

# MFA IN FILM & MFA IN TV WRITING

Manhattan Center



IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILLER FILMS

WELCOME TO OUR

## Monthly Newsletter

◆ It's been an exciting semester in our film program with Killer Films sweeping the awards with *Past Lives*, *May December*, and *A Different Man*, our students placing in festivals, and spring productions about to begin. Join us on 3/27 for an online info session for both Film and TV Writing. RSVP to [MFAManhattan@stonybrook.edu](mailto:MFAManhattan@stonybrook.edu) for details!

— **Magdalene Brandeis**  
Director of MFA IN FILM

◆ First year TV Writers all got promoted from "staff writers" working on spec scripts to "show creators" writing original pilots in Scott Burkhardt's Pilot I class. And second years are now hard at work on their capstone pilot scripts in my Pilot III class. Ideas range from a True Crime producer secretly solving real cases to Palestinians and Israeli highschoolers attending a Peace Camp in Vermont. The lineup of original series ideas is impressive and inspiring. Second years are also hard at work preparing to shoot their micro pilots in Kris Lefcoe's webisode class. And third years are working as interns for Blue Bloods and at Bash Doren's production company. It's a vibrant and exciting place to be for all!

— **Alan Kingsberg**  
Director of MFA IN TV WRITING

Award-winning producers Summer Shelton and Simone Pero are collaborating in our first-ever **Producer's Intensive Lab**. Students are given the opportunity to workshop their projects in a hands-on format, taking their visions from concept to reality.

# PRODUCING INTENSIVE



*Simone Pero*

“ It's exciting to see students pick up tangible skills to build their audiences, create strategic marketing materials, develop doable finance plans, and work on positioning their personal and professional brands for their creative road ahead. ”

**Stony Brook's MFA programs** continue to prepare students for the **entertainment industry**, giving them the tools they need to display their work in a professional format. Through Pero and Shelton's guidance, the cohort in this intensive lab is strengthening their **producing capabilities** and **branding potential**.

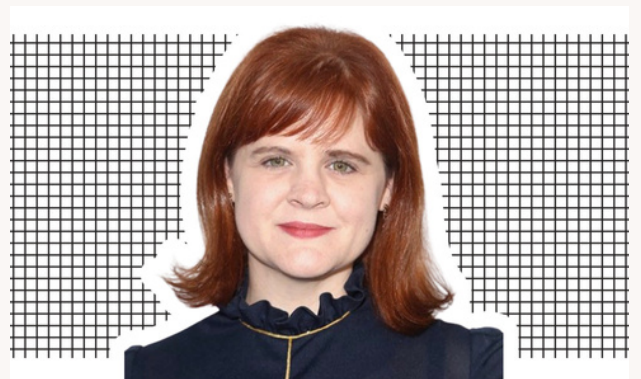
“

*With a focus on effective strategies for engaging financiers, sales, and prospective collaborators, students are learning how to adapt their pitches for various audiences.*

”

Students can dive into their projects as they prepare to launch them into the world. Learning **how to market their work**, themselves, and their team of collaborators.

*Summer Shelton*



# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



SBU **TV alumni Sam Nosratian** is making his mark! He landed a role in the writer's room on **Monsieur Spade** a new series by Scott Frank (*Queens Gambit*) and Tom Fontina (*Oz, City on a Hill*).

Sam started as an intern at the front desk. He stood out by being as helpful as possible and would stay an extra two hours past his shift in order to make an impression.

His time at Stony Brook prepared him by showing him the **inner workings of a writer's room**, while introducing him to how to multi-task across projects.

Sam believes that the industry is extremely competitive so getting in the door is a big deal. And doing so requires **focusing all your energy** on the best opportunity that you can find, and making an impression.



SBU **TV Alumni Brittany Ramjattan** is making a big splash in India's TV Industry. Brittany got to serve in the writer's room on **She Says She's Fine**. The show is currently being shopped to the likes of Netflix and Amazon. Starting as part of the remote writer's staff, she served as a producer on the first season and is still with the show as it eyes the international market.

Brittany first connected with producers because of **a pilot she wrote while attending SBU**. She says that her time in the program sharpened her storytelling instincts by continuous collaborative practice that taught her to **contribute meaningfully**.

For the SBU Writers following behind her, Brittany suggests that you keep writing, and **focus on the things that you care about**, because there is definitely a market for it. Also, keep networking!



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHT ✦



## XUEPEI FILM WIN

Join us in congratulating **MFA Film student Xuepei Hou** for her well-deserved win of the **DRAMA Film Festival Audience Award** for her short film **THE ADULTS ARE TALKING**.

It tells the story of Alex, a young graduate who is struggling to balance her life. She pretends to have it all together and breaks down all of a sudden when her mom tells her the secret she has been hiding for a year.

This was Xuepei's first short film she made at Stony Brook. She wanted to tell a personal, semi-biographical story about the Eastern relationship between a mother and daughter. Through her strong writing and direction, this personal story quickly became universal, exploring communication between parents and their children.

Xuepei spoke about the significance of her classmates in the creation of **THE ADULTS ARE TALKING**. The collaboration and trust between them gave her the level of comfort she needed to create this piece and bring it to its final form. When asked about the filming process, she said **"It was a good human experience. It was a good directorial experience."**

## → LISTEN TO THE AUDIENCE'S FEEDBACK HERE ←

## HOANG-VU NGUYEN

**Vu Nguyen Hoang's Chromakey Cream**, a half-hour TV pilot developed in Scott Burkhardt's TV Writing Class and later revised in Syd Sidner's Pilot Revision class, is a **finalist** in **Best Dark Science Fiction Screenplay** at the **Austin Short Film Festival!**



It follows the story of three former foster siblings who seek funding for an invention that enables parents to replicate their adoptees' facial features, which ultimately draws them toward underworld temptations.

Congrats, Vu!!

## Other Program News:

@sbufilemtv



**Killer Films'** Christine Vachon and Pam Koffler and 2 AM's David Hinojosa are teaming up once again with Celine Song to produce her next project, "Materialists," which Song is set to write, direct, and co-produce.

NEW KILLER FILMS PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT:  
"Materialists" BY CELINE SONG



Following up on "Past Lives" which has won the Independent Spirit Award for Best Feature, and Best Director for Celine Song, the film was also nominated for Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay at the Oscars. Project details on "Materialists" are being kept under wraps. As of now, it's simply being described as a romcom about a professional matchmaker, set in New York City. Details to materialize soon!

**Dakota Johnson**, **Chris Evans**, and **Pedro Pascal** are in talks of starring. A24 will be handling the U.S. release of "Materialists" while **Sony Pictures** has bought international rights to the film (excluding certain territories).



INSTAGRAM :

@sbufilemtv



FACEBOOK:

@sbufilemtv



EMAIL:

MFAManhattan@stonybrook.edu



WEBSITE:

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/mfa-film-tv/>



X :

<https://twitter.com/SBUfilemtv>



Connect With Us!