

2014 Conference Speaker List

As of 09/26/2014

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: DENNIS DORTCH & NUMA PERRIER

BLACK&SEXYTV



DENNIS DORTCH

Chief Creative Officer

Dennis is a 2008 Sundance Film Festival Alumni and Gotham Award nominee for Breakthrough Director for his feature film debut **A Good Day to be Black and Sexy**. Dennis co-created *The Couple* (in development at HBO) and *Roomieloverfriends* (Best Web Series 2013 ABFF). As a visionary he oversees all productions and growth strategies, and works hands on as a writer and director. **Keynote Speaker for Opening Session, and Panelist for Directors Roundtable.**

NUMA PERRIER

Director of Programming and Development

Numa is an actress, visual artist, filmmaker, and pioneer of online entertainment. She is Co-Founder of the network **Black&SexyTV** where she nurtures projects from script to screen. She writes for and stars as "Chick" in the popular series *The Couple* which is being developed as a TV series for HBO with Spike Lee attached as Executive Producer. Numa is co-creator and writer for the network's hit series *Roomieloverfriends* (Best Web Series ABFF 2013) and is creator and director of the controversial mockumentary, **Yellow: The Pleasures and Problems of the Light Skinned Black Man**. She's responsible for developing crowd favorite *Hello Cupid*, (Official Selection Tribeca NOW 2014). She also co-created the network's first all-male talk show *Minute Man*. She is co-writing the Lorraine Hansberry biopic, set to be her feature film directorial debut. **Keynote Speaker for Opening Session, and Panelist for Directors Roundtable.**

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MICHAEL C DONALDSON, Esq



MICHAEL C DONALDSON is an entertainment attorney who has been fighting for independent filmmakers for over thirty-five years. He recently testified before Congress on copyright reform relating to Orphan Works. Dubbed the "legal Obi Wan Kenobi" and fair use guru of the documentary film set" by the American Bar Association, Michael has gained a national reputation as an expert on clearance- and rights- related issues. He successfully negotiated with insurance companies to offer fair use riders on the E&O insurance policies which has allowed many films to be made under the fair use doctrine. He served on the Advisory Committee for the Documentary Filmmakers Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use and currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the Stanford Fair Use Project. Michael is the past President of The International Documentary Association (IDA) and current General Counsel to Film Independent and Writers Guild of America/West Foundation. He co-wrote The American Bar Association's Legal Guide to Independent Filmmaking with his partner Lisa Callif. He also wrote Clearance & Copyright (soon to be in its fourth edition), which is used as a textbook in over 50 colleges and universities. **Keynote Speaker for Closing Session, and Panelist for Legal Panel: Intellectual Property.**

2014 Conference Speaker List

As of 09/26/2014

(Listed alphabetically by last name)



LY BOLIA, MFA is Assistant Professor of Film/Video, with creative specializations as a writer, director, editor and cinematographer. Bolia's films have been screened on the Learning Channel, PBS, Comedy Central Network, RDF Media, National Geographic Channel, and at the Lincoln Center. More than thirty film festivals have screened his work, including Atlanta, Santa Fe, Bronx, Birmingham Ala., Sarasota, Chicago, and Sedona Az., where he has won awards for Best Acting, Best Directing, People's Choice Awards, Best of Character and Best Picture at various festivals. Bolia's work spans feature films, short films, public service announcements, and political campaign advertisements. His work has been distributed on DVD, and reviewed in Variety Magazine, Hollywood Reporter, Village Voice, TV Guide, Box Office Magazine, Filmmaker Magazine, and Entertainment Today. Research Areas: Cinematography; Film Lighting & Editing. Degree Track Affiliations: Ph.D. (Moving Image Studies), M.F.A., M.A. (Film & Video). Core Graduate Seminars Regularly Taught: Postproduction, Lighting, Cinematography. **Instructor for Intro to Lighting Workshop.**



BRENT BROOKS With his start in improv comedy Brent has performed, organized and taught improv since taking his first class at Georgia State in 1997. Later Brent founded "Blank Stage Productions" where he produced several projects and started up an Internet show called *ThriveAmerica*. The show brought on a large number of highly successful business leaders where Brent learned the art of networking and a successful mindset. Working as a co-founder of Get Connected alongside Autumn Bailey and Cynthia Collins, Brent is constantly conjuring up ways for folks to maximize the networking experience. He created "CineCentral & CrewCall" a speed networking solution, he created the Get Connected Screening Room and works with each of the filmmakers and develops interactive workshop experiences. Currently Brent works as an actor with the J Pervis Talent Agency, a writer for self-produced projects and a hired filmmaker. He co-manages the "Blank Page Screenwriting" program, writes and produces demo scenes for actors and is working on a new web series with his beautiful wife, Lilian Brooks. **Instructor for Intro to Industry Networking Lunch Break.**



JOY BROWN is a graduate of the University of Georgia, Henry W. Grady School of Journalism, Joy holds a degree in Mass Communications with a concentration in Broadcast Journalism. She followed her degree to a career focused in marketing communications that led ultimately to executive management. After a long run as the VP of an unbranded fuel company, Joy found she longed to use her more creative degree and landed at ASV Productions where, for over 15 years, she has utilized her combined marketing and management experience and honed her skills as an account executive, client developer, creative consultant, script writer, and producer. Since 1997, Joy has produced dozens of ASV Productions and conducted interviews, written scripts, edited, and post produced multiple award-winning pieces. **Panelist for Realities of Corporate Production.**



