



5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 800, Los Angeles, CA 90036  
1825 Three Kings Dr., Park City, UT 84060  
321 W 44th Street, Suite 805, New York, NY 10036

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**Media Contact:**  
[press@sundance.org](mailto:press@sundance.org)

## **Sundance Institute Selects Projects and Panelists for Creative Film Producing Labs and Summit, August 1-8**

**Labs and Summit Are Part of New Creative Producing Program That Aligns Comprehensive Support for Producers, Including Access to Funding and Distribution**

**Eleven Narrative and Documentary Projects Selected for Creative Producing Labs; 50 Industry Leaders to Attend Creative Producing Summit**



**(L-R) Creative Producing Summit 2015**, Credit: Jonathan Hickerson; **Creative Producing Labs 2015**, Credit: Brandon Cruz; **Creative Producing Summit 2015**, Credit: Jonathan Hickerson

**Los Angeles, CA** — Sundance Institute today announced the participants for its weeklong **Creative Film Producing Initiative** at the Sundance Resort in Utah, August 1-8, including eleven feature film and documentary projects for the **Creative Producing Labs**, and more than 50 industry leaders for the **Creative Producing Summit**. The Institute's Creative Producing Initiative encompasses a year-round series of Labs, Fellowships, granting and events focusing on nurturing the next generation of independent producers and renewing the community of veteran producers who sustain the vibrancy and vitality of independent film.

The Creative Producing Labs for Feature Film and Documentary will take place concurrently this year (August 1-5), with an added tailored track for two producers outside of the Lab Fellowship. Additionally, the Documentary Film Creative Producing Lab will relaunch this year in a new format focused on a holistic approach to growing producers, including intensive individual and project-based support themed sessions, one-on-one meetings and strategic advice from mentors that will last throughout the Fellowship year.

The Labs and Summit are now part of a broader Creative Producing Program, an alignment of all the Institute's work supporting creative producing and the field at large, which includes Artist Services for funding and distribution, the Catalyst Initiative, and year-round educational opportunities and resources. With this new structure, the Institute focuses on championing producers as a significant creative force, as they work to get projects made and seen by



audiences, and strive to make the field more financially sustainable for all involved. The Institute will continue to recognize a Fiction and Non-Fiction Producer at the Sundance Festival Producers Lunch with the annual Producer's Award, which this year was supported by Amazon Studios.

The **Feature Film Creative Producing Lab** (August 1-5) identifies emerging producers and, under the guidance of Creative Advisors, allows them to develop their creative instincts and evolve their storytelling, communicating and problem-solving skills at all stages of their feature film project. Lab Fellows continue on through the Creative Producing Summit and receive ongoing yearlong mentorship, granting, and a tailored track at the Sundance Film Festival. This year's Creative Advisors include producers **Anthony Bregman** (Cinereach), **Heather Rae** (Cinereach), **Mary Jane Skalski** (Cinereach), **Jay Van Hoy** (Cinereach), **Craig Johnson** (Cinereach), **Philipp Engelhorn** (Cinereach), **Malia Scotch Marmo** (Cinereach), and **Victoria Cook** (Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz).

The **Documentary Film Creative Producing Lab** (August 1-5) brings together emerging documentary feature producers with experienced advisors to refine and deepen the creative potential of their projects, while also focusing on the editorial, strategic, and interpersonal skills critical to being a successful Creative Producer. This fellowship includes group feedback, one-on-one meetings and sustained mentorship over the course of a year. This year's Creative Advisors include producers **Daniel Chalfen** (Cinereach), **Julie Goldman** (Cinereach) and **Josh Penn** (Cinereach).

The **Creative Producing Summit** takes place immediately following the Labs, August 5-8. More than 50 industry leaders will participate in a series of curated panels, case studies, roundtables, and one-on-one meetings addressing critical issues producers face including financing, distribution, audience engagement, marketing and sustainability. Panelists this year include **Nicolette Aizenberg** (A24), **Len Amato** (HBO Films), **Michael Barker** (Sony Pictures Classics), **Mary Ann Marino** (Amazon Studios), **Ian Bricke** (Netflix), **Effie Brown** (Duly Noted, Inc.), **Andrew Catauro** (Ford Foundation), **Liz Cook** (Kickstarter), **Christine D'Souza** (WME), **Paul Davidson** (The Orchard), **Anna Godas** (Dogwoof), **Poppy Hanks** (MACRO), **John Hoffman** (Discovery Channel), **Kevin Iwashina** (Preferred Content), **Caroline Kaplan** (Cinereach), **Rosanne Korenberg** (Miramax), **Jessica Lacy** (ICM Partners), **Sophie Mas** (RT Features), **Zola Mashariki** (BET), **Lisa Nishimura** (Netflix), **Dana O'Keefe** (Cinetic), **Jenny Raskin** (Impact Partners), **Courtney Sexton** (CNN Films), **Tristen Tuckfield** (CAA), **Laura Turner Garrison** (Vimeo), **Lynette Wallworth** (Cinereach), **Jamal Watson** (Overbrook Entertainment), **Hailey Wierengo** (UTA), and **Alexander Zahn** (Sony Pictures Worldwide).

