

PFS PITCH & MIX: MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

Learn about the film industry professionals who you will be pitching yourself to and networking with at our inaugural PFS Pitch & Mix event! Along with our sponsor and co-host, the School of Film at University of the Arts, the Philadelphia Film Society looks forward to sharing a night dedicated to nurturing the Philadelphia Film community with you all.

AKILI DAVIS - Program Coordinator, [BlackStar Projects](#)

Akili Davis is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College, where she studied sociology and visual studies and found her love of film and television. During an undergraduate internship at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Akili co-curated Souls Grown Deep: Artists of the African American South, on view summer 2019, where she brought together her passion for elevating Black, Southern voices and her interest in community artmaking practices. Most recently, Akili served as the DEIA Coordinator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She also worked as a curatorial and research assistant for the Souls Grown Deep Foundation & Community Partnership helping craft the upcoming renewed Gee's Bend Cultural Trail. In her spare time, she fosters kittens and makes a mean cup of cold brew.

OPPORTUNITIES: Currently Hiring, Paid Internships

CONTACT: akili@blackstarfest.org

ART CITRON - Owner, [MindSurgery TV and Film](#)

With a editing career that spans decades and bridges two centuries, I am still addicted to the white-knuckle thrills that only timelines, jump-cuts and motion graphics can deliver. After 20 years and Emmy and Telly awards, I am proud to still be growing as a film editor (skilled in Avid, Premiere and Final Cut, as well as AfterEffects and Photoshop). But I am also charting exciting new terrain as a producer and director with new projects underway. As I gain my footing in these new roles it's great to be able to talk to camera operators with the shared understanding that comes from being one myself (having worked with the Canon C100 and C300, Panasonic GHG2, and Nikon D5100), just as I'm able to use my training as an actor to find alignment with actors I work with. With experience working with top-tier production firms, excellent project-management skills, and a great eye for detail, I am always ready to have a good conversation about a project, a vision, or a challenge.

OPPORTUNITIES: Currently Hiring, Paid Internships, Unpaid Internships, Volunteers, Mentorships

CONTACT: filmcutterguy@gmail.com

AUGUSTINE KIM - Camera Department Director, [Expressway Cinema Rentals](#)

OPPORTUNITIES: Currently Hiring, Unpaid Internships, Mentorships

CONTACT: auggy@expresswaycine.com

BOBBY REED - President / Executive Producer, [Loaded Pixel](#)

With 18 years of broadcast experience Bobby Reed began working in live & post production as a professional for Fox Sports Midwest in St. Louis. He later moved into the Pre & Post game producer role for FS Kansas City producing 280 shows for the Kansas City Royals. Following that he became a national editor at Versus and NBC Sports. As well as working live events for such clients as FOX, NBC, ESPN and CBS. Highlighted by the 2010 World Series, 2011 Stanley cup final, 2018 Winter Olympic games, Wimbledon and Super Bowl LI & LIV.

As the executive producer of Loaded Pixel he's led all commercial productions for such clients as Wawa, Brownstein Group, Zero Water, Deardorff & Associates, Penn Medicine, FOX Sports, Turner Sports, and Trimble. Over the past 8 years he's produced a feature length documentary, "Unschooling" that premiered at the Doc NYC Film Festival in 2019 & SXSW EDU 2020. As well as a short, "Eleven Past Ten" that was accepted into the Philadelphia Film Festival.

His dream has always been to produce creative, unique and fun entertainment for those folks watching at home, theatre, bar or mobile device.

OPPORTUNITIES: Currently Hiring, Paid Internships

CONTACT: bobby@loadedpixelcreative.com

CAITLIN RIGGSBEE - Archival Producer, [Freelance](#)

Caitlin Riggsbee is a documentary archival producer. After graduating from Philadelphia's University of the Arts with a degree in Film, Riggsbee has since worked on exciting and impactful projects such as Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr., The Blinding of Isaac Woodard, and Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. Most recently, Riggsbee Archival Co-Produced season 2 of HBO's critically acclaimed series, The Vow. Her interests lie in telling stories that highlight interesting people, uplift overlooked perspectives, and bridge the gap between past and present.

