

2013 Conference Speaker List

As of 11/01/2013

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CORY EDWARDS



CORY EDWARDS Cory Edwards made his feature film debut with *Hoodwinked!*, but he has already had a long career as a filmmaker. Involved in almost every creative area of the business for over twenty years, he has served as writer, director, producer, actor, animator, art director, and editor. Since his childhood "Super 8mm" days, Cory has been making movies. He shot everything from adventure serials to superhero comedies, complete with storyboards, miniatures, animation, and pyrotechnics. From grade school to college, Cory would turn any class project into a film or video project, sometimes winning national contests. He interned at an animation studio in Ohio during his collegiate summers. After college, Cory worked at a Tulsa production company, directing music videos and commercials. After founding Blue Yonder Films in 1995, Cory produced and acted in his brother's feature debut, *Chillicothe*, an official selection of the Sundance Film Festival. Soon after, Cory and his brother Todd pitched a Red Riding Hood crime story to a private investor, and *Hoodwinked!* was born. Made totally outside of the studio system and for a tenth of the cost, the film was picked up by moguls Bob and Harvey Weinstein. Cory worked with the voice talents of Glenn Close, Anne Hathaway, Chazz Palminteri and Jim Belushi, and voiced the coffee-addicted squirrel, "Twitchy" himself. He also wrote two of the songs for the soundtrack. *Hoodwinked!* was one of the top grossing movies during its theatrical release in spring of 2006, and has since grossed over \$150 million worldwide.

Since *Hoodwinked!*'s success, Cory has developed projects for industry greats like John Davis (producer of the *Predator* franchise, *Chronicle*), Paul Schiff (producer of *Rushmore*), John Shestack (producer of *Air Force One*) and Luc Besson (*The Fifth Element*, *Taken*). Most notably, he recently developed *Fraggle Rock: The Movie* for the Jim Henson Company. Cory Edwards resides in Los Angeles, where he continues to write and direct feature films. Among his recent projects are *Escape From Planet Earth*, the animated web series *Krogzilla Gets A Job*, and *Roger Cosmonkey*, the world's first Twitter Series. He is currently attached to direct *Frog and Toad* for the Jim Henson Company and *Wish*, an animated action fantasy.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PAUL JENKINS



PAUL JENKINS earned an English degree in his native United Kingdom. After moving to the US, he joined Mirage Studios in 1988, where he worked as editor/ production manager. He edited Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird's books, including *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, and even negotiated their licensing deals. Leaving Mirage, Jenkins followed Eastman to Tundra, another Eastman publishing venture. He once again took up editing duties, and also headed licensing and promotions. Tired of editing, Jenkins pitched to several companies as a writer. It was during this process that he landed a gig for DC Comics' *Vertigo* imprint. In 1994, he took over as writer of *Hellblazer*, and began what would go on to be a four year long stint. His work on this title gained him attention in the American comic industry. His Marvel Comics career began as a writer on the psychological horror title, *Werewolf By Night*, but he may be best known for the Eisner Award winning *Inhumans* limited series, for the *Marvel Knights* imprint, with artist Jae Lee. After that, Paul joined the regular Marvel Universe and took on *The Incredible Hulk* and *Peter Parker: Spider-Man* to great acclaim. He followed up his initial *Marvel Knights* success with *The Sentry*. This book was a bold move -- using the media and Marvel legend Stan Lee himself -- to create a "forgotten hero" who was supposedly the "first" Marvel super hero. Jenkins' Top Cow work includes a stellar run on the *Witchblade* series and the re-launched *Darkness* series with artist Dale Keown.



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(Listed alphabetically by last name)



EDWARD ADAMS For over five years, Edward Adams has added his unique voice to film criticism in Atlanta for Creative Loafing newspaper and its website. Previously the host of CL's podcast, "Ed Loves Bacon" Edward has discussed a host of topics with celebrities and lesser-known newsmakers both here in Atlanta and around the world. Splitting his time for the newspaper's parent company, SouthComm Publishing as their Online Manager, Ed both roles: exploring the digital landscape of new media, and the film industry at large. Edward is a proud Atlanta native who enjoys gardening, advocacy, the arts, nightlife, and of course great food and cocktails. You can read Ed's latest reviews and interviews Creative Loafing's website at www.clatl.com. **Panelist for Media & Communications Training.**



