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Independent Producers, Industry Advisors to Convene at 2019 Sundance Institute Creative Producing Labs & Summit

Los Angeles — Sundance Institute today announced Fellows and Advisors for the five-day 2019 Creative Producing Labs, as well as the three-day Creative Producing Summit which immediately follows; both take place at Utah’s Sundance Mountain Resort. The Labs begins July 29, and the Summit August 2. These are the flagship convenings for the Institute’s Creative Producing Program, which champions and develops current and rising generations of producers across fiction and nonfiction film.

The program, which recognizes the need for a flexible, robust support system and community in an evolving industry, features year-round mentorship, granting, education and opportunities to connect with potential financiers in addition to the annual Labs and Summit. The Institute’s annual Producers Awards, supported by Amazon Studios, recognize both Fiction and Nonfiction producers at the Sundance Film Festival’s Producers Lunch.

"Within a shifting landscape, independent producers continue to create exceptional work,” said the Institute’s Anne Lai, Director, Creative Producing and Artist Support and Kristin Feeley, Director, Labs & Artist Support, Creative Producing. “We recognize the importance of a space for meaningful dialogue and discovery between producers and forward-thinking industry. Creating a sustainable future where independent producers can continue to develop bold storytelling and take risks is a key priority for the Lab and Summit.”

Advisors for the Feature Film Program include producers Effie Brown (Dear White People, Project Greenlight), Karin Chien (Jack & Diane, Circumstance), Howard Gertler (Shortbus, How to Survive A Plague) and Peter Saraf (Little Miss Sunshine, The Farewell); screenwriter Malia Scotch Marmo (Hook, Once Around, Good Morning Karachi) and director Rhys Ernst (Adam, Transparent).

Documentary Film Program Advisors include Andrea Meditch (Ernie & Joe, The Sensitives, Buck), Bob Moore (Anote’s Ark, Tokyo Idols, Last Train Home), Heather Rae (Frozen River, Tallulah, The Dry Land), Lisa Remington (Foster, The Price of Everything, Countdown to Zero) and Melanie Miller (Inventing Tomorrow, Detour, Alaska is a Drag).

Panelists at the Creative Producing Summit include Nancy Abraham (HBO), Belisa Balaban (Hulu), Michael Barker (Sony Pictures Classics), Dori Begley (Magnolia Pictures), Jason Berman (Mandalay Pictures), Josh Braun (Submarine), Daniel Chalfen (producer), Jules Claassen (Amazon Studios), Adam Del Deo (Netflix), Jax Deluca (National Endowment for the Arts), Jessica Devaney (producer), Jeff Deutchman (NEON), Rebecca
The 2019 Creative Producing Lab Fellows are:

**Feature Film Program**

**Animal**

**Producing Fellow: Kenneth Renaldo Reynolds**

*Following the murder of his partner, an embittered game warden desperately investigates the mysterious nature of a series of horrific killings, while trying not to lose his humanity and all that he holds dear.* (Writers Hunter Burke and Nick Lavin / Director Brian C Miller Richards)

**Kenneth Renaldo Reynolds** is a proud resident of New Orleans, Louisiana who spent the early portions of his career working on a variety of projects and in various positions during his time in entertainment, mostly in broadcast events. Pivoting to producing narrative works, he produced the pilot for *Shepherd* (indie series). In 2018, Kenny was selected to participate as a fellow for the inaugural Southern Producers Lab. Most recently, he produced *Lost Bayou*, which was selected as a 2018 IFP Narrative Lab Project and made its premiere at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival.

**Bluets**

**Producing Fellow: Taylor Shung**

*A group of inner city teenagers struggle and thrive during the last two weeks of high school when a spiral of events ruptures their social circle.* (Writer/Director Hannah Peterson)

**Taylor Shung** is a producer born and raised in New York City. She recently produced the short film *Agua Viva* (directed by Alexa Lim Haas), which won the 2018 SXSW Animated Shorts Grand Jury Prize and *Mickey and The Bear* (directed by Annabelle Attanasio), which had its world premiere at SXSW and international premiere at L’acid Cannes 2019. Taylor is also a producer for Borscht Corp, a film and arts non-profit in Miami. Her feature film credits as a line producer include *Nomadland* (Chloe Zhao); *Omniboat* (Borscht); *To The Night* (Peter Brunner); *Jacqueline Argentine* (Bernardo Britto); and *A Woman, A Part* (Elisabeth Subrin).
Egg Baby
Producing Fellow: Allison Friedman
When a goth girl is partnered with her ex and the football captain on a parenting assignment to take care of an egg, she's forced to come out of her shell and confront her cracked relationships. (Writer Sawyer Perry, director Natalia Anderson)