OPPORTUNITIES: Mentorship Opportunities

CONTACT: caitlinriggsbee@gmail.com

EMILY RONAN - Marketing and Content Manager, [CardSnacks](#)

Emily Ronan is the Marketing & Content Manager for CardSnacks, the leading app for digital greeting cards and gift cards. In this role, Emily helps manage the content and animation teams at CardSnacks (she also creates original animated cards as well). She also oversees many of the day-to-operations for the app and website. Emily graduated Monmouth University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design & Animation, with a concentration in Animation.

OPPORTUNITIES: Currently Hiring, Unpaid Internships

CONTACT: emily.ronan@cardsnacks.com

JAMES DOOLITTLE - VP Production, [All Ages Productions](#)

James Doolittle has helped guide innovative commercial, documentary and children's programming for the likes of PBS, Google, NBC Universal and The Huffington Post, among others. Doolittle continues

sprinkling his producing chops against streaming series such as WORN STORIES and IN THE VALLEY OF SIN, along with Sundance faves PHILLY D.A. and 32 SOUNDS. He was the Supervising Producer for the inaugural Blackstar Filmmakers Lab in 2022, providing year-round mentorship to a fabulous quartet of emerging filmmakers from the Greater Philadelphia area.

OPPORTUNITIES: Currently Hiring, Unpaid Internships

CONTACT: james@allagesproductions.com

KYLE CRICHTON - Editor, [Freelance](#)

Documentary film editor and college professor based in NYC and Philadelphia. His work has premiered at Sundance, Toronto International Film Festival, DOCNYC, San Diego Film Festival and more. His work has also aired on the Discovery Channel, History Channel, and PBS. For the past 5 years, Kyle has been a key team member working on a feature documentary about a revolutionary queer Rabbi, who leads a god-optional, artist driven, and everybody friendly synagogue.

OPPORTUNITIES: Mentorship Opportunities

CONTACT: kyle.n.crichton@gmail.com

LAUREN M SCHNEIDERMAN - [Filmmaker](#), The Philadelphia Inquirer

Lauren Schneiderman is an Emmy award-winning filmmaker, currently working as a cinematographer, video journalist, and editor at The Philadelphia Inquirer. As a videographer with the Inquirer, Lauren creates both short and long-form videos and documentaries on a variety of topics. She focuses on humanistic and intimate storytelling.

OPPORTUNITIES: Currently Hiring, Mentorships

CONTACT: lauren.m.schneiderman@gmail.com

PANDA LORD - Producer, [DRF Productions/MC3](#)

Panda is from the Philadelphia area. He has produced hip-hop, tons of digital content, and the feature film "What Lies Below" which was #1 on Netflix in April 2021. He has worked with Snoop Dogg, Busy Phillips, UFC Champion Chuck Liddell, Mena Suvari, Ema Horvath, Haskiri Velazquez and more. Panda is currently in pre-production for a historical documentary and another feature film. When he isn't in pre-pro or producing corporate content for MC3, he is working on passion projects or running around with his chocolate lab, Shady.

OPPORTUNITIES: Mentorship Opportunities

CONTACT: pandalordfilms@gmail.com

RAYMO VENTURA & TAMARA HAHN - Animation Directors, [Deux Wave](#)

Deux Wave is the Philly-based mixed-media animation studio of directors Tamara Hahn & Raymo Ventura. They specialize in merging analog & digital workflows, while hitting on those nostalgic feels for visual storytelling and exhibition.

Notable projects include Artist Spotlight doc-series on Billie Eilish & Bad Bunny for YouTube Music... Live stage visuals for Ms. Lauryn Hill, The Eric Andre Show, and Coachella Music Festival. Titles & Show

Graphics packages for Ilana Glazer's "Cheat Sheet for the Voting Booth Series" & Hannibal Buress' "Miami Nights" Comedy Special. Ads/ Social Content for global brands such as Adult Swim, Spotify, Uniqlo, and Topo Chico. At SXSW 2021, their film "Nuevo Rico" won the Jury Award for Best Animated Short.

