

MFA IN FILM & MFA IN TV WRITING

Manhattan Center



IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILLER FILMS

TV WRITING



ALAN KINGSBERG
Director, MFA in TV WRITING

OPEN HOUSE

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY: The TV Writing MFA, located in the heart of Manhattan, is hosting a **Zoom Information Session** on **April 29 at 6:00 PM** for applicants interested in **Fall 2024**. Learn about our one-of-a-kind TV Writing curriculum and meet faculty and students. Some **new funding** is available. **RSVP** at mfamanhattan@stonybrook.edu. It's not too late to Write Yourself Into Your Dream Job.



APRIL 2024

TV WRITING INCUBATOR



INTRODUCTION

The MFA in TV Writing is launching a Post Graduate Incubator designed to nurture, inspire, and develop three to four TV series so that they can advance toward production. **Open to MFA in TV Writing Grads**, the program is set to begin in the fall of 2024. Ideally, one project will be **fully funded up to \$50,000 for production in the Fall of 2025**. Other projects will aim to be successfully pitched and funded from outside sources. The Incubator initiative is led by Alan Kingsberg and Kris Lefcoe and will involve industry advisors and mentors including NY Showrunners. **The deadline for applications is June 3.**



Finalists

for the TV Academy Fellowship

We are excited to announce

That two of our TV Writing MFA students have been chosen as finalists for the prestigious TV Academy Fellowship. First-year Haley Sakamoto and second-year Cassie Rubio.

The winner of this paid fellowship is placed in an active Writers Room for the summer. The fellowship is more than just a contest, it is a bridge between the MFA program and the industry and has launched the careers of many past participants. “What better experience than being thrown into the trenches,” says Sakamoto. “Going behind the scenes and seeing how stories get broken feels invaluable,” says Rubio.

Above all else, being chosen is proof for these two writers that they are on the right path. “It shows that my writing is progressing craft-wise. And, it is a nice ray of hope for this industry post-strike,” says Rubio. These two writers are both looking towards the future of television writing, both as storytellers and organizers.

Finally, because you’re likely as curious as we were, here are the loglines for their pilots.

Haley Sakamoto *Da Locals*



Sakamoto’s *Da Locals*. When Poai, the ever-dutiful daughter and exhausted leader of her family of misfits, discovers her father hasn’t made a mortgage payment in years, she must reunite her siblings to transform their Waimānalo home into a profitable hotel to avoid being forced off-island.



Cassie Rubio *Primas*

Rubio’s *Primas*: A family drama that follows the Cruz cousins, four young women who must learn to work together as they balance running a family business, romantic relationships, and now caretaking duties of their ailing and headstrong grandmother.



SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNA

Kareema Bee

Alumna **Kareema Bee**, in partnership with **The Big We Foundation**, is embarking upon producing her first docu-series, "**The Self Love Act**," a complex examination of the realities of self-love, aiming to specifically highlight the experiences of women of color. The project stems from a belief that love looks different for everyone, and self-love shouldn't be put in a box.



MFA IN FILM

MANHATTAN CENTER

Kareema credits her time at Stony Brook with preparing her to take on this series. Having participated in the first cohort, she believes all of the hands-on learning provided her with the skill and experience to pitch and execute her vision. For the students coming behind her, **she advises them to never put yourself in a box**. Get to know every role in production while you're in school because you have the opportunity to learn without pressure.

Past her filmmaking, Kareema's creative passion serves as the spark for **The HiveMind Unified**, a resource sharing collective. A project born in the pandemic, she dedicates her time to connecting early-career filmmakers of color with opportunities and resources to help launch their careers. A storyteller to her core, her endeavor allows Kareema to spread that gift to everyone she comes across.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNA

2017 Alumna -
Juhyoung Ra's first
feature, **Atlantic
City** screened at the
**Jeonju International
Film Fest** in Korea
and also in France.
From there she
received local film
funding to make her
second feature.



Last year, she received
the **2023 Korean Film
Council Independent
Film Production Fund**,
the largest Korea has to
offer, and filmed her third
feature, Songbird in the
New York area. All of us
can't wait to see the
finished project!!
Congratulations
Juhyoung!!

Juhyoung Ra

Yasmine Gomez

Alumna Yasmine
Gomez's short film
PARTY FAVOR
screened and won
the **Audience Choice
Short Film Award** at
**Worldwide Women's
Film Festival** in
Phoenix, Arizona. Join
in us in sending a big
congratulations
Yasmine's way!



Next up -- Party Favor's
New York Premiere at
**Queens World Film
Festival** on April 23rd,
7pm, at the Kaufman
Astoria Zukor Theatre. It
will also screen at
NewFilmmakers LA on
May 4th in a shorts
program titled, "In Focus:
Asian Cinema." Everyone
in the SBU family is
sending encouragement
her way!

STUDENT PRODUCTION



"IT WAS CRUCIAL FOR ME TO HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER THE LOCATION, AND I EXTEND MY IMMENSE GRATITUDE TO THE SBU ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSORS WHO ALLOWED US TO CONSTRUCT OUR SET. SPECIAL THANKS TO MY PRODUCTION DESIGNER, LINA SARELLO, WHO OVERSAW THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF CREATING THIS STAGE."

— OLESIA TYMOSHENKO

2ND YEAR SHORT - "PHILOSOPHY: UKRAINIAN THEATER - LOVE, DEATH, AND LES KURBAS"

FOR UKRAINIAN STUDENT **OLESIA TYMOSHENKO'S** SECOND YEAR SHORT FILM **PHILOSOPHY: UKRAINIAN THEATER - LOVE, DEATH, AND LES KURBAS**, SHE AND HER TEAM CONSTRUCTED A THEATER STAGE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE STONY BROOK MANHATTAN BUILDING.

RECREATING THE LIFE OF LES KURBAS, ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT UKRAINIAN THEATER DIRECTORS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, OLESIA FELT IT PRUDENT TO HAVE THE EVENTS OF HER FILM TAKE PLACE ENTIRELY WITHIN A THEATER, AS "THE THEATER STAGE ITSELF BECOMES A CHARACTER IN THE FILM."



FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2024

Time is running out to join the upcoming cohort of writers, directors, producers, and visionaries. Whether you are interested in the **MFA in Film** of the **MFA in Television** Writing, send in your applications soon! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to MFAManhattan@stonybrook.edu.



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