty.

**Director, Writer, Producer:** Luke Dunlavey

**Key Cast:** Luke Dunlavey, Ryan Dunlavey

**School:** Brooklyn Prospect Charter High School; **Teacher:** Siwei Gong

### **MTA Public Service - Subway Surfer PSA**

When subway surfing for the thrill and views takes a wrong turn.

**Director, Writer, Producer and Key Cast:** Shaun Blade Valentin

**School:** Gramercy Arts High School; **Teacher:** Emily Lemp

## PSA

### **Stay Calm in Any Situation**

Even though things are difficult, always look to the positive side.

**Directors:** Eugenia Tem, Evelyn Dishu; **Writers:** Eugenia Tem, Evelyn Dishu

**Producers:** Eugenia Tem, Evelyn Dishu, Angel Dolores; **Key Cast:** Angel Dolores, Brian Oswaldo De Goana Diaz, **School:** Cyberarts Studio Academy

**Teachers:** Kayinde Harris, Zaca Anderson





### **Beyond the Sidelines**

Facing relentless physical bullying, a young teen encounters harassment even outside of school. Unsure of what to do, she comes across a group of teens who make a bold decision to seek out support at their local precinct.

**Director:** Abigail Khazan; **Writers and Producers:** Emma Sit, Abigail Khazan

**Key Cast:** Selina Liu, Nicole Lin, Leviathan Alijanova, Shawn Bennett, Abigail Khazan, William Waterman; **Executive Producers and**

**Cinematographers:** Abigail Khazan, Jahvion Flanders, Tina Lin;

**Production Assistants:** Zion Charles, Fiona Chen, Vinh Tan Nguyen, Justin Velez;

**School:** Midwood High School; **Teacher:** Henry Mei; **Special Thanks:** Henry Mei and NYPD 70th Precinct & Community Affairs Department

### **The Cost of Distraction**

A distracted student. A reckless driver. One moment that changes everything. This gripping shot film follows the devastating consequences of texting while driving, showing how a single second of inattention can cost a life. As grief and regret unfold, the story rewind-- revealing the simple choices that could have prevented the tragedy. Stay alert. Stay alive.

**Director and Writer:** Anna Todd; **Producers:** Anna Todd, Juan Carlos Recinos

**Key Cast:** Amelia Larkin, Amy Garcia, Aribah Tazmeen, Clare Sullivan, Jafrin Suborno, John Benedict Magampon, Kacper Wroblewski, Liana Musarrat, Nicholas Dockery, Samia Islam, Saniya Adeniyi, Sanvi Deonarain, Victor Wu, Edwin Turcios; **Music Composer and Editor:** Saniya Adeniyi; **Lyrics:** Anna Todd

**Singer:** Zion Danclair; **School:** The Scholars' Academy

**Teacher:** Juan Carlos Recinos

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

### **Water**

The Film/Video Production students of TAPCo created this film for the Office of Sustainability's Climate Action Days, focusing on the vital role water plays in our lives. With original music written and performed by our music students, and visuals crafted by our film students, this piece highlights the beauty, necessity, and fragility of water. Through poetic storytelling and striking imagery, the film serves as a reminder of our responsibility to protect this essential resource for future generations.



**Director:** Jaden Rivera; **Key Cast:** Dominic Valerio, Parker Tiburcio  
**Editors:** Brian Fajardo, Melady Hernandez, Jaden Rivera, Odaniel Raby  
**Songwriters:** Dominic Valerio, Parker Tiburcio; **Music Producer:** Kevin Salem  
**Executive Producer:** Ron Link  
**Director of Video Production:** Steven Mudrick  
**Editing Supervisor:** Harry Mavromichalis; **Chief Technician:** Anthonely Lora  
**School:** Theatre Arts Production Company; **Teacher:** Harry Mavromichalis

### INTRUDER

A home invasion.

**Director, Writer, and Producer:** Kenji Lee-Young; **Key Cast:** Felix Schoeller  
**School:** Frank Sinatra School of the Arts; **Teacher:** Jason Spagnoli

## DOCUMENTARY

### Pretty Tony

A documentary about a father's death, and a boy's difficulty in moving on with life.

**Creators:** Jack Cornelius, Maxwell Dugger-Ades, Leila Flores,  
Juliana Giraldo, Aidan Grayson, Zheng Liu-Gonzalez

**Featuring:** Jack Cornelius, Stephanie Powell

**School:** Art & Design High School; **Teacher:** Michael Bridenstine

### Identity Through Art

The SONYC BIZ Afterschool program proudly presents their documentary about how the programs in afterschool help them find their identity through art.

**Director:** SONYC BIZ Afterschool; **Writer:** Samuel W., Ethan S., William H.

**Producers:** Avery B., Gregory M., Liam M.; **Key Cast:** Dennis B.,  
Kalanji C. Zieeda C., Jack P., Beniah, Deasia, Denelle, Samuel W., Ethan S.  
Liam M., Kaylee, Zoe; Camera: Aiden M.R., Ethan M.; **Interviewers:** Ethan M.,  
William H., Esmel S., Nahiem F.; **Audio:** Jackson A., Nahiem F.,

**School:** Brownsville Middle School (Ascend Charter School/SONYC BIZ  
Afterschool) **Teacher:** Jack Polefko



### **The Final Bell**

The Final Bell is a short film that highlights students' feelings as the end of High School approaches.

**Directors:** Christopher Vergara, Tary Diallo

**Writers:** Tary Diallo, Arlenis Morel-Obispo; **Key Cast:** Alison Estudillo, Yaemil Ortiz, Alexa Alatorre, Damilka Nunez, Kiara Genao, Caleb Arrieta, Maya Pabon, Sarah Melendez, Juan Guerrero, Carol Parra, Arlenis Morel Obispo, Dorianny Ortega, Kiona Alcantara, Aryana Puente, Jake Paulino

**Cinematographer:** Christopher Vergara

**School:** Bronx Early College Academy for Teaching & Learning

**Teacher:** Sophia Weissmann

### **The Big Game**

A documentary centered on the most inclusive sport's league in the world!

**Editors:** Jahlil Magee, Amaya Heyliger; **Crew:** Thomas Prado, Mathew Escobar, Void Rosas, Gary Jimenez, Juan Rodriguez-Alvarado, Sarhi Paredes, Amaya Heyliger, Jahlil Magee

**School:** Academy for Careers in TV & Film

**Supervisors:** Yoshie Otomo, Paola Muñoz; **Teacher:** Ryan Bennet

### **The Cafe**

The Cafe is a mockumentary based in a student-run coffee shop, Barks & Beaks, that highlights the individuality and often overlooked whimsical side of individuals with disabilities.

**Directors:** David Zou, Matthew Gellerstein, Supreme Ryant,

**Writers:** Matthew D'Oria, Vincent Fattorusso, Yousuf Asghar,

**Producers:** Dylan Accornero, Frank Cannizzo;

**School:** The David Marquis School of the Arts P37R;

**Teachers:** Rob Leavey, John McCahey

## **SHORT NARRATIVE**

### **No Talking**

A classroom becomes annoyed after a student can't stop talking.

**Director:** Judith Eraso; **Writers and Producers:** Ms Gutierrez's Film Class.

**Key Cast:** Youssef Abozoid, Cristal Benitez, Albert Dreic, Amy de lo Santos

**School:** Motion Picture Technical High School; **Teacher:** Ms Gutierrez



### **Arachnids: Age of Resistance – Official Trailer**

Short horror film where a new creature is on the loose and on a rampage.

**Director and Writer:** Evan Deng; **Key Cast:** Josiah Freeman, Tyshaun Davis, Hudson Dorismond; **School:** August Martin High School  
**Teacher:** Marie Granthe

### **Nightmare on 96th Street**

A student in Brownsville Brooklyn can't escape the same lesson, building, phone call and moment in time.