AMANI CHANNEL Amani Channel, MA is a broadcaster, an educator, an award-winning storyteller, a video producer, and a communications professional. He helps brands, nonprofits, individuals and students tell traditional and digital stories. During his career he's worked as a news reporter, PR practitioner, content/community manager, media consultant, and he's an award-winning video producer. He provides media consulting and corporate storytelling services through Visual Eye Media, and serves as an adjunct professor. Channel's content, commentary, and reports have been featured across the airwaves on outlets like NPR, APTN (Associated Press Television News), CNN, Headline News, Fox News Channel, BET, Black Family Channel, HDNews, and across the Web. He's also managed digital and broadcast PR campaigns with brands that include Visa, Coca-Cola, Hershey's, Chick-fil-A, and IHG. Channel often speaks at conferences, workshops, and universities across the country about traditional and new media. He's taught video production at Hillsborough Community College, Connecticut School of Broadcasting in Tampa, FL; the University of West Georgia, Kennesaw State University, and Southern Polytechnic University. **Instructor for Digital Content Creation for Mobile Devices and Web.**



QURENTIA (TIA) CHESTER Qurentia (Tia) Chester is Senior Assistant for Dr. Sanjay Gupta with CNN Medical in Atlanta, Georgia. During Tia's tenure she has assisted with projects for CNN AC360, Larry King, CNN Newsroom, CBS 60 minutes & TNT. She has also assisted in PR projects that have obtained Dr. Gupta in publications such as Time magazine, People, Prevention, Redbook & TV shows such as Oprah, The Doctor's, The Talk, Conan O'Brien & recently appeared on Dr. Oz with Dr. Gupta in January 2013. With more than 10 years of media experience, Tia has enjoyed almost 7 years at CNN working in HLN, CNN Guest Bookings, CNN Documentary Unit & CNN Media ops. Her very first job after graduating Oakwood was with Calysto PR; which is a telecom PR company. Besides, all of her CNN duties she is also assisting with the new medical drama on TNT entitled Monday Mornings. **Moderator for Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution.**



K.L. COLLINS is a Cornell graduate with nearly two decades of entertainment industry experience. He has worked for several studios, including Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros. and DreamWorks. He wrote for the Showtime series "Soul Food" and penned the novel "The Unveiling: 1.0." Collins currently teaches screenwriting for television and film at SCAD Atlanta. **Instructor for Beginners Writing Workshop: Story Development, and Advanced Writing Workshop: Navigating the Re-Write.**



BRETT DISMUKE is President of Entertainment for Moguldom Studios and the former SVP of Acquisitions and Urban Programming for Image Entertainment/One Village Studio. He has over 20 years of marketing, sales and branding experience. In addition to locating and securing new content, Dismuke oversees strategic planning, financial management, brand-building and product lines for the division. Over the last few years, One Village Entertainment has acquired several films including 35 & Ticking, a theatrical comedy starring Kevin Hart, Meagan Good, Wendy Raquel Robinson and Nicole Ari Parker, What My Husband Doesn't Know, a musical stage play written and directed by David E. Talbert and starring Michelle Williams and Brian White, and All Things Fall Apart, a critically-acclaimed, drama, starring Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Mario Van Peebles, Lynn Whitfield and Ray Liotta. In various roles he held with PolyGram Group Distribution, Dismuke was responsible for all retail activities, promotions, advertising, sales, and marketing activities for Def Jam, Motown, Mercury, A&M, Island Black Music and Verve. He also created memorable and explosive campaigns for legendary artists such as Jay-Z, Redman, Method Man and Brian McKnight. Next as Urban Marketing Specialist for Universal Music and Video Distribution, he was the driving force behind stellar marketing campaigns for Mary J. Blige, Patti LaBelle, DMX, Ja Rule and other artists. Dismuke is a Chicago native and currently lives in Atlanta where he spends time with his son, enjoys all sports, especially baseball and listening to good music. **Panelist for Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution.**



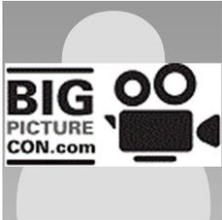
DEBORAH RILEY DRAPER is a marketing guru and award-winning filmmaker. Her debut film **Versailles '73: American Runway Revolution** was heralded by New York Times and Los Angeles Times film critics and film festival selections at St. Louis International Film Festival, Denver DocNights, Elle Croatia Fashion Film Festival, John Hopkins Film Festival, New York Winter Film Fest, L'Oreal Australian Fashion Film Festival and winner of CNN Outstanding Documentary at Martha's Vineyards African American Film Festival. Film also appeared by invitation at New York Fashion Week, Toronto Fashion Week, Saudi Design Week and Holon Fashion Week. Deborah is currently writing and directing **Olympic Pride, American Prejudice**, the story of the 18 African American Olympians at the 1936 Games in Berlin. Deborah is the Client Service Director of Iris Worldwide, a creative agency with 19 offices across the Globe and is a die-hard FSU Seminole fan. **Panelist for Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution.**



CHRIS ESCOBAR is a first-generation American who has been proud to call Atlanta home for over a decade. Through his background as a filmmaker and live-event producer, Chris has been fortunate enough to help tell Atlanta's story through signature events such as the Peach Drop and Lighting of the Macy's Tree during his time working for Entertainment Design Group. In collaboration with Georgia State University, WSB-TV and the Atlanta Journal Constitution, Chris recently completed a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to create an iPhone app that is an interactive-multimedia tour of the State of Georgia Capitol building. Chris joined the Executive Board of Atlanta Film Festival 365 in 2010 where he was able to help use the moving image art form to help tell more of Atlanta's story, and has been working as the organization's Director since 2012. He is currently a Master of Arts degree candidate in Moving Image Studies with a concentration in production at Georgia State University where he has been working closely with the Digital Arts Entertainment Lab (DAEL). **Panelist for Intro to Industry Organizations.**



