

talent camp

2019

South
Australia

AFTRS



South Australian
Film Corporation



AWG
AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' GUILD

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

Workshop Facilitators



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.



Henry Inglis

Henry Inglis is an award-winning, Western Australian writer/director. He was a founding member of Mad Kids which was a trailblazing digital, film and television production company from 2012 - 2019. Henry has written, directed and edited multiple comedy series including the AACTA-nominated *Small Town Hackers*, *DAFUQ?*, *The Shapes*, *The Legend of Gavin Tanner*, *The Write Stuff with Noel & Carl Pennyman*, *Matt & Henry Working Together*, *Henry & Aaron's 7 Steps to Superstardom* and viral sensations *It's A Snap!* (3 million views) and *Set Yourself Free* (20 million views).



Lauren Elliott

Lauren Elliott is one of Western Australia's most groundbreaking comedy producers. She is the founder of WA production company, GALACTIC BABY, and the winner of a 2019 40under40 award, which declared her one of WA's leading entrepreneurs under the age of 40. She has a wealth of experience in film & TV, marketing, public relations and events, having worked in Australia, the UK and the US. Her producing credits include cult Indigenous comedy series, *KGB*, and the AACTA-nominated *Small Town Hackers* and *DAFUQ?*. Lauren was the winner of the inaugural Screenwest Emerging Producer's Initiative in 2015 and was awarded \$100,000 to put toward projects and professional development.

Lauren is represented by CAA (Creative Artists Agency) in Los Angeles, which has resulted in a number of exciting opportunities in the US, including a producing partnership with Sacha Baron Cohen's production company, Four By Two.



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.



Aiden Marks

aidenmarksaus@outlook.com

I am imaginative, driven, patient, trustworthy and very approachable. I push others to never give up and to keep going.

Biography

I am 25 years old and have Autism. I've been inspired since childhood by the other worlds and universes that film and television would take me to. I hid in many such worlds as a child and, as a grown up, I want to repay that by creating my own worlds/universes/galaxies for others.

Story

I aim to take something like Autism, which is vastly misunderstood/ridiculed, and show the world how similar we are when faced with something we will all eventually experience – the loss of a parent.

Where To Next

I want to find a producer who believes in what I see and who will continue to teach me new things from the industry. I also want to find other writers to steer me in a direction where I can refine and perfect the stories I have written. Finally, I want to be able to show the world that I am not some fool with Autism, but that I am a man with a dream – one which I continue to fulfill.



Alysha Herrmann

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Writer, tea-drinker, big dreamer and thinker of confusing thoughts.

Biography

Alysha Herrmann is a proud parent, daughter of regional Australia, writer, theatre maker, creative producer and community organiser. She has won numerous awards for her work, including the 2017 Arts South Australia Geoff Crowhurst Memorial Ruby Award and the 2015 Australia Council Kirk Robson Award. Alysha is also an alumnus of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's flagship national leadership program, ARLP.

Once upon a time, Alysha was a disconnected and very angry high-school drop out and teenage parent who thought the arts was a waste of time and money.

Story

Safe Haven: When her mum dies, city-girl Abbie and her foster daughter Caitlyn are sucked back into Abbie's haunted little hometown to wrestle with and overcome Phoenix – the lightning-powered ghost of Abbie's teenage self – and the lost history she haunts.

Where To Next

I want to find a producer and director to collaborate with and to develop this and other stories over the next 18 months. I am committed to living and working from regional Australia for the foreseeable future, and am looking for pathways and connections that can support my development as a screen-practitioner.



Anastasia Comelli

anniecomelli@hotmail.com

Anastasia Comelli is compelled by the weird and wonderful and is driven to tell stories that are intimate – and that inspire, provoke and illuminate.

Biography

Anastasia Comelli is a visual storyteller with the ability to convey emotive storylines through experimental and non-narrative methods. Her devotion to storytelling begins with her cultural background, having been born and raised in a Greek/Italian household. Anastasia's personal identity as a queer woman has also influenced her to portray powerful narratives that entertain and inform. *Nostos*, her debut short-film, screened at the Adelaide Film Festival (2018), Chicago CineYouth Film Festival (2019) and National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY) 2019.

Story

Eat Your Heart Out tells the story of a middle-aged, lonely and defeated man named Bill. Our protagonist appears to have a simple and mundane life, with one exception: Bill is a cannibal.

