

VOL.15 |
OCTOBER 2023

 Stony Brook University
Lichtenstein Center

MFA IN TV WRITING & MFA IN FILM

Manhattan Center



IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILLER FILMS



MFA in Television
Writing Open House:
October 16th,
6:30pm-7:30pm

Applications are open, which means it's time for Stony Brook Manhattan's MFA in TV Writing Open House! Ready to create a writing portfolio that can launch your career? Come speak with current students and program Director **Alan Kingsberg**, get your questions answered, and learn more about one of the most comprehensive television writing programs in the country.



FOLLOWING THE OPEN HOUSE...



stay and join us for an in-person conversation at 8:00 p.m. with Debora Cahn, showrunner of *The Diplomat* and former writer/producer on *Homeland*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *The West Wing*. This is a great chance to hear about her amazing career, writing process, and advice on how to break into the industry.

Both events will be at our midtown Manhattan Center for Creative Writing and Film, 535 Eighth Avenue, NY, 10018. RSVP to either or both events at MFAManhattan@stonybrook.edu.

MFA IN FILM INFO SESSION & OPEN CLASSROOM!

Tuesday October 24th

Step inside the Master Class in Independent Film Production with Artistic Director **Christine Vachon**, co-founder of Killer Films. Her guest will be **Sam Lisenco**, who has worked with everyone from Greta Gerwig, to Shaka King, to the Safdies

RSVP to MFAManhattan@stonybrook.edu

Admissions for MFAs in Film & TV Writing
for Fall '24 Now Open!





FALL SCREENINGS

10 / 17 / 2023

10AM - 5PM

In partnership with Killer Films, Stony Brook is excited to put on its **annual Fall Screenings** at Film at Lincoln Center. Coming up on Tuesday, October 17th, 23 of our best and brightest will bring the short films that are the culmination of their first and second year productions – to the big screen.

FILM AT LINCOLN CENTER

STUDENT ✨ ✨ HIGHLIGHTS

Students in TV Writing



Austin Film Festival

Join us in congratulating two of our current TV writing students **Baylor Knobloch** and **Nelson Downend** for advancing to the semifinals of the **Austin Film Festival!**



Baylor Knobloch

Baylor Knobloch is a writer inspired by female-centered stories. Her Hacks spec script, *The Gag*, is a semifinalist at the 2023 Austin Film Festival.

The script follows Deborah as she attempts to throw a charity fundraiser to boost her celebrity image while Ava falls hard for the charity organization's assistant, leading both comedians to soon learn that they've gotten into bed with the wrong kind of philanthropists.



Nelson Downend

Nelson's one-hour dramatic comedy *Sick & Tired* recently advanced to the semifinals at the Austin Film Festival. *Sick & Tired* chronicles the friendship between a fifty-five year old alcoholic and a twenty-four year old bulimic who meet by chance while throwing up in the same public bathroom. The two form an unlikely bond as they attempt to address their unresolved trauma, mend fences with estranged family, and slowly head down the path toward recovery.

Let's root these two talented writers on to the finals and beyond!



SHARK

Third-year TV Writer **Greg Abbey** was a semi-finalist at **Slamdance Film Festival** (top 8 scripts), and at the **Shore Scripts Competition**. *Shark* tells the story of Quinn Sullivan, a self-destructive 19 year-old Columbia University student who must come to terms with her traumatic past

and schizophrenic father to become the number one women's pool player in the world.



Maya of Brooklyn

Recent Alum **Brittany Ramjattan**'s pilot *Maya of Brooklyn* won the screenplay competition at the **Big Apple Film Festival** for both the family and women-led series categories.



Sundance Ignite

Laila Wilson, a second-year TV Writing student, was selected as one of five filmmakers to attend the 2023 **Sundance Film Festival** by **YoungArts**, an organization supporting nationally recognized youth across artistic disciplines. The YoungArts at Sundance Ignite Program opportunity includes industry mentorship, Sundance festival credentials, and screening tickets.

Students in Film



Caterkillar

Director **Grant Herson** becomes the first thesis student to **go into contract with a production company**. Troma Entertainment will co-produce Herson's thesis feature *Caterkillar*, an offbeat horror-comedy that follows two friends as they try to survive a half-caterpillar/half-man humanoid creature.



Miss Mermaid

SBU is excited to highlight Film student **Peggy Tseng** and her recently completed thesis feature, *Miss Mermaid*. A deeply personal tale, this story follows May, an ambitious law school student in Taipei, who is called to New York City when her sister slips into a coma after having a premature baby.

According to Peggy, the film explores **her experiences in her immigration to the United States**:

“ Growing up in a mixed, Americanized culture, what kind of person does that make me? What are we searching for in America? What is the American dream in our generation? What is the price for American dreams? This story is dedicated to those who struggle between different cultural values.

Congratulations, Peggy!



Choices & Committed

Join us in congratulating our second year film student **Lina Sarrapochiello**, who has had two of her short films selected for film festivals.

Choices is the story of a single father who has to venture out of his comfort zone in order to support his teen-aged daughter when she faces a life-changing issue. It was an official selection at the **2023 Socially Relevant Film Festival** in NYC and chosen as Best of the Fest at the **2023 Glass Ceiling Breakers Festival** in the Hudson Valley.

Committed is the story of the subtle and often hilarious private moments of a couples-therapy session. It was an official selection at the **2023 Chain Film Festival** and was awarded Best Student Film.



CONNECT WITH US!

THANK YOU FOR TUNING INTO OUR FALL '23
NEWSLETTER. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL FOR
UPDATES!



INSTAGRAM :

@sbufilemtv



FACEBOOK:

@sbufilemtv



EMAIL:

MFAManhattan@stonybrook.edu



WEBSITE:

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