KEN FEINBERG can call upon a productive three-dimensional career that embodies performing, writing and directing. He has a long list of credits that demonstrate the fortitude of his craft. His broad knowledge of the industry and his devotion to the arts, whether on film, television or stage, has been expressed in his many accomplishments. For over 18 years Feinberg has been directing, writing, producing and acting in award-winning films, hit television series and major theater projects in Los Angeles, New York and Atlanta. He has won numerous awards in more than 50 productions, and he has achieved a great deal in the years he has been in Hollywood after nurturing his career in New York and Atlanta. **Panelist for Rules of Engagement for Actors.**



JAE FOSTER is the Director of PeopleTV, public access television station in Atlanta, GA. **Panelist for Intro to Industry Organizations.**



DAVID GEORGE is cinematographer and film educator at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN where he acts as the coordinator of the film program that he helped found in. When asked about what first drew him to film, he recalls seeing the film "Chariots of Fire" as a child. That experience inspired him- with the artful juxtaposition of philosophy, character, and competition. It wasn't until after learning how to use camera and editing equipment as a teenager that he thought he might be able to be involved in filmmaking himself. His love of the creative and technical challenges of photography eventually led him to focusing on cinematography. In 2003 he completed his M.F.A in video/film from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Having shot numerous short form narratives and commercial works, he helped spearhead the production of the family adventure film "Secret of the Cave" in 2005. He was producer and cinematographer for this feature film that earned a prestigious Crystal Heart Award when it premiered at the Heartland Film Festival and then released nationwide in 2007. Most recently he served as the director of photography for "Old Fashioned," a faith based romantic drama scheduled to release theatrically on Valentine's Day 2015. **Moderator for Navigating the Film Festival Circuit.**



MELISSA GOODMAN Melissa Goodman has been working for the Georgia Branch of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the Atlanta Local of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists for over 28 years. She has served as the Executive Director since 1992. These two organizations merged into SAG-AFTRA in 2012, where Melissa continues to serve as the Executive Director of the Atlanta Local. Prior to coming to SAG and AFTRA in 1985, Melissa worked at a talent agency in Atlanta. **Panelist for Rules of Engagement for Actors.**



GERALD GRIFFITH is the man behind Atlanta's VoiceoverCity and the annual "VO Atlanta" Voiceover Conference. Feeling that the Atlanta VO community was underserved, and undervalued, Gerald's initial voice acting ambitions quickly turned to entrepreneurial inclinations as he seized the opportunity to develop an education center, which he built by enlisting the support of local VO professionals and experts from around the country. Atlanta once lacked a significant center of voiceover education, now there's VoiceoverCity and the "VO Atlanta" Conference. In April 2014 Gerald acquired FILMAtlanta, a local meetup with over 3,000 members. Since time he's worked diligently to make networking and education opportunities available for those seeking to enter or improve their skills in the Atlanta film industry. **Moderator for Intro to Industry Organizations.**



JONATHAN M HARRIS is an instructor of film production at Clayton State University. As a filmmaker, his film and video work has been screened at film festivals nationwide including the San Francisco Documentary Festival, the Brooklyn Arts Council Film Festival and the Atlanta Film Festival. He was the Post-Production Supervisor for *The Adventures of Ocjee Nash* (distributed by Twentieth Century Fox), and the director of the feature-length musical, *Last Ride*, called “visionary” and “ambitious” in press reviews. He is the director of numerous short films including the documentary, *Treasure Hunters*, which won Best Documentary Short at the F4 Film Festival in Massachusetts, and received three other nominations. He worked in public television as a producer on "C-47: Georgia's Short Film Showcase," and the "World War II Veterans Oral History Project". **Instructor for Beginners Editing Workshop/Lab- Adobe Premier, and Panelist for Navigating the Film Festival Circuit**



ELISE HINES is a graduate of Oakwood University where she received her B.A. in Communications and minor in Business Management. She started her communications career at The Weather Channel, and then moved to Crawford Communications where she worked for Fox Kids (Latin America), Travel Channel and Discovery Channel networks. Elise was the Executive Producer and co-host for a popular radio show with Atlanta's V-103 affiliate station. While on the radio show, she featured celebrity guests such as, Spike Lee, Magic Johnson, Queen Latifah, 50cent, Ludicris, Jermain Dupri, just to name a few. Elise currently works as a writer, producer and director for corporate videos produced at Georgia Power. She is also the CEO of Platinum Works Productions and has written several screenplays with hopes to one day see them on the big screen. The Denver native currently resides with her family in metro Atlanta. **Moderator for The Realities of Corporate Production.**



CHRIS HOLLAND has worked with film festivals for more than a decade. In the early days of the internet he was a film critic and later he joined the staff of the Austin Film Festival. In 2006 Holland joined film distributor B-Side Entertainment as the Director of Festival Operations, working with festivals like Sundance, AFI Fest, and SILVERDOCS to market films to audiences and to discover emerging new voices in cinema. In 2008 he published *Film Festival Secrets: A Handbook for Independent Filmmakers* and began working as an consultant on marketing and festival strategy with independent filmmakers around the world. Chris currently lives in Atlanta, GA where he serves as the Operations and Marketing Director for the Atlanta Film Festival. **Panelist for Navigating the Film Festival Circuit.**