Where To Next

I want to learn from an established director in a setting that will enlighten and push me to a successful directorial career. I'm also after a producer and a network of crew that will bring *Eat Your Heart Out* to life.



DJ TR!P

finddjtrip@gmail.com

DJ TR!P is an award-winning composer, sound designer & artist.

Biography

DJ TR!P is a multi-award winning producer, composer and performer of electronic music. Over the past 21 years, he has built an impressive repertoire of live compositions for his club sets, a variety of high profile contemporary theatre, dance and film productions, as well as for festival openings, launches and major cultural events. During his career, DJ TR!P has also been in various musical collaborations with artists/acts such as The New Pollutants, Cooperblack, Echelon, Climbs and Brian Ritchie (Violent Femmes).

Story

The Surprise Egg is a three-minute episodic children's animation series, created by DJ TR!P and Luku Kukuku. It has three characters: a disabled boy in a wheel chair, a skate boarder and a worm, who go on a hunt to find the next surprise egg each episode. It aims to be one of the first truly accessible kids animation series, created in Australia and to be exported around the world.

Where To Next

My outcome is to meet a collaborative TV partner who can showcase, fund and produce this amazing concept for the screen, TV and online.



Julian Jaensch

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I am the Artistic Director of Company AT (Autistic Theatre), which focuses on the lived experience of Autism.

Biography

Julian has been involved in the performing arts since he was 14 years old. As a professional, Julian has worked extensively as an actor for many Adelaide theatre companies. He began working with AAA at Autism SA in 2006, turned it into a theatre company and launched Company AT in 2009. Julian has directed all and written most of the productions for Company AT. He intends to keep using Company AT as a vehicle for perceptual and social change for people on the Autism spectrum.

Story

This is the story of Nameless, a nine year old girl. She can read, write and do maths at age levels well above her own, but she is a very picky eater and has a tendency to withdraw from other children in order to pursue her intellectual interests.

Where To Next

Our next goal is for Company AT to create a regional tour of SA in 2020 and a national tour in 2021. In Talent Camp, I would like to explore the possibilities of turning the script into a web series.



Kane Jacobs

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I've sacrificed a lot to follow my dream and refuse to be considered wasted potential.

Biography

The plan was simple ... risk everything! Take the leap to prove I can turn an unscrupulous past into an unlikely future in an unpredictable industry. Growing up in Adelaide's northern suburbs, people like me didn't work in film and television – but now I'm determined to prove I belong. I've gained experience as a camera assistant for an ACS accredited DP, an editor and various art department positions, all while running my own business. In my screenwriting, I aim to create content for audiences tired of the status quo.

Story

"MR AND MRS THE AMAZING MORRIS" – A middle aged woman, desperate for adventure, abandons her family to find love with the ringmaster of a budget travelling circus. The fantasy is short lived when an uprising forces them to flee and start over in her old neighbourhood.

Where To Next

The best outcome from Talent Camp would be a writer's attachment on a comedy/dramedy TV show. An attachment would provide the ideal combination of guidance and immersion into the professional arena.



Kiara Milera

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I'm short, sarcastic, obsessed with the footy and all I want to do is talk shiii...I mean tell stories for the rest of my life.

Biography

I'm an emerging Indigenous filmmaker from Adelaide and have credits for writing, directing and acting. I began my career in 2015, writing for ABC's *Black Comedy*. I have also acted as production assistant for the short film, *Coming Home*, and as director's attachment for Warwick Thornton's *Sweet Country*. I have created and developed my own projects as well, including *WILD* (short film) and *Same, Same. But Different* (short documentary). My work has appeared in the Adelaide Film Festival and on National Indigenous Television (NITV).

Story

A dysfunctional grandmother makes a life choice that goes haywire for her and her granddaughter. Her one night of bad judgment came from weeks of questionable career choices.

Where To Next

After Talent Camp, I would like to get writing experience in the industry and join a writer's rooms or story room. Then, I want to find producers to work with who can develop and create more of my projects.



Kirsty Martinsen

kirstymartinsen@me.com

Determined, stubborn woman with short hair who wears glasses and too much black.

Biography

Kirsty Martinsen is a painter, designer and performer based in Adelaide. She has exhibited in Australia, US, UK and Amsterdam. Her short film, *Breathe*, won the Mercedes Matter/Ambassador Middendorf Award at X Marks The Spot: Women of The NY Studio School, the 2018 Alumni show. Her documentary, *Limited Surrender*, screens on SBSOnDemand on Friday, 13 September.

