

talent camp

2019

Queensland

AFTRS



What is Talent Camp?

Talent Camp is a skills development program spanning two years. We begin with a week-long intensive workshop in each state, followed by a national camp for select state participants. We end with opportunities for internships, placements and production for participants, where possible.

The state camps involve the selection of up to 15 participants from each state and territory, through an open application process. To find the best emerging talent we liaise with the highly networked community arts sector across the country to get the word out, and to support potential applicants.

We want to find the best candidates, but we know that they haven't all had the best opportunities, so we look for a mix of talent, experience and motivation.

Talent Camp is a multi-partner screen industry initiative made possible with the support of AFTRS, AWG & Scripted Ink, Screen Australia, Screen Queensland, Create NSW, Film Victoria, Screen Tasmania, South Australian Film Corporation, ScreenWest, Screen Territory and Screen Canberra.

Tomorrow's Storytellers



Stephen Davis

Stephen is an AFI nominated and multi-award-winning writer with five features credits (*City Loop*, *Blurred*, *Monkey Puzzle*, *The Reef* and *Drown* – which he also produced) to his name. His work has played at the Toronto, Tokyo, Sydney and Cannes Film Festivals and resulted in multi-millions at the box office. He is also a bestselling playwright with six published works for Playlab Press (*A Very Black Comedy Indeed*, *Juice*, *Blurred*, *Tranzitions*, *Rites of Passage Trilogy* and *Wet Dogs*) and one with Hawker Brownlow (*Burnt*). Four of the above works are curriculum staples in high schools across Australia.



Gary Paramanathan

Gary Paramanathan works at the intersection of arts, culture and community. Gary is currently the Acting Manager, Outreach, at AFTRS, and has previously worked in Western Sydney on community arts and cultural development projects, including with ICE, Fairfield City Council, Penrith City Council, Parramasala and Diversity Arts Australia. He founded the short film festival Colourfest and the storytelling night Them Heavy People. Gary holds a Masters in International Communications.

Gary is passionate about migrant and diaspora storytelling and hopes to add to the rich tapestry of diverse Australian storytelling through his work.

Workshop Facilitators



John Harvey

John is of Saibai Island and English descent and has always had a passion for storytelling. He is a director, producer and writer across screen and stage and is the Creative Director for *BROWN CABS*. John is also the writer and director of *OUT OF RANGE* (MIFF, 2019) and is the director and co-producer of web series *KUTCHA'S CARPOOL KOORIOKE*.

He has produced *WARBURDAR BUNUN: WATER SHIELD* (MIFF, Sydney Film Festival 2019); the feature film *SPEAR* (TIFF, Adelaide Film Festival); ABC TV series *THE WARRIORS* (Arenamedi); the chapter *SAND* for the omnibus feature film *THE TURNING* (Berlinale, MIFF); and 6 Indigenous short films for screening at international film festivals and broadcast. In theatre, John wrote and produced the highly acclaimed and sold out season of *HEART IS A WASTELAND* (Malthouse Theatre, 2017).



Liz Kearney

Liz Kearney is an Australian producer. Alongside Robert Connolly and Maggie Miles, Liz produced the Australian film *Paper Planes*, which grossed almost \$10 million at the Australian box office. In 2015, Liz was an executive producer on Stephen Page's directorial debut, *Spear*. In 2017, alongside producers Robert Connolly and John Harvey, Liz produced the 8 x half hour comedy drama series *The Warriors* for the ABC. She also produced the 9-minute stop motion animated film *Lost Property Office* with cardboard sculptor Daniel Agdag. The short won Best Short Animation and Best Director at the 2017 Sydney Film Festival and Best Short Animation at the 2018 AACTAs and was shortlisted for an Academy Award in 2018.

Most recently, Liz produced David Wenham's feature film debut *Ellipsis* and Thomas M Wright's debut feature *Acute Misfortune*, which premiered at MIFF in 2018, won The Age Critics Prize and was released nationally in May 2019.



Abraham Mantey

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Motivated, never satisfied.
“Stay ready so you don’t
have to get ready”

Biography

I have many experiences in the film industry as an actor and an extra. I feel as though I am ready to take my career to the next level, to try my hand at writing scripts and begin to create opportunities for myself so I can become an established actor/writer.

Story

A unique and engaging supernatural horror story drawing from my personal family cultural experiences within the Torres Strait community

Where To Next

I want to expand my network and seek individuals that may be able to help me create the film that I’m currently writing.



Britt Kynde

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With her quirky sense of humour and knack
for tackling issues that need attention,
Britt Kynde mixes comedy and drama to
create relatable, female-driven content.

