

Behind the Screen
Montclair State University
January 29, 2017

10AM - 11AM - Writing for Late Night Comedy

"Writing for Late Night TV" will examine the various types of scripts that go into a late night TV show, as well as the skills and temperament that make for a successful late night writer.

Glenn Eichler, Writer

Glenn Eichler is a writer for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." Prior to that he spent ten years writing for "The Colbert Report," and he is also known for developing and producing the MTV animated series "Daria."

11:15AM - 12:15PM - Virtual Reality 101: The Frame is Dead

Curious about how 360 storytelling is created? How is it scripted, filmed, and edited? Come and join a conversation with producers/director, Stina Hamlin, director Kiira Benzing, and Nate Hamlin about the process from production to post.

Kiira Benzing, VR Director (*Cardboard City*)

Kiira Benzing is a storyteller crossing the mediums of theater, improv, documentary, fiction and virtual reality. Kiira is a recent recipient of the 2017 Ford Foundation's JustFilms Fellowship. "Cardboard City" her first venture in Virtual Reality won the Samsung Gear Indie Milk VR contest (2016) and debuted at Sundance. Following this VR film her interactive installation for "Cardboard City" combining VR and AR premiered at the 54th annual New York Film Festival at Lincoln Center.

Stina Hamlin, VR Producer (*Cardboard City*)

Stina Hamlin has been producing a combination of television, commercials, and most recently virtual reality for over 20 years. She is the Director of Post Production at East Coast Digital where she has been post producing the in-app videos for the Unicef Kid Power Band and is currently in post-production for a 360 documentary that was filmed in Mozambique for the U.S. Fund for Unicef. Her first virtual reality project, "*Cardboard City*," was winner of the Samsung Gear Indie Milk VR contest and premiered at Sundance on the MilkVR platform. "Cardboard City" then evolved into an interactive documentary featuring a blend of makers' space, augmented reality, and VR that premiered at New York Film Festival's Convergence this year. Stina is currently working on the sequel to "*Cardboard City*," "*Boxed Out*," which has live action, stop motion, and interactivity.

Nate Hamlin, VR Producer, Co-Founder State Media

Nate began his career in television news working at New York 1 News, WPIX and WKTLA in Los Angeles. He became a full-time camera operator for several years that took him around the world on various fiction, and non-fiction shoots. He then moved into producing and directing television series for ABC, NBC, CBS, BBC, National Geographic, Spike, TruTV, FYI, HGTV and MTV to name just a few. Nate recently returned from Africa from directing and filming a documentary for US Fund for Unicef and is currently in post production on a bull-riding piece for USA Today's series, "VRtually There."



VR 101 Moderator: Prof. Beverly Peterson

Beverly Peterson is a filmmaker and Associate Professor at Montclair State University's School of Communication and Media where she teaches Documentary and Transmedia storytelling. Her recent interactive online documentary, WhatKilledKevin.com, was featured in the Washington Post, Huffington, Psychology Today and received an honorary Webby. Peterson is currently continuing her exploration of emerging storytelling platforms with the development of *Memory Rooms*, a VR & AR mixed reality documentary project. Her documentaries have been broadcast internationally and screened at major festivals including; HBO, PBS The Sundance Channel, The Sundance Film Festival, Human Rights Watch, Museum of Modern Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art, The Walker Art Center, and The Warhol Museum.

12:30PM - 1:30PM - Directing *Victoria*: Bringing the 19th Century Monarchy to Life

Film director Tom Vaughan returns to television to direct the first three episodes of the popular British period drama, *Victoria*, set to begin airing in the US in January. Vaughan will take students into the sweeping majesty of Queen Victoria's 19th century royal court and illustrate the process of creating one of the most anticipated and elaborate television shows this year.

Tom Vaughan, Film and TV director

Tom's latest television work includes the BAFTA winning drama **DOCTOR FOSTER** (BBC/Netflix). A 5 part contemporary revenge drama DOCTOR FOSTER was 2015's highest rated new drama in the UK and won numerous national awards. **VICTORIA** (ITV/Masterpiece) is a lavish new series about Queen Victoria which aired in the UK and starts on Masterpiece/PBS in January 2017. It has been nominated for several National TV Awards. **THE SON** (AMC) is a period drama starring Pierce Brosnan.

Movie work includes **STARTER FOR 10** (HBO Films/BBC Films) starring James McAvoy, Benedict Cumberbatch, Rebecca Hall, Alice Eve, Dominic Cooper, James Corden and Charles Dance. **WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS** (20TH CENTURY FOX) starring Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher and Zach Galifianakis; **EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES** (CBS Films) starring Harrison Ford, Brendan Fraser and Keri Russell and **SOME KIND OF BEAUTIFUL** (Southpaw Entertainment) starring Pierce Brosnan, Salma Hayek, Jessica Alba and Malcolm McDowell. Upcoming projects include **PRESS** a drama for BBC/Masterpiece/Amazon about the challenges facing contemporary newspapers and the people who write the news written by award winning playwright Mike Bartlett.

Moderator: Susan Skoog

Susan Skoog is the Director of Programming for the Film Institute at Montclair State University, and a full time faculty member in Filmmaking Program, at MSU's School of Communication and Media. As a filmmaker, she wrote, produced, and directed the feature film *Whatever*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival was released theatrically by Sony Pictures Classics in 1998. Susan has written screenplays for Warner Brothers, HBO and MTV Films among others. She has been a writer, director, and producer of numerous documentary and magazine programs for such networks as VH1, Turner Network Television, Turner Classic Movies, AMC, FX, MTV, CBS, Fuse, Rave HD, TBS, Tru TV/Court TV and PBS. Her digital series, *Breeding Grounds*, in which she writes, directs, and produces, participated in the 2016 IFP Screen Forward Lab, and the pilot *What Martha Said* is currently screening at film festivals across the country.