**The Fellows and projects selected for the 2016 Feature Film Creative Producing Lab are:**



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Producing Fellow and Silverman Honoree: Monique Walton**

In a near-abandoned subdivision west of Houston, a wayward teen runs headlong into her equally willful and unforgiving neighbor, an aging bullfighter who's seen his best days in the arena; it's a collision that will change them both. (Co-writer/director Annie Silverstein, co-writer Johnny McAllister)

**Monique Walton** produced the short film "Skunk" (written & directed by Annie Silverstein), which screened at festivals worldwide and won the top prize at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival - Cinéfondation. She received a BA from Yale and an MFA in Film from University of Texas at Austin, where she is a youth mentor with the Black Media Council. Her work includes web videos for Nickelodeon, VICE, and web series, and short

documentaries for *Doing Innovation*, a Macarthur Foundation funded project. She recently co-produced Jesse Klein's upcoming feature *Y^q^Áq|Á| \*^c@!*, which will premiere at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.



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**Producing Fellow: Lisa Kjerulff**

When a young man violates parole and begins trafficking guns into the neighborhood, the beautiful, fragile life of one family is rocked, and their youngest son Da'Sean has to balance his dreams of being a dancer against the realities of living amidst violence. (Writer/director Nick Bentgen)

**Lisa Kjerulff** is producer and co-writer for Anna Rose Holmer's feature narrative *V@Áá* (Venice Biennale, Sundance, New Directors/New Films). Her producing credits include Zachary Shedd's *Q^ ^/áá* (Seattle, Fantasia Fest) and the critically-acclaimed verité documentary *P[ 'c@; Áá @Á* (*True/False*, *Visions du Reel*, *Hot Docs*). In addition to working as an independent film producer, Lisa has worked extensively in commercials and music videos.



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**Producing Fellows: Martise Hill and Julius Pryor IV**

Nina, a 9-year-old Dominican with albinism, dreams of blending in amongst her peers until a series of miraculous events put her in the spotlight and make her the target of a jealous classmate's witch hunt. (Writer/director Gabriella Moses)

**Julius Pryor IV** and **Martise Hill** are filmmakers based in New York City, in the uptown neighborhood of Hamilton Heights. As producers, they have had two films premiere at the Sundance Film Festival: Tahir Jetter's debut feature, *P[ , Á Á^|Á| ~q^Áá* (2016) and Michael Larnell's debut feature, *Ó!} á•* (2015). Executive produced by their mentor, Spike Lee. Martise and Julius met as undergraduates at Morehouse College, and subsequently attended NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where each earned an MFA in Film Production. Through Pryor Hill Productions, a media collective co-founded by the filmmakers six years ago, Martise and Julius develop and produce a wide spectrum of projects across a diverse platform with an array of unique collaborators.

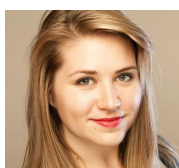


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**Producing Fellow: Elizabeth Lodge**

After capturing an illegal act of police violence on his cellphone, a Brooklyn street hustler sets off a series of events that alter the lives of a local police officer and a star high school athlete. (Writer/director Reinaldo Marcus Green)

**Elizabeth Lodge** is an Austin-based producer with the Department of Motion Pictures, (sibling company of the New Orleans-based Court 13 Arts). Prior to joining the Department, Elizabeth co-produced two of Terrence Malick's feature films: *S} á @U-Á~}•* and the forthcoming *Y^á @^••*. She also co-produced A.J Edwards' directorial debut *V@Á^c'Áq \*^*, which premiered at Sundance in 2013. Currently, Elizabeth is producing two documentaries: *Óá •q}^ÁÁÖ||' ^*, an experiential film about a fireworks festival in Tultepec, Mexico; and a profile chronicling Olympic gold-medalist Kerri Walsh Jennings during the year ahead of her 2016 Rio Olympic bid. Elizabeth began her career in investment banking before transitioning into film.