Biography

Britt Kynde is a writer, director, producer, actor and comedian. Growing up with her mother and sisters in a strong female environment, Britt is passionate about telling stories and creating content about women and by women. Britt started her production company Grade One Productions in 2013 and has released her debut comedy feature film “CURSED”, which had its worldwide premiere at Arohanui Film Festival in New Zealand. With a love for comedy and independent cinema, Britt creates complex, relatable characters – and, most importantly, just wants you to have a good laugh.

Story

An unintentionally internet famous millennial lives with her baby boomer mother while struggling to figure out what she wants from life and how the hell she can earn enough to move out.

Where To Next

I want to find a producer that is the perfect fit for *Fledgling*, in order to share this relatable story of so many millennials. Most importantly, I want to see the character of my mum “Jane-o” brought to life, because the world needs to see her, too.



Carmen Smith

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I'm a storyteller, and filmmaking gives me all the tools I need.

Biography

Carmen is a PNG/Australian filmmaker living and working in North Queensland. Her key focus in filmmaking is to represent the stories of her upbringing in regional and rural Australia as a person of colour. The genres she is drawn to are documentary, comedy and coming of age dramas.

She has three titles to her name: *Panguna*, *Try* and, her latest, *To and Afro*, a short comedy about a girl coming to terms with her extremely curly hair. She has also worked with the ABC Heywire team to script stories from regional youth across Australia for TV.

Story

A young student is stuck on a train when she is visited by a Liliahanei. Little does she know that she comes from a family of chiefs, she is the next in line and her initiation is overdue.

Where To Next

At Talent Camp, I want to develop this story and really nail the beats. I want to find a producer and to meet industry contacts that can guide me with this project. I would also like to apply for funding and learn the possible career pathways for regional filmmakers.



Egan Sun-Bin

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"A job of storytellers is to get to the end, even when the world is against them. That's what makes the journey so moving." That's who I want to be.

Biography

Egan is a Brisbane-based freelance Australian-Cambodian storyteller currently studying at QUT in a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting). He has the passion to tell stories no matter what the platform, and is also passionate about Chemistry, Astronomy, video games and AFL – supporting the Collingwood Magpies.

Story

Four protagonists travel around Australia to help spirits of the dead crossover – but under ridiculous circumstances.

Where To Next

For the Project, I want to workshop my concept with other writers and develop these stories further. For myself, I want to be able to know the ways I can develop so I am able to be a working artist in this industry, and so I can be here for a long time.



Holly Zwalf

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Holly is a freelance writer, smutty spoken word artist and mum, with a PhD in queer feminist kink.

Biography

Holly is a novelist, poet, freelance journalist and stand-up comedian. She's the recipient of a Screen Australia / WHIMN Doco180 grant for "Mother/Lover", a documentary about dating as a queer solo parent. She was also shortlisted for Channel 10 /Screen Australia's "Out Here" initiative and has a creative writing PhD in queer feminist theory. Holly is the author of an edited academic collection: "Motherhood, Sex, and Sexuality."

Story

Polly, a queer, single sex worker with a geriatric womb, wants to have a baby but can't find any sperm – and Alice Springs is 1500km from the nearest fertility clinic. Together with an Indigenous drag queen and an anxious hitchhiker, the three get creative to make the baby she craves.

Where To Next

I have teamed up with producer Erin McBean and we are working on developing "Breeders" for funding. We are looking for a script consultant, an experienced mentor producer and an Indigenous writer to collaborate with. We're also keen to find a director— ideally someone with comedy experience who is queer.



Jenny Wynter

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Comedian with a love of improv, musical comedy and child-wrangling.

Biography

Jenny is an award-winning comedian, cabaret artist and web series creator whose awards include Best Variety Show at United Solo Festival (NYC), the ABC iView Pitch Perfect award at Melbourne WebFest, Excellence in Cabaret at Melbourne Fringe and a Green Room Award nomination for Best Cabaret Writing. Her debut web series "How Me Parent Good: And You Can Too!" won Best Conceptual Web Series at the Palm Springs International Comedy Competition and Best Web Series at the Women Worldwide Film Festival.

Story

Rockstar Mummy is a musical comedy about a mother with bipolar trying to win her kids back with family obstacle races and parenting advice from marionette Freddie Mercury.

Where To Next

My goal is to have this series ready for production as soon as possible following Talent Camp – providing, naturally, that the script is absolutely rocking! I plan to workshop the script as much as possible during the camp and to work on it subsequently until it's ready for shooting. My ultimate goal is to have a producer onboard and plans in place to shoot it in 2020.



Jordan Wilkinson

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“When you start out as a filmmaker, you do parodies, because you can’t really compete on a studio level.”

– BILL PAXTON

Biography

Growing up, my mum raised me on 90’s action flicks, period dramas and engaging mystery thrillers. Being born and bred on the Gold Coast has allowed me to encapsulate a range of fantastic locations in my storytelling.