NANCY B. HOWARD is the Founder and Executive Director of The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation, and Founder and Producer the Georgia BigPictureCon Film & Technology Conference (formerly GABPC). She is also an independent film and video producer with over 16 years of production experience. She received her Bachelor degree in Mass Media Arts – Radio/TV/Film from Clark Atlanta University and a Masters degree in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University. She is currently the Executive VP and & COO of Kiss The Limit Productions, certified female and minority certified business entity and boutique film, video and web production company which has produced corporate projects for Coldwell Banker, Atlanta Medical Center, USAID, The Coca-Cola Company Family Federal Credit Union, and Swiss Trilingual School, among others. Nancy is a current member and former Board Member of Women in Film & Television Atlanta, and currently a member of the Georgia Production Partnership, and the Atlanta Film Festival. **Panelist for Intro to Industry Organizations.**



JOE HOWELL is an executive music producer and President of Stage Ten Studios. Joe has worked in the music and film industries for over 20 years, as an audio engineer, music producer, executive producer and songwriter. Joe worked for ABC Television Channel 31 (WAAY) in Huntsville, AL in audio and video. While working as a recording engineer in studios such as NYC's Chung King Studios, Sony studios, The Hit Factory, Sound on Sound and others, he was able to land a music publishing contract with Polygram/Universal Music Publishing. His work is showcased on many LP album and live projects including Record Label LaFace/Arista, Record Label Bad Boy/Universal, StepSun/Tommy Boy, and many others. In 1996 he received ASCAP's prestigious Rhythm and Soul Award for his chart-topping work on Billboard, and he holds many gold and platinum awards from the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America). **Instructor for Sound Design: Intro to Audio Production.**



LARRY JENNINGS is Director of Sales & Marketing at Tactix Sales & Marketing, LLC, an Atlanta-based sales and marketing organization specializing in consulting entertainment properties in the areas of sponsor development and product integration. Larry's media and marketing experience includes a thirty-year career as an award-winning account manager and sales manager for market-leading radio stations in Baltimore, Charlotte, Philadelphia and Atlanta. As a sales manager, he led sales teams in the positioning and revenue growth of both Urban and General Market stations. In Atlanta, he played a pivotal role in firmly establishing Q100 as a competitive force and oversaw the introduction of *The Bert Show*, *Keepin' It Real with Rev. Al Sharpton*, *The Warren Ballentine Show*, *The Steve Harvey Morning Show* and the *Yolanda Adams Morning Show* to the advertising community. His involvement in the development of major market events like *For Sisters Only* (Baltimore), *Praise in the Park* (Atlanta) and *Unity Day* (Philadelphia) resulted in millions of dollars in sponsor revenue for his radio stations. In 2009, Larry formally launched Tactix Sales & Marketing, LLC where he currently manages an account portfolio that includes Atlanta-based BronzeLens Film Festival, Haiti Consulate General Atlanta, FunkJazz Kafe, the NFL Players Association (Former Players Department) and the Telepictures Productions—producers of syndicated daytime talk shows *Ellen*, *TMZ*, *Extra* and *The Real*. **Panelist for Funding and Budgeting Independent Films.**



CHERYL JENKINS Cheryl Jenkins is the principal and founding partner of Atlanta-based Production Accounting and Crew Services, International (PACS). Founded in 2009, PACS was launched by Jenkins to fill a growing need in the burgeoning film and television industry in the city of Atlanta, throughout the state of Georgia, and the South East – sourcing and placing qualified production accountants and providing accounting services to production companies. Jenkins launched her career in entertainment after earning a bachelor's degree in Finance from Michigan State University. She then honed a career in production accounting at such major studios as NBC/Universal, New Line Television, VH-1, MTV, BET and Fox Television, in top markets like Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston and New York. She started off working as a first assistant accountant on *Moesha*, a big hit for the UPN television network and producers Ralph Farquhar, Sara Finney and Vida Spears. Jenkins went on to become a production coordinator on *The Steve Harvey Show* before then landing gigs as a production manager on several short films and commercials. Having also worked as a line producer on such projects as the Family Foreman reality show for New Line Television, and the feature film, *The Last Adam*, has only netted Jenkins an even better grasp of all that an efficient accounting department brings to a production. She is also president of Women in Film & Television Atlanta (WIFTA). **Panelist for Intro to Industry Organizations and Funding & Budgeting for Independent Films.**



CHARLES JUDSON has been a staple in the Atlanta film scene for over 15 years. Charles served as Communications Director, and then Artistic Director with the Atlanta Film Festival. In his time with ATLFF he created and added signature programs including *Eat, Drink & B-Indie*, *Touch the Puppet Head!*, the *New Mavericks: Women Directors* shorts block, and launched ATLFF's Creative Conference in 2011. Since 2005, he's been a writer with CinemATL, currently serving as head writer and co-editor for the online magazine dedicated to covering film in Atlanta and across Georgia. In 2014, he founded OiC, a think tank, research, and consulting organization dedicated to supporting creatives and the creative industries. August of 2014 saw the launch of his newest idea, *Film Bar Mondays*. A weekly no pressure event, *Film Bar Mondays* aims to grow and connect Atlanta's film community organically, through conversation, not through forced networking. A writer, screenwriter, film critic and consultant, Charles is a proud black nerd who is a jack of all trades, a master of none, loves a good story, and believes in community. **Panelist for Navigating the Film Festival Circuit.**