**Directors:** Amarylis Goyes, Elijah Singleton, Michael Fonville

**Key Cast:** Nicholas Yates, Ivette Adams, Shun Boyd, Keyshawn Garvin, Deonte McGee, Sean Milhouse, Ossie Patton, Morgan Richburg, Beth Kling, David Nelinson; **Camera:** Thierry Masson; **Props:** Destinee Williams

**Music:** Celestal 114064 Public Domain Pixabay, Drone 162365 Public Domain Pixabay; **School:** East Brooklyn Community High School;  
**Teacher:** David Nelinson

### **I Thought I Knew You**

A young woman ends a rocky relationship after she meets Mr. Perfect... but nobody's perfect.

**Directors:** Sherone Allisson, Angelicah Moore Upshaw; **Writers:** Alize Ramirez, Angel Bawuah; **Producers:** Jaysson Farley; **Key Cast:** Samantha Almanzar, Samir Diaz, Isaiah Gayle; **Corporate Partners:** Five4Five Films  
**School:** KAPPA International High School; **Teacher:** Olayemi Adebambo

### **Into the Field**

An 8th grader is ready to move onto High School, but circumstances prove to make it less than simple.

**Creator:** Giancarlo Sella, **Starring:** Giancarlo Sella, Lorenzo Sella, Valentino Sella, Enid Graham, Robert Sella,

**Music, Lyrics and Performance:** Chris Jennings;

**School:** PSIS 187; **Teacher:** Michael Bridenstine

### **Pride and Pencil-less**

A crush leads into an investigation of missing pencils.

**Director, Writer and Producer:** Hana Lauscher; **Key Cast:** Abigail Bezuevsky, Ela Ulker, Kayla Rizzo, **School:** Staten Island Technical High School,  
**Teacher:** Michael Van Buren





### **Reflections**

A young woman sheltered in her self image struggles with loneliness and the need for self-acceptance.

**Writers, Directors and Producers:** Jude Clifford Dorema,  
Sienna Simone Menou, **Editor:** Sienna Menou;

**Key Cast:** Sienna Simone Menou, Terry Lesane; **Actors:** Nadia Cutz,  
Anna Shen, Isabelle Ramirez, Abriyana Dozier, Jude Dorema

**Camera:** Jude Dorema; **School:** Abraham Lincoln High School

**Teacher:** Peter Andrus

# BIOS

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **PAT SWINNEY KAUFMAN**

*Commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment*

Commissioner Pat Swinney Kaufman oversees the agency's mission to support and strengthen NYC's creative sectors, including film & TV, music, theatre and digital games, and make them accessible to all New Yorkers. Kaufman brings to the job 19 years of experience working at the State level to support production. Since becoming Commissioner in 2023, she's been named to Variety's New York Women's Impact Report, and City & State's Art & Culture Power 100 list.

### **KWAME AMOAKU**

*Deputy Commissioner of the Film Office at the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment*

Deputy Commissioner Kwame Amoaku serves as principal advisor on film and television production policy in New York City. This includes promoting New York City as a premier location for production, developing and maintaining relationships with key industry stakeholders, and overseeing the film permitting process. Prior to joining MOME in July 2022, he served as director of Chicago's Film Office. Amoaku's career in film and television spans 30 years, and includes experience in directing, producing, writing, cinematography, acting, and location management.

### **CELINE SONG**

*Academy Award-nominated Screenwriter and Filmmaker*

Celine Song is an Academy Award-nominated screenwriter and filmmaker whose signature blend of emotional depth, intelligence, and humor has established her as an essential voice in today's entertainment landscape.

# BIOS

Upcoming, Song presents her highly anticipated sophomore feature, **MATERIALISTS**, releasing internationally on June 13 through A24 and Sony Pictures. Written, directed, and produced by Song, the film follows Lucy (Dakota Johnson), a young, ambitious New York City matchmaker torn between the perfect match (Pedro Pascal) and her imperfect ex (Chris Evans). **MATERIALISTS**—clear-eyed and sensitive—is above all a piercingly honest examination of the contradictions of modern love and dating.

Released by A24 in Summer 2023 following its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, Song's feature debut **PAST LIVES** has received widespread critical acclaim. The film earned Academy Award® nominations for Best Original Screenplay and Best Picture, alongside numerous other honors including the Directors Guild Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in First-Time Feature Film, Best Feature Film at the 2023 Gotham Awards, the Film Independent Spirit Award for both Best Picture and Best Director, as well as Golden Globe®, Critics' Choice, and BAFTA nominations.

As a playwright, Song is best known for **ENDLINGS**, which premiered in 2019 at American Repertory Theater and had its New York debut in 2020 at New York Theatre Workshop. She has been a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and a semifinalist for the American Playwriting Foundation's Relentless Award. Song also wrote on the first season of Amazon series **THE WHEEL OF TIME**.

A close-up, profile view of a woman with dark hair looking through the viewfinder of a professional video camera. She is wearing a red and blue plaid scarf. The camera is a black Sony mirrorless model with various controls visible, including a lens with 'MANUAL AUTO MACRO' and 'OFF ON FOCUS' settings, and a body with 'ZEBRA', 'PEAKING', 'FULL AUTO', 'GAIN', and 'WHITE BAL.' controls. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and purple gradient. The word 'JURORS' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

# JURORS



# JURORS

## **FRANK AIELLO**

Frank Aiello is a native of Brooklyn, New York. He earned a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Painting and Photography from St. John's University. Frank went on to receive a Master's of Fine Arts from Brooklyn College, studying under acclaimed author and photographer, Walter Rosenblum and legendary photographer, Aaron Siskind. During his studies, he assisted such highly recognized photographers as Joyce Tenneson and Ryszard Horowitz. Frank Aiello is presently a professor of visual art at Bergen Community College and has taught beginner through advanced art courses in several colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. He is also with the New York City Department of Education as an Arts Coordinator in the Office of Arts and Special Projects working in professional development. In addition to his academic career, Frank Aiello is an award winning advertising photographer producing work for clients such as Kodak, Kraft Foods, Panasonic, CBS, McDonald's, Samsung and Wal-Mart. He has earned write-ups in American Photography Magazine, Photographer's Forum, Contemporary American Photographers, Industrial Photographer, and The Best Medical Advertising and Campaigns. Frank was officially endorsed by Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital for his fine art series entitled "Power Within: Women Battling Breast Cancer" receiving a Silver Medal Award from ADCNJ.

## **ZAHAR AL-DABBAGH**

Zahar Al-Dabbagh is an interdisciplinary artist and photographer working at the intersections of the cross/trans cultural in art, education, and media. As an educator and mentor, she has consistently worked with artists and the public in a variety of formal/informal spaces of learning. She has facilitated programming that centers visual literacy and history/arts/cultural education; most recently at the Museum of the City of New York - a Place-based multidisciplinary museum located in Manhattan, NY in the neighborhood of East Harlem. Her work as an artist has been exhibited in the United States and abroad. She holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Art from the University of Hartford and an MEd with a focus on Communication, Media and Culture from Teachers College at Columbia University.

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## **SHUA ALATRISTE**

Shua Alatrisme is a 20-year-old student filmmaker born and raised in NYC. They are an alumni of the New York City Public School Film Festival and attended Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School where they studied film. Shua currently attends Sarah Lawrence College as a sophomore majoring in film.

## **AARON AUGENBLICK**

Aaron Augenblick is an animator, writer, director, and founder of Augenblick Studios in Brooklyn, NY. His independent studio has been open since 1999, producing notable adult animated content, including Ugly Americans, Superjail, Wonder Showzen, The Jellies, and Death Hacks. His award-winning short films have screened at Sundance, SXSW, Ottawa, and Annecy. Recently, Aaron has been delving into children's entertainment with his sister company Future Brain Media. Aaron is the creator and executive producer of City Island on PBS KIDS. In 2024, City Island premiered its second season, music videos, merchandise, and video games. Aaron has also been a teacher and speaker at a wide variety of institutions, including School of Visual Arts, Parsons, University of the Arts, the New School, Kidscreen, San Diego Comic-Con, LAND Gallery, and SXSW EDU. Through his commitment to hand-drawn animation and his unique vision, Aaron has established himself as one of the most important artists in his field.

