



# TC

2022 National  
Talent Camp

AFTRS

The next generation  
of filmmakers

# 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.



National Talent Camp 2022 will take place across September 12-16 at the AFTRS building in Sydney. The week-long workshop will include an industry-led writers' room for each participant, as well as a notetaking/script supervision workshop and 1:1 industry mentorship opportunities. The week will culminate in a networking event with screen professionals, during which each participant will have the opportunity to pitch their project.

12 National Talent Camp participants have been selected from around the country through a competitive application process, which was only open to the 2022 State Talent Camp participants.

Creatives will join us from each state across: New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

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.

The final stage of Talent Camp is production funding for a pilot episode, short film or proof of concept. Two projects will be awarded \$20,000 each through a third-round application process, with the successful projects announced in December 2022.

# AFTRS Facilitators



**Marissa Ciampi**

OUTREACH PROJECT MANAGER

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 program.



**Ellen Hodgson**

OUTREACH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Ellen is an Anishinaabe / Apsaalooke filmmaker who grew up on Ngunnawal Country and currently resides on Gadigal Land. She is the Community Outreach Engagement Manager within the First Nations and Outreach team at AFTRS; a role that co-designs initiatives and strategy with the screen industry and communities to support access and pathways for underrepresented film practitioners.

Prior to her time at AFTRS, Ellen has been working within the industry as a producer, casting director and production coordinator in advertising, factual, narrative and long-form for companies such as Marvel, Netflix, HBO and Lingo Pictures.

# Workshop Tutors + Guest Speaker



Steph Westwood

TUTOR – WRITERS' ROOM

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.



Liam Heyen

TUTOR – WRITERS' ROOM

Liam Heyen (he/him) is a film and television producer who is passionate about telling commercial stories about the LGBTQI+ experience. Between 2014-2020 Liam worked at Goalpost Pictures across all facets of the company, including as the Associate Producer of CLEVERMAN and the Helen Reddy biopic I AM WOMAN, and Co-Producer of the box-office hit TOP END WEDDING, and acclaimed revisionist western NEW GOLD MOUNTAIN. Alongside his long form work he has produced the award-winning web series LOCATION SCOUTS and an expansive catalogue of shorts including ADULT (SXSW 2017), YOU AND ME, BEFORE AND AFTER (TIFF 2021) and VOICE ACTIVATED which was recently nominated for a 2022 AACTA award. He is currently producing the ground-breaking series LATECOMERS through the SBS/Screen Australia Digital Originals program, due for release later this year. Liam is a graduate of AFTRS and Griffith Film School.

# Workshop Tutors + Guest Speaker



## Alli Parker

TUTOR – NOTETAKING & SCRIPT SUPERVISION

Alli Parker is an Australian screenwriter of Japanese heritage, with a background in script editing and script co-ordinating. She co-wrote episodes of crime drama series JACK IRISH, romantic thriller series SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS and mystery telemovie series MS FISHER'S MODERN MURDER MYSTERIES. In 2020, she began running notetaking and script co-ordinating workshops to train others in these roles.

Her light drama television series EMPTY NESTERS and crime thriller television series HART were long listed in the Scripted Ink, Screentime and Channel 9 Drama Hothouse competition in 2018 and her horror comedy feature script, STRAIN, came runner up in the Open Channel and Australian Writers' Guild New Writers' Competition 2016 (Feature Film Category). All three projects were inducted into the Australian Writers' Guild's Pathways Program. In 2018, she undertook a three-month script placement at Echo Lake Entertainment in Los Angeles with the help of the Australian Writers' Guild and Scripted Ink.



## Nakul Legha

GUEST SPEAKER – CREATIVE EXECUTIVE, NETFLIX

Nakul is a Creative Executive at Netflix, working across the slate of ANZ originating content including WELLMANIA and BOY SWALLOWS UNIVERSE. He also leads film and television licensing and co-productions in ANZ. Before joining Netflix, Nakul was an entertainment lawyer, most recently as Business & Legal Affairs Executive at the ABC negotiating commissioned, licensed and talent deals across scripted comedy and factual & entertainment content. Nakul also worked on industry initiatives for emerging and diverse talent, including AT HOME ALONE TOGETHER, FRESH BLOOD and the ABC's Inclusion & Diversity guidelines for commissioning.

# Participants

Aarushi Chowdhury (VIC)



✉ AARUSHI.CHOWDHURY2@GMAIL.COM

Writer and Director aspiring to learn more about the complexities of humanity through the process of telling stories.

**Biography** → Aarushi has a deep passion for delving into the psyche of mundane characters in obscure situations. She is currently directing a series of commissioned short films for the Brisbane Museum whilst enhancing her production skills by working on long-form content with Rolling Stones, Paramount, Apple TV and SBS. After obtaining a VicScreen funded place at MIFF 37South, Aarushi is now writing and directing her funded short film. She currently freelances as a Writer/Director across multiple formats, creating commercial work for ACMI, Telstra, Fringe and The National Ballet. For Aarushi, no matter the format, every project is grounded in narrative and informed by her multicultural perspective.