DIANNE ASHFORD, co-founder of Symmetry Entertainment has been producing and line producing for close to 10 years now. From an internship with Rainforest Films in 2001, she quickly learned the business and went on to produce titles like *Trois: The Escort*, *The Gospel* (line producer), *Motives 2* (producer), *Three Can Play That Game* (co-producer), *Pastor Brown* (line producer), *Stomp The Yard 2* (line producer), Season 4 of BET's *The Game* (Production Supv), *Echo At 11 Oak Drive* (producer), *No Good Deed* (Production Supv) and most recently *Ride Along* (Associate Producer). Never one to be confined to just one aspect of the industry, Dianne has also produced numerous short films, documentaries and commercials for clients like CNN and TBS. She is most proud of a documentary she produced for BET, which took an unconventional look at Dr. Martin Luther King's life, entitled: *Alpha Man: The Brotherhood of MLK, Jr.* **Moderator for Producers Panel: What A Producer Does.**



KAREN BEYER is a member of SAG-AFTRA and Equity and works as an actress, director and choreographer. Her upcoming film and TV credits include: *Anchorman 2*, *CrazySexyCool: The TLC Story* and *Single Ladies*. Some of her other credits include: *Joyful Noise*, *One Missed Call*, *Pregnancy Pact*, *Past Life*, *Drop Dead Diva*, *Army Wives* and *Front of the Class*. Karen teaches on-camera acting at Creative Studios and been the resident choreographer at ART Station in Stone Mountain for eleven years. She is currently directing and performing in *Lend Me an Ear's* old-time radio show at the Shakespeare Tavern, choreographing *A Broadway Christmas Carol* for ART Station and *Swamp Gravy* for the Colquitt/Miller Arts Council. Karen has been seen on stage at the Alliance Theatre, Ansley Park Playhouse, Theatrical Outfit and ART Station in Atlanta and the McGinn/Cazale Theatre in N.Y. Visit her at: www.kbeyer.com



DEWAYNE BONTRAGER and twin brother **Lawayne Bontrager** of Bontrager Twins Productions and Twiin Media LLC, have been media designers for the past 20 years. Their work has been seen in some of the most popular retail spaces, including Target, Walmart, Home Depot, and Best Buy. They have created trade show graphics and interactive kiosks for BMW, Mini, Audi, Hyundai and Pedigree. These days, their passion is developing and producing entertaining short films and creating high-end web videos for corporate America. Since 2008, they have written and produced 10 short films which have been recognized for several awards including: "Best of Show", "Best Visual Effects", "Best Special Effects" and "Best Actor". Currently they are wrapping up "Zombie Crush - A Teenage Zomedy" in which they mentored teenagers on



and off set. **Panelist for Storytelling & Writing for Screen, Web Series, Animation & Games.**



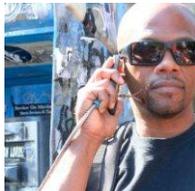
CHET BREWSTER is a director and producer, and owner of Davenstar Productions. Since the age of seven, Chet has been inspired by the dramatic appeal of filmmaking and television production. Chet got his first professional start with CNN within seven days of graduating college, started his own production company DavenStar Productions and has been professionally engaged over the last 27 years directing, producing and or editing for both live as well as live to tape events. Credits include *The Kings of Comedy* Tour and Movie, the first nine Tyler Perry stage play DVDS, Keith Sweat's first live concert DVD, as well as a 3 time award-winning comedy cable special entitled *Paul Mooney, The Godfather of Comedy*. Chet has also provided both technical and/or directorial contributions

towards multiple TV specials, award and television shows for Showtime, BET, TBS, Bounce TV, Gospel Music Channel, PBS and TV One. Recently his latest works include Season 2 of the **Rickey Smiley** TV sitcom, Seasons 2 and 3 of **Verses and Flow** as well as **Comic View**. Chet also directed and co-executive produced a soon to be released talk show entitled **Warning, Men Thinking** for national television distribution. **Panelist for ABCs of Producing Successfully Across Multiple Platforms.**



BRENT BROOKS With his start in improv comedy Brent has performed, organized and taught improv since taking his first class at Ga. State in 1997. Later Brent founded "Blank Stage Productions" where he produced several projects and started up a internet 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. **Co-Instructor for Meet**

the Pros: Speed Networking.