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**Producing Fellow: Mallery Schwartz**

In this dark comedy, sisters Jackie and Rachel Gurner are forced to reevaluate themselves, their co-dependent relationship, and for Jackie, her own role as a mom, upon finding out their

presumably deceased mother is alive and starring on a soap opera 20 years after abandoning them.  
(Co-writer/director Hannah Pearl Utt and co-writer Jen Tullock)

**Mallory Schwartz** is the Director of Development for El Dorado Pictures where she works closely alongside Universal Television. Among a number of projects, she currently produces the web and television series, *Orange Is the New Black* for TruTV, and most recently, served as Executive Producer for both ABC's summer reboot of *The Mindy Project* and the upcoming romantic drama, *Over the Top*, starring Demi Moore and Alec Baldwin. Independently, Mallory has produced numerous award-winning short films that have screened at film festivals internationally, and prior to her work with El Dorado, she spent time sharpening her production and produciorial skills at *Uxellia* and Broadway Video. Mallory Schwartz has her BFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts in Film and Television Production and a double minor in Producing and Business of Entertainment Media Technology through the Stern School of Business.

**The Feature Film Creative Producing Initiative has also selected two additional producers to receive support outside of the Lab Fellowship that will include participation at the Creative Producing Summit, mentorship, and granting:**



**GIUFY**

**Producing Fellow: Tyler Byrne**

In this cyber thriller, a disturbing video leaked from a local high school throws a Long Island community into chaos and the national spotlight as they try to unravel the story behind it.  
(Writer/director Pippa Bianco)

**Tyler Byrne** is a New York-based producer, raised across the bridge in northern New Jersey. In 2015 he produced Pippa Bianco's short film "Share," winner of Cinéfondation's First Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, Special Jury Prize for Narrative Shorts at SXSW and an official selection of the Telluride Film Festival. He co-produced Jeremy Saulnier's *Blue Ruin*, winner of the FIPRESCI Prize at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival and an official selection of Sundance, TIFF and more. Tyler has also produced Conor Byrne's short films "Foureyes" and "Porzingod," the latter of which premiered at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival, as well as Byrne's commercial work, which has won multiple Cannes Lions and garnered international acclaim. He's producing Byrne's upcoming feature *Uxellia*, based on a short story by Sam Lipsyte. Tyler has a BA in Film Studies and Government from Wesleyan University.



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**Producing Fellow: Vincent Reyna**

A week after their best friend's fatal confrontation with a cop, three Southeast Los Angeles skaters spend 24 hours chasing dreams, making trouble, and trying to survive in a community on the verge of exploding. (Writer/director César Cervantes)

**Vincent Reyna** is a filmmaker from Bell, California. After completing the Inner-City Filmmakers program in Los Angeles he went on to pursue a B.A in Film and Media studies with a minor in Philosophy at the University of California Santa Barbara. Throughout college he was a leader within the student production sphere and held numerous positions on a handful of short narratives and documentaries. In 2014 he shot a period piece titled *Yae* an official selection of the 24th Annual Reel Loud Film Festival: the film condemns brutality against Native Americans, and was fully supported by the Caddo Nation of Binger Oklahoma for its preservation and utilization of authentic Caddo actors, tools, makeup and costume, and original music. Vincent is



currently in the early stages of preproduction working as lead actor and producer for his first independent feature film *P[...]*, written and to be directed by César Cervantes.

**The Fellows and projects selected for the 2016 Documentary Film Creative Producing Lab are:**



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**Producing Fellow: Iyabo Boyd**

*Q[...]* follows Daje Shelton, a 17-year-old Black girl from North St. Louis, as she strives to graduate from the nation's only court-supervised public high school. Daje fights for her future as close friends are killed, her sixteen-year-old boyfriend is pulled into the prison system, and nearby Ferguson erupts after the police shooting of Michael Brown. Through Daje's intimate first-person account, *Q[...]* explores the complex web between juvenile justice, education, and race in America today. (Co-directors Landon Van Soest & Jeremy Levine)

**Iyabo Boyd** is a Brooklyn-based independent film producer, writer/director, and entrepreneur. She's previously held positions at Chicken & Egg Pictures, Tribeca Film Institute, Hamptons Film Festival, IFP, and has served on juries for DOC NYC, the IDA Awards, and Cinema Eye Honors. She produced the fiction feature *U' } A\|cOz] i^••* which premiered in Paris at the Champs-Élysée Film Festival in 2014. In 2015, Iyabo founded Feedback Loop, a documentary consulting organization, and started Brown Girls Doc Mafia, a collective of women filmmakers of color working in documentary. Iyabo graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a BA in Film & Television in 2006, and is a 2016 Impact Partners Creative Producing Fellow.