## **DAVE BAROSIN**

David Barosin, FX Supervisor, has 30 years of experience working on the New York City post-production scene. He has worked on commercials, films and television projects at companies, such as R/GA, Click3X, Rhinoceros, Nick Digital, Psyop and The Mill. He has also been a VFX Professional Mentor for the Visual Effects students at SCAD for the past three years.

# JURORS

## **MICHAEL BRIDENSTINE**

Michael Bridenstine is the Founder of the PS 187 Film Festival and a Film Teacher at Art & Design High School. For over 30 years, he wrote, produced and directed for a slew of clients, including Netflix, PBS, HGTV, DirecTV, MTV, ABC, NBC, MTV, FYI, Travel Channel, Island Records and more, traveling to six continents and over 50 countries. This is the fifth year in a row that Michael has judged for the NYCPSFF, and by his accounts, he is the only person in the history of the Festival in one year to judge, have a film accepted from his current students and one as a parent representative. He is incredibly proud of the young storytellers that he gets to interact with everyday, and hopes they continue to express themselves with story, character and emotion regardless of their professional future plans.

## **CIARAN CRAMPTON**

A native of Yonkers, NY, Ciaran studied English and Journalism in College followed by a decade of standup comedy in both NYC and Los Angeles. During that period, Ciaran wrote several scripts targeting both the film and television world. He is currently working on his biggest project to date... the animated feature entitled, "Pierre, the Pigeon-Hawk", in which he is both writer and producer. PTPH is in full production, set to release in 2025.

## **CAT GULACSY**

Cat Gulácsy is a Senior Talent Acquisition Specialist focusing on post-production, interactive and design. Through her company, Calling All Talent LLC, Cat draws upon more than a decade of experience in talent acquisition to advise, source and consult for many internationally recognized studios. Cat's previous collaborations and professional credits include work with Buck, Framestore, Nickelodeon, and The Mill. She is a passionate advocate for inclusion, education and mentorship. She serves as adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University, Pratt Institute, and the School of Visual Arts, where she teaches the Business of Being an Artist. Cat serves as Chapter Lead of ACCESS:VFX. Additionally, she is the Industry Outreach Advisor for The Animation Project Inc., which helps expand access to design education and new talent in animation.

# JURORS

## **AMANDA HANNA-MCLEER**

Amanda Hanna-McLeer was born, raised, and educated in Brooklyn, New York. She is at work on *The Luddite Club*, a documentary about teens who are rejecting social media and smartphones to rediscover IRL connections. She went to, and later taught at, Edward R. Murrow High School, the birthplace of the Luddite Club. She is a writer, international director, animator, and educator. She received a full tuition scholarship to attend the Rhode Island School of Design, where she received her BFA in Film, Animation, and Video. After graduating, she returned to NYC to eat her weight in L&B Spumoni Garden pizza. She also worked in post production on the critically acclaimed and Emmy winning FX show *The Americans*, Comedy Central's *Broad City*, and HBO Max's *Search Party*. Her original narrative film, *Lucy(fer)*, was accepted into The Gotham's Project Forum in 2019.

## **JENNIFER HERBERT**

Jennifer Herbert is a passionate Media Arts teacher with over 10 years of teaching experience. With a solid background in fine and applied arts, she brings a rich and diverse perspective to her classroom. Jennifer is dedicated to nurturing her students' creative abilities and fostering an environment where artistic expression and innovation are at the forefront. Her approach focuses on encouraging individuality, exploring new mediums, and helping students build confidence in their artistic skills. Outside of the classroom, Jennifer continues to pursue her own artistic endeavors, staying connected to the evolving world of visual arts and media.

## **SONIA JEAN-BAPTISTE**

Sonia Jean-Baptiste is the Co-Founder and Director of the Chelsea Film Festival. She is a French-Caribbean native from Martinique, raised in Paris from the age of six years old in a family of six. Jean-Baptiste grew up in a low middle-class conservative family, where art was not a priority but a well-loved hobby for her and her siblings. She studied business, learned how to play the piano and established a reputation as an accomplished pianist, performing at prestigious venues in Paris, such as the Salle Pleyel. Jean-Baptiste worked as the Sales & Marketing Director for a photography firm in Paris for twelve years, where she was



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selling photography consumables (paper, film, chemistry) to Japan, Africa and all over Europe. She went on to create her own advertising and publicity agency dedicated to large corporations. In 2010, she embarked on a new journey in front of the camera and took acting classes at the Cours Florent in Paris, which she enjoyed very much. Daily soap opera TV shows on Canal+ hired Jean-Baptiste as an actress for many years until she was injured in a car accident with her only child, Ingrid Jean-Baptiste in September 2012. Jean-Baptiste currently resides between Paris and New York. Together, they co-founded the Chelsea Film Festival in New York in October 2013 and share an important mission of making our world a better place. She is currently the Head Programmer of the organization and has reviewed thousands of film submissions from American and foreign filmmakers for the past 12 years.

## **EMILY KEATING**

Emily Keating is Director of Development and Education at Life Stories, a division of the Kunhardt Film Foundation. Life Stories is a not-for-profit educational media organization that produces documentary films, interviews, and teaching tools about the people and ideas that shape our world. Previously, Emily was Director of Education at the Jacob Burns Film Center, where she oversaw the creation, implementation, and expansion of curriculum and professional development for 18 years. Emily has published and presented on the imperative for a redefinition of literacy and the joy and creativity of youth media at conferences around the country. Emily teaches Writing Process and Media Production and Literature and Digital Storytelling at Pace University. She holds degrees from the University of Virginia and New York University.

## **KRISTINA KIRTLEY**

Kristina Kirtley is the Associate Director of Community Engagement at The WNET Group, New York's flagship PBS station. She leads national outreach and engagement for station productions and initiatives, including NATURE, Wild Hope, and the American Masters VIA Initiative Incubator to bring more disabled filmmakers into the PBS system, just to name a few. She also connects with local teacher networks and runs multiple education advisory committees. Previously, as part of the Kids' Media and Engagement team, she created education resources for PBS

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LearningMedia and managed outreach to support WNET productions like Mission US, American Masters, and Great Performances. She also led Youth Collective for five years, an award-winning youth media and engagement initiative that aimed to amplify youth voice and provide a platform for young people to engage in the important work of building a more ethical world. Before joining The WNET Group, Kristina worked as a Project Director at International Cinema Education, an NGO at the United Nations that uses film to teach students about global issues, a Museum Educator at the Museum of the Moving Image, and a high school English and Film Studies teacher in the Bronx as part of the New York City Teaching Fellows Program. Kristina holds a BA in English from Stanford University and MA in Education from City College. She is also a member of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma.

## **REBECCA LINDE**

Rebecca Linde is the director of communications for New York International Children's Film Festival, where she oversees everything from audience outreach and editorial initiatives to sponsorship, marketing, and web design. During her time at NYICFF, she has been responsible for developing the organization's editorial voice as well as its expanding its social media presence. Rebecca started at NYICFF as a programming intern before graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in Film Studies. Rebecca is also a freelance writer with a focus on pop culture. She holds an MA in journalism from NYU's Cultural Reporting and Criticism program.

## **KEVIN LOPEZ**

Kevin Lopez is the Founding Principal of Motion Picture Technical High School, an innovative Film/CTE institution in NYC that prepares students for creative and technical careers in Film and Television. With over 15 years of experience in Media Arts Education and Film Production, Kevin has developed programs that integrate industry practices with academic rigor. His producing credits include acclaimed films such as HBO's The Inquisition of Camilo Sanz and Primera, as well as the SXSW-selected documentary LA SALSA VIVE, showcasing his dedication to diverse storytelling. At Motion Picture Tech, Kevin oversees a four-year, project-based curriculum combining Media Arts/CTE with academics, enabling

# JURORS

students to earn an Advanced Regents Diploma and CTE Endorsement. The school empowers diverse students to build creative and technical skills while accessing real-world opportunities, preparing them for higher education and professional success. With a mission to transform the entertainment industry, Motion Picture Tech nurtures the next generation of below-the-line professionals. The school is ideal for aspiring filmmakers who thrive in collaborative environments and are passionate about artistic innovation and authentic storytelling.