Allison Friedman is a creative producer with a diverse slate of film and television projects. She is currently in post-production on her first independent feature, The Mortuary Collection, a dark fantasy/horror film. She also produced Sunspring and It’s No Game, short films written entirely by an AI self-named Benjamin. After receiving her MFA from the Peter Stark Producing Program at USC, Allison started her career at MGM, followed by Simon Kinberg’s production company, and most recently served as an executive at Color Force, where she worked on projects like Crazy Rich Asians and the American Crime Story series.

Nanny
Producing Fellow and Silverman Honoree: Nikkia Moulterie
While piecing together the American Dream, an immigrant nanny caring for the child of a New York City family is haunted by the presence of the child she left behind—unveiling truths that threaten to shatter the life she’s carefully constructed. (Writer/Director Nikyatu)

Nikkia Moulterie is a NY based producer, currently at Rock’n Robin Productions / ABC News. She has a short film Suicide by Sunlight, which premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, continuing the festival circuit having screened at MoMA Black Women’s Film Conference, BAMcinemaFest, AFF, Rooftop Films Summer Series, and touring with the Sundance shorts tour. She was a co-producer on the premiere season of the Peabody Award Winning Random Acts of Flyness for MVMT / HBO. Her work as a producer also includes projects at MTV, T Magazine, Netflix, Adult Swim, as well as numerous brands in the short form arena. With a passion for fearless storytelling, she is currently in development on both fiction & non-fiction projects.

The Starling Girl
Producing Fellow: Kara Durrett
A Christian fundamentalist teenager starts an affair with her youth pastor and pushes her sexual exploration to both exciting and disturbing ends. (Writer/Director Laurel Parmet)
Kara Durrett is an NYU graduate working as an independent producer in NYC and LA. Her most recent project *Topside*, from writer/directors Celine Held and Logan George, is currently in post production and was produced alongside Likely Story. She's had multiple short films, documentaries, and a feature film in over 75 festivals worldwide including Sundance, Cannes Official Selection, SXSW, Telluride, and many more. Her short film *Caroline* (with directors Held & George) was shortlisted for the Oscars in 2018 and her film *Krista* won the Vimeo Staff Pick Award at SXSW. She is currently in post production on *Save Yourselves!*, a sci-fi comedy written and directed by Alex Fisher and Eleanor Wilson.

**Documentary Film Program**

*An Act of Worship*
**Producing Fellow: Sofian Khan**
An Act of Worship follows a new generation of young Muslim-American female activists at a time when anti-Muslim sentiments in the United States are sharply on the rise. (Director Nausheen Dadabhoy)

Sofian Khan is the founder of Capital K Pictures, a New York-based production house focusing on nonfiction work. He is a 2016 MacArthur Documentary Grant recipient for *The Interpreters* (2018), which will make its broadcast premiere on PBS’ Independent Lens series in fall 2019. Currently, Sofian is producing *An Act of Worship*, a documentary feature about Muslim-American activism being made with major support from Ford Foundation’s JustFilms initiative.

*Finding Yingying*
**Producing Fellow: Diane Quon**
Finding Yingying tells the intimate, harrowing story of a Chinese family's journey as they search for their daughter, an international student kidnapped within her first weeks in Illinois in June 2017. As foreigners dealing with a complicated U.S. criminal justice system and cultural differences, Yingying's family attempts to seek justice and find closure as the mystery of what happened to Yingying unfolds. (Director Jenny Shi)

Diane Quon is the producer of the 2019 Academy Award nominated and Peabody Award-winning *Minding the Gap* directed by Bing Liu. She worked in Los Angeles for 17 years as a marketing executive for NBC and Paramount before returning to her hometown of Chicago. Diane is currently producing the Kartemquin Film documentaries: *Left-Handed Pianist* co-directed by Gordon Quinn and Leslie Simmer; *The Dilemma of Desire* directed by Maria Finitzo; and *Finding Yingying* directed by Jiayan “Jenny” Shi. She is also producing the feature documentary *Down a Dark Stairwell* directed by Ursula Liang, and is developing a fiction film based on a *New York Times* best-seller.
Pray Away
Producing Fellow: Anya Rous