JOSE MARQUEZ is the Director of the Georgia Latino Film Festival and the National President, CEO, and Founder of Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association (LISTA). In this role he serves as lead advocate on state and federal issues related to the role of Latinos in the technology sector. He is also charged with coordinating organization-wide strategic planning for LISTA initiatives as well as executive director of twelve (12) LISTA Tech Councils nationwide. Jose was Chief Architect and founder of Hispanics in Information Technology and Telecommunications (HITT) where he brought to light the lack of Latino presence in the United States IT and Telecom workforce. Prior to his role in establishing LISTA and HITT, he serves as Vice President of Strategic Channels for Mi8 Corporation and President of JAM III Communications Group- an e-business solution consulting firm assisting companies with their web strategies, security, and wireless communications. A 30 plus year veteran of the telecommunications industry Jose Marquez has held various senior positions from implementation and sales engineering to channel development and internet policy at companies such as Sprint, MCI, AT&T Global Crossing and Mi8. In 2011 he was appointed to the Federal communications Commission's (FCC) Advisory committee for Diversity in the Digital Age where he continues to serve. **Panelist for Intro to Industry Organizations.**



DAVID MAYER, ESQ is the Director of Operations at Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, a non-profit organization that provides free seminars and free legal services to artists and arts organizations throughout Georgia. David is a graduate of Emory University School of Law, with honors, hold a Masters degree in Fine Arts from the University of Miami, and is admitted to practice in the State of Georgia. Prior to law school, David worked for several years in post-production in the film and television industry in Los Angeles. He is a member of the Intellectual Property and Litigation Sections of the Georgia Bar, the Technology Section of the Atlanta Bar Association, and the International Trademark Association. In law school, David worked for The Coca-Cola Company protecting its trademarks, and externed for the Hon. Robert Benham of the Georgia Supreme Court. When not at GLA, David is a contract attorney in the Intellectual Property Litigation group at Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan LLP. **Panelist for Legal Panel: Intellectual Property.**



DEIDRE MCDONALD is an eight-time Emmy Award-winning documentary maker and educator. In her current role, she is the Founding Artistic Director of the BronzeLens Film Festival. McDonald was Project Leader for the Georgia Entertainment Media Work Ready Region (GEM), a seven county economic development initiative focusing on careers in the entertainment industry. She has taught communications at Clark Atlanta University and also served as the former president of Women in Film and Television (Atlanta). **Panelist for Intro to Industry Organizations.**



MEHRAN MOIN is a videographer and editor at **Schroder PR**. He enjoys the freedom of creativity in filmmaking and finds moving images to be an important way to tell stories and convey lucid messages. At Schroder PR, Mehran is assigned to shoot and edit video projects that clients hire the firm to produce. His tasks include shooting the videos on location and editing a final product that is tailor made for each individual client. His goal is to capture the unique perspectives and distinct voices of the clients and to convey their stories through the medium of film. Mehran is an alumnus of Georgia State University where he graduated as valedictorian with a degree in Film and Video with a minor in Theatre. Mehran also has experience working with a local Atlanta media company called **SourceUno**, where he leads video shoots and edits monthly interviews and events. While filmmaking is one of Mehran's favorite pastimes, he also enjoys screenwriting, acting, producing, and participating in religious studies at his mosque. **Panelist for The Realities of Corporate Production.**



ALESHIA MUELLER is the owner of Reel Nomad Productions, a Minnesota based media production company that strives to communicate interesting and meaningful stories to the world. Her experience includes various facets of pre-production, production, and post-production for television, documentaries, commercials, and narrative films. This experience informs her current work as Script/Continuity Supervisor. She is bilingual (English/Spanish) and is available for domestic or international work. Recent continuity work includes *The Blood Stripe* (2014), *Santa's Boot Camp* (2013), and *Death to Prom* (2012). **Moderator for Directors Roundtable, and Instructor for Advanced Producers Workshop.**



NATHAN NAZARIO is a seasoned producer and marketing professional with over 20 years' experience in the film and television industry and is currently the President of Communications with Motion Picture Pro Studios. PR campaign credits include over 50 films including six Academy-Award winners. Most recently served as a media relations consultant to USA Network, the #1 basic cable network. As former VP, Film Publicity at mPRm Public Relations, my clients have included major studios, indies and networks such as Miramax Films, Warner Bros., DreamWorks, USA Network, Syfy, New Line Cinema, Fox Searchlight, and Columbia TriStar among others. Previously served as VP, East Coast Publicity at Gramercy Pictures overseeing PR efforts on films such as "Dead Man Walking," "The Usual Suspects" and "Fargo." Produced a variety of Behind-The-Scenes, DVD Special Features and EPK's for a wide range of films and TV shows including: "We Own The Night" starring Joaquin Phoenix and Mark Wahlberg, "The Life Before Her Eyes" starring Uma Thurman and Evan Rachel Wood, "The Maiden Heist," starring Morgan Freeman and William H. Macy, "Nothing But The Truth" starring Kate Beckinsale and Matt Dillon, Tyler Perry's "Diary of A Mad Black Woman," "The Final Cut" starring Robin Williams, Queen Latifah's "The Cookout," "Battlestar Galactica," "Steven Spielberg presents Taken" and "Children of Dune." **Panelist for Directors Roundtable.**



CEDRIC PENDLETON knew from early on that he was destined for one of two things: the pulpit or the stage. He chose the stage or, as he would say, the stage chose him. Born in the small town of Florence, Alabama, his parents were school teachers, his father, was also a politician and civil rights leader. Cedric moved as a very young man to the big southern city of Atlanta where he quickly and surely made a name for himself as a respected, sought-after actor. He is a graduate of DeVry Institute of Technology in Atlanta with a degree in Computer Information Systems. After graduation, Cedric worked in corporate America as a salesman and served as an intern at Actor's Express Theater. Cedric moved West to Los Angeles where he soon landed supporting and recurring roles in hit television shows and movies like *The Fantasia Barino Story*, *The Shield*, *The Guardian*, *One Tree Hill*, *Strong Medicine*, *NYPD Blue*, and most notably- *Tyler Perry's House of Payne*. As an Executive Producer for Footprint Entertainment, LLC., Cedric has created touring concerts and stage plays with Tyler Perry, and festivals with some of the country's popular recording artists and performers. Cedric, like any true artist, doesn't separate his faith, his life, and his craft. He was committed and passionate from the very beginning; he keeps reaching and working toward greater roles and dreams in the entertainment. **Panelist for Rules of Engagement for Actors.**