THOMAS BURNS, MFA has over 25 years of experience in film and video production, as well as broadcast and theatrical production. He has the unique experience of having national and international programs shown from his work as a director, editor, writer, and cinematographer. He has also developed and produced projects for industrial, commercial and entertainment purposes. Mr. Burns has worked with 35mm, 16mm, and 4k video. Projects he has lensed have been nominated for Best Cinematography in the USA and abroad, and he has served as cinematographer on projects for the US Air Force, The Coca Cola Company, Warner Brothers, American Masters, PBS and famed independent filmmaker Julie Dash (a mentor). His cinematography on the PBS documentary "Zora Neal Hurston: Jump At the Sun" garnered much praise. His recent work includes Secret Princes and the soon to be released Crooked Innocence. He has also taught workshops worldwide, including the famed Maine Media Filmmaking Workshops.

Instructor for Producers Workshop, and Panelist for Producers Panel: What a Producer Does.



AMANI CHANNEL is an expert in video production, broadcast news, and new media. He is the founder of a media consulting, video production company called Visual Eye Media. The company offers high definition video production services, media training, and social media solutions for companies, organizations, and individuals. Content produced by channel has aired on CNN, Headline News, AP, BET, Black Family Channel, HDNews, and various local and online outlets. In 2006, Channel founded a vlog/podcast called MyUrbanReport.com. It focuses on urban news and information, as well as traditional/new media issues, video production, and Channel's media adventures. He also enjoys teaching video production and currently teaches a digital media class at Kennesaw State University. **Instructor for Digital Content Creation for Mobile Devices and Web, and Building Your Brand Online Using YouTube and Other Streaming Sites, and Moderator for Media & Communications Training.**



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 Latest Trends in Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution.**



DARLA CLARKSON is an award winning Film Producer, Casting Director and Photographer with her company No Fear Here Productions located in Alpharetta. She produced "Concerto" which won Best Sound Design and the Audience Award in The 48 Hour Film Project in 2012. Her other producing credits include: "Just Breathe", "Absent", "Norman Dates", "The Final Hour", and "Uyuri - Something Close to Free" (music video). Additionally, Darla was an Associate Producer for the "Uyuri" webseries, a Production Manager for the Spiritualized music video "Hey, Jane", the Casting Director for the feature film "Abraham Lincoln vs. Zombies", "Collider" and "Intrepid Academy". Darla is also an accomplished photographer of 30 years and a full time writer. She lives part time in Roswell, Ga as well as her family home in Savannah, Ga. **Speaker for The Filmmaker's Apprentice: How Apprenticeships Work.**



GERALD COBY. Gerald “G.KEYYZ” Coby II is an accomplished musician and producer currently working on several album and production projects. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin he comes from a family of professional musicians. Growing up with a Christian background and having a father as a musician, G.KEYYZ was introduced and stimulated by a various array of artists, songwriters, producers and composers. Learning music through church and jam sessions in his home town, gave him an appreciation for live music and instrumentation. Credits include compositions for Jala Shae, Shamese, Kari Epps, Wale, Anthony Hamilton and many others. He has worked on projects for Atlantic Records and the Cooler Side. **Panelist for Film Scoring & Composing: *Getting the Music Right, and also for Sound Design: Audio Production for Film & Media.***



CYNTHIA COLLINS is a natural born net-weaver, entrepreneur and creative in love with service, filmmaking, music and culinary arts. She relocated from Philadelphia to Atlanta in 2005 and found her passion to start a business in the film industry in 2010. A seasoned professional with over 30 years' combined experience in corporate administration, HR Recruitment, net-weaving, talent development, producing and casting, Collins is the Owner/CEO of Film Atlanta, Inc., specializing in education, training and workforce development for talent in front of and behind the camera in Georgia. She's been the Organizer of the Georgia Independents Meetup since 2009 (formerly Film Atlanta Meetup in existence since 2003), a social networking group of over 2700 film and entertainment professionals; Founding Partner of the “Get Connected” monthly film and entertainment mixer, and Founder of the Kidz Connect networking mixer for parents and child performers. **Co-Instructor for Meet the Pros: *Speed Networking.***