## **JESSE LUBINSKY**

Jesse Lubinsky is an Education Evangelist at Adobe Inc. with a background of two decades in the education space as an education technologist, teacher, and school administrator, as well as the co-author of *Reality Bytes: Innovative Learning Using Augmented and Virtual Reality* and *The Esports Education Playbook: Empowering Every Learner Through Inclusive Gaming*. Jesse is currently a doctoral student of Educational Leadership at Manhattanville College. He is an Adobe Creative Educator, a CoSN Certified Education Technology Leader, an Adjunct Professor of Teacher Education at Ramapo College, and a founding member of the Adobe Creativity Crew.

## **RAPHAELA NEIHAUSEN**

Raphaela Neihausen is the Executive Director of DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival. She co-hosts WNYC's *Documentary of the Week* and executive produces the podcast *Pure Nonfiction*. She produced the Oscar® nominated short documentary *Joe's Violin* and the award-winning feature documentary *Miss Gulag*. Prior to her film career, she worked for seven years at Mercer Management Consulting (now Oliver Wyman), advising Fortune 100 companies on strategic growth. She holds a BSFS/MA from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

## **KAREEMA PARTIN**

Kareema Partin is a 2x Emmy-nominated producer and content creator from New York City. She is a graduate of SUNY Albany (Phi Beta Kappa) and Syracuse University's Newhouse School where she received a Master's in TV, Radio, & Film. Her professional background as a producer

# JURORS

spans from major TV and film productions, to creative development, representation, digital media and social impact events for the past 15 years. As a Senior Video Producer at Dotdash Meredith, Kareema creates award-winning content for brands such as Travel + Leisure, Parents, Health and Verywell Health. Through Kareema's initiative The HiveMind Unified, she also shares resources to advance the careers of underrepresented professionals in Entertainment.

## **WYONNA RUTLEDGE**

Wyonna Rutledge is a Producer/Writer based in New York's Hudson Valley and a graduate of CUNY Hunter College's Media Arts program. She has worked in entertainment since 2004 in various mediums with credits on award winning films, documentaries "My Brooklyn" and "Never Enough", directed by Kelly Anderson, and narrative short "Tolerance", directed by Marc I. Daniels. Her short film "It's Time" won awards for the Best Shorts Competition and Hollywood Just4Shorts Film and was selected by The Film Collective, Big Apple Film Festival, and The Great Message International Film Festival. She is currently in post-production on her upcoming short narrative film on climate change, "The Seashell", written by Jason K. Allen, in pre-production on a short thriller "Grandma's Hands", written by Chris Courtney Martin (AT&T/Tribeca Untold Stories finalist) and Co-Producer on Cerebral Palsy narrative short, "I Want To Hear My Voice" (NYWIFT script finalist) directed by Julia Aldana in partnership with ParaArts Foundation. Wyonna is also an old school hip hop fan and avid cook, check out her culinary escapades on Instagram @wyburnz.

## **LEONARDO SANTANA-ZUBIETA**

Leonardo Santana-Zubieta has served as MoMI's Director of Education, leading MoMI's Education Department for over six years, bringing his passion for media education and film to a broad range of communities, mostly inner-city youth experiencing financial hardship. Leonardo graduated from the prestigious international Madrid Film School (ECAM) and has worked in film and television for over ten years around Europe, México, and Puerto Rico. His 35mm thesis short film, "Sleepless Eyes", featuring Cannes Palme d'Or-winning actresses like Yohana Cobo and Julieta Serrano, was shown in over 30 international Film Festivals. In

# JURORS

2013, after working with Academy Award-winning Pedro Almodóvar in his return to comedy in *I'm So Excited*, Leonardo started teaching Film History and Film Language to children, teenagers, and young adults in Madrid right before leaving for Puerto Rico to teach at Puerto Rico's Center of Cinematography, Arts, and Television (CCAT), where he taught Film Language and Filmmaking for four continued years. He is constantly interested in transmitting the joy of cinema in all its beautiful complexity: the art, the disciplines implied, its history, and its philosophy of representation. Since early 2018, Leonardo has collaborated closely with the Education Department of MoMI, bringing his passion for media education and Film Language to a broad range of communities.

## **JEFF SCHER**

Jeff Scher is a painter and Emmy Award winning animator. In addition to his independent work he has directed music videos for artists including Tom Petty, Graham Nash, Bob Dylan, Paul Simon and Joan Baez. His films were regularly featured in the New York Times in a column "The Animated Life". He teaches at NYU Tisch School of the Arts and lives in Connecticut.

## **RICARDO SEAN THOMPSON**

Ricardo Sean Thompson is Jamaican born independent filmmaker and award-winning Career Technical Education Instructor who has helped develop a full four-year high school film production curriculum in New York City. From 2022 to 2024 Thompson achieved multiple accolades including being a semifinalist for the Sony Pictures Television Diverse Directors Program; a finalist for the YouTube Originals Black Voices Creator Fellowship; and the CBS Studios/NAACP Venture Writers Program. His short films *Boost* and *Brooklyn Reverie* premiered at the Pan African Film Festival and his other short *Bandulu* premiered at the HBO Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival. *Bandulu* also screened at three other festivals and was a Best Short Film Award finalist at the Charlotte Black Film Festival. Thompson's screenplays *Trench Town*, *Sukunya*, and *Yankee Bwoy* were all semifinalist to finalists at top industry screenplay competitions such as the Austin Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival Screenplay Competition, ScreenCraft TV Pilot Script Competition, and the Big Apple Film Festival Screenplay Competition. Thompson has stated



# JURORS

that his goal as an aspiring film and television writer/director is to produce untold thrilling and intriguing stories that center around people of color.

## **NICOLE TSIEH**

Nicole Tsien (she/her) is an independent producer based in Queens, New York. She is most passionate about uplifting BIPOC filmmakers and supporting creative documentaries. Her most recent producing credit includes 2024 Doc NYC Audience Award winner, *Slumlord Millionaire*, directed and produced by Steph Ching and Ellen Martinez. She previously worked in television for over a decade; most recently as the Director of Program Development at CNN Films where she worked on *Little Richard: I Am Everything*, directed by Lisa Cortés, produced by Bungalow Media + Entertainment; and *Glitch: The Rise and Fall of HQ Trivia*, directed by Salima Koroma, produced by Left/Right. She was formerly the Co-Producer of *POV*, the longest-running documentary series on PBS where during her tenure, she worked to present over 90 films to a national audience and has been the recipient of multiple News and Documentary Emmys, Peabody, and duPont-Columbia nominations and awards. Nicole has participated on panels and juries worldwide, including CAAMFest, Doc NYC, and Austin Film Festival. She took part in the inaugural Film Independent Documentary Producing Lab in 2024; was a 2021 Rockwood JustFilms Fellow; and was part of the inaugural cohort of Doc NYC Documentary New Leaders in 2020. Nicole is on the Steering Committee for the Asian American Documentary Network (A-Doc) and is a board member of Brown Girls Doc Mafia.

## **ABBY VERBOSKY**

Abby Verbosky joined Reel Works in 2016 and has since distinguished herself by blending creativity with a commitment to inclusive learning environments. With insights honed as a professional photographer and storyteller, she has taken a student-centered approach as Program Director in Reel Works' filmmaking programs. Now serving as Director of Data and Impact, Abby strengthens Reel Works' data culture through partnerships like JPMorgan Chase's Force for Good initiative, enhancing real-time tracking of program impact and outcomes. She previously participated in the Workforce Benchmarking Network cohort, led by the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce and funded by the Pinkerton Foundation, supporting

# JURORS

an initiative to build staff data acumen and improve participant outcomes. Abby also led virtual Master Classes during the COVID-19 pandemic, featuring guests like Whoopi Goldberg and costume designer Ruth E. Carter. Outside of work, she enjoys capturing moments with her cameras to ignite conversations about the human experience.