KEISHA PERRY A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Keisha R. Perry is a dual graduate of the University of TN, receiving her Juris Doctorate Degree from the College of Law in 2004, and her Bachelor's Degree from The College of Business in 2001. Ms. Perry is currently practicing in Georgia where she is a member of the Sports and Entertainment Law Section. She served as a member of the Finance Committee of C5 Georgia, a member of The Recording Academy, Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association (BESLA), and The American Bar Association. She also served as a founding board member of the Atlanta based Black Music Month Foundation. After working in a mid-size debt collection law firm for nearly a year after graduation, Ms. Perry started The Perry Law Group in June of 2005. Since establishing The Perry Law Group, Ms. Perry has served clients nationally and internationally in all of the Firm's practice areas. Her past and current clients include small business owners, start-ups, independent labels, artists, producers, songwriters, managers, and real estate investors. She is often solicited to speak on panels to provide legal expertise and often volunteers her time speaking to middle school, high school, and college students. **Moderator for What to Know about Creating and Handling Intellectual Property.**



MELISSA RANDLE is a professional freelance script supervisor and producer/associate producer. Her diverse production experience includes a dozen TV shows, 20+ films, and hundreds of Commercial//Corporate videos & live events, with content in English, Spanish & Portuguese. She is also an active participant in the Atlanta Film Community serving as an advisor/ past president of Women In Film & Television Atlanta, in addition to participating with several local film festivals. She regularly attends the Toronto International Film Festival, Sundance, Slamdance, ABFF & even travelling as far as South Korea for the Busan International Film Festival. As a guest speaker/moderator she has been asked to cover a variety of topics from networking etiquette, to getting started in the film business, to teleprompting techniques for actors. **Moderator for Rules of Engagement for Actors, and also for Funding and Budgeting Independent Films.**



JULIE K ROACH, ESQ. is Director of Volunteer Services for Georgia Lawyers for the Arts. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Emory University School of Law, and graduated with a certificate in Transactional Law and Skills. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Music and Philosophy. She is admitted to practice in the State of Georgia. Julie has worked with ASCAP, at The Coca-Cola Company, and several solo practitioners. She was also on the executive board for Emory's Sports and Entertainment Law Society. Julie is an active member of the National Association of Record Industry Professionals board and the planning committee for the Atlanta Bar's annual LawJam as well as a member of the American Bar Association and State Bar of Georgia Sports and Entertainment Law societies. Julie has played alto saxophone for over 15 years and works for the Georgia Theatre, a famous music venue in Athens, Georgia. She looks forward to practicing law to support artists and creatives in the advancement of their careers, and to ensure that their works are respected and protected. **Panelist for Intro to Industry Organizations.**



ADAM SHE is the Executive Director of Operations of Actors, Models & Talent for Christ (AMTC) where he oversees the goals, scouting, and day-to-day operations of the ministry. This son of Taiwanese immigrants to the U.S. has become a prayerful Christian leader who combines faith and wisdom with extraordinary fairness. Adam continues to place the mission of spreading the good news of Christ's love in the entertainment industry as his daily focus. He is married to third generation member of the Millie Lewis legacy, granddaughter Lexy She. They reside in Tyrone, GA with their two boys Jack and Emmett. **Panelist for Rules of Engagement for Actors.**



DERONTE L SMITH wrapped up his film studies at Kennesaw State University in 2001 setting out to produce his first film, **Game**, which subsequently took home accolades and awards at local, regional and national film festivals. This was Smith's start to a productive video career, producing numerous music videos, small budget commercials and public service announcements over the next few years. After a prolonged hiatus pursuing his writing ambitions with his young adult fiction novel The Fantastical Adventures of Sleepy Steve and working as a columnist for Huffington Post's Patch.com, Smith returned to his film roots with his first feature length production **Prosper** – a film about a 300 year old witch who sacrifices the souls of young people for her continued youth and prosperity. Smith's confidence in producing such a large scale production as **Prosper**, with upward of 50 crew members, probably comes from having been mentored by 16-time Emmy winning director S. Bryan Hickox. With some of the finest talent and crew from the Atlanta film community attached to the project, Smith produced a film worthy of the praise it's being given in the local community and abroad. Distributors are already knocking at Smith's door with

the film not yet finished, though he anticipates it will be completed by September for a festival run next year. **Instructor for Conquering the AFM: A Newbie's Roadmap.**



RIK SWARTZWELDER wrote, directed, and acted in the upcoming feature film **Old Fashioned**, a romantic drama which will be released in theaters nationwide on Valentine's Day weekend 2015 by Freestyle Releasing. The film has also inspired both a novel and a non-fiction companion book (both based on his screenplay and published by Tyndale House Publishers). As a writer-producer-director, his films have screened at over 145 film festivals worldwide and garnered over 50 major awards, including a Crystal Heart Award from the Heartland Film Festival, a CINE Special Jury Award, a national "Student" Emmy, and the Sprint/PCS Filmmaker of the Future Award. **Panelist for Directors Roundtable.**



