

AFTRS & WIFT PRESENT

International Women's Day 2026 Presenters

AFTRS



Andrea Ho

AFTRS Discipline Lead,
Radio & Podcasting

MC and Moderator

Andrea Ho is a media professional and an experienced leader, broadcaster and content maker.

Her experience spans several decades, covering on-air broadcasting and producing through station management to executive leadership, primarily at the ABC and community broadcasters, and more recently in the not-for profit space. She completed a Churchill Fellowship on Diversity in Broadcast Media in 2016.

Currently Andrea teaches at AFTRS, the Australian Film Television and Radio School, as the Discipline Lead for the Graduate Diploma in Radio and Podcasting. She also presents on air on ABC Radio from time to time, supervised season 4 of the podcast, The Solutionists for Sydney University, and last year joined the Board of Media Diversity Australia as Chair.



Jackie Wolf

AFTRS Lecturer BA
(Cinematography) –
Cine Sorority

Jackie Wolf is a Sydney-based cinematographer and academic who became a devotee of the moving image upon taking a super 8 elective during her architecture degree. She went on to study at AFTRS, specialising in cinematography and while there, directed and shot two multi-award winning films: *The Illustrated Auschwitz* and *Amelia Rose Towers*.

The Illustrated Auschwitz earned numerous accolades including a place on the BBC's list of all-time, 100 greatest films directed by women. While *Amelia Rose Towers* fetched an AFI for direction and cinematography plus a bear hug from Francis Ford Coppola when she collected the Grand Prix at the Tokyo Film Festival of International Cinema Students.

Jackie's career has since seen her shooting features, shorts, TVCs, stylised documentaries and video art. Highlights include second unit director and cinematographer on Jane Campion's *Holy Smoke*, DoP on the multi-award winning *Jabe Babe* and DoP on *Hunt Angels*, which picked up 3 AFIs including best cinematography.

Whether shooting for others or mentoring students to find their own voices, her commitment to artful storytelling has only deepened. Finding an especially gratifying expression through the Cine Sorority at AFTRS, where she's created the space to embolden the next generation of female and gender diverse cinematographers.



Bethany Stewart

AFTRS Future Student
Engagement Officer
– Sound Sorority

Beth Stewart is a multi-disciplinary audio professional working in film, television, radio, web and live audio environments. While commencing her BASP at AFTRS, she started working in 2018 as an on-set Sound Recordist and Boom Operator for independent projects. Upon graduating in 2020, she expanded her services to include post-production, making her an adaptable crew member who could carry a project's audio production from start to finish. She has a strong passion and enjoyment in creating sound for animation and conceptual shorts but loves variety and a good challenge.

She has worked seasonally as a Technical Support Officer and a Lecturer for the Sound in the AFTRS BA; and is currently working as a TA for the GDRP and in the Student Recruitment department.

In 2022, Beth began working as an Audio Engineer for ABC Radio National and Radio Sydney where she further expanded her skills in live national studio panelling and post-production for podcasts and vodcasts.

Working as a diverse crew member, Beth has lived experience of an industry that is still challenging for people like her. She believes in the power of community and knowledge-sharing, and is ready to propel the next generation of soundies into bright futures.



Leah Pellinkhof

AFTRS Discipline Lead
BA (Directing) – Directing
Sorority

Leah Pellinkhof is an award-winning director with over 25 years' experience teaching filmmaking, directing, and acting. An AFTRS alumna (Grad Cert Directing; Grad Cert Cinematography), she also holds an Advanced Diploma of Acting (The Actors Conservatory), a BA in Film and Television Production (JMC), and an MFA in Writing for Performance (NIDA).

Leah's directing credits reflect a rich breadth of stage and screen practice, spanning multiple Shakespeare productions, musical theatre works, children's pantomime and original comedies honored with consecutive Edinburgh Fringe Best Comedy nominations. On screen, she has directed the feature film *Killer Smile*, the documentary *What Parents Want*, the awardwinning series *Thirty*, and an expansive collection of branded, online and shortform content.

