

talent camp

2019

Victoria

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.

Talent Camp



Workshop Facilitators

Clare Madsen



Clare is script producer on NITV's first animated series the Logie, AWGIE and ATOM award winning *Little J & Big Cuz* - with series 3 now in development. She is currently developing a drama series concept with support from Film Victoria. Her screen credits span situation and sketch comedy, children's live action and animation, and feature film development. Clare's writing for children has been nominated for AFI and AWGIE awards. She is an award winning short film writer/director.

Clare also has wide experience as a playwright and director in fringe and cabaret settings, young people's and theatre in regional communities.

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: 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).

Elizabeth Kearney



Liz Kearney is an Australian producer. Alongside Robert Connolly and Maggie Miles, Liz produced the Australian film *Paper Planes*, which grossed almost \$10million 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.

Ant McCormack



Ant is the co-founder of Changer Studios, a media ventures company focused on short form online video educating and investing in creators via *Changer College*, *Creator Generation* and *Antimass Ventures*.

Changer Studios has helped grow some of the biggest creators in the world and runs a series of world-first creator initiatives, in partnership with YouTube, Google and other leading online video partners, to shape the future of online video creation.

Workshop Facilitators

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.

Tomorrow's Storytellers



Ade Djajamihardja

ade@a2kmedia.com.au

Proud founder of A2K Media: Australia's disability-led production company.

Biography

At ABCTV, Ade worked on iconic programs including *COUNTDOWN REVOLUTION*, *THE BIG GIG* and *THE LATE SHOW*. Career highlights include co-producing *PUTERI GUNUNG LEDANG* and producing *SALAM CAFÉ* (SBS 2008). In 2011, Ade joined Disability Media Australia's board just days prior to a massive stroke. After a seven-year hiatus, Ade produced the short film *AMAR* (SBS 2019). As a disabled Asian-Australian from a Muslim family, Ade contributes a valuable perspective on inclusive storytelling.

Story

SIT DOWN COMEDY is a ground-breaking, world class scripted sketch comedy series which reflects the opinions, observations and lived experiences of some cheeky – and rather adorable – people, who also happen to be living with disability. A freewheeling comedy series destined to disable discrimination!

Where To Next

I aim to secure the necessary additional funding required to ensure the access needs of all disabled cast and crew are respected. I would also like to develop the appropriate mindset, techniques, practices and strategies that best facilitate my ability to create and identify purposeful projects. As a fifty-year-old stroke-survivor who very nearly "crossed over", I want my life to count and bloody well mean something.



Alberto Di Troia

alberto.ditroia@gmail.com

Friend, lover, brother, son, and future contestant on Lindsay Lohan's Beach Club Season 2.

Biography

Alberto Di Troia is a Melbourne-based playwright and filmmaker and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Film & Television) and a Master of Writing For Performance from the VCA. He has presented work with Melbourne Theatre Company, Theatre Works, Adelaide Fringe, Melbourne Fringe, Australian Theatre For Young People, ABC Radio National and Critical Animals. Most recently, he was Artistic Director of the community and mental health filmmaking program, *Into The Limelight*, and is a 2019 Lonely Company resident.

Story

A dark comedy about a bored, middle-aged schoolteacher and mum who finds new purpose as a full-time climate change activist, sending shockwaves through her family and embroiling her daughter – a failed journalist – in a madcap plot to destroy a coal mine.

Where To Next

I want to connect with industry mentors or producers who can help develop a full pilot and bible for my TV concept. I'd also love to connect and collaborate with my fellow participants. Finally, I want to build up my professional TV experience by finding entry-level work in an Australian TV writers' room/script department.



Brendan Dousi

brendandousi@gmail.com

I will always strive to tell a story that strikes the right balance between relatable, entertaining and truthfully human.