**Project Logline** → GULLAK (Translation - Piggy Bank): A lower-class Indian girl's dream to buy her very own Nintendo Switch is foiled when her money unexpectedly disappears; she must find her money before she is forced to face the disapproving wrath of her rich classmates.



Alice Yang (SA)



✉ ALICE.XH.YANG27@GMAIL.COM

Really tall and cool.

**Biography** → Alice Yang is a spirited, award-winning filmmaker, producing and directing many of her own short films, several of which have been officially selected in multiple film festivals like St. Kilda and Antenna. In 2021, her documentary, ‘My Ba’ won the AIDC Best Documentary award at the South Australian Screen Awards, and was also nominated for Best Editing, Best Student Production & the Carclew Young Filmmaker award. In 2022, she won Best Directing at Fleurieu Film Festival.

She brings her multifaceted skillset to Beyond Content as a content producer. Outside Beyond, she pursues her own creative projects and itch for storytelling.

**Project Logline** → FINDING JIA: An immigrant child yearns for the type of life she sees on Australian TV.

Anna Loren (QLD)



✉ CONTACTANNALOREN@GMAIL.COM

Following my curiosity.

**Biography** → Anna Loren is a writer, actor, theatre-maker, and teaching artist. She was a finalist in the 2020-2021 Queensland Premier’s Drama Award for her play, COMFORT, and received Playwriting Australia’s Erin Thomas Playwright Fund, for her play, 22. Her short monologue, BURNING SEASON was commissioned by Critical Stages Touring and Paines Plough as part of the Come to Where I Am anthology. Loren’s screenplay, SUGARCANE was supported by La Boite Theatre and Screen Queensland through the Stage to Screen initiative. She holds an MA in Ensemble Theatre and sits on the board of Women in Film & Television as Deputy Chair.

**Project Logline** → SUGARCANE: When EVE, a defiant Indian-Australian teen, is caught stealing and expelled from school, her ex-hippy-turned born-again Christian mother sees no alternative but to arrange an exorcism, catapulting her into a journey of self-discovery that will ultimately force EVE to come face-to-face with her greatest fear: herself.



## Brendan Wan (VIC)



✉ BWAN88@GMAIL.COM

A Chinese-Australian creative who has a keen interest in telling fun, diverse stories but is perpetually distracted by thoughts of food.

**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 Herald Sun, The Age and Radio National. In 2020, Brendan was awarded the ABC Fresh Start Fund to create the ABC web-series, 'Gourmet Lazy', which went on to be nominated in 2021 for the AACTA Award in Best Short Form Entertainment. More recently, Brendan completed his debut short film, "The Best Dumplings in Melbourne", and has been featured as a presenter on ABC's China Tonight.

**Project Logline** → AARON'S TAKEAWAY: When his father suffers a heart attack, a Chinese-Australian accountant must save his parent's failing Chinese takeaway from bankruptcy and in the process discovers his true passion: cooking.

## Chika Ikogwe (NSW)



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A Naija girl with big dreams.

**Biography** → Chika Ikogwe is a Nigerian-Australian Actor, Writer and plantain lover. As an Actor, Chika has worked extensively in the industry across theatre and television on shows such as 'Fangirls' and most recently Netflix's 'Heartbreak High.' As a writer, Chika co-wrote a play called 'The House at Boundary Road Liverpool' and has a number of works in development, including stage play 'Chioma's Party' & TV series 'Just Chidi Things,' which was the winner of the Screen Makers Conference Pitch-o-rama competition in 2020. She's incredibly passionate about bringing authentic Afrocentric stories to the forefront of Australian stages and screens.

**Project Logline** → DOG EATS WORLD: A young, money hungry, Black woman lands the job of a lifetime working for a mega celebrity and her dog, unaware she's about to be consumed by this bizarre new world.

## Courtney Cavallaro (QLD)



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Courtney is very, very serious about silliness & play.

**Biography** → Courtney is an award-winning actor and writer who invites honesty, vulnerability and glee into her work. Upon graduating WAAPA, she was awarded the Belinda Dunbar Prize which recognises the most outstanding Bachelor of Performing Arts graduate. During her time in Boorloo / Perth, she was nominated for Best Newcomer at the Performing Arts WA 2021 awards, performed in Sara DeLappe's Pulitzer Prize nominated work *The Wolves* and hosted pvi collective's *Disobedience Rules* gameshow. In 2022, she has been developing her play *White Christmas* through ATYP's Fresh Ink Mentoring Program. She will also make her on-screen debut later this year in Matchbox Picture's *Irreverent*.

**Project Logline** → UNDER CONTROL is a web series following best mates Ava & Tilly as they attempt to help Ava recreate the totally epic (but totally fake) cum face she manufactured for her girlfriend. Authentically, this time.