2:00PM - 3:00PM - Editing for Television with Daniel Valverde, Amanda Pollack and Sheri Bylander (*The Americans*, FX)

Our trio of editors craft dailies from multiple writers and directors into award-winning, critically lauded television. In this session our editors will give examples of a teleplay's evolution during the editing process. They'll tell us about the TV drama workflow and give us insight into their collaboration with directors and showrunners as they maintain a coherent vision for the series.

Daniel Valverde, Editor (*The Americans*)

Daniel Valverde first discovered a love of movies in high school, which led him to pursue a BFA degree in filmmaking at the State University of New York School at Purchase. While working as an assistant editor, he was accepted by American Film Institute as a directing fellow. Daniel found himself cutting projects for the other directors, and realized he preferred editing to directing. He returned to his editing career, and gained success cutting on such high-profile dramas as "Picket Fences", "The Practice", "Dawsons Creek" and "Joan of Arcadia" Dan's recent credits include USA's "Royal Pains," "Quantico," and all four seasons of the critically acclaimed FX series "The Americans."

Amanda Pollack, Editor (*The Americans*)

Amanda Pollack has always loved the way pictures, sound and music work together to tell stories, and believes a sense of rhythm contribute greatly to her craft of editing. She worked for many years in Feature Films with an impressive list of directors, including Terry Gilliam, Ang Lee, Sidney Pollack and Robert Altman. Amanda also earned Additional Music Editing credit on *The Devil Wears Prada*. Her television credits include MTV's *Skins*, FX Network's *Lights Out*, HBO's *In Treatment*, NBC's *Smash*, and all four seasons of FX Network's critically acclaimed series, *The Americans*. Amanda is currently editing on Season 5.

Sheri Bylander, Editor (*The Americans*)

Sheri Bylander is a New York-based editor of TV dramas *The Americans*, *The Slap*, *Hap and Leonard*, *Gracepoint*, *Borgia*, *NYC 22*, *Lights Out*, and *The Philanthropist*. She also edited comedies *Alpha House*, *Sirens* and *The Jim Gaffigan Show*, feature films (including a Cannes award-winner), feature documentaries, and documentary-style TV.

Sheri began her editing career as Assistant Editor on projects like Woody Allen's *Sweet And Lowdown*, Darren Starr's *Sex And The City* and Sidney Lumet's *100 Centre Street*.

Moderator: Mark Fitzmartin

Mark Fitzmartin is a veteran line producer, EP, and 15+-year member of the Directors Guild of America. He has over 20 years experience in the production of new media, commercials and films for advertising agencies, corporate clients, television networks, and studios. He began his career assisting production on the sets of Demme, Lumet, Schatzberg, Schlesinger and Scorsese. Additionally, he has guest lectured at several NY area colleges and festivals on the works of Alfred Hitchcock & Stanley Kubrick, Title Design for Film and TV, and the History of Film Poster Design. Mark has been on the Education Advisory Board of the Montclair Film Festival since its inception and is also an avid film poster collector.



3:15PM - 4:15PM - Interactive Storytelling with Interlude <https://helloeko.com>

Marli Scharlin, Producer Eko Studio (Eko.Studio)

Marli is a Producer on Eko's award-winning Creative team. Marli has a degree in Storytelling and American Studies from Brown University and has directed short films, theater and music videos. Her latest interactive short was accepted into this year's iPhone Film Festival.

ABOUT INTERLUDE

Interlude (www.interlude.fm) is a media and technology company that empowers deep emotional bonds between storytellers and consumers through a new medium that lets people shape the story as it's being told. The company's patented technology forms the basis of its consumer platform, Eko, enabling the creation and delivery of stories told in live action video that allows viewers to step into the story. In an Eko video, the story listens and can adapt in a multitude of ways as it unfolds. Interlude partners with entertainment companies, independent creators, and top brands to create episodic series that are distributed on the Eko platform through a network of affiliates on the mobile web, mobile apps, and the web

4:30PM - 5:30PM - Crowdfunding your Film with Seed & Spark <https://www.seedandspark.com>

Christina Raia, Crowdfunding Specialist, Seed & Spark

Christina Raia is a New York City based Writer/Director, the Founder of CongestedCat Productions and a Crowdfunding Specialist at Seed&Spark. Her work, a collection of short films, a web series, and a feature film, has gained a large online following through multiple crowdfunding campaigns. She has been covered by press outlets such as IndieWire, AfterEllen, and BuzzFeed. She also turned her desire to foster collaboration and engagement in the local film community into IndieWorks, a monthly film screening series showcasing and supporting the work of other independent filmmakers.

Greg Cohan, Business Development and Educational Outreach, Seed & Spark

Greg joined the Seed&Spark team after 10 years in advertising and marketing while moonlighting as an actor and writer in New York. As head of Business Development and Strategic Partnerships at Seed&Spark, he works closely with partners on event and content sponsorships as well as festival and education activations. His first ever Crowdfunding campaign, before Seed&Spark was founded, was a total failure. He learned the hard way that crowdfunding is hard! After learning the ways of Seed&Spark, he now teaches filmmakers how to crowdfund responsibly and to set themselves up for a sustainable career making moving pictures, and how not to make the mistakes that he made.

On behalf of The Film Institute at Montclair State and the Montclair Film Festival, we would like to thank our sponsors and partners:

Dean Daniel Gurskis, College of the Arts
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