



Presenter Biographies – ScriptDC 2025

MARILYN R. ATLAS is a talent and literary manager and award-winning producer. Her clients have appeared in shows such as STAR TREK, FRINGE, PRETTY LITTLE LIARS, HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER, 90210, REVENGE, HART OF DIXIE, NCIS:LA, TRUE BLOOD, DEXTER, CHUCK, CASTLE, and CRIMINAL MINDS. She was film producer on REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES for HBO, which won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival; A CERTAIN DESIRE, starring Sam Waterston; and ECHOES, which won the Gold Award at the Texas International Film Festival.

In addition to producing a variety of programming for the cable/pay TV market. In live theater, Marilyn co-produced the West Coast premiere of the musical *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater* by Ashman and Menken (the writers of ENCHANTED and TANGLED). She also co-produced the award-winning play *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*.

Marilyn herself has been in development on pilots for Showtime and ABC Family. In addition to Marilyn's film/TV credits, she has sold (first time) novels *Chasing the Jaguar* to HarperCollins to Hachette Book Ave Maria Bed & Breakfast to Grand Central Publishing, and the Hungry Woman in Paris, Group, and the Last Ride of Caleb O'Toole to Sourcebooks Her Lifetime movie THE CHOKING GAME based on the YA book by Diana Lopez aired in summer 2014. She is also featured in the book *Write Now!* from Penguin/Tarcher. She is the co-author of a relationship-based, screenwriting guide called *Dating Your Character*, about an organic approach to character creation for Stairway Press.

KATE BEYDA is Executive Vice President of Physical Production for New Line Cinema, with oversight spanning all aspects of physical production for the company's slate of theatrical and streaming features. A longtime New Line veteran, Beyda joined the company as Senior Vice President of Physical Production in 2002 and was elevated to her current role in 2015. Throughout her tenure, she has mounted productions all over the world, including critical and popular successes WEAPONS, FINAL DESTINATION BLOODLINES, MORTAL KOMBAT, THE CONJURING Universe and IT franchises, *San Andreas*, *The Hobbit* Trilogy and the blockbuster comedies ELF, GAME NIGHT and WEDDING CRASHERS, among others.

Beyda started her career in the world of low-budget independent filmmaking, working in a variety of production roles on such memorable films as the cult hit TAPEHEADS, starring John Cusack and Tim Robbins; the Paul Bartel comedy SCENES FROM THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN BEVERLY HILLS; Taylor Hackford's EVERYBODY'S ALL-AMERICAN; and John Hughes' CHRISTMAS VACATION and UNCLE BUCK. After taking a role as Senior Production Coordinator at Disney Touchstone, Beyda returned to freelance production, working alternately as a Production Coordinator, Unit Production Manager and Associate producer on a string of films which led her to join the executive ranks at New Line Cinema.

Beyda is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and The Director's Guild of America. She teaches a graduate level class at UCLA entitled *Physical Production for Creatives* and has a newly published textbook from Routledge Press entitled "*The Creative Producing Handbook – An Insider's Guide to Production*".

BURNING STUDIO is a creative house built for bold storytelling, real emotion, and cinematic visual work. Founded in Ashburn, Virginia, founders **Andres Cruz** and **Isaac Latimer**, work with clients who want more than just content — they want to be *felt*. From short films to branded shoots, documentaries to social campaigns, we bring vision to life with a cinematic touch and a human core. Every frame we shoot, every cut we make, is crafted to reflect the people and purpose behind the project. Founded by storytellers. Built for the future. Always BURNING.

ANNA CAMPBELL was born in Portland, OR. After attending Vassar College, she moved back to the west coast to pursue her dreams of being an actor in Los Angeles, with her first speaking role being on *Veronica Mars* and her most recent being on *NCIS*. It took a few years before realizing that producing and directing were an essential part of having a significant voice in the stories being made, at which point she fully embraced being a hyphenate. *NORA* is her first feature film.