Kirsty is a believer in art as an agent for social change and in disability arts that enable disabled people to champion their own destiny and combat prejudice.

Story

You Have To Laugh: Untold Stories of The Undercurrent of Existence. A web series of 6x5 minute episodes that give rare insight into the daily lives of a disabled artist and her 'carers'. Stories from either side that make you want to cry, told with kindness and humour.

Where To Next

I want a co-writer/mentor who can help me develop my idea and characters into stories that are funny. The episodes are little snippets of actual events and provide insight into disability, being female, the fabric of Australian society and deeper human condition.



Leela Varghese

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Unbreakably optimistic and determined.

Biography

Leela Varghese is a writer/director/presenter/content producer with a flair for quirky comedy. She has written, presented and produced on Channel Ten's flagship children's program, *Totally Wild*, and ABCME's *Behind The News*. Her film, *Crush*, was a 2019 Tropfest finalist where it won Best Screenplay, Best Editing and Best Female Actress. She has also received a director's attachment from the South Australia Film Corporation to be mentored by Nash Edgerton on season two of Foxtel's *Mr Inbetween*. In 2018, Leela received funding from The Media Resource to write and direct a web series pilot that will go into production later this year.

In addition to making comedy for the screen, Leela is in a musical comedy band, The Coconuts, which was selected as a Raw Comedy state finalist this year.

Story

Friends with Indian heritage – or sisters, according to white people – Shabana and Leela aspire to make it big in the Australian comedy scene with their comedy band, The Coconuts. Are they driven, focused, and confident enough to achieve their dream? Almost definitely not.

Where To Next

I want to get a producer for *The Coconuts* and get development opportunities for the show.



Lorcan Hopper

I am a proud, disabled Irish man. I love telling stories from my own point of view. I want my voice to be heard.

Biography

Lorcan Hopper is a performer, dancer, tutor, choreographer and director of theatre and short film. As a dancer, he has performed internationally, appearing in more than ten shows including *Vocabulary* (Australian Dance Theatre), *Safe from Harm* (Restless Dance) and *Moth* for the film *Necessary Games*, directed by Sophie Hyde of Closer Productions. As a director, he has collaborated with Rawcus, a Melbourne-based, integrated theatre company.

In 2018, Lorcan was commissioned by SBS, with funding from the SAFC, to co-write/co-direct a short film called *The Loop* – an 18-minute hybrid documentary following Lorcan as he directs the pilot episode of his own soap opera, performed by an autistic cast.

Story

The Loop is an original soap opera for and by disabled people. Through the format of soap opera, the series explores complex issues such as prenatal diagnosis, stigma, discrimination, diversity and acceptance.

Where To Next

I want to continue to build my career as a director. I want to show people I am different and push through barriers in the screen industry.



Michèle Saint-Yves

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Every breath connects me to the ocean.

Biography

I became a writer late in life, since acquiring a brain injury that disabled me just before turning forty. Now over fifty, I've had three full length and three one-act plays staged, along with three WIP plays selected through national competitions for staged professional readings. I'm completing my debut novel and am currently writing a book of poetry. Most recently, I had a novella shortlisted for the UK-based MsLexia Women's Novella Award 2018 and short stories published in *Southerly Journal* and *Truth Serum Press*.

Story

The Ballad of the Median Strip is about the women of two facing households in an outer suburban public housing estate, who only want a better and content life. But, when an act of violence sets the women on a collision course, each has to choose their own world to save – if they can.

Where To Next

I want to take my current text towards an industry expected manuscript for a mini TV series drama or extended web series. With that goal, I would like to collaborate with a respected screen drama narrative editor to develop a complete "official first draft".



Nelya Valamanesh

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A loudmouth brown girl with a degree in sarcasm.

Biography

Nelya Valamanesh is an Adelaide-based narrative artist who has developed and produced works on a range of different platforms including: producing and hosting on Radio Adelaide, producing and acting in theatre productions, DJing at music festivals, nightclubs and private events and writing, producing and directing her own short films and music videos.

Nelya's vision through all her creative avenues has been to speak her truth as a proud queer Persian/Australian woman and to be an ally for many unspoken 'voices of colour' in Australia's film, theatre and arts industries.