Emerging onto the scene in 2018, I have worked in a range of sectors, including: Assistant Director’s Department for Screen Queensland Attachment (2019), Somerset Literature Festival’s City of Gold Coast Producer’s Grant (2018) and Coordinator for the Gold Coast Film Festival (2018).

Story

Drifter Milo Abernathy travels across country to reunite with an old love. His journey is halted in the small outback town of Two Pine Ridge when ethereal presences suddenly consume his relatives and the greater community.

Where To Next

I’d really like to find a seasoned producer and work with distributors like SBSOnDemand and ABC iView. My first steps will be to re-write my scripts from the feedback given during Talent Camp. I will also try to align my project in consideration with a range of Queensland grant applications, including: RADF (GERMINATE, Arts Queensland).



Katrina Irawati Graham

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“It is part of our task as revolutionary people, people who want deep-rooted, radical change, to be as whole as it is possible for us to be.”

– AURORA LEVINS MORALES

Biography

Katrina is an award-winning writer and director and an emerging playwright. Her Indonesian ghost short film, *White Song* (part of Australian women’s horror anthology, *Dark Whispers*) is premiering at CinefestOz. Katrina’s play, *Siti Rubiyah*, is currently optioned by Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) and had showings at the Sydney Festival and Sydney Theatre Company’s Rough Draft. Katrina’s memory play, *Bi Empat*, is part of La Boite’s 2019 Highway Festival. Katrina is an active advocate for gender parity in the screen industries. She celebrates her Indonesian-Australian heritage and champions representations of diversity.

Story

Disillusioned Indonesian-Australian midwife, Aisha Byrnes, quits the public hospital system and opens an independent midwifery practice in multicultural Logan.

Where To Next

My co-producer, Ana Tiwary (indiVisual Films), and I are specifically looking to create a diverse, multicultural team, in order to produced key pitchdocuments that we can take to the market. We are keen to bring on partners who understand the story’s world through the authenticity of lived experience.



Mikaela Cumbers

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Drawn to themes that revolve around the underdog and the LGBTQIA+ community, Mikaela is passionate about gritty stories with heart.

Biography

Mikaela is a screenwriter and documentary filmmaker from the UK, living and working on the Sunshine Coast. With practical experience as a cinematographer and an editor across the UK, Middle East and Australia, Mikaela aims to continue her learning in the industry and further her growth as a writer.

Coming from a mixed heritage of Filipino and English, Mikaela is keen to tell stories that revolve around cultural diversities and the trials that come with them.

Story

A seventeen-year-old outcast from regional Queensland finds his tribe amongst a local underground drag community, unbeknownst to his conservative Filipino mother and over-bearing Australian father.

Where To Next

I hope to workshop this story further with fellow writers, and would like to pursue contacts within Screen Queensland, AFTRS and members of the AWG who could assist me with producing and mentoring.



Morteza Halimi

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Morteza is following his passion as a filmmaker to tell stories of clashing cultures and ideas that form our identities.

Biography

Landing in Australia in 2005 as an Afghan immigrant, Morteza has been writing, directing and producing his own content. Though currently practicing as an architect, his passion for filmmaking has only grown as he continues to work on animations, short live action films and TV commercials – slowly garnering screen experience and honing his writing and storytelling skills.

Morteza aims to continue filmmaking in order to tell stories that are entertaining and will have a positive impact on peoples' lives.

Story

Before the newly graduated AMIR can teach at a reputable academy, he must start small at a distance education school in rural Queensland. There, he learns to put his students ahead of his career, creating a flood of conflict with his goals.

Where To Next

My main goal is to take my story to streaming platforms such as ABC iView, SBS OnDemand, Stan and Netflix. In my week at Talent Camp, I hope to further develop the script and ultimately prepare the pitch bible to approach these streaming platforms with.



Rachel Anderson

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Rachel is drawn to telling stories that represent the underrepresented; exploring themes of home, family, class and identity.

Biography

Born to a Filipino mother and an Australian father, Rachel spent her adolescent years writing and making films. Rachel is now a masters graduate of Griffith Film School and a Brisbane-based writer and director who has built a diverse body of work.

Rachel's love for long-form filmmaking ignited during her web series directing debut with LGBTQ series *Two Weeks*, created by Mary Duong. Rachel and Mary went on to co-create factual series *Bananas* as part of the Screen Queensland and SBS Unscripted Initiative.

Story

It is 1999 in regional Australia and the students at Windsong High are getting ready for the school Dance. In the lead up to the dance, three outcasts finally discover hidden parts of themselves.

Where To Next

During Talent Camp, I would like to develop a strong grasp on story structure / writing for television and the development of the characters in *Winter Wonderland*. I would like to workshop the script with other writers and work toward building a team of, ideally three, authentic storytellers – one Indigenous, one queer and one female.