JOHN M DEMERS is an award-winning actor, producer, director, and multi-screen content creator, with 20 years of experience. John works behind the camera as a creator and development producer, producer of marketing and distribution, and director for Whistle Stop Media. It was here, that he developed ***History's Heroes: TheRustyBucketKids.com***, a multi-screen show in a convergent media with a multi-platform launch, including web casts, broadcasts on TV, DVD and more (sometimes we hear the term trans-media used or 360 platforms). John holds membership in the SASG/AFTRA, as well as the National Association of Programming, and Television Executives, plus, life memberships in Media Communications Association International, and Digital Cinema Society. **Panelist for ABCs of Producing Successfully Across Multiple Platforms.**



LANCE DRESSEN An internationally award-winning filmmaker, Lance Dreesen is a member of the Writers Guild of America and partner of Red Five Entertainment, Inc., an independent film production company with offices in Los Angeles and Atlanta. He is also the owner of a commercial and video production company, Giant Leap Media, as well as a film acting and writing instructor. Dreesen's directorial debut, ***“Terror Tract”*** starring John Ritter and Bryan Cranston, was purchased and released by Universal Studios, and won top honors at film festivals in Europe and the United States. The film also enjoyed a theatrical release in France and Latin America, and recently aired on HBO. His most recent feature film, ***“The Way Home,”*** starring Dean Cain, was released by Lionsgate. The film won top honors at the International Family Film Festival, and had a television premiere on cable channel GMC, where it set new ratings records. Dreesen has also produced, directed or written five other feature films, as well as developing projects for numerous production companies and studios. **Panelist for Director's Roundtable.**



CHRIS ESCOBAR A first-generation American, Christopher Escobar 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. More recently, 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 July. 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) founded by one of the Atlanta Film Festival's original founders, Kay Beck. **Moderator for Film Festival Circuit: *Building Buzz Around Your Film, Game, App, Show, or Web Series.***



& Writing for Screen, Web Series, Animation & Games.

DENICE A EVANS is a filmmaker and national speaker. She recently directed and co-wrote the apocalyptic-thriller short film, *The Final Hour*, produced by locally based film production company, No Fear Here Productions. She is currently on their writing team expanding the original concept from the film into a television series pilot. Denice is also the CEO/Owner of J' Hue Film Productions and a graduate of Emory University where she received her degree in Creative Writing and Film. Her company specializes in social cause & deep ecology media. J' Hue Film Productions is currently producing and directing a short documentary in collaboration with Safe Water Now, a nonprofit organization with the mission of providing global awareness and clean water education in Tanzania, Africa. As a socially-conscious filmmaker, Denice wrote & produced her first award-winning feature documentary, *Spitting Game: The College Hook Up Culture*, over a four year period. In 2008 her compelling film world premiered at the prestigious Boston Film Festival. **Panelist for Producers Panel: What A Producer Does, and for Moderator for Storytelling**



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. **Moderator for Acting in the Digital Age.**



of Arts degree in Organizational Management from University of Phoenix. Panelist for Media & Communications Training.

QUISA FOSTER is Managing Partner of F2 Communications Group. F2 Communications Group is a savvy, strategic and integrated public relations firm that understands the importance of communications and how it impacts your brand, image, reputation credibility and growth. Ms Foster is an accomplished public relations professional with more than 18 years of public relations experience. her professional career includes a diverse mix of communications work in the field of television, radio, non-profit management, and higher education with expertise in media relations, crisis communications, community relations, social media management and brand development. Prior to F2 Communications Group, Quisa served as Managing Director for the Tom Joyner Foundation. In this position, she led all of the Foundation's fundraising and community relations' initiatives raising more than \$4.5 million dollars for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Quisa is a member the National Association of Black Journalists, Junior League of Atlanta, Black Public Relations Society, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Public Relations from Clark Atlanta University and a Masters



GREG GALLOWAY is the owner/operator of 2-G Multimedia Inc. and Founder and CEO of iflixtv, LLC. Greg began his career in film making with the production of a trailer for the feature film "A Ravens Cry" (also written by Mr. Galloway) in 1999. Since then, he has had extensive experience and has been consistently working in all aspects of film production for the last 14 years. He currently has more than 500 productions in his repertoire to date including a Lions Gate release, and has worked with industry notables such as Robin Givens, Queen Latifah, Jasmine Guy, Usher, Faith Evens, Alicia Keys and many more. Having 6 films distributed and dealing with various distributors prompted Galloway to start iflixtv, LLC to provide a platform for indie filmmakers to showcase their talents and to monetize their labors of love. **Panelist for Latest Trends in Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution.**