TY WALKER has produced and line produced a plethora of feature length movies, television shows and new media content. Through the mentorship of several veteran industry professionals and executives, Walker has been able to take this invaluable knowledge and apply it to his own projects, resulting in the launching of his own boutique production company, Tycor International Film Company. Over the years Walker has made his mark in the industry as a leading indie movie producer and has become known for passionately producing movies of various genres and budgets around the globe. Walker came from a background in Finance and Computer Science and was once one of the youngest Project Managers in the global technology/business services. With that experience, Walker knew the importance of thoroughly knowing and understanding your business prior to leading and managing a team. So before actually producing his first film, he sat behind and learned from some of the top producers in the business as well as working in various roles such camera assistants, production coordinator, assistant directing and UPM'ing. This experience allowed him to then successfully produce/line

produce films such as the 2012 Sundance hit, **Blue Caprice**, directed by Alexandre Moors, starring Isaiah Washington, **Omphalos**, a sci-fi feature which will be released in 2014, **All That I Am**, the SXSW Grand Jury & Audience-winning film directed by Carlos Puga, **Julia**, the soon-to-be-released noir horror, lensed by Icelandic Oscar-nominated cinematographer, Bergsteinn Björgúlfsson, **Redrum**, the Investigative Discovery Channel show that set a new record with the Discovery Channel, with the biggest opening night in history and highest audience ratings, and **Carter High**, starring Charles S. Dutton, Vivica Fox, Pooch Hall, Reginald C. Hayes and David Banner. **Panelist for Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution, and also Directors Roundtable.**



SHEENA WILEY has always been either in front of or behind the camera since graduating from Tennessee State University with a degree in Mass Comm. After college she moved to Virginia and started work at a local news station while also, volunteering at the local government access channel. Producing TV shows has always been a passion for Sheena so when the opportunity came she grabbed it. Together she and her husband decided to start their own production company. Their first production was a TV show called "**The Ki Anime Report**". They produced 2 seasons of the show geared towards lovers of Japanese animation and video games in which Sheena was the host. In 2011 Sheena and her husband moved to Atlanta, GA where they continued their work. Just this summer they produced a short Sci-fi film called **Locke: Origin**. Sheena still continues make strides towards her goals of hosting and producing. **Interviewer and Host.**

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL JURY



CLEMENTINE LEGER – Programming Coordinator at Florida Film Festival

Clementine grew up in France until coming to the United States for college. She attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. She is now the programming coordinator at the Florida Film Festival.



ELIZABETH STRICKLER – Associate Director of Georgia State University's Digital Arts Entertainment Lab

Through industry and university partnerships, Elizabeth creates, tests, and markets digital media content funded by grants and contracts. Her teaching is focused on New Media Entrepreneurship where she blends her knowledge of the media industry with design, creativity and technology to promote innovation in graduate and undergraduate student work. Much of her own research is in new modes of media interface and production through projects like The Window Project and The Cross Stitch Project. In the past 5 years, she has secured \$500K+ in grants and contracts by uncovering synergies between disparate organizations and institutions and by combining storytelling with health and other media messaging. Recently, she worked with a statewide study group to advise the state of Georgia on the future of interactive media and television. Her documentaries, short films, and new media work have received international awards and her most recent film is currently playing on PBS's POV 2013 series. Before academia, she

worked as an engineer, programmer and database administrator for multiple Internet start-up companies including PeachWeb and MindSpring.



XAVIER L BURGIN – University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts MFA Fellow

Xavier Burgin is a writer, director and cinematographer in Los Angeles, CA. He graduated from The University of Alabama with an interdisciplinary degree in film production. He is now working on his MFA in TV and Film Production at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. Xavier's work has been featured on The New York Times, Cannes Short Film Corner, and The San Diego Black Film Festival. He has worked with companies including Lenovo, Coca-Cola, The Distinguished Filmmaker's Network, and Oscar Mayer. Xavier strives to bring an emotionally powerful aesthetic to his dramatic work, and a pleasantly gut-aching, hilarity through comedy. Above all else, he is currently working

towards building an artistic resume highlighting his unique and progressive sensibilities. You can find his work at <http://www.queethelights.com>.

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE HOST



DAVID MARTYN CONLEY is a Writer, Director, and Actor with over 20 years' experience as a stage and cinematic artist. Through his company, Munirah Entertainment, Conley has:

- Won awards for his independent features, shorts and series.
- Written the UpTV original movie, *Raising Izzie*

As an Actor, Conley has appeared on Network television programs including:

- Army Wives*
- Drop Dead Diva*
- Tyler Perry's House of Payne*
- Disney's *Let It Shine*

Conley is currently in production on the second DNR episode and in pre-production on three features to be produced over the next year.

Board of Directors and Conference Planning Committee



JOE HOWELL is an executive music producer and President of Stage Ten Studios. Joe has worked in the music and film industries for over 20 years, as an audio engineer, music producer, executive producer and songwriter. Joe worked for ABC Television Channel 31 (WAAY) in Huntsville, AL in audio and video. While working as a recording engineer in studios such as NYC's Chung King Studios, Sony studios, The Hit Factory, Sound on Sound and others, he was able to land a music publishing contract with Polygram/Universal Music Publishing. His work is showcased on many LP album and live projects including Record Label LaFace/Arista, Record Label Bad Boy/Universal, StepSun/Tommy Boy, and many others. In 1996 he received ASCAP's prestigious Rhythm and Soul Award for his chart-topping work on Billboard, and he holds many gold and platinum awards from the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America). Joe is the CFO of The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation, and the Executive Producer and webmaster for the BigPictureCon.