Biography

Brendan is a passionate screenwriter who is determined to make his break into the Australian television industry. He has been shortlisted in the International Shore Scripts competition and made it into the final rounds of FremantleMedia's Bluesky Initiative. Last year, Brendan was selected by the Australian Writer's Guild to take part in the Equity Foundation's Talent Diversity Showcase. He has now been placed into the AWG Pathways Program and has been partnered in a year-long mentorship with writer Benjamin Law.

Story

WASTED YOUTH is a comedy series about the trials and misdeeds of three friends as they struggle to negotiate work, study, love and being thrust unceremoniously into adulthood.

Where To Next

I aim to partner with a producer on *Wasted Youth* to help bring it to life and realise its full potential. Going forward, it is important for me to make industry connections to help further showcase and develop my skillset. In particular, hands-on experience inside of a professional writers' room would be invaluable (even if I'm just there to fetch coffee).



Chloe Wong

cwon.tm@gmail.com

I'm a writer trying to live my best life but with a reasonable bedtime.

Biography

Chloe is a writer and pharmacist who has written for *Overland*, *Visible Ink* and others. A 1.5 generation Chinese-New Zealander, she is particularly interested in stories about the LGBTQIA+ community and the question of identity amongst migrants and minorities. In 2017, she wrote and directed the satirical short film *Secret Gaygent*. Most recently, Chloe was a Cinespace Social Change on Screen Fellow. Chloe's current projects include *Script in a Minute* and *Gaygency*.

Story

SCRIPT IN A MINUTE is a comedy web series that follows Alex, a long-suffering pharmacy manager who wonders why she sticks around when she must put up with casually racist, sexist and hypochondriac customers...as well as a hostile corporation takeover.

Where To Next

Moving forward, I want to find a director-mentor and a producer to help bring the project into production. I intend to submit the series for funding from Screen Australia, Film Vic and, hopefully, National Talent Camp. I'd like to produce the pilot episode as a proof of concept to develop the series further. My ultimate goal is to move into television writing.



Didem Caia

didemcaiawriter@gmail.com

Ultimately, the Arts must continue to do what they alone can do and that is: reveal, heal, excite, frighten, delight, anger and re-affirm.

Biography

Didem is a writer working across theatre, essays, fiction and poetry. Her plays have been produced with many companies nationally and been featured in writers' festivals internationally. Didem has received artist grants through the Australia Council, the Ian Potter Cultural Trust and the Copyright Agency. Her essays on writing have been published in literary journals, by ausplays.org and by Currency House press.

Story

Having lived under Victorian witness protection for eighteen years, a dying woman confronts her violent past, as she tries to ensure the emotional and physical safety of her son after she is gone.

Where To Next

I would like to get a clear idea of what the best structure for *Behind the Skin and the Muscles is*. I would also like to get a deeper understanding of how the Australian film and television industry works by meeting fellow artists and attempting to organise internships with producers, directors and writers.



Kim Ho

kimhowriter@gmail.com

Kim is eager to develop his skills in screenwriting and to experiment with cross-cultural storytelling.

Biography

Kim is a writer and performer based in Melbourne. His short film *The Language of Love* screened at over thirty film festivals worldwide, including the Sundance Film Festival. In 2017, his play *Mirror's Edge* received a production at Union House Theatre. It subsequently won the Patrick White Playwright's Award. His newest play, *Buried Kingdom*, received a reading at Yellow Earth Theatre's Typhoon Festival in London, and his new satire Great Australian Play will premiere at Theatre Works in 2020. A passionate advocate for marginalised voices, Kim aims to create and promote culturally diverse Australian stories.

Story

Mismatched student detectives Natasha and Simon must solve a series of increasingly ridiculous crimes on their university campus to maintain their HD average...but they may just kill each other in the process.

Where To Next

Moving from theatre into screen, I want to better understand the demands of writing online content: the process of discovering what form will best suit a story; strategies to structure my story to an episodic form; and how to take advantage of the online medium.



Meaghan Palmer

meaghanastrid@gmail.com

A creative writer and director with an aptitude for writing darkly comedic content.