## **CLAUDIO ZAVALA JR.**

Claudio Zavala Jr. is a passionate creator and Adobe Education Evangelist with over 25 years of experience in education. Blending his background as a teacher, mentor, and edtech trainer with his creative talents, Claudio empowers educators and students to express themselves through digital media. A skilled photographer, videographer, and content creator, Claudio brings stories to life through the lens and screen. His YouTube channel, filled with hands-on tutorials and creative inspiration, has become a go-to resource for educators and creators looking to level up their visual storytelling. A former Adobe Express Ambassador, Claudio now partners with school districts across the U.S., guiding them in harnessing digital creativity to amplify student voices and ignite lifelong creative confidence. He's also a dynamic keynote speaker who has inspired audiences at ISTE, SXSW EDU, FETC, CUE, TCEA, and more. Based in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Claudio shares his creative journey across social platforms at @ClaudioZavalaJr. Explore more at [claudiozavalajr.com](http://claudiozavalajr.com).



# CREDITS

# CREDITS

## **ANIMATION**

### **Laundro-Mates (The Lost Sock)**

**The Baccalaureate School  
for Global Education**

**Directors** - Lillian Wallace,  
Sarah Chrostowski,  
Rosalyn Sudworth

### **Denny & Carl Jr. in:**

#### **Chipocalypse!**

**Digital Arts & Cinema**

**Technology High School**

**Director, Producer, Writer and  
Animator** - Mathias Sypher  
**Key Cast** - Niko Espinal

### **The Color Inside US**

**Brooklyn Prospect Charter  
High School**

**Director, Writer, Producer** -  
Luke Dunlavey  
**Key Cast** - Luka Dunlavey,  
Ryan Dunlavey

### **MTA Public Service - Subway Surfer PSA**

**Gramercy Arts High School**

**Director, Writer, Producer  
& Key Cast** -  
Shaun Blade Valentin

## **PSA**

### **Stay Calm in Any Situation**

**Cyberarts Studio Academy**

**Directors** - Eugenia Tem,  
Evelyn Dishu

**Writers** - Eugenia Tem,  
Evelyn Dishu

**Producers** - Eugenia Tem,  
Evelyn Dishu, Angel Dolores

**Key Cast** - Angel Dolores,  
Brian Oswaldo De Goana Diaz

### **Beyond the Sidelines**

**Midwood High School**

**Director** - Abigail Khazan

**Writers and Producers** -  
Emma Sit, Abigail Khazan

**Key Cast** - Selina Liu,  
Nicole Lin, Leviathan Alijanova,  
Shawn Bennett, Abigail Khazan,  
William Waterman

**Executive Producers and  
Cinematographers** -

Abigail Khazan,  
Jahvion Flanders, Tina Lin

**Production Assistants** -

Zion Charles, Fiona Chen,  
Vinh Tan Nguyen, Justin Velez

**Special Thanks** - Henry Mei,  
NYPD 70th Precinct &  
Community Affairs\ Department

# CREDITS

## **PSA continued..**

### **The Cost of Distraction**

**Director and Writer** - Anna Todd

**Producers** - Anna Todd and  
Juan Carlos Recinos

**Key Cast** - Amelia Larkin,  
Amy Garcia, Aribah Tazmeen,  
Clare Sullivan, Jafrin Suborno,  
John Benedict Magampon,  
Kacper Wroblewski,  
Liana Musarrat, Nicholas Dockery,  
Samia Islam, Saniya Adeniyi,  
Sanvi Deonarain, Victor Wu,  
Edwin Turcios

**Music Composer and Editor** -

Saniya Adeniyi

**Lyrics** - Anna Todd

**Singer** - Zion Danclair

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

### **Water**

**Theatre Arts Production Company**

**Director** - Jaden Rivera

**Key Cast** - Dominic Valerio,  
Parker Tiburcio

**Editors** - Brian Fajardo,  
Melady Hernandez,  
Jaden Rivera, Odaniel Raby

**Songwriters** - Dominic Valerio,  
Parker Tiburcio

**Music Producer** - Kevin Salem

**Executive Producer** - Ron Link

**Director of Video Production** -  
Steven Mudrick

**Editing Supervisor** -

Harry Mavromichalis

**Chief Technician** -

Anthoney Lora

## **INTRUDER**

**Frank Sinatra School of the Arts**

**Director, Writer, and Producer** -  
Kenji Lee-Young

**Key Cast** - Felix Schoeller

## **DOCUMENTARY**

### **Pretty Tony**

**Art & Design High School**

**Creators** - Jack Cornelius,  
Maxwell Dugger-Ades,  
Leila Flores, Juliana Giraldo,  
Aidan Grayson, Zheng Liu-  
Gonzalez

**Featuring** - Jack Cornelius,  
Stephanie Powell

# CREDITS

## **Identity Through Art**

**Brownsville Middle School**  
**(Ascend Charter School/SONYC**  
**BIZ Afterschool)**

**Director** - SONYC BIZ Afterschool

**Writer** - Samuel W., Ethan S.,  
William H.

**Producers** - Avery B., Gregory M.,  
Liam M.

**Key Cast** - Dennis B., Kalanji C.,  
Zieeda C., Jack P., Beniah, Deasia,  
Denelle, Samuel W., Ethan S.,  
Liam M., Kaylee, Zoe

**Camera** - Aiden M.R., Ethan M.

**Interviewers** - Ethan M., William H.,  
Esmel S., Nahiem F.

**Audio** - Jackson A., Nahiem F.

## **The Final Bell**

**Bronx Early College Academy**  
**for Teaching & Learning**

**Directors** - Christopher Vergara,  
Tary Diallo; **Writers**: Tary Diallo,  
Arlenis Morel-Obispo

**Key Cast** - Alison Estudillo,  
Yaemil Ortiz, Alexa Alatorre,  
Damilka Nunez, Kiara Genao,  
Caleb Arrieta, Maya Pabon,  
Sarah Melendez, Juan Guerrero,  
Carol Parra, Arlenis Morel Obispo,  
Dorianny Ortega, Kiona Alcantara,  
Aryana Puente, Jake Paulino

