

TC

2022 Talent Camp
Victoria

AFTRS

The next generation
of storytellers

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Film, Television and Radio School acknowledges the Traditional Custodians, the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples of the Eora Nation, on whose unceded lands we meet, work, study, learn and teach. We pay our respects to Elders and Knowledge Holders past and present and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) Nations, who continue to occupy unceded ancestral, traditional, living lands that are now collectively known as Australia.

What is Talent Camp?

Talent Camp is a skills development program for creatives from diverse backgrounds, designed to provide opportunities for emerging storytellers to create new content and be employment ready for the screen sector.

The week-long state workshops will focus on story development, producing and directing considerations and career pathways, culminating in a networking event with experienced screen professionals.

A selection of up to 15 participants are accepted into each State Talent Camp through a competitive application process.

This year, Talent Camp will take place in May 2022 across Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart.

Talent Camp is a multi-partner screen industry initiative, made possible with the support of AFTRS, Screen Australia, Screen NSW, Screen Queensland, VicScreen, South Australian Film Corporation and Screen Tasmania.



Workshop Facilitators



Steph Westwood

Stephanie is a queer producer of television, film, games, and multi-platform stories with a love of content that pushes boundaries and challenges the status quo. She is passionate about seeking out and developing exciting stories that challenge audiences and platform communities not often seen on screen. She is currently the Content & Talent Executive at Orange Entertainment Co.



Nikki Tran

Nikki Tran is a writer/producer, currently with Fremantle Australia as Development Coordinator on scripted drama. Her career began as a self-funded filmmaker producing shorts and writer showcases as a member of Footscray Community Arts' West Writers' Group, before moving into online series, and now scripted long-form. Her credits include Lil CEEBS (iGTV, 2021), CAN YOU HEAR ME? (ABC iView, 2020), GIRL, INTERPRETED (Tencent, iQiyi, Femflix, 2020) and FRESH! (YouTube, 2018). Nikki was an inaugural recipient of VicScreen's 2019 Screen Development Internship and alumna of 2017 AFTRS Talent Camp. Her creative practice has also received support and funding from Screen Australia, State Library of Victoria's Creative Fellowship and Malthouse Theatre.



Marissa Ciampi

Within her role as Outreach Project Manager at AFTRS, Marissa supports Australia's diverse and emerging talent through initiatives like Talent Camp, Media Lab and nationwide community partnerships. Marissa has over 10 years' experience in creative management, copywriting, editing and marketing. Since 2019, she has worked within the First Nations & Outreach division at AFTRS to foster inclusion and belonging in the Australian screen industry. This is the second year she has delivered the Talent Camp workshops.

Participants

Aarushi Chowdhury



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Writer and director aspiring to explore the complexities of humanity, through the process of filmmaking.

Biography → As a writer and director, Aarushi has a deep passion for collaborative storytelling through all mediums. She is currently writing and directing her short film funded by the City of Melbourne and is crewing with SBS, Screen Australia and FilmVictoria to bring to life a Curious Australia Initiative commissioned documentary. Aarushi has most recently developed and directed commercial work for Telstra and the Australian Ballet as well as Melbourne Women in Film Festival and ACMI. She hopes to use her cross-departmental experience to explore the migrant journey and shape thought-provoking content about the human condition, whilst engaging her multicultural background to inform her perspective.

Aran Thangaratnam



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I love taking people to the darkest corners of society and making them laugh there.

Biography → Aran is a writer and comedian from Melbourne. He wrote and performed in his first play, *The Aussie Ethnic Identity Crisis* at the 2019 Melbourne Fringe Festival and received a Green Room Award Nomination in 2020 for it. He was subsequently commissioned to write *Stay Woke*, the first in-theatre show after the pandemic at the Malthouse Theatre, which opened to multiple sellout crowds and fantastic reviews. He co-made *Pick Up Required*, a short film for the 2020 TIC Short Film Festival in which films were conceived, shot and edited in 1 week of lockdown. It won the Best Story award.

Brendan Wan



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A Chinese-Australian creative who is perpetually thinking about food and has a keen interest in telling diverse and unique stories.