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**Producing Fellow: Amanda Spain**

This is the story of one of Capitalism's strangest creations and the comedy writer obsessed with rescuing this hidden world from obscurity. (Director Dava Whisenant)

**Amanda Spain** brings over 15 years of creative producing experience with her to the *V@Á Qã`•dãÄ`•BãÄ ] çã*, executive produced by David Letterman. She recently produced and directed two documentaries for ESPN: a "30 for 30" short called *Y i^•dã` \*A@Á` i^•^* and another short for their Versus series about basketball star Manute Bol, entitled *U ] } Á -Á ]` c@U` áã*. She is also producing the feature-length documentary *QÄ`&`^`S`\*æ`*, which explores the consequences of the CIA-led war in the Congo. In 2013 Amanda started Giving Voice Films, a company dedicated to producing compelling documentaries for both the large and small screen.



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**Producing Fellow: Leah Natasha Thomas**

*FHc@BÄ ] &`•cis* is an intimate and in-depth multi-part series that will shed new light on the most contested and divisive death row case in modern American history, the trial of Mumia Abu Jamal. (Director Ted Passon)

**Leah Natasha Thomas** started her career at Revolution Studios and served as the former Director of Industry Relations for Ghetto Film School. She recently produced *G Á ] Áã*, winner of the CNN Grand Jury Prize at American Black Film Festival 2014 (Netflix), and *HÄBÄÄ`ã`c`•*, winner of the Special Jury Award for Social Impact, Sundance 2015 (Participant Media, HBO). She is currently producing *QÄ` ^i`BãÄ Öãã`ã`*, a four-part documentary series focused on inequality in America, executive produced by Norman Lear,



Common, and Shonda Rhimes. She is the 2016 recipient of the NYU – Critical Collaboration Fellowship. She holds a BFA in Drama and Politics and an MA in Art and Public Policy from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.



**71 Ufa 7Jmi'**

**Producing Fellow: Danielle Varga**

As Baltimore and the nation struggle to come to terms with the bitter legacy between the police and the community, **71 Ufa 7Jmi'** will go behind the scenes as citizens and police officers reckon with one another. At a moment that is fraught with increased violence, pervasive fear, and a deepening divide, **71 Ufa 7Jmi'** will take viewers beyond the television news to explore what has become so chronically broken between police and communities. (Director Marilyn Ness)

**Danielle Varga** is a documentary filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. She most recently co-produced Kirsten Johnson's feature *Ōæ ^/æ ^/•[ }*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2016. She was an associate producer on Johanna Hamilton's *FJ F* and archival producer on Matt Wolf's *V^} æ^*, both of which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. She has worked on a number of independent feature documentaries, as well as films for PBS's American Experience and Frontline series.

The Sundance Institute Creative Producing Initiative is supported by the Arcus Foundation, Amazon Studios, Cinereach, the National Endowment for the Arts, Vimeo, SAGindie, Technicolor, Directors Guild of America, the Zygmunt & Audrey Wilf Foundation, Quiver, and the Writers Guild of America, West.

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The Sundance Institute Feature Film Program is supported by The Annenberg Foundation; Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; YouTube; RT Features; Time Warner Foundation; Amazon Studios; NBCUniversal; Jeanne Donovan Fisher; Hollywood Foreign Press Association; National Endowment for the Arts; NHK Enterprises, Inc.; Manish Mundra; The Ammon Foundation; Firestone / von Winterfeldt Family Fund; Technicolor; the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; SAGindie; The Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; Grazka Taylor; and A3 Foundation.

**Sundance Institute**

Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, Sundance Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre, and new media to create and thrive. The Institute's signature Labs, granting, and mentorship programs, dedicated to developing new work, take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences to artists in igniting new ideas, discovering original voices, and building a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *Ōæ o Á Á@Á[ ~c@; } Á æ, Ō' ~ææ Á Úææ } , Úæ Á [ { à/^, V@Á çã ä/^ Á Y æ, V@Á ~ æ^, Ōæ c Á æ•, Ú] i æ \* Á ç æ ^ } æ \*, ŌŌ^} q^{ æ q Á Ō æ ^ Á Á [ ç ^ Á æ ä Á ~ i â^/ and Ō' } Á [ { ^ . Join [Sundance Institute](#) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).*



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