Biography

Meaghan Palmer is a writer/director with a Masters in Film & Television from Victorian College of the Arts, a Bachelor of Creative Writing and an Advanced Diploma of Screenwriting from RMIT. She is the recipient of an Australian Director's Guild Award for Best Direction in a Student Film for *Tasty* – which was also an award nominee at Austin Film Festival, won My Queer Career at Mardi Gras Film Festival and was part of the Official Selection at British Film Institute Flare. She is currently in post-production for a web-series, *Australia's Next Top Voice Idol*, and in pre-production for her next short, *Daddy*.

Story

Ash, Veronica and Callum meet at their Uni's first Queer Collective gathering of the year. A conversation about pronouns and appropriate language gets them invited to leave the group, and starts a beautiful friendship – forged over one loose night out.

Where To Next

I have been working on a variety of scripts and ideas and am looking for producers to develop these projects. I am also interested in collaborating with other writers and am keen to gain experience in writers' rooms and on professional sets.



Melanie Killingsworth

melkillingsworth@gmail.com

Most likely to be found at an AFLW match discussing Phoebe Waller-Bridge's EGOT chances over halftime beers.

Biography

I spent my childhood reading, watching TV classics and sneaking out to the movies. My first jobs after graduation were at *PASTE* magazine and editing feature docs. While working on Hulu's *BATTLEGROUND*, I realised my heart and strength is in narrative fiction, so I turned my focus there. The last eight years, I've written and directed short films across many genres, published film and TV reviews, freelanced on film sets, developed a TV pilot and feature film and directed a few web series, including *Phi and Me*.

Story

A group of women explore relationships, childbearing and a mysterious death throughout a year in the life of their sheltered Fundamentalist church.

Where To Next

In the short run, I want to collaborate on other writers' projects to sharpen my skills and contribute to a wider variety of stories. I also want more on-set TV roles as a director's assistant and to gain writers' room experience, specifically to prepare for being a showrunner. In the long run, I want to find a producer to develop a feature film.



Michael Hudson

thirdimpactfilms.michael@gmail.com

Life's too serious to be serious.

Biography

Michael Hudson is a Bangarang and Yorta Yorta man from northeast Victoria. His first funded film, *Ties That Bind*, won Event Cinema's Short Screenplay Award at Sydney Film Festival 2019. It was funded and developed through Screen Australia Indigenous Department, Film Victoria and the ABC "Short Blacks" initiative. Michael also participated in MIFF 2019 Accelerator Lab.

Story

An unlikely gang of youths band together to take on an ancient evil that threatens their small country Victorian community.

Where To Next

I would like to workshop the script with other writers and secure further script development funding, as well as support and production funding. I'd also like to network amongst participants and industry professionals, and ultimately be involved in other projects that I might find interesting. I'm looking forward to this opportunity to share and explore new ideas.



Michele Lee

micheleevanlee@gmail.com

Representation: Yellow Creative Management

Asian-Australian playwright and theatre-maker working across stage, live art and screen.

Biography

As a multi-award-winning playwright, Michele's work is known for being narrative and character-focused, usually using comedy to explore stories of women, otherness and found families. She has been commissioned by theatres and organisations across Australia including Griffin Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Arts House, Next Wave Festival, Darwin Festival and Monash University. As an emerging screenwriter, Michele has co-written for Matchbox Production's *HUNGRY GHOSTS*, co-written for Rebecca Ingram's *SECRET THREADS* and is adapting her play, *GOING DOWN*, into a web series.

Story

SECURITY: Melbourne, population 4.1 million. It's a shit-fight every day. But it's the female security guards at Thompson Security – Naz, Tribe and Joey – who work behind the scenes to keep that shit from hitting the proverbial.

Where To Next

I've been enjoying branching out into screen and working on other people's ideas as I learn more about screenwriting and the screen industry. Down the track, I'd like to lead and collaborate on developing new screen content. For the week of Talent Camp, I'd love to workshop *SECURITY* with others towards a pitch document.



Ra Chapman

ra_chapman@yahoo.com.au

An extraverted introvert always trying to find ways to make sense of the world around her.