Biography → Brendan Wan is an AACTA-nominated writer, producer, director, and performer based in Melbourne. He has trained under The Improv Conspiracy, Impro Melbourne, Hoopla (UK) and The Annoyance Theatre (USA). His work has been featured by ABC, The Age and Radio National. In 2020, Brendan was awarded the ABC Fresh Start Fund to create the ABC web-series, 'Gourmet Lazy', which was nominated in 2021 for the AACTA Award in Best Short Form Entertainment. More recently, Brendan completed production for his debut comedy short film, "The Best Dumplings in Melbourne" which is currently circling the film festival circuit.

Diane Vu



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Writer by day, multi-hyphenate for pay.

Biography → Diane is an ex-production designer/stylist turned screenwriter. Sick of having too many opinions and no means to voice them (as well as being paid once for two completely different jobs), she enrolled in a Master of Screenwriting at the VCA. Since then, she was awarded the 2020 Hot Desk Fellowship (Wheeler Centre), and her work has placed in multiple screenplay competitions, including quarterfinalist in the 2020 ScreenCraft TV Pilot competition. Drawn to modern representations of the minority experience, she rejects misery porn and embraces realistic tragicomedy. Her work explores abuse, poverty, addiction and intergenerational trauma. It's funny though, she promises.

Elyce Phillips



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Here to learn, connect, create, and put any leftover catering into the Tupperware containers she brought from home when you're not looking.

Biography → Elyce Phillips is a writer/illustrator/comedian/horse enthusiast (doesn't own them or anything - they're just strong and bigger than you'd want and she appreciates that). She's got a Masters in Creative Writing, Editing and Publishing but then decided at 30 that comedy and cartoons were more her style. She writes and performs live sketch comedy, and is passionate about telling extremely silly LGBTQ stories. Elyce was Head Writer for Season 7 of The Leak and works as a verifier at Hard Quiz, checking questions and trying to make Tom Gleeson say the weirdest jokes she can think of.

Emily Quattrocchi



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Each day for me is a bonus of this life and I choose to use every extra day I have to try and make my stories come to life

Biography → Emily is a regional Victoria emerging filmmaker who graduated from Deakin University in media and communications. Emily's first short film Emily, You Never Give Up is a personal documentary of her sustained spinal cord injury. The film was accepted in 10 festivals receiving best short documentary at Sydney Indie Film Festival. Emily shares her video content on YouTube which has grown a small yet loyal following. Since living with a disability, Emily has developed a strong desire to share stories that allows the opportunity for people to understand that different is not bad just...different.

Gianna Mazzeo



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Gianna Mazzeo is an Italian-Australian writer/director based in Melbourne, cutting her teeth as a shopgirl at Civic Video Hampton and now patiently waiting for a director's attachment on Sofia Coppola's next feature.

Biography → Gianna Mazzeo is an Italian-Australian writer/director based in Melbourne. She writes within the genres of drama and black comedy, telling stories about the environment, her culture, sexuality and the female condition. Her work in the field is diverse, starting her career in advertising and now freelancing across narrative film, music video and branded content. Gianna's short film, Miss Pisces, was selected and published on global video channel, NOWNESS. Gianna is now steering her career toward dramatic storytelling, hoping to uncover new angles on important stories that challenge viewers to see the world differently.

Jeremy Teh



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After growing up Evangelical, I'm hellbent on making up for lost time.

Biography → Jeremy Teh is an early career screenwriter and director, and a VCA alumni of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (FTV) and Master of Screenwriting. From a bisexual Chinese-Australian lens, he enjoys telling coming-of-age stories, usually featuring themes of cultural and religious trauma. His work has played in festivals across the globe, from Canberra, Australia to Austin, Texas. His eight-year-long filmography includes all kinds of shorts, music videos and web content, some of which he never wants anyone to see again. He looks forward to creating work that he won't want to wipe from the internet within five years.

Sanam Bahramian



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To me life is like a camera. Just focus on what's important and capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don't work out, just take another shot.

Biography → I was born in Iran and moved to Australia in 2015. My passion is inspiring people through filmmaking. A graduate of Monash University School of Media, Film and Journalism, I am now a freelance Video maker. I started making video when I was studying cinema at Art University in Iran. I love telling stories that have not been told. Over the past year, I have created some short documentaries and fiction films. In 2003 I was honoured to win the Award of Merit for one of my documentaries "Let me forever" at the 4th National Student Film, Screenplay and Photo Festival in Iran. In addition to that, this documentary won Honorary Diploma of the 3rd Kish Documentary Film Festival in 2002.