NANCY B. HOWARD is the Coordinator and Executive Producer of the BigPictureCon Film & Technology Conference (formerly GABPC). She is also an independent film and video producer with over 16 years of production experience. She received her Bachelor degree in Mass Media Arts – Radio/TV/Film from Clark Atlanta University and a Masters degree in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University. She has served as the Executive VP and COO of Kiss The Limit Productions, a certified female and minority certified business entity and boutique film, video and web production company which has produced corporate projects for Coldwell Banker, Atlanta Medical Center, USAID, The Coca-Cola Company Family Federal Credit Union, and Swiss Trilingual School, among others. Nancy is a current member and former Board Member of Women in Film & Television Atlanta, and currently a member of the Georgia Production Partnership, and the Atlanta Film Festival.



LYDIA "SUE-ELLEN" CHITUNYA is an emerging, multilingual, budding filmmaker who hails from Zimbabwe. She is a Georgia State University graduate. She also completed a producing certification program at UCLA. Chitunya has produced several award-winning short films; which have screened at different festivals such as the Atlanta Film Festival, and Zimbabwe International Images Film Festival. She participated in the following programs: Durban Talents, Kyoto Filmmakers Lab, and the Caribbean Tales Incubator. Her varied work experience includes consulting for Zimbabwe International Film Festival, producing the Georgia BigPictureCon, Programmer of Education for the Atlanta Film Festival, interning for International Creative Management at Cannes Film Festival, programming for Slamdance Film Festival, and marketing for the Disney College Program. She has recently launched a production company in Zimbabwe. She aspires to create ground-breaking projects that transcend cultures and genres. She is also the Festival Director of the BigPictureCon Short Film Festival.



AMANI CHANNEL is a broadcaster, educator, award-winning storyteller, video producer, and a communications professional. He helps brands, nonprofits, individuals and students tell traditional and digital stories. During his career Amani has worked as a news reporter, PR practitioner, content/community manager, media consultant, and he's an award-winning video producer. He provides media consulting and corporate storytelling services through Visual Eye Media, and serves as an adjunct professor. Channel's content, commentary, and reports have been featured across the airwaves on outlets like NPR, APTN (Associated Press Television News), CNN, Headline News, Fox News Channel, BET, Black Family Channel, HDNews, and across the Web. He's also managed digital and broadcast PR campaigns with brands that include Visa, Coca-Cola, Hershey's, Chick-fil-A, and IHG. Channel often speaks at conferences, workshops, and universities across the country about traditional and new media. He's taught video production at Hillsborough Community College, Connecticut School of Broadcasting in Tampa, FL; the University of West Georgia, Kennesaw State University, and Southern Polytechnic University.

Amani serves as a Board member of The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation.



MELISSA RANDLE is a professional freelance script supervisor and producer/associate producer. Her diverse production experience includes a dozen TV shows, 20+ films, and hundreds of Commercial//Corporate videos & live events, with content in English, Spanish & Portuguese. She is also an active participant in the Atlanta Film Community serving as an advisor/ past president of Women In Film & Television Atlanta, in addition to participating with several local film festivals. She regularly attends the Toronto International Film Festival, Sundance, Slamdance, ABFF & even travelling as far as South Korea for the Busan International Film Festival. As a guest speaker/ moderator she has been asked to cover a variety of topics from networking etiquette, to getting started in the film business, to teleprompting techniques for actors. Melissa serves as an Advisory Board Member for The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation, and is the Program Coordinator for the BigPictureCon.

Additional Conference Planning Committee



LILLI HOWELL is an experienced administrative and technology professional with over fifteen years' experience in both fields. She possesses strong communication, planning and diagnostic skills and has a great reputation for productivity, integrity and professionalism. She graduated from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) with a degree in Business Management. Lilli lends quality support and interacts professionally with all levels of staff and maintain the highest level of confidentiality; and is known for tact and diplomacy in handling sensitive issues. She has been involved with The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation since the inaugural Georgia Big Picture Conference in 2005, and currently serves as the conference Registration Coordinator.



YVETTE JACKSON started her film career in November 2012 when she produced and directed her first documentary entitled **Sista' Soldier** which showcases African American Women in the military. Her inspiration for the film grew from 20 years of service in the United States Air Force Reserve, and the dearth of positive depictions of women—particularly women of color—serving in the armed forces. Her goal was to highlight the fact that women also served, although you rarely hear about it. **Sista' Soldier** is the first project of many more to come from the independent documentary filmmaker. Her goal as a filmmaker is to make films that have purpose and that highlight the underrepresented. In addition to her filmmaking career, she is the Founder and Owner of Administrative Connection, an administrative contracting and consulting company that provides concierge administrative, business and home organization services to entrepreneurs, small businesses and individuals. She is also the BigPictureCon Conference Coordinator.



LISA MASON is an aspiring playwright, who has worked as an assistant coordinator for SONScreen Film Festival and as a production assistant on MzCarriage of Justice; PraiseVision; Metro Cafe TV and Cooking With Caspino! Lisa is very compassionate about encouraging others to never give up on their dreams and firmly believes that what God has blessed her with is meant to be shared. She is currently working with the BigPictureCon as a Conference Production Assistant.



VICTORIA PORTER is a Script Supervisor in the Atlanta metro area with four (4) years of experience as a filmmaker under her belt. She's worked on projects ranging from short films to features, as well as a few of television projects. Her passion is episodic storytelling because with every new script there is another layer added to the story arc. She currently serves as the Volunteer Coordinator for the BigPictureCon.



MATTHEW W QUINN is a freelance writer and editor. His journalism career has run the gamut from reporting for a daily newspaper, editing a weekly newspaper, helping edit a monthly newspaper, stringing for a sports magazine, an online news service, and the Associated Press, and interning for a film company and a semi-monthly magazine. He is also a graduate research assistant at Georgia State University, working toward a master's degree in history. Matt serves as the PR and Social Media Coordinator of the BigPictureCon.