I hope that more women are met with the support I received when I finally asked that it was my turn to pour myself into something as all-consuming as making my first feature. I want to fight for a world where women are encouraged to create their own space and dare to dream with insane flights of fantasy. I hope this inspires mothers to include their children in their dreams, so we can inspire a new generation of over-imaginative thinkers who can change the world.

KATIE CULLIGAN is a working actor based in the Mid-Atlantic, with a growing body of credits in film, television, and commercial work. In addition to her on-camera and stage career, she is the founder of the Mid-Atlantic Screen Artists Forum, a collaborative community dedicated to connecting, supporting, and empowering screen actors in the region. With a passion for both performance and professional development, Katie brings firsthand knowledge of navigating today's industry outside of New York and Los Angeles, and is committed to fostering opportunities for actors to thrive right here in the Mid-Atlantic. www.katieculligan.com

LISA HODSOLL is an actor, filmmaker, writer and producer whose most recent work was on *Law & Order SVU* (NBC), *Tires* (Netflix), *Chicago P.D.* (NBC), and the Apple TV + Series "Lady In the Lake". She is the founder and artistic director of Open Road, a not for profit arts group that promotes and supports independent artists, playwrights and filmmakers: <https://theopenroadarts-officialwebsite.com/> and the founder of the Open Road Film festival for Shorts. For more information: <https://www.imdb.me/lisamhodsoll>

BRENNA MCDONOUGH is a full-time professional actor and author. Her work includes commercials, corporate videos, indie, feature films and voice over work. She founded her own studio, On-Camera Training, in 1995 in Silver Spring, MD. Brenna began her career in her hometown of Chicago where she was a student of Paul Sills at Second City. She then studied and worked in Los Angeles and New York before settling in the Washington, DC area. She has taught her on-camera acting class at New York

University, Catholic University of America and the University of Maryland as well as Shakespeare Theatre Education and Theatre Lab. Brenna recently directed her first indie, *Unheard Melodies* for RSK Productions. She and her actor husband, John Leslie Wolfe are the co-authors of *You Can Work On-Camera*. This book is used in several universities and schools. She is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA and Actors Center.

KATHI OVERTON has more than 25 years of professional production experience in film, video, and multimedia production - including webcasting and streaming, and can serve in a variety of crew positions: Camera operator or assistant camera (on location or in the studio); Audio technician (on location or in the studio); Grip/electric on the lighting crew; Playback/record operator; Technical director; Teleprompter operator; Producer or associate producer; Utility or production assistant.

LESLIE RALSTON RAKOW has been the production manager at Rocket Media Group for more than 10 years, working on a wide variety of projects, ranging from crewing for studio and location productions to managing logistics on complex public television documentaries and dramatic narrative films. Leslie also has an extensive background as an editor for clients including Discovery Networks, National Geographic, Department of Veterans Affairs, Pentagon Channel and many other broadcast and federal agencies.

MARK RICCHE is co-founder and CEO of the award-winning indie film production company CrypticPictures.com, a privately held production/management company with offices in the U.S. founded in 2009. The company focuses on digital theatrical releases, independent film production and script management services for the independent film market. Learn more at <https://www.markricche.com/biography>

MIKE ROSE is a lighting designer and photographer who has collaborated with brands like National Geographic, Bravo, and PBS. His expertise spans corporate, government, and reality TV productions, where he is recognized for his creative and technical approach. When he's not working on a video production, he's focused on photographing DC's lively music scene.

LISA SCOTT's destiny is to feed imaginations with stories that rarely get told. A former Washington, DC catering chef whose knives once carved a path through the city's most prestigious events, after years of serving the political elite, her vivid fantasy life demanded center stage. She declared: *"It is no longer my destiny to feed people's bellies. My destiny is to feed people's imaginations—with my storytelling."*

Lisa's storytelling is bold, visual, and visceral. She crafts narratives that place audiences inside situations they know exist, but from the perspective of someone unafraid to act. Her characters—often drawn from underrepresented voices—dare audiences to feel deeply: to empathize, to cry, to cheer when the impossible is accomplished. Her work thrives on real-world, socio-political issues — stories urgent and timeless, the kind that cut through the noise, spark laughter or tears, and wake people up. She thrives in uncommon spaces, taking audiences down roads rarely traveled, into worlds where risk and resilience collide.