## **Cinematographer -**

Christopher Vergara

## **The Big Game**

**Academy for Careers in TV & Film**

**Editors** - Jahlil Magee,  
Amaya Heyliger

**Crew** - Thomas Prado,  
Mathew Escobar, Void Rosas,  
Gary Jimenez, Juan Rodriguez-  
Alvarado, Sarhi Paredes,

Amaya Heyliger, Jahlil Magee

**Supervisors** - Yoshie Otomo,  
Paola Muñoz

## **The Cafe**

**The David Marquis School of**  
**the Arts P37R**

**Directors** - David Zou,  
Matthew Gellerstein,  
Supreme Ryant

**Writers** - Matthew D'Oria,  
Vincent Fattorusso, Yousuf Asghar

**Producers** - Dylan Accornero,  
Frank Cannizzo



# CREDITS

## **SHORT NARRATIVE**

### **No Talking**

#### **Motion Picture Technical**

#### **High School**

**Director** - Judith Eraso

#### **Writers and Producers** -

Ms Gutierrez's Film Class

**Key Cast** - Youssef Abozoid,

Cristal Benitez, Albert Dreic,

Amy de lo Santos

### **Arachnids: Age of Resistance –**

#### **Official Trailer**

#### **August Martin High**

#### **School Director and Writer** -

Evan Deng

**Key Cast** - Josiah Freeman,

Tyshaun Davis,

Hudson Dorismond

### **Nightmare on 96th Street**

#### **East Brooklyn Community**

#### **High School**

**Directors** - Amarylis Goyes,

Elijah Singleton, Michael Fonville

**Key Cast** - Nicholas Yates,

Ivette Adams, Shun Boyd,

Keyshawn Garvin, Deonte McGee,

Sean Milhouse, Ossie Patton,

Morgan Richburg, Beth Kling,

David Nelinson

**Camera** - Thierry Masson

**Props** - Destinee Williams

**Music** - Celestial 114064 Public

Domain Pixabay, Drone 162365

Public Domain Pixabay

### **I Thought I Knew You**

#### **KAPPA International**

#### **High School**

**Directors** - Sherone Allisson,

Angelica Moore Upshaw

**Writers** - Alize Ramirez,

Angel Bawuah

**Producers** - Jaysson Farley

**Key Cast** - Samantha Almanzar,

Samir Diaz, Isaiah Gayle

**Corporate Partners** -

Five4Five Films

### **Into the Field**

**Creator** - Giancarlo Sella

**Starring** - Giancarlo Sella,

Lorenzo Sella, Valentino Sella,

Enid Graham, Robert Sella

**“World Explorers” Music,**

**Lyrics and Performance** -

Chris Jennings

# CREDITS

## **Pride and Pencil-less**

**Staten Island Technical  
High School**

**Director, Writer and Producer -**  
Hana Lauscher

**Key Cast -** Abigail Bezuevsky,  
Ela Ulker, Kayla Rizzo

## **Reflections**

**Abraham Lincoln High School  
Writers, Directors and Producers**

- Jude Clifford Dorema, Sienna  
Simone Menou

**Editor -** Sienna Menou

**Key Cast -** Sienna Simone  
Menou, Terry Lesane

**Actors -** Nadia Cutz, Anna Shen,  
Isabelle Ramirez,

Abriyana Dozier, Jude Dorema

**Camera -** Jude Dorema

## KEY

 RESTROOMS/  
WATER FOUNTAINS

 COAT CHECK

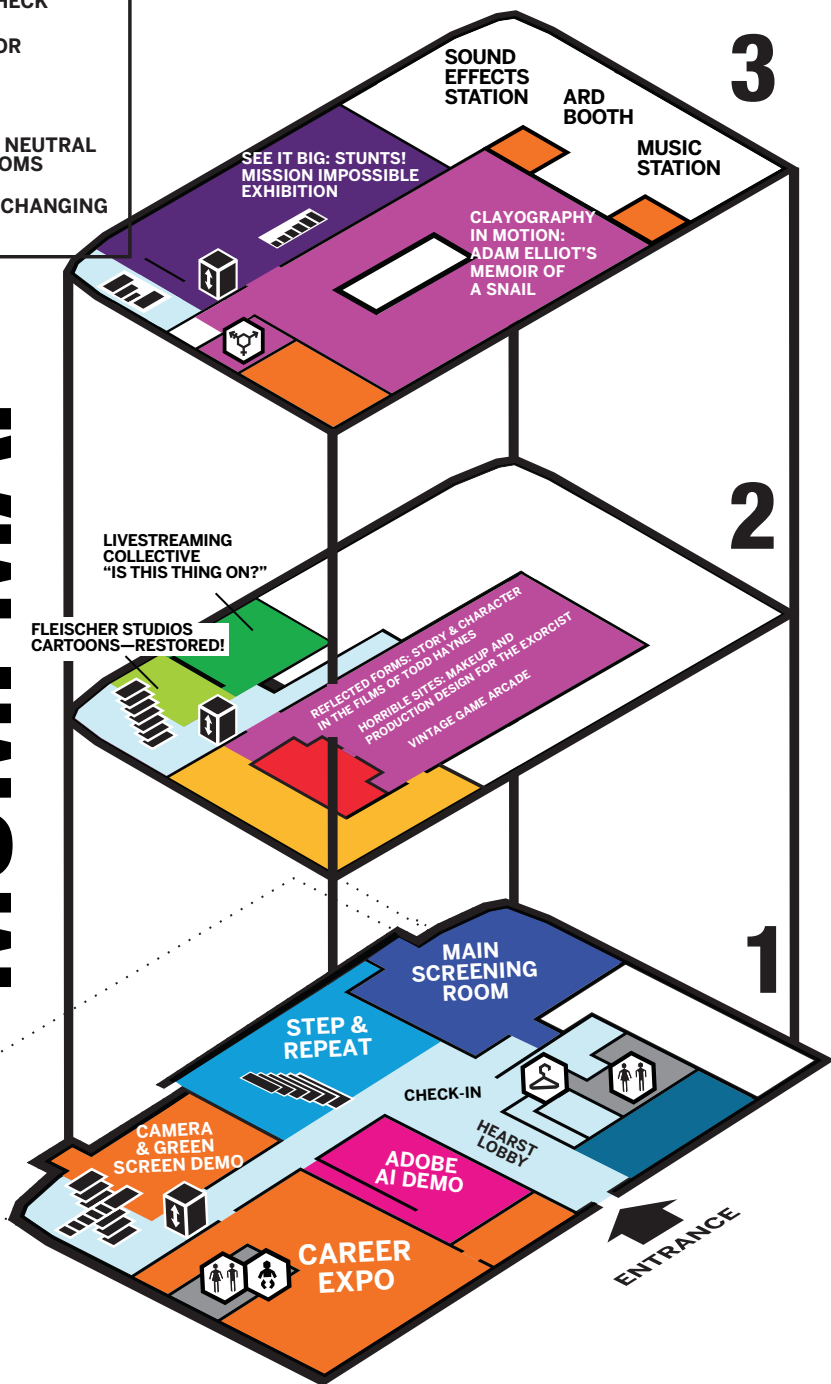
 ELEVATOR

 STAIRS

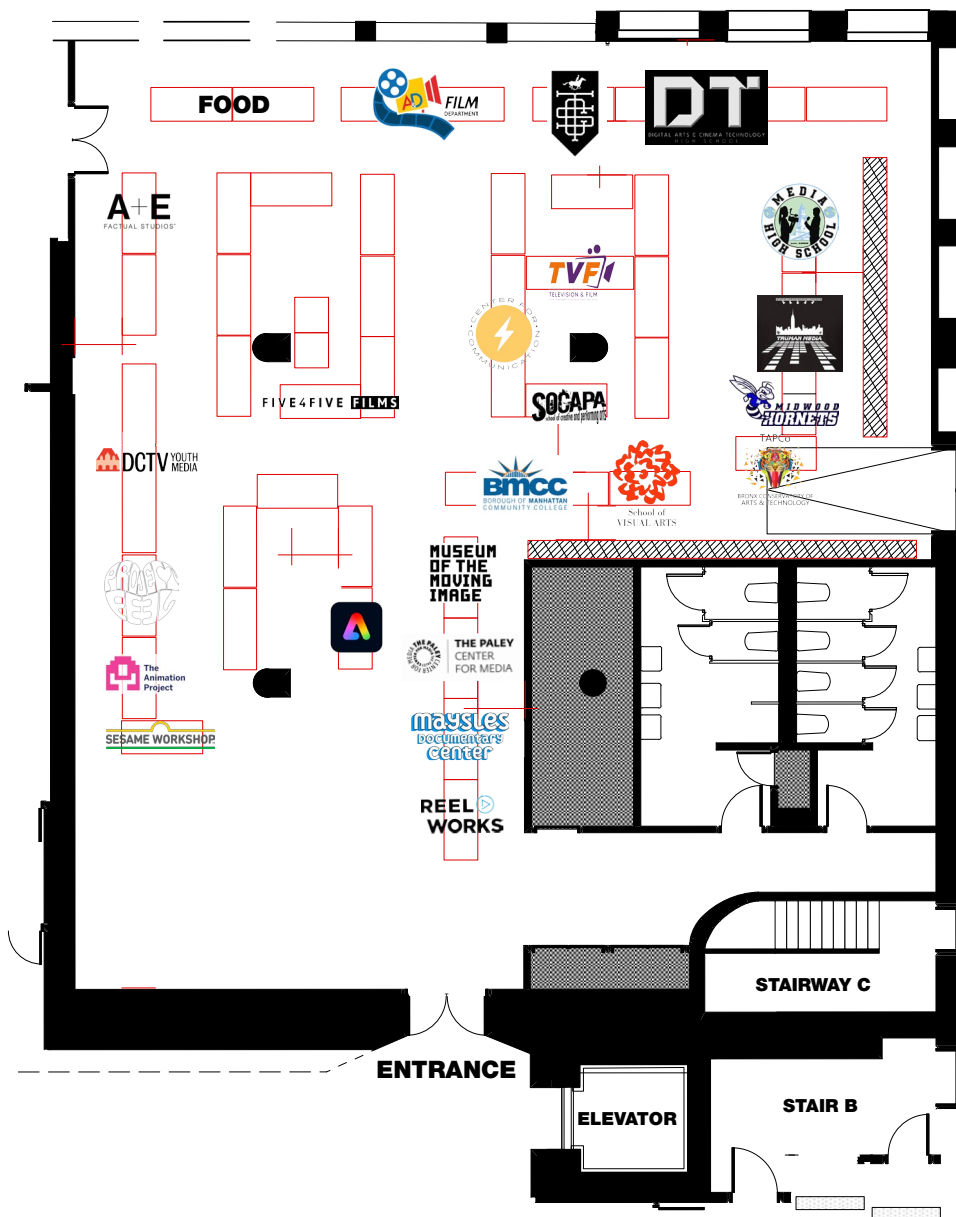
 GENDER NEUTRAL  
RESTROOMS

 INFANT-CHANGING  
AREA

# MOMI MAP



# EXPO MAP



# EXPO PRESENTERS

*\*listed in alphabetical order - please select link to visit their website*

## **Academy for Careers in Television & Film**

[www.actvf.org](http://www.actvf.org)

Since its founding in 2008, TvF has provided students with an incomparable Career & Technical Education (CTE) program focused on behind the scenes jobs in television & film. Students gain technical skills through hands on projects and instruction in addition to soft skills that they can apply to many other jobs, such as collaboration and communication.

## **Adobe Express for Education**

[www.adobeeducation.com](http://www.adobeeducation.com)

Adobe Express is a web-based, all-in-one editor to create videos, posters, web pages, and more from thousands of education templates — free for U.S. K-12 classrooms.

## **A+E FACTUAL STUDIOS™**

[www.aefactualstudios.com](http://www.aefactualstudios.com)

A+E FACTUAL STUDIOS™ is an Emmy Award winning IP creation powerhouse which, through its holdings, develops and produces premium documentary films and unscripted television for the global marketplace. The studio has expertise in a broad range of genres including docuseries, true crime, competition, transformation, and lifestyle. Comprised of two specialty brands — CATEGORY 6 MEDIA™ and SIX WEST MEDIA™ — the production house delivers exceptional factual content across a number of platforms and networks including Disney+, Max, Discovery+, ID, A&E®, Lifetime®, The HISTORY® Channel, Amazon, PBS, NBC, Oxygen and Hulu.

Helmed by industry veterans Sharon Scott (President), Steve Ascher (EVP, Head of Development), and Jhamal Robinson (EVP, Head of Production), A+E FACTUAL STUDIOS™ was founded in 2018 and has since emerged as an industry leader in nonfiction storytelling. With more than 200 hours in production and 100+ projects in development, the studio's slate ranges from long-running hit series such as A&E's Cold Case Files® and The HISTORY Channel's The Proof Is Out There™, to formats like Best in Snow on Disney+, History's The Unbelievable with Dan Aykroyd, and premium documentaries such as Lifetime's The Prison Confessions of Gypsy Rose Blanchard and the Emmy Award winning Variety Presents: Power of Women The Changemakers. The team regularly collaborates