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 a 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 Film Festival Circuit: Building Buzz Around Your Film, Game, App, Show, or Web Series.**



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). **Moderator for Sound Design: Audio Production for Film & Media, and Instructor for DSLR Photography Techniques for Filmmakers.**



LONNIE JACKSON is a filmmaker who hails from Flint, MI. Upon graduation from Mott Community College with a degree in Communications, he became a motivational speaker, traveling throughout the United States expounding a message based on the principles of self-determination, motivation, love, sacrifice and discipline. After relocating to Atlanta in 2000, he helped co-found Mifok, and also helped to launch Just Ask Restoring Hope Within the Community, a non-profit organization underneath the Mifok umbrella. His mission was to help those in need, and to this day he lends his assistance to raise awareness of homelessness and to help rebuild the spirits of those who feel lost. For his efforts, Lonnie was nominated for the "Underground Railroad Community Service Award" in Atlanta. He used the skills acquired while minoring in Theater at The University of Michigan, and began acting in and around the Atlanta area. He was able to act in several films, and numerous theatrical productions, and later served as Executive Producer and Director of several productions. Inspired by his love of watching films and the directorial styling of M. Night Shyamalan, Quentin Tarantino, and Clint Eastwood, Lonnie is now the Executive Producer and Director of **Upyri**, a web series production based on redemption. **Panelist for Using Social Media To Build a Brand for Your Project.**



DONNIE LEAPHEART is an Atlanta based video editor on films, documentaries and nationally broadcasted television programs and awards shows that help bolster his attention to detail and knack for storytelling as a rising screenwriter and director. For over a decade he has been entrenched in the world of independent film with projects that have been in several prestigious film festivals over the years. Most recently, his writing/directing/editing work took home the first ever Best Web Series prize at the 2012 American Black Film Festival for his original sci-fi thriller series "OSIRIS." **Panelist for Media & Communications Training.**



SHANDRA MCDONALD is an award-winning writer, director and producer of short and long-form content. She has received awards from the Director's Guild of America, Atlanta Film Festival, IFP Film Festival, Roxbury Film Festival, Women in Film and Television/Atlanta and Reel Shades of the Diaspora for projects that she has written, directed or produced. Shandra's film projects have aired on the web, and major television networks, including: ABC, NBC, UPN, Showtime and CBS. As CEO/President of Kiss the Limit Productions, Inc., Shandra has led the creation of uplifting web series, reality shows, documentaries, PSA's, commercials, corporate videos and cooking shows for clients across the United States. In 2006, Shandra produced and co-wrote her first award-winning feature film, The Last Adam, which is currently being distributed by Amazon and Wal-Mart. In the summer of 2011, she served as co-producer on a feature film titled, A Cross to Bear with Nina Holiday Entertainment, which aired on the Gospel Music Channel in February 2012. That same year, she co-produced a documentary titled, "Versailles 73: An American Runway Revolution, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. Shandra is also a seasoned television, story editor and field director having traveled all over the world creating original documentaries for production companies and prime-time networks. She is also a proud film and television adjunct professor having taught beginner's and advanced directing at various colleges in Atlanta, GA. **Moderator for the Directors Roundtable.**



NICHOLAS L. MINTER is a professional Composer and Sound Designer from Rochester, New York. He received his M.F.A in Sound Design from the Savannah College of Art and Design. His career as an audio artist has earned him respect within the entertainment industry. His influences in music are rooted in Jazz, Blues, Gospel, Classical, Pop, Hip Hop, Electronic, and Full Symphonic Orchestral music. Nicholas L. Minter has been classical trained on a variety of instruments including piano, drums, and percussion. In addition to being a composer, Nicholas L. Minter has served as an audio production and mix engineer for films, animations, games, children's toys, musicians, and interactive audio books. He currently resides in Atlanta, GA enjoying everything the Hollywood South has to offer. **Panelist for Sound Design: Audio Production for Film & Media.**