Senie Priti



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I'm just here to make film and chew gum. And I'm all out of gum.

Biography → Senie Priti (she/her) is an emerging creator based in Naarm (Melbourne), who got her start in the industry as an actor, appearing in films and television shows including Love and Monsters (Netflix), Cerulean Blue (Stan), and Hungry Ghosts (SBS). Her debut short film as a writer and director, Alba, screened at the 30th International Flickerfest Short Film Festival. Senie received a Special Mention for the Rebel8 Award for Most Outstanding Emerging Female Director at the festival. Alba has since screened at MWFF 22', and will soon screen at the upcoming St Kilda Short Film Festival.

Sera Jakob



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Neurodivergent world-builder, dissecting the meaning of life, the universe and everything.

Biography → Sera is a writer, composer, performer and emerging filmmaker. She has worked in journalism, conservation science and human rights and has postgraduate degrees in science and media. Her writing has featured in many publications including Metro and Overland (as Sarah Jacob). She was the editor of a human rights magazine. Currently Sera runs arts and film events, composes art music and game soundtracks/story design. After half a lifetime feeling as if she was 'living on the wrong planet', the penny dropped when she discovered she had Autism/ADHD. Her creative works address themes of neurodiversity, human rights, mythology and environmental justice.

Sher Li Tan



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Passionate about giving a voice to people and stories that need to be heard.

Biography → Sher-Li Tan is a Malaysian-Australian, third-culture-kid producer/writer, with a background in branding and speech pathology. She has produced web content, corporate campaigns, and shorts, as well as having on-set experience on multiple TV productions. In 2019, she produced a smartphone independent feature, One Punch, that is currently in its festival run. In 2021, Sher-Li was supported by Film Victoria as a Key Talent Producer's Placement on productions like TEN's How To Stay Married S3 and ABC's Stories From Oz. She is presently a Cinespace Inc board member, focused on providing community-led professional development opportunities for emerging culturally-diverse screen creatives.

Sunanda Sachatrakul



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I take being an idiot very seriously.

Biography → Sunanda Sachatrakul is a comedian, actor, writer, producer and radio host. They're from New Delhi, Bangkok, New York and Los Angeles... in that order. Before they moved to Melbourne for love, they performed regularly in Los Angeles at the Upright Citizens Brigade and The Groundlings and wrote for the CBS Diversity Showcase. They've worked with Broad City and Amy Poehler among other household name comedians. They regularly perform stand up around Melbourne and clown with the award-winning groups, PO PO MO CO and The Wholesome Hour. They've also co-starred in a couple web series shot in Melbourne.

Theresa Cornelia



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I remember watching The Last Airbender when I was 9 years old and I was shocked (like shocked-shocked) to see Toph Bei Fong eating with chopsticks, that's when I realised, dang, she's one of the only heroes who so happens to be Asian—why can't we have more of that?

Biography → Theresa Gunarso is a Chinese-Indonesian filmmaker, performer, and podcaster based in Melbourne. In 2016, she moved from Indonesia to complete her Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Marketing Communications at the University of Melbourne. She was selected as a quarterfinalist for ScreenCraft Comedy Contest 2020 and for Cinespace's Anthology Project's writers' room and Package to Pitch. Her first short film, "Subject 9412", placed 2nd in Cinespace's 123 Film Competition in 2021. She is also part of Footscray Community Arts' Behind the Screens (2021-2022 cohort) and Cinespace's Training Grounds (2022 cohort). Currently, Theresa is co-hosting the podcast "Chindo Tea".

Vivian Nguyen



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"I think I will be able to, in the end, rise above the clouds and climb the stairs to Heaven, and I will look down on my beautiful life."
— Yayoi Kusama

Biography → Vivian Nguyen is an Asian Australian playwright, writer and actor, whose works focus deeply in race and class struggle. She's worked extensively in theatre, performing at Theatre Works, fortyfivedownstairs and Rising Festival to name a few. Vivian's debut play, Thin Threads, was shortlisted for the Patrick White Playwrights Award, and her other work was published as part of ATYP's National Studio with Currency Press. Her work is continuously presented and performed across Melbourne with Reigen and Alternative Futures. She's an alumnus of Melbourne Theatre Company's First Stage Program, Malthouse Theatre's Besen Writers Group and Theatre Work's She Writes Collective.