OPPORTUNITIES: Mentorship Opportunities

CONTACT: bonjour@deuxwave.com

RYLEE CASSEL - 3D Environment Artist, [PHL Collective](#)

I studied Game Art and Art Education at UArts from 2016-2021. I'm an avid gamer and have always loved the artwork in games, especially 3D environments. I take a lot of inspiration from *The Last of Us*, *Horizon Zero Dawn*, and many others.

OPPORTUNITIES: Volunteer Opportunities, Mentorships

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SHUJA MOORE - Owner, [Do Moore Films](#)

Shuja is the owner of Do Moore Films, a media company that tells the stories from underrepresented communities and works to reduce poverty and gun violence by inspiring "emerging adults" (young people between the ages of 16 and 35 that are disconnected from school and work) through media projects. Shuja has also created and produced the docuseries "Walkies," a show that highlights the transformation stories of the formerly incarcerated. After serving 12 years in prison, Shuja returned to his West Philadelphia roots to provide resources to the disadvantaged community he left behind. Through his work within the Philadelphia landscape, he was named the 2020 Mike Lee Fellow at Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, has been recognized as a "Remodeled Citizen," by the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement, and recently served as the 52nd St. Corridor Manager for The Enterprise Center where he operated a resource center, facilitated West Philadelphia based community projects and provided support to businesses alongside the corridor. In 2021 Shuja became a Community Contributor for WHY? Inc., a Philadelphia-based affiliate of the Public Broadcasting Service.

OPPORTUNITIES: Volunteer Opportunities, Mentorships

CONTACT: shuja@domoorefilms.com

TED PASSON - President, [All Ages Productions](#)

Ted Passon is an award-winning director, writer, producer, and video artist. He created and directed the critically acclaimed docuseries PHILLY D.A., along with co-director Yoni Brook and producer Nicole Salazar. The series had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and had its international premiere at the Berlin Film Festival; becoming the first docuseries to ever screen there. It was named, "One of the best TV shows of 2021" by TIME, The NY Times, Variety, The LA Times, The Hollywood Reporter, The Washington Post, Vulture, Vogue, Slate, The Ringer, and Indiewire. The series won a PEABODY AWARD, a GOTHAM AWARD for "Best Breakthrough Nonfiction Series" and the DUPONT-COLUMBIA AWARD for "journalistic excellence". It was also nominated for "Best Nonfiction Series" by The Independent Spirit Awards, Cinema Eye Honors, and the IDA Awards.

Ted also directed multiple episodes of the Netflix series WORN STORIES, which he also participated in developing. The docuseries —adapted from Emily Spivack's New York Times best-selling book of the same name— explores the stories we carry around with us in our clothing. The series was executive produced by Jenji Kohan (Orange is the New Black, Glow) and Morgan Neville (Won't You Be My Neighbor), and has a 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Ted is a 2018 Sundance Catalyst Fellow and a 2016 Sundance Lab Creative Summit Fellow. He is also the recipient of the Pew Foundation Individual Artist Fellowship Grant and the Garrett Scott Documentary Development Grant. He has been the recipient of grants from the Ford Foundation, the International Documentary Association, Wyncote Foundation, and Vital Projects. Ted has written and directed over eight original children's television series for Disney and Comcast.

As a commercial director he worked with clients such as: Google, NBC, Guinness, GAP, Urban Outfitters, Ford, Hendrick's Gin, Sailor Jerry Rum, and others. His commercials have won both gold and silver Addy Awards. As a member of the Space 1026 art collective his video installations have been shown in galleries around the US and abroad. He collaborated with musician Tender Forever on live music and interactive video performances for the Whitney Museum, French Institute Alliance Francais, and the TBA Festival. Ted was a 2016 Artist in Residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

He has directed or produced projects for musical artists such as: St. Vincent, Blood Orange, Kurt Vile, The National, Dr. Dog, Dan Deacon, Spank Rock, The Darkness, Kimya Dawson, Plastic Little, and others. His music video for Plastic Little's track "Dopeness" was named "One of the Best Music Videos of the year" by both GBH.tv and "The Reel" UK. He is a co-founder of All Ages Productions, a full-service film and video production company and a board member of the Blackstar Film Festival.