with top-tier talent like Leonardo DiCaprio, Peyton Manning, Michael Strahan, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Billie Jean King and Kelly Ripa, to name a few.

### **The Animation Project**

[www.theanimationproject.org](http://www.theanimationproject.org)

The Animation Project (TAP) is a non-profit therapy, education and workforce development program. We prepare young creatives for the media and animation industries through direct-service software training, career readiness mentorship, and personal development guidance.

### **Art & Design High School - Film Program**

[www.artanddesignhs.org/film](http://www.artanddesignhs.org/film)

The Film Program at Art & Design High School is one of the strongest in New York City, with students creating award-winning work on an annual basis. As well, A&D Film graduates have graduated from and currently attend many of the most prestigious universities and colleges in the country, including NYU, USC, Chapman and more. The program is a three-year rigorous curriculum that covers all aspects of film production, from original script writing to final editing techniques. As well, A&D Film graduates earn CTE degrees, preparing them for the real world in ways essential to their continued life success.

### **BMCC/Media Arts & Technology Dept.**

[www.bmcc.cuny.edu/academics/departments/media-arts-and-technology](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/academics/departments/media-arts-and-technology)  
Borough of Manhattan Community College, Media Arts & Technology Department. Includes three majors: Animation and Motion Graphics, Multimedia Programming and Design, Video Arts and Technology.

### **Center for Communication**

[www.centerforcommunication.org](http://www.centerforcommunication.org)

The Center for Communication is a nonprofit that promotes diversity in media by educating and empowering students seeking to enter the industry. We set our students up for success by building the knowledge, skills, and networks they need to launch their media careers. Our forums feature the best minds in media, who provide industry insights and actionable advice to help our students become the next generation of media leaders. We connect our students to our industry partners, who are seeking to build their pipelines of diverse talent.

The Center's dynamic program series — panels, screenings, career summits, on-location site visits, and Q&As — cover all aspects and fields of media, including journalism, television production, documentary and feature filmmaking, gaming, media management, music, digital media, book publishing, advertising, research and analytics, PR and marketing,



First Amendment issues, ethics and standards.

## **The Cinema School**

[thecinemaschool.org](http://thecinemaschool.org)

The Cinema School offers a rich liberal arts education grounded in creative activity. Filmmaking serves as the core of a strong academic program that prepares students for a wide range of careers. Students take the required courses for an Advanced Regents diploma which will prepare them for admissions to competitive four-year universities. In addition to providing students with essential creative and technological skills, filmmaking also deepens learning by building confidence, responsibility, teamwork, and leadership. We offer a supportive small school community and individualized attention.

## **City-Film BFA/MFA Programs at CCNY**

**BFA in Film:** *More info via:* [www.ccny.cuny.edu/film](http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/film)

City College's BFA Film Program is one of the oldest film schools in the U.S. and the only public institution in New York City to offer a BFA in Film and Video. The mission of the program is to teach the art and craft of filmmaking, to explore the history and theory of film and video, and to provide intensive hands-on experience in fiction and documentary media production. Embedded in a humanities education, the program nurtures students to discover their unique voice and provides them with the knowledge and diverse skills to enter an ever-changing media world. The competitive program picks thirty students a year to follow a rich, intensive two-year curriculum with emphasis on single camera fiction and documentary production.

**MFA in Film:** *More info via:* [city-film.org](http://city-film.org)

Our intensive two-year MFA in Film is the only graduate-level program of its kind, offering a full immersion in both Documentary and Fiction filmmaking at an affordable and accessible public university. We are an international filmmaking community in the heart of Harlem, and our students have ready access to the finest talent, locations, and production facilities of New York City.

Our faculty of award-winning filmmakers is dedicated to mentoring a talented, selective group of students to become the next generation of original voices in independent film. We foster the creation of compelling, daring, and visually stimulating short films in documentary and fiction. Our students have won numerous student Oscars and Emmys and their films have been official selections at Sundance, Tribeca, Berlin, and Venice Film Festivals.

