

# SUMMERFILM BEHIND THE SCENES

MONDAY, JULY 22

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10:00 - 10:15 | CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:15 - 11:45 | BEGINNINGS - ZOË ELTON

It is a universal truth that the way you begin a story—in a film, in a book, in a conversation—is the most important thing. In films, the beginning sets the tone, gives you an insight into what the story's about, and may just be the moment when you decide whether you want to go on the journey that's about to unfold for the next couple of hours. We'll begin our day with exercises and discussion that unpack the whys and hows of beginnings.

*Zoë Elton is a British-born film curator, writer, interviewer and educator. She is the Director of Programming for the Mill Valley Film Festival and gets to travel the world to places like Berlin and Cannes looking for films for the annual festival. At the festival, she introduces and interviews guests such as Nicole Kidman, Greta Gerwig and Amandla Stenberg. She's developed the Mind the Gap (about gender equity) and Active Cinema (about films that are intended to make an impact in the world) initiatives as a way to help films reach their audiences and filmmakers achieve their dreams.*

11:45 - 12:15 | LUNCH

12:15 - 2:00 | SCREENWRITING - IRIS TORRES & TOM FRANCO

In this hands-on screenwriting workshop, students will learn the importance of creative collaboration, character and storytelling. Iris and Tom will screen a portion of a film and lead participants through a series of writing, storyboarding, and pitching exercises to flesh out the backstory and character arc of some of the film's characters.

*Originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, Iris Torres worked in Vancouver, Canada for 5 years as an Assistant Director for films including Twilight and Planet of the Apes before transitioning to producing. In 2010, she became a producer for James Franco's production company, Rabbit Bandini Productions. Her 2013 debut feature Interior Leather Bar premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Her feature film producer credits for films directed by James Franco include Bukowski (2013) and In Dubious Battle (2016). In 2015, Iris partnered with Tom Franco to create 3F Films, working on features, shorts and documentaries. In 2018, Iris also partnered up with Elissa Shay to create Future Retro Productions on a mission to produce socially conscious films.*

*Although his main profession is as a fine art sculptor, using found objects, mixed media and paint, Tom Franco joined forces with partner and producer Iris Torres, as a film producer and director of creative content. Tom is the co-founder and director of the*

*Firehouse Art Collective, a series of five community art spaces in the East Bay. Tom and his main artistic collaborators have developed public art programs, murals, live art happenings and feature films. Working with youth has always been an important part of Tom's artistic process. He regularly teaches art classes and speaks at high schools, colleges and community workshops.*

#### 2:00 - 3:50 | VIRTUAL REALITY - JOHN MCCLEOD

Students will experience how to create in 360° visual by learning how to use cameras and edit footage to create a 360° collage of downtown San Rafael. Students will work in groups of two to record downtown 360° footage then edit their footage to export stills.

*Over the last 30 years John McCleod has taught technology, media creation and video production, and his students have won numerous state and national awards. Integrating XR technology into schools and libraries is a major focus of his current work. Augmented, Virtual, Mixed and 360VR video will transform the way we learn and communicate.*

## TUESDAY, JULY 23

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#### 10:00 | CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

#### 10:15 - 10:45 | THEATER TOUR & FILM PROJECTION – DAN ZASTROW

Dan will lead students on an all