## Jacob Jansz (NSW)



✉ JANSZFILMS@GMAIL.COM

I'm a creative who loves storytelling, fuelled by my desire to tell stories that entertain, inspire and impact people.

**Biography** → As an emerging Indigenous Australian creative, I've long aspired to share my stories with a wider audience. Following two years of studying IT and working in unfulfilling jobs, I made the choice to follow my creative instincts and pursue a Certificate IV and Diploma in Screen and Media. Having completed both over the course of 2020 and 2021 respectively, I'm currently looking to dive deeper into the industry and connect with other creatives who share my passion for storytelling that entertains while also evoking emotion and challenging perspectives.

**Project Logline** → SEEKING: A Western TV series set in 1915 Australia, 'Seeking' follows a First Nations Wiradjuri man raised by Europeans who finds his morals tested when his children are abducted by police, forcing him to seek help from an out of his prime ex-bushranger as he goes on a journey across Wiradjuri country to get them back.

## Jayden Jansz (NSW)



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I am an emerging Indigenous Australian storyteller with a passion for creating compelling stories, who wants to share new ideas with the world that are yet to be explored.

**Biography** → For as long as I can remember, I have always been very creative. In my early years, I spent most of my free time making stop-motions and other video projects with the minimal resources I had. When I got to High School, my Photography class drove me towards aspirations of filmmaking and directing. Upon completion of High School, I studied for two years at TAFE, acquiring both a Certificate IV and Diploma in Screen & Media. There I refined my craft and technical skills, providing myself with the foundations necessary to achieve my goal of becoming a filmmaker.

**Project Logline** → SEEKING: A Western TV series set in 1915 Australia, 'Seeking' follows a First Nations Wiradjuri man raised by Europeans who finds his morals tested when his children are abducted by police, forcing him to seek help from an out of his prime ex-bushranger as he goes on a journey across Wiradjuri country to get them back.

## Melanie Easton (SA)



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Greyhound-obsessed Bollywood enthusiast who also makes films from time to time.

**Biography** → Melanie Easton is a Canadian/Australian writer and director with several short films, music videos and corporate projects under her belt. She previously worked as a Segment Producer on the Australian children's TV program TOTALLY WILD (Network Ten), and in various film and television production office roles. She also operates her own Adelaide-based production company, Free Cake Films. Her first funded short film AQUAPHOBE premiered at the Adelaide Film Festival in Oct 2020 and has since screened at Flickerfest, Melbourne Women in Film Festival, Canberra Short Film Festival, and the online platform Omeleto. It was nominated for three South Australian Screen Awards.

**Project Logline** → DRAGON'S BREATH: A group of middle schoolers must convince their friend to perform in the school talent show after she reveals an embarrassing and fantastical secret.

Miranda Aguilar (NSW)



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Writer, etc. for stage, screen and beyond.

**Biography** → Miranda Aguilar is a queer, Filipinx writer, creative producer and community arts worker. They write for stage, screen and beyond. Their credits include acting as showrunner and one of the lead writers for Las Rosas (2017), producing Prone to the Drone (2019), and writing ‘Let Me Know When You Get Home’, their first full-length play. They are a member of Ka-Ilective, a group of Asia-Australian multi-disciplinary artists currently developing their first theatre work, Salt Baby. Their work has been previously supported by Australia Council of Arts, CreateNSW, and PACT among others. They currently produce community arts programs with CuriousWorks.

**Project Logline** → COURTING GHOSTS: A soft-spoken queer teenager is on a mission to get to Sydney’s first anime convention and confess her feelings to her Internet crush – but can only do so with help from her recently-deceased grandpa and IRL best friend, the ghost of Lolo Ernesto.

Pius Kung (TAS)



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Feel what they feel and make them feel what they can’t feel.

**Biography** → Pius is an award-winning filmmaker and actor based in Australia and Hong Kong. In the past, he has worked on various types of media productions including films, TV series, web series, commercials, music videos etc. His latest short film, WE WERE STARS TO BURN, is selected for screening at 2021 Out on Film, Atlanta’s LGBTQ Film Festival and it was nominated for Best Short at 2021 Rotterdam Independent Film Festival. As a talent with a diverse cultural background, Pius strives to tell stories from a personal and social perspective, and empathy is the word that drives him in storytelling.

**Project Logline** → DESTINED OR NOT is a coming-of-age comedy-drama series, following Tim, a 16-year-old Asian boy who newly moves to Tasmania to live with his father Phillip; the series is a self-discovery journey of sexuality, relationships and identity.

# Ursula Woods (TAS)



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## Obsessed with looking at life through the lens.

**Biography** → Ursula Woods is an artist and filmmaker with a visual art and music background. Based in southern Tasmania, Ursula has experience working on productions such as music video, narrative drama, documentary and installation. She has created experimental works which have been screened at ACMI Melbourne and has written and directed a short film that travelled on the international film festival circuit.

**Project Logline** → PLASTICINE DAD: The Truth behind Lenny’s magical world is tough to face.