Now, alongside writing daring, original stories, Lisa is committed to sharing her journey with other aspiring screenwriters—helping them move past hurdles faster, find their unique voices, and step boldly into the game of storytelling.

NINA GILDEN SEAVEY is an Emmy Award-winning documentarian with a 35-year career in the non-fiction world. Her projects can be seen in theaters, on television and digital media, in museum installations, heard in podcasts, and read in print and on-line publications across the globe.

Seavey is the Founding Director of The Documentary Center at the George Washington University which she led for 30 years. She currently holds the academic rank of Research Professor Emerita of History and of Media and Public Affairs at GWU. She is also the Founding Director of SILVERDOCS, the documentary festival hosted by the American Film Institute (AFI). Under her decade-long leadership, the festival became the largest showcase for documentaries in the US.

Information about Seavey's long stewardship and activities in the documentary film world can be seen at [Seavey Media](#)

SHEILA SMITH is an award-winning director of photography who films documentaries, television programs, commercials, sports, independent features, PSAs, political spots, dance, and music. Her clients include BBC, PBS, NBC, ABC and many others. She specializes in lighting, visual storytelling, and dance video. She has Sony FX9 and F5 camera packages, lighting, etc. Sheila has filmed all over the US and the world for documentaries, television shows and dance videos. Sheila is on the WIFV Board of Directors, a contributor to GalsNGear, and loves mentoring upcoming DP's and Steadicam operators.

CONNIE ST. JOHN has been an industry executive for more than 30 years. She began her entertainment career in publicity at Columbia TriStar Television in Los Angeles. She then joined Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. in Atlanta, first in their TNT Originals division, then heading the PR department for Turner Program Services, the syndication division. Connie then joined Harpo Productions, managing PR for Oprah Winfrey. While there, she successfully pitched the idea for what would become Oprah's Angel Network. She also oversaw the PR campaign for *Oprah Runnin' Wild with Tina*, traveling on tour with Oprah and Tina Turner. Later, Connie joined the Public Responsibility department at Sara Lee Corporation, where she and her team addressed issues of concern for women and minorities on a local, national, and global scale.

In 1999, Connie returned to LA and founded her production company No Weapon Productions, which produces family friendly entertainment for the screen and stage. Her award-winning first short film, THE MESSAGE, screened at festivals around the country, and at the Cannes Film Festival. Her second short film, ASUNDER, was also screened at Cannes. In addition to writing shorts, television spec scripts, and full-length features, Connie has written and produced more than 100 stage plays and skits.

After 20 years in California, Connie returned to Washington, DC in 2019. She re-launched No Weapon Productions, and established a consulting company, the St. John Consulting Group, through which she works with cultural influencers. She also serves on the executive board of the number one arts school in the country, L.A. County High School for the Arts.

MONDA RAQUEL WEBB is an award-winning author, filmmaker and performing artist. She is an independent storyteller dedicated to telling little known stories hidden in the crevices of history's pages through her production company, Little Known Stories. A visual archeologist, she's committed to organic storytelling from a woman's lens, that elevates, educates, entertains and uplifts humanity.

Monda has written, directed and produced three short films that deeply impact the human experience. *ZOO (Volkerschau)* and *POOCH SITTER* are a visual retrospective for societal dregs, racism and homelessness. To date, Monda has received international recognition and over 50 awards for both films. Her new short, *MOTHER KNOWS BEST*, a thought-provoking social impact film, is on the festival circuit with wins for Best Film, Actor and Actress thus far. Monda's current project is *PORTRAITS IN BLACK: Honoring our National Treasures* which tells the stories of eight African-Americans who lived through watershed moments that changed the trajectory of this country's history. Additionally, Monda has written and published *Life is Like a Soul Train Line*, *A Peek Into My Soul, 7:33 am* and *Red Clay Dirt & Mountains*.