TROY MOORE is an accomplished writer and Director of Photography that has been the creative force behind many award winning short films, one of which was accepted into the Cannes Film Festival. From shorts, to features to music videos, Troy Moore has an out-of-the-box creative eye that leaves lasting images. A graduate of the Art Institute of Atlanta, Troy came onto the Atlanta film scene as a lighting master – lighting movies, commercials and music projects and building green screen grids for studios. He then went on to create explosive visual images for some of the top rap artists in the Atlanta: 2 Chainz, Gucci Mane, Wacka Flocka, Shawty Low, Key Swagg 3000, Cash Out. The list goes on and on! Now, after being the DOP for various reality shows and pilots, Troy is back to tackle the movie business, his most recent work including projects with Burt Reynolds, Tom Sizemore and Mo'Nique! **Instructor for *Is Bigger Better?* Large Format Camera Workshop.**



TAYLOR OWENBY is an Atlanta based filmmaker. **Panelist for *Film Festival Circuit: Building Buzz Around Your Film, Game, App, Show, or Web Series, and ABCs of Producing Successfully Across Multiple Platforms.***



JOSHUA PELTIER is an accomplished editor, videographer and director. He hails from Kansas City, Missouri, graduated from Fisk University, and attended Howard University's graduate Film program. As the Director and Editor of the Harmony in Life Concert series, he worked with accomplished musicians such as India Arie, John Legend, and the Dixie Chicks. Peltier is currently the Founder and Executive Producer of Brightcomm Entertainment, LLC through which he created and developed 'Success is My Visual' – a video resume workshop that teaches young people how to clearly and effectively communicate. Through his program, students produce a video resume that can be used for college admissions, scholarship applications and job interviews. Joshua has also done film and editing work for the City of Atlanta, Kaiser Permanente, and Teach for America. **Instructor for *Editing Lab: Final Cut Pro, Tips, Tricks & Best Practices.***



GEORGE PIERRE George Pierre is a graduate of the Art Institute of Atlanta, after which he became an intern at Rainforest Films, where he worked as a Production Assistant on features such as **The Gospel, Stomp The Yard, Motives Two** and several other movies. He quickly expanded his goals from P.A. to Casting Assistant for the Rainforest feature, **3 Can Play That Game**. From there he was hired as the Local Casting Director for the feature film, **Pastor Brown**, and for the first ten episodes of the Tyler Perry show, "**Meet the Browns**". George was soon able to take advantage of casting opportunities from CNN, TBS, BET, GMC & DISNEY to features like **Stomp The Yard 2, MTV's Teen Wolf, Sony Screen Gems' No Good Deed, Dimension Films' Scary Movie 5, and Universal Studios' Ride Along**. He is currently the Casting Director for TV ONE's hit comedy sitcom "**The Rickey Smiley Show**", as well as other features such as **In The Mean Time** and **A Christmas Blessing**. In addition to casting, George has pursued another passion – writing and producing. To date he has written and produced four short films, the one closest to his heart **Letters to a Father**, has received awards from The Peachtree Village International Film Festival and the Long Island Film Festival. **Panelist for *Acting in the Digital Age***



TERRELL SANDEFUR is a publicist & social media manager, owner of the The SoChi Gallery and creator of Macon Man Comics. A 2009 Cultural Awards winner, Sandefur is currently the president of the Macon Film Festival and has served on the board since its inception in 2006. He is also one of the Macon Film Commissioners. He's produced a few independent films and writes the blog SoChilite.com. Born in Columbus, Georgia, he resides in Macon with his wife, Kim, and two children, Wyatt & Nina. **Panelist for *Film Festival Circuit: Building Buzz Around Your Film, Game, App, Show, or Web Series.***



DERONTE L SMITH In 2001, filmmaker Deronte L Smith wrapped up his film studies at Kennesaw State University 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. **Panelist for Storytelling & Writing for Screen, Web Series, Animation & Games.**