OPPORTUNITIES: Currently Hiring, Unpaid Internships, Mentorships

TOM SHUSTACK - Rental Technician-Camera, [Redstar Pictures](#)

Director of Photography with 45 years of Service. Lead Rental Tech Redstar Pictures Philadelphia

OPPORTUNITIES: Volunteer Opportunities, Mentorships

CONTACT: tshustack@redstarpictures.com

VERNON JORDAN III - Filmmaker / Assistant Director of Programs, [cineSpeak](#)

Vernon Jordan, III is a Philly-born 'n raised writer, filmmaker, and poet. As an Afrofuturist, he reflects and expands upon African American memories, dreams, hauntings, queer kinship, and intimate fluidity; his priority is the merging of the visual and the musical: a Visual Lyricist, as it were. A graduate of Muhlenberg College ('16), with a B.A. in a self-designed major called Black Voice & Cultural Studies, his thesis film See My Dreams Come True has played at over five US-national and international festivals, including Blackstar Film Festival.

In 2019, Vernon completed a Screenwriting MFA from Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema; and in addition to advancing to a final consideration round at Sundance New Voices Youtube Episodic Lab, he has acted in short films hosted on HBO/Tribeca + Hulu, served as a panel moderator on Black film curation and preservation at New York's Upside Film Festival, based in Harlem, and co-wrote/directed a

short film called DEEP CUTS (in post-production). In 2020, his feature film script IGBO LANDING advanced to Semi-Finalist at Screencraft Scifi & Fantasy Screenplay competition.

Vernon has led screenwriting workshops, masterclasses, staged readings, and lectures at colleges and universities across the East Coast, and has since returned home to Philly as a Teaching Artist. His film work lives on Vimeo, while his short stories, prose and poetry have found homes with Black Youth Project, Huffington Post, The Establishment, Linden Avenue Literary Journal, and Catapult Community.

He models with WeSpeak Models, and is in Pre-Production for a short film, ii. ONE MAGENTA AFTERNOON.

OPPORTUNITIES: Not Currently Hiring - But May Be in the Future!

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WENDY COX - Producer, [Freelance](#)

Born and raised in suburban Philadelphia, Wendy Cox attended Pennsylvania State University's Theater Management program winning an award in her senior year, best described as "most likely to succeed in the real world". (Wendy doesn't remember the real name of the award, but it was cool and her family was impressed).

Directly after leaving Penn State, Wendy landed a job at the highly regarded, Tony Award winning Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island where she was soon running the joint (as the Production Stage Manager). Working with an extremely talented resident acting company, Wendy was encouraged by Actor/Director Richard Jenkins, then a long-standing member of the company, to pursue work in the film business as an Assistant Director.

Next Stop: Los Angeles. For the next 16 years, Wendy worked in film production in Los Angeles and beyond. Starting out as a production coordinator on staff at New Line Cinema, Wendy went on to freelance on some of the most iconic films of the 90's and early 00s: Dumb and Dumber, Se7en, American History X, and Blade 2.

Wendy has been very fortunate to work all over United States and all over the world, in Mexico, the Bahamas, England, France, Germany, Czech Republic, Thailand, Hong Kong, and China. Wendy has continued to work in feature films, a little television, documentary features and series, commercials and live event production as a Producer, Executive Producer, Production Manager and Head of Production. Most recently Wendy was recruited as a (ridiculously well paid) Covid Compliance Manager, acting as the film liaison to the medical professionals working hard to keep content (mostly Netflix content) rolling off the assembly line.

OPPORTUNITIES: Always looking for solid production folks for local commercial/music video/documentary work

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