Biography

Ra Chapman is a Korean-Australian writer and actor. She has strong ties with the adoption community and works closely with inter-country adoptees and diverse artists.

Ra is an alumnus of the Besen Writers Group (Malthouse Theatre) and was awarded the 2018 Hot Desk Fellowship (Wheeler Centre). Her play *K-Box* will premiere on the MainStage at Malthouse in 2020. Ra was selected to take part in StoryLab, a FilmVic funded development program, and is currently the StoryLab 2.0 Program Coordinator.

Story

When an idealistic, yet surprisingly pragmatic, 28-year-old Asian-Aussie woman is accused of having “white fever”, she sets out on a mission to find herself an Asian boyfriend.

Where To Next

I’d love to connect with an experienced producer and/or mentor who is a suitable fit to the project and my sensibilities. Ultimately, this mentor would work with me to get my story pitch ready and collaborate with me long term to put the next steps of the project into action. This producer relationship would ideally extend to my future projects as well.



Serah Nathan

serahnathan@gmail.com

I’m a storyteller who explores suburban longing, loneliness and consumption via comedy.

Biography

Being half of one colour and half of another meant it took a while to discover where I stood as a whole in my middle class ‘hood. I was fortunate to spend a lot of my spare time at the independent cinema my father ran. The only thing I’ve ever won was a banana eating competition in 1997 and my first job was handing out flyers dressed as a banana. Not wanting to thematically tie my life to a fruit motif, I started working in the wonderful world of television production. Today, I produce videos for Victoria’s Road Infrastructure Network.

Story

A young woman reluctantly checks herself into a psychiatric ward in an attempt to win back her ex. During her stay, she forms unlikely bonds with the patients who unwittingly help her reassess her entire identity.

Where To Next

After Talent Camp, I would like to develop this story to be pitch ready and engage with professionals who can provide education. More broadly, I am seeking the opportunity to find a mentor who is a key creative on a television program and observe a writers’ room.



Shannan Lim

shannanlim@gmail.com

What I have always loved about my culture are the fucked up ghost stories.

Biography

Shannan Lim is a Minangkabau, Malay and Chinese film and theatre maker based on Kulin country. He has lectured in digital media at the University of Western Australia and taught physical theatre to adults and children at RMIT University and ArtPlay. His work has been performed at Griffin Theatre, the State Theatre Centre of WA and Melbourne International Comedy Festival. He received the Multicultural Arts Victoria Award at Melbourne Fringe, the New Director Award at Nice International Film Festival and was City of Melbourne Artist-in-Residence at Boyd Studio.

Story

Salty is an anthology horror-comedy series that collides Southeast Asian mythology with the dilemmas of vacuous young people in inner-city Melbourne. Each story centres on a different traditional ghost, reimagined with a contemporary perspective.

Where To Next

I'd like to find an experienced producer that is interested in developing and funding this project. I also seek support with adapting the writing from stage to screen and putting together pitch documents to present to production companies. Overall, I'd like to travel to the Malay Archipelago for further research and engage with the Southeast Asian community.



Triana Hernandez

hello@trianahernandez.com

Magic realist / powerhouse.

Biography

Triana is a Peruvian director renowned for her music videos. Her style fuses elements of surrealism, pop and horror, creating some of the most critically acclaimed Australian music videos from the past few years. Her work includes Amyl & The Sniffer's *Got You*, RVGs *Alexandra* and DEN's *Eclipse*.

Story

ALIENATED is a paranormal multi-genre TV show fusing horror, surrealism, Latin soap operas and magic realism. Set in Rurality, a dystopian town guarded behind the walls of Elizabeth City, there's a violent curse rapidly spreading and the only ones capable of stopping it is the youth.

Where To Next

I would like to find a mentor and/or experienced producer who wants to take this project on board. Ideally, that person is into *Twin Peaks* and is passionate about life/work. I also want to learn more about TV script writing.

Tomorrow's
storytellers

AFTRS