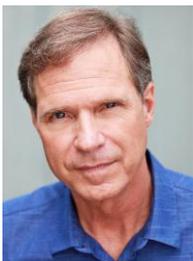
MATHEW STEELE Raised in Florida, Mathew moved up to leap into the larger Atlanta music scene and attended SAE (School of Audio Engineering) in the inaugural class back in 2007. As an audio engineer Mathew has worked with producers, songwriters and recording artists under Jive, Konvict, Upfront, Atlantic & Universal records. Mathew manages the Hip-Hop recording artists Prophit and Scott Aye (both from Tampa, FL) Mathew successfully landed Prophit's debut single "This My Club" into the #1 Box-Office Film "Limitless" along with featuring the song also into the Lionsgate film and trailer for the film "Game Time". After the success of a few placements Mathew formed his boutique music licensing company SteeleSync. Mathew quotes "SteeleSync was created to give those deserving independent acts a chance for added exposure and an increased budget to help blossom their careers." Mathew is currently building SteeleSync's catalog and just recently celebrated a #2 Box-Office Placement into the film "The Family" starring Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer and Tommy Lee Jones. **Panelist for Sound Design: Audio Production for Film & Media.**



ADAM STONER is an Atlanta based filmmaker. **Panelist for Storytelling & Writing for Screen, Web Series, & Games, and the Directors Roundtable.**



PATRICIA 'TRISH' TAYLOR is a successful working actress in Atlanta, GA, represented by the People Store Talent Agency and Umberger Agency. She has several entertainment industry credits in films, industrials, commercials, web series and over 30+ theatrical productions. Trish works freelance as an event planner, production coordinator/assistant, and office manager; owns her own marketing and public relations consulting business; and co-owns Bird Dance Productions with her husband Richard Taylor - producing independent films and television programs. Trish has a bachelor degree in Radio, Television and Film from the University of Southern Mississippi and a minor in theater. She began her career as a news reporter/ news director in 1990 working at several television/radio stations and newspapers in MS, ND, TX and GA. After eight years in "hard news," she transitioned into a nearly 25 year career in PR, marketing, and coordination.



RANDALL TAYLOR has been an actor for 30 years, appearing in Television, Film and Theatre. Some of his most recent credits include the Television shows Homeland, Drop Dead Diva, The Vampire Diaries and The Watsons Go To Birmingham. Films include Anchorman: The Legend Continues, Kill The Messenger, Killing Winston Jones, Space Warriors, I Can Do Bad All By Myself, The Killer Next Door and Robocop 3. He also has many Theatre credits, including Starbuck in The Rainmaker, Brick in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Arthur in Camelot, Booley in Driving Miss Daisy, Frederick in A Little Night Music and Harold Hill in The Music Man. He has a Masters Degree in Theatre from Southern Illinois University. He lives in Atlanta and has a son Noah and daughter Brooke. He's an avid whitewater kayaker and golfer. **Panelist for Acting in the Digital Age.**



MORRISON SID WASHINGTON is a self-taught artist and graphic designer, owns and operates a design firm (Pedagogi Design Studio) since 1995. Born and raised in Harlem he enhanced his skills painting murals, designing t-shirts, logos and marketing paraphernalia for local businesses in Harlem, NY. After a successful career managing at NYC Parks & Recreation he received a BFA in Visual Communication from AIU. He then relocated to Douglas, Georgia soon after he received his M. Ed. in Adult Education, also from AIU. He soon began designing for local franchises and shortly after landed at Westwood College as a Program Chair of the School of Design – Northlake Campus. **Instructor for Show Me the Money! Where the Technology Jobs Are in the Entertainment Business.**



SHEENA WILEY Since graduating from Tennessee State University with a degree in Mass Comm, Sheena has always been either in front of or behind the camera. 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.



MATTHEW YOUNG is the Director and Executive Producer of Brothers Young Productions. Brothers Young Productions is a full service production house with 2 green screen studios (a location in Marietta and one in Decatur) and a Red Epic. From pre-production to post, Brothers Young Productions creates content that is relevant, artistic and edgy. Matthew has spent the better part of the last decade developing and sharpening his creative eye and business acumen. Matthew along with his twin brother Jared wrote, produced and directed a series of popular children's films called "The Fantastic World", airing across the country on TBN and sold in various family bookstores. Matthew is also an award winning writer and director; winning best writing accolades from 2011 and 2012 48hr Film Competition and the 2012 24 Hour Film Race (which Brothers Young Productions placed 5th in the world). One of his shorts in conjunction with White Flame Studios was accepted and screened at the Cannes Film Festival. Matthew has also been privileged to direct

two acting legends; Burt Reynolds and Tom Sizemore as well as numerous other extremely accomplished actors. Matthew maintains a passion for his first love; music composition and scoring. **Panelist for Director's Roundtable, and Interviewee for Production Company Spotlight.**