*Pray Away* tells the story of the history and continuation of the "pray the gay away" or ex-gay movement. (Director: Kristine Stolakis)

Anya Rous is a Brooklyn-based Producer and Head of Partnerships at Multitude Films, an independent production company dedicated to telling stories by and about underrepresented communities. Anya co-produced the following critically-acclaimed films: *Always in Season* (Sundance Film Festival 2019), *The Feeling of Being Watched* (Tribeca 2018), and *Naila and the Uprising* (IDFA 2017), and co-executive produced *Call Her Ganda* (Tribeca 2018). Anya is an Impact Partners Documentary Producing Fellow.

The Tuba Thieves
Producing Fellow: Rachel Nederveld

Reimagining sound and the aural world, *The Tuba Thieves* fictionalizes real events and lived experiences through mis-communication and mis-hearings. Intercut with reenactments of historical concerts, a Deaf drummer explores her connection to music with her hearing father and hearing boyfriend while marching band students reconcile with tuba thefts from Los Angeles high schools. (Director Alison O’Daniel)

Rachel Nederveld is an independent producer based in Los Angeles who cut her teeth in film working on documentaries about Cajun and Creole culture. Her most recent film *Clara’s Ghost* (dir. Bridey Elliott) premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival followed by a theatrical release and the short films *Lou* (dir. Clara Balzary) starring Joaquin Phoenix, Sasha Frolova, and Odessa Young premiered at TIFF 2018 and *Momster* (dir. Drew Denny) with Annapurna starring Brianna Hildebrand and Amanda Plummer premiered at Tribeca Film Festival 2019. Current projects include the docu-hybrid feature *The Tuba Thieves* (dir. Alison O’Daniel) which is a 2019 Creative Capital Award Winner and has screened in various forms internationally, and *The Freeze*, a documentary exploring a line dance phenomenon. Rachel was a 2018 IFP Cannes Producing Fellow.

Through the Night
Producing Fellow: Jameka Autry

To make ends meet, Americans are working longer hours across multiple jobs. This modern reality of non-stop work has resulted in an unexpected phenomenon: the flourishing of 24-hour daycare centers. *Through the Night* is a verité documentary that explores the personal cost of our modern economy through the stories of Marisol Valencia, Shanona Tate and Delores “Nunu” Hogan - two working mothers and a childcare provider - whose lives intersect at a 24-hour daycare center in New Rochelle, NY. (Director Loira Limbal)
Jameka Autry is a New York based director and creative producer. In 2017 she was named an Impact Partners Creative Producers Fellow and she is also a 2019-20 Post-Graduate Fellow of the Investigative Reporting Program at the UC Berkeley School of Journalism. She is currently wrapping up production on Loira Limbal's *Through the Night* and *Down A Dark Stairwell* (dir. Ursula Liang). She previously produced *Ernie & Joe, MARATHON: The Patriots Day Bombing* (HBO), *In My Father's House* (Showtime) and consulted on *Love, Gilda* (CNN). Most recently, she was selected for DOC NYC's inaugural 40 Under 40 list.

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The Sundance Institute Feature Film Program is supported by the Annenberg Foundation; Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; YouTube; Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation; Universal Filmed Entertainment Group; Amazon Studios; Hollywood Foreign Press Association; Karen Lauder; Sandra and Malcolm Berman Charitable Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; NHK/NHK Enterprises, Inc.; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; SAGindie; Philip Fung—A3 Foundation; Directors Guild of America; Writers Guild of America West; Rosalie Swedlin and Robert Cort; the Deborah Reinisch and Michael Theodore Fund; and Grazka Taylor.

**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 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 *Sorry to Bother You, Eighth Grade, Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, *Hereditary, RBG, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Top of the Lake, Winter's Bone, Dear White People, Brooklyn, Little Miss Sunshine, 20 Feet From Stardom, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Fruitvale Station, I'm Poppy, America to Me, Leimert Park, Spring Awakening, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder and Fun Home*. Join **Sundance Institute** on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **Twitter** and **YouTube**.

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