



MFA IN FILM & TV

IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILLER FILMS 

Welcome!

MFA Information Session - December 1st 6:00 P.M. On Zoom. Join Us!

We're holding a Zoom Open House for prospective students on December 1st at 6pm EST. This will be an opportunity for those interested in the Stony Brook Film and TV Writing programs to hear directly from our Artistic Director, Christine Vachon of Killer Films, our Director of the MFA in Television, Alan Kingsberg, students, and other faculty. They will discuss the Stony Brook Film and Television curriculum, the application process and the exciting opportunities our programs offer. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the Information Session. We hope to see you there!

RSVP to: mfamanhattan@stonybrook.edu

End of Year Screenings

On Saturday, October 23rd, Stony Brook's Film MFA hosted their annual in-person screening for Productions I and II at the Cinopolis movie theater in Chelsea. Executive Director Magdalene Brandeis said, "This is really emotional for me. In March 2020, we sent students off with their greenlit projects and their gear, and then had to pull the cameras from them at lockdown, before they got to shoot a single frame. We've been promising this screening since then. It means a lot to be finally be able to do this." Production II student, Parker Cowden, also spoke about what this screening meant during such a difficult year: "It's been quite the journey to get to this point, but I'm so proud of everyone for staying the course and making such amazing films. It speaks volumes about this class and I feel truly lucky to be a part of it." After viewing all the students' wonderful films, indie legend and MFA program Artistic Director Christine Vachon gave some encouraging words when speaking to the crowd: "This is just the beginning, that's so exciting. You're all extraordinary storytellers. Every single film had something really special and unique to you in it. And I can't wait to see what you do next." Overall, the night was summed up well by student Rory Aylward who said, "We've been through some dark times lately but there are better days ahead and it will be artists who lead us out of the darkness."

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New Screenings. New Faculty. Prospective New Students. November is the month of new things for Stony Brook Manhattan and we can't wait to share our journey with you!

Tune in to this newsletter to find out more!



NEW FACULTY

We are thrilled to welcome award-winning TV Writer Jacquelyn Reingold to our faculty. Jackie is teaching our Showrunner class where she runs a mock writers room. The class works to develop season arcs and to break stories for one of Jackie's unproduced pilot scripts, giving students a first experience in a professional writers room. An Executive Producer and writer for *THE GOOD FIGHT*, Jackie has also written and produced for Netflix's *GRACE AND FRANKIE* as well as CBS' *BRAINDEAD*, NBC's *SMASH*, NBC's *LAW AND ORDER: CI*, MTV's *DARIA* and much more.



For the third year in a row, thesis student James Evans, MFA alumna Amy Gaipa and and undergrad alumni Matthew Arasmo have organized the Annual Mastic Beach Mini Indie Film Fest. These amazing filmmakers have worked tirelessly to create a place that celebrates artists from all walks of life, perspectives, and geographical locations, both domestic and foreign, with the help of Donna's House Productions.

A Discussion With Iturri Sosa

The first-year TV cohort and the TV writing community at large enjoyed an illuminating discussion last Monday by former student, Iturri Sosa, who has written for *Gotham*, *The Deuce*, *All Rise* and *Narcos: Mexico*. MFA in TV Writing director Alan Kingsberg and the class discussed Iturri's latest episode of *Narcos*, "Boots on the Ground", her experience with fellowships, and how her background as a researcher and anthropologist plays into her unique writing style and process!

An Evening of Readings

On November 9, each of the film students in Lenny Crooks' fabulous Advanced Party Class shared their writing in an evening of table reads. During the semester, the students created 10-minute short film script, all featuring different selections of the same nine characters. Actors from the William Esper Studio played these characters for the table readings. Andy Fidoten, a student of Crooks' had this to say about the experience: "It's an amazing opportunity to see your words spring off the page as the actors bring these characters to life. It was such a joy to be a part of."



"Happily Ever After"

Not only are our students creating beautiful works of art and magnificent stories, they're living them as well. Recent TV Writing graduates Brittany Ramjattan and Andrew Beguin are getting married and living out their own unscripted fairytale. Their Professor, Alan Kingsberg, remembers Brittany wowed Andrew when she brought home-baked vegan brownies to class and Andrew impressed Brittany when he donated his year-long ponytail to charity. But it wasn't until they started talking "A" stories and character arcs that the sparks really flew.

"How We Got Here"

First-year MFA students Andy Fidoten and Gabby Brown are two native New Yorkers who grew up around the arts but never saw a path into the world of film and TV - until they each investigated and found Stony Brook.

"We are the hidden film school, only one office-building-floor-size big, where the teacher who sits at the front of the classroom was shouted out...at the Emmys by Ewan McGregor" Andy states, proudly. "Our professors are working to craft a new model for a film school education, one that emphasizes collaboration, authentic and intentionally crafted storytelling." The TV program, while being, as Gabby notes, "unbelievably difficult to explain to [her] grandmother," encourages its students to "work hard and smart" with "advice for the moment, not for 10 years ago." Bringing experience teaching at Columbia and Sarah Lawrence, MFA Program Director Alan Kingsberg, whose former students are today's showrunners, told us on the first day that he "no longer wants to see TV treated as the 'poor stepchild of film' in academic spaces".

A special thank you to William Esper Studios for supplying the amazing talent for our Table Read for Leonard Crooks' Advance Party Class!

Connect With Us!

Thank you for tuning into our second newsletter of the school year! See you in our next edition. Be sure to follow us on our social media pages for any summer updates:

Instagram: [@sbufilmty](https://www.instagram.com/sbufilmty)

Twitter: [@sbufilmty](https://twitter.com/sbufilmty)

Facebook: [@sbufilmty](https://www.facebook.com/sbufilmty)



To apply to our Film or TV Writing MFA programs or for more information, please visit

<http://stonybrook.edu/film-tv-writing>