Rhianna Malezer

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An Indigenous storyteller with a passion for weaving human stories with humour, colour, hope and joy.

Biography

Rhianna is a Butchulla/Kamilaroi woman based in Brisbane. After years of working within the Art Department in the Australian and New Zealand film and television industries, she is currently shifting gears into writing and directing. Rhianna is driven to create narrative screen content that reflects her family and her community, while helping to contribute to the screen important and powerful stories – both historical and current – that often go untold.

Rhianna is a writer on season four of ABC's *Black Comedy* and online comedy sketch series *Nice Shorts*.

Story

Extreme Education!@!* is a dramatic comedy web-series that follows the teachers and students of a multicultural state school as they challenge the neighbouring elite private school in a spoken poetry competition. Based on a kaleidoscope of true stories with a thing or two to say about our schooling system.

Where To Next

I am currently developing a slate of projects, which include dramatic comedies and historical dramas, for which I am seeking development and production support. Ideally, I would like to find a producer with whom I can develop an ongoing creative partnership.



Talijah Blackman-Corowa

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Artistic potential.

Biography

I first found interest in the film industry when I got a part to act in the *Mabo* movie. Since then, I have wanted to work on films and to create/write stories. I made my first documentary called *#WOKE up*, which is based on how two young Indigenous women use their art forms to speak against Australia's cultural and racial injustices. I am now currently studying at JMC Academy for my Bachelor's in Film + Television.

Story

A once amiable and witty 16-year-old, Dahmani now finds herself reclusive and isolated in a world where her twin brother no longer exists. She tries to take care of her actively psychotic grandfather who goes through types of delusions and manic episodes.

Where To Next

I would love to perfect my screenwriting skills and continue to learn new tools, as well as find producers to help make my scripts and stories become reality.



Tanya Modini

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“If you obey all the rules,
you miss all the fun”

- KATHARINE HEPBURN

Biography

My training as a writer has been spent absorbed in a wide-ranging diversity of work including hairdresser, trauma counsellor, swimming coach, police officer and university educator. I've taken on challenges to push boundaries and promote LGBTIQ+ and women's issues wherever I could.

As a police officer, I was confronted firsthand with the impacts of men's violence against women, and after leaving the police I specialised in working in the prevention of violence against women. I now work as a freelance writer and researcher for organisations including SBS Australia. Although my writing journey has not been straightforward, that meandering path has given me many stories to tell that embrace the thrill and sparkle of diversity.

Story

When a mother and her psychic (but unhinged) police officer daughter return to an outback Queensland town for a funeral, they are forced to reveal their secret traumas and confront their pursuing ghosts – before the past destroys them both.

Where To Next

I would love to workshop my script with other writers and find a producer interested in bringing this series to the screen.



Taylor Bennett

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Layered like an onion with a severe distaste for onion.

Biography

Taylor is an award-winning Screenwriter from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. She has a keen interest in the intricacies of family dynamics, social awareness and developing diverse characters in the setting of drama and comedy. Taylor won the 2019 Queensland Screenwriting Award with her drama feature, *Carry On*, and is excited to now turn her talents towards television writing and pursuing a career focused on creating meaningful content. As a practicing Advanced Care Paramedic, Taylor finds her medical background helps foster a fascination in real world storylines and creating relatable characters.

Story

Blessed: A recently outed Catholic school girl is sent away to a conversion therapy camp by her conservative parents, only to be faced with the objects of her desire.

Where To Next

After completion of Talent Camp, I wish to find a producer that is interested in the development of *Blessed*, with the potential towards VOD platforms. I am also looking to gain first-hand experience inside a TV writers' room for the purpose of career development and industry networking.



Toan Nguyen

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An easy-going guy that sees the world in shades of grey, not black and white.

Biography

I'm an Australian-born man with Vietnamese heritage. I've worked in the humanitarian field for over 15 years, including in mental health, disability, youth work, juvenile detention, drug and alcohol, brain injury and child safety. Throughout my life, I have experienced situations of injustice and racism at different levels, both personally and professionally.

I also enjoy watching movies and TV shows and have developed a passion to one day create a series that can showcase the experiences I've had – with the hopes of making positive change and featuring a cast that represents the diversity of this country.

Story

A group of multicultural friends become fractured after a random coward-punch hospitalises one of them on a night out. They search to find who did it while mending their friendship and dealing with their own internal challenges.

Where To Next

I hope to finish my series script, have it constructively criticised by a script editor and then to polish it and find a producer. I'd also like to get involved with other projects and screenwriting work on TV, Film or online media to gain some more experience.

Notes

Notes

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Tomorrow's
storytellers

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