Story

5 Rules to being a FuckGurl is a web-series 5 x 15 minute comedy/satire about the political and social struggles of being a career driven woman in her late 20s. If you want to get ahead in business, do what 'the boys' do, but with a feminist twist – become an ultimate 'fuckgurl'.

Where To Next

I want to find a producer and get more development funding to create *5 Rules to being a FuckGurl*.



Robyn Ravenna

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A burnt-out ex-school teacher who has spent most of her life running around Australia like a chook with its head cut off.

Biography

Ex-librarian and teacher Robyn Ravenna has turned to screenwriting in recent years. She has achieved recognition from the SAFC and from the Byron Bay Film Festival, where her screenplay, *Shilo*, won 2nd place. In 2018, she joined forces with her daughter, Viviana Petyarre, and formed Sandover Films PTY LTD. In 2019, Robyn wrote, directed and produced her first short film for Sandover Films, *Heaven's Bridge*, and was co-writer and associate producer on Sandover's NITV documentary, *Utopia Generations*.

Story

An ex-convict turned spiritual medium and her group of sitters join forces with the indigenous son of a "cunning" man who has been wrongly accused of a string of cruel murders. They work to uncover the murky truth of the underbelly of the "polite" society in Colonial Burra, South Australia.

Where To Next

I would like to write the initial script in conjunction with a mentor and to sell my work to a producer, who will ideally take me on as a writer's room participant and as an attachment to the production team.



Shabana Azeez

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Shabana is a performer and jack-of-[some]-trades.

Biography

Shabana Azeez is an Adelaide-based creative. She has worked predominantly as a screen actor, starring in Leela Varghese's *Crush* (Tropfest 2019) and Emma Hough Hobbs' *Stopover in a Quiet House* (2019 Fleurieu Film Festival). She co-won Best Female Actor at Tropfest 27 for her work in *Crush* and was a 2019 Raw Comedy South Australian State Finalist with her musical comedy band, The Coconuts. Passionate about telling stories that push the envelope, Shabana has worked with a number of female directors, queer creatives and culturally diverse storytellers.

Story

Friends with Indian heritage – or sisters/cousins according to white people – Shabana and Leela aspire to make it big in the Australian comedy scene with their comedy band, The Coconuts. Are they driven, focused and confident enough to achieve their dream? Almost definitely not.

Where To Next

We'd love to find a producer that's the right fit for us. Developing the show would give us a clearer understanding of who we are and where the show fits into the market. I think gaining an understanding of the market and the context in which we're creating this show would be really beneficial.



Travis Akbar

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An ambitious, outgoing writer whose ideas outweigh current capabilities.

Biography

Travis is an Indigenous man with Wongatha heritage. He has written creatively his whole life, but, with no idea where to take it, writing took a back seat for quite some time. After getting the opportunity to write film reviews, that spark for writing returned. His favourite genres revolve around action, sci-fi, thriller, comedy, western, horror and fantasy. He also loves a good b-grade creature feature. Travis wants to include social issues and injustice in his screenplays and aims to bring these themes to the big-screen.

Story

I'm currently working on a comedy series about two Indigenous private detectives who stumble across a case that may threaten their lives. While there is a story that unravels during the entire series, there is also episode to episode cases which the private detectives must solve.

Where To Next

I have already emailed a pitch document to the actresses I want in the lead and will look to pitch the project to a few producers after I complete the Talent Camp. I am looking to make a career out of writing and eventually become a director as well.



Yasmin Sabuncu

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Yasmin is a creative working across film, TV, technology, social media and the visual arts.

Biography

As a multifaceted creative, Yasmin has worked in visual arts, directing, writing, performing, comedy and VJing. She has curated Adelaide's first street art festival and the International Digital Entertainment Festival/E-games Expo. Her fascination with innovative storytelling led to further study in mobile phone app development and entrepreneurship.

Due to previous chronic illness, Yasmin worked in transmedia, storytelling and social media. With her returned health, she is once again ready to create engaging film and TV projects.

Story

When extinction is the reality and survival is the exception, Denise is blackmailed to infiltrate a cult to find answers that could save humanity. She discovers her estranged sister amongst the cult, and she is altered in ways that defy explanation.

Where To Next

I aim to find a producer for this project and others. I also want to launch a Youtube channel and further develop my comedy online, and eventually join a writer's rooms to gain more experience. I want to go to LA and the UK to further develop my skills and projects at an international level.

Notes

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