JARED YOUNG is the Director and Executive Producer of Brothers Young Productions, along with his twin brother Matthew Young. He has spent the last 8 years deeply involved in many facets of the entertainment industry. His innate eye for quality along with an uncompromising spirit to improve his craft has resulted in an impressive resume in a short period of time. Jared has created shows for the likes of, VeggieTales creator Phil Vischer, and directed feature films starring Burt Reynolds, and Tom Sizemore. Both Matthew and Jared are also accomplished actors, being a part of the regular cast for School of Humans "Stuff You Should Know" that aired on The Science Channel. Jared's skills extend far beyond the screen, and some consider his greatest strength to be his art direction and set construction. Jared and Matthew combine to create a true a creative force. **Panelist for Director's Roundtable, and Interviewee for Production Company Spotlight.**

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL JURY



DAVID M CONLEY is a tenured Writer, Director, and Actor. As the head of Munirah Entertainment, Conley has developed exciting, award winning independent motion pictures. Conley has co-starred on the Lifetime Television series', *Army Wives* and *Drop Dead Diva*. He also had a recurring role on Tyler Perry's *House of Payne*. Conley has also been featured in movies like Disney's *Let it Shine*. Conley works as a consultant for directors and writers on stage plays and independent motion pictures. Conley's motion picture, *Tapestry of Shadows*, has won several awards across the country. In 2006, The St. Louis Film Critics Association awarded *Tapestry of Shadows* Best Ensemble Acting, and Runner up for Best Drama. Conley developed a television series entitled *D.N.R.* The pilot episode has won several awards as a short. His short film, *Timing* received nearly 100,000 YouTube views in less than two weeks. Conley is also a celebrated screenwriter. One of his pieces *Raising Izzie* has received many awards and nominations including Winner of 2011 gmc Television's Faith and Family Screenplay Competition. The film was produced by and was the directorial debut of film producer, Roger M. Bobb. The film's 2012 premiere was gmc Television Network's Biggest World Premiere ever. Conley is currently writing screenplays for hire, teaching/coaching actors and packaging three films for production over the next three year including, *The Blues on Maple Avenue*.



CHRISTINA HUMPHREY is a programmer of short films for the Atlanta Film Festival. She's an alumna of the University of West Georgia. Her favorite film is Věra Chytilová's "*Daisies*" and she once worked stage security for Lil Wayne. Christina loves working with and supporting the local film community.



CLEMENTINE LEGER 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.

Conference Producers



NANCY B. HOWARD is the Founder and Executive Director of The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation, and Founder and Producer the Georgia BIG PICTURE Conference (GABPC). She is also an independent film and video producer with over 16 years of production experience. She studied Mass Media Arts - Radio/TV/Film at Clark Atlanta University and graduated with a Masters degree in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University. Nancy has worked in a variety of production roles on music videos, commercials, corporate videos and feature films in metro Atlanta. She is currently the Executive VP and & COO of Kiss The Limit Productions, a boutique film, video and web production company. Nancy is a former Board Member of Women in Film & Television Atlanta, and currently a member of Women in Film & Television Atlanta, the Georgia Production Partnership, and the Atlanta Film Festival.



AMANI CHANNEL. See bio above.



LYDIA "SUE-ELLEN" CHITUNYA Lydia "Sue-Ellen" Chitunya, is a budding filmmaker who hails from Zimbabwe. She divides her time between the US and Zimbabwe. She is a Georgia State University graduate. She recently completed a producing certification program at University of California. Chitunya has produced several short films which have screened at different festivals such as; Atlanta and Action on Film. She participated in the Durban Talent Campus, Kyoto Filmmakers Lab, and the Caribbean Tales Incubators programs. Chitunya's varied work experience includes producing and coordinating the Georgia Big Picture Conference, interning for International Creative Management at Cannes Film Festival and marketing for the Disney College Program. She aspires to create groundbreaking projects that transcend across cultures and genres.



JOE HOWELL. See bio above.