## **DCTV**

[www.dctvny.org](http://www.dctvny.org)

DCTV has been New York City's preeminent community of and for documentary storytellers since 1972. By providing professional training and tools, access to critical equipment and public exhibition space in Manhattan, we give youth, aspiring and emerging filmmakers and communities of all backgrounds greater voice and platforms through documentary film. DCTV Youth Media is an award-winning free media arts training program for aspiring filmmakers in New York City.

DCTV Youth Media teaches New York City teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) how to use media to tell important personal stories and help ignite social change. Our programs are always free and we encourage diverse students from all five boroughs, regardless of experience or background, to join us. In addition to learning about filmmaking and creating original films, students receive mentorship, college counseling and opportunities for professional development in the media industry. 100% of our high school students graduate and go on to college. Acceptances this year include Brown University, Vassar College, and Cal Arts.

Student films have been broadcast on HBO and WNET, and students have won numerous awards for their films, including 4 local Emmy Awards, a Sundance Grand Jury Prize, Best Animation from the Tribeca Film Institute's Our City, My Story and an RFK Prize for Excellence in Journalism. In 2021, DCTV Youth Media premiered Covid Diaries NYC on HBO.

## **Digital Arts & Cinema Technology High School**

[www.digitaltechhs.org](http://www.digitaltechhs.org)

At Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School, we provide a rigorous academic program dedicated to closing the achievement gap that prepares students to be college and career ready. Students are immersed in authentic learning experiences in the fields of digital art, film, and technology.

Through a specialized program that incorporates academic, creative, and technical skills, students are prepared for postsecondary education and to pursue a career in the field of media. By maintaining a collaborative and supportive learning environment, students who graduate from the Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School are persistent, resilient, and capable of being successful in college and beyond.

## **Five4Five Films**

[www.five4fivefilms.com](http://www.five4fivefilms.com)

Five4Five Films (F4F) is a media arts program with a focus on creating original short films with students in underserved communities. We are dedicated to teaching creative critical thinking skills that students can apply throughout their lives, as well as providing inroads for future careers in the film industry.

## **Harry S Truman High School**

[www.bxtrumanhighschool.com](http://www.bxtrumanhighschool.com)

The Truman Media Program is a four-year specialized academy course that prepares students for a wide variety of careers in television broadcasting, podcasting, web video, streaming, social media, journalism, editing, and more! The award-winning program is led by a Big Apple Award Winning teacher and has an 18-year history of preparing young people for the world of new media.

## **Next Millennium Productions**

[www.nmpfilms.com](http://www.nmpfilms.com)

Next Millennium Productions is a New York City based, MWBE, video production company. We produce video content for agencies, networks and corporations worldwide.

## **Maysles Documentary Center Maysles.org**

[www.Maysles.org](http://www.Maysles.org)

Maysles Documentary Center (MDC), established in 2005, is a Harlem-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to community, education, and documentary film. Through our 50-seat arthouse cinema we provide our community with access to films and cultural programming, and through our filmmaking education classes, we empower youth in creative self-expression and advocating their interests. Our programs have a city-wide reach, but our summer youth education classes, Teen DocMakers (TDM) and Vanguard DocMakers (VDM) primarily serve young people from Harlem, East Harlem, Upper Manhattan, and the South Bronx, but we also accept applicants from other boroughs and parts of New Jersey. Our programs are free and some include a stipend for participants. More on our education programs and weekly screening events can be found at Maysles.org.

## **Midwood High School CTE Media Arts Program**

[www.midwoodhighschool.org](http://www.midwoodhighschool.org)

Midwood High School's CTE Media Arts Program is a New York State accredited program that prepares students to be career and college ready through the media arts. With a focus on filmmaking and graphic arts, this program aims to equip students with applicable skills and

provide them with real-world exposure and experiences beyond the classroom to the film/media industries.

### **The Paley Center for Media**

[www.paleycenter.org](http://www.paleycenter.org)

Drawing upon its curators, collection of over 160,000 programs covering more than 100 years of television and radio history, and relationships with the media community, The Paley Center for Media examines the intersections between media and society.

### **Project Feel**

[www.projectfeel.com](http://www.projectfeel.com)

Project Feel is a NYC-based, Latinx-owned multimedia production company dedicated to crafting impactful media that fosters creativity and community. From short films and documentaries to live music sessions and branded content, our work centers underrepresented voices and tells stories that resonate. We create immersive experiences, lead educational workshops, and produce media that bridges art and activism. As a hub for new voices in NYC's creative community, Project Feel offers emerging creatives opportunities to collaborate, learn, and grow, both behind and in front of the camera.

### **Reel Works**

[www.reelworks.org](http://www.reelworks.org)

Reel Works mentors, inspires, and educates NYC youth to share their stories through filmmaking, creating a springboard to successful careers in media and beyond.

### **School of Visual Arts**

[sva.edu](http://sva.edu)

School of Visual Arts (SVA) has been a leader in the education of creative professionals for more than seven decades. Studying at SVA gives students the creative tools and the professional networks they need to cultivate the artistic careers they deserve. Fully located in Manhattan, SVA's urban campus is home to 11 undergraduate and 20 graduate degree programs. Comprised of more than 5,000 students and 36,000 alumni in 100 countries, the School of Visual Arts also represents one of the most influential artistic communities in the world.

### **Sesame Workshop**

[sesameworkshop.org](http://sesameworkshop.org)

Sesame Workshop is a global nonprofit behind Sesame Street and so much more. For over 50 years, we have worked at the intersection of education, media, and research, creating joyful experiences that enrich minds and expand hearts. With a mission to help children everywhere

grow smarter, stronger, and kinder, we reach families in more than 150 countries with playful early learning so we can empower each generation to build a better world.

Our beloved characters, iconic shows, outreach in communities, and more are rooted in deep expertise and designed to meet children's most pressing needs. From building school readiness to encouraging playful problem-solving, from supporting emotional well-being to promoting positive self-identity, Sesame Workshop is here for children and families — as every caregiver's valued partner and every child's trusted friend.

### **SOCAPA: City Cinema**

[www.socapa.org/city-cinema](http://www.socapa.org/city-cinema)

SOCAPA City Cinema offers specialized training centered around workshop classes and short film productions, culminating in the unparalleled opportunity to collaborate on a full-length feature film production with industry veterans at the end of our two-year track! Whether students are aiming for college or looking to jumpstart a career in the industry, SCC offers specifically-tailored courses and expert mentorship from top-tier working professionals to help them succeed.

### **Theatre Arts Production Company - TAPCo**

[sites.google.com/schools.nyc.gov/tapconyc/home](https://sites.google.com/schools.nyc.gov/tapconyc/home)

Our Career and Technical Education (CTE) track in Film/Video Production provides students with a dynamic, hands-on experience rooted in industry standards. As a New York State Certified program, we prepare students for success in the media and communications industry through technical training and creative exploration. Whether you're interested in narrative storytelling, digital arts, or visual communication, our program gives you the tools to turn your creativity into a career.



# RESOURCES

## (For Middle School Families)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ROaa-mwl8JUoysbOshzSiAXbEk-tlfpXwJs5RQxSX-Buw/edit?tab=t.0>

*(Please click on link)*





7<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY  
**PUBLIC  
SCHOOL  
FILM  
FESTIVAL**

**April 29, 2025 • 3-8PM**

Museum of the Moving Image  
Astoria, Queens



The NYC Public School Film Festival includes special screenings of student works, career and educational expo featuring film & tv companies, special industry keynote, panels for middle school families looking for information about specialized high schools as well as free access to the Museum's exhibitions.

**Mark your calendar!**  
**The NYC PS Film Festival will  
screen for the general public on:**

**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
8:15pm-11pm**

Washington Square Park  
(under the arch) Manhattan, NY

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
8:15pm-11pm**

Sunset Park, Central Lawn  
(44th Street), Brooklyn, NY

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO





# ***#NYCPSFilmFestival***

In an effort to enhance this experience, please  
fill out our survey and give us feedback!

**<https://forms.gle/rTaJaTWzu4tc9mS26>**

*(Please click on link)*