As one of Australia's earliest trained Intimacy Coordinators, Leah brings nuanced performance insight and bestpractice set leadership to her work. As a board member of Queer Screen, Leah championed funding pathways that backed emerging directors and fresh screen voices. As a multidisciplinary filmmaker working across acting, writing, producing, cinematography, and editing, she brings a comprehensive and practical understanding of directing. Leah brings the same holistic, practiced approach to her teaching, supporting emerging filmmakers to develop their craft, sharpen their vision and grow in creative confidence.



Carolyn Constantine

Cinematographer &
ACS NSW President

Carolyn is an award-winning Director of Photography who began her career in Sydney collaborating with emerging Australian directors, including Cate Shortland on *Pentuphouse* and Carla Drago on *Boomerang*, winning the Award for Best Cinematography at Tropfest 2002.

Over her career, Carolyn has worked as both Director of Photography and camera operator on a wide range of television drama, feature films and documentary projects, building a strong reputation for visual storytelling across genres. Her screen credits include *Ten Pound Poms*, *NCIS: Sydney*, *Janet King*, *Pulse*, *Underbelly: Vanishing Act*, *Bump*, *Rake*, and *He Had It Coming*. Her documentary work includes *Wide Open Sky*, which won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sydney Film Festival.



Arden Kelly

AFTRS – BA Graduate
Cine Sorority

Since graduating from AFTRS BA Screen Production in 2025, Arden has worked as a 2nd AC and aims to continue to develop her technical and craft skills in camera department. Her work as a student cinematographer was shaped by her personal interest in the reciprocal relationship between theory and practice (particularly queer & feminist film theory) and ideas around subjectivity and the gaze, reflected in her third-year projects '*Alma Martyr*' (2024) and '*Megafauna*' (2024).



Lianne Mackessy

AFTRS - MA Graduate

Lianne Mackessy is an award-winning writer-director. In 2026, she won Tropfest for her short film *Crescendo*. She was also selected as an inaugural recipient of the Tropfest Runway x MPA Career Accelerator Program in Los Angeles.

She received the Rebel 8 Award for Outstanding Emerging Female Director at Academy Award-qualifying Flickerfest for her AFTRS short film *Tuesday Tuesday*, which also earned an AWGIE Award nomination for Best Short Film Screenplay.

Lianne holds a Master of Directing from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), where she previously studied screenwriting. Originally trained as a performer, she brings a performance-led approach to her filmmaking, underpinned by a deep understanding of story. Her work is grounded in intimate, character-driven human stories, bittersweet and tender in tone.



Laura Sivis

WIFT, Producer & Screen Advocate. Masters in Business, Engineering, Film

An industry driving force, Laura held consecutive WIFT leadership roles: President, Treasurer, WOW Film Festival Juror.

Her career began in broadcast, training simulators and combat systems. Laura transitioned to the screen industry as a technical innovation pioneer, producing commercially successful, award winning feature films, documentaries and web-series.

Tropfest Alumni, SPA Best feature film nominee, Fantasia's Frontiers Official Selection. First winner of SMPTE Dimensionale' award. First 3D film in Cannes. Her algorithms seeded Dolby Atmos.

A fierce advocate for positive change; she co-drafted Australia's first official Screen Policy, successfully lobbied for paid national maternity leave and removal of screen agency funding eligibility barriers impacting women,

Laura's commitment to "leadership, mentorship and career pipelines" is evident through WIFT's MentorHer and ElevateHer programs, and providing first-time feature credits to over a dozen women.

A recognised expert and guest speaker in packaging, finance, production and audio; she represents WIFT and the Australian screen industry on the global stage - Cannes, Toronto, New York, Los Angeles, Berlin.

With a legacy built on technical firsts and policy progress, Laura continues to ensure future generations of screen women have the skills they need to succeed.

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

The Entertainment Quarter
Moore Park
Sydney NSW 2021

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AFTRS would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Bidjigal people and Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, on whose land we meet, work, study and teach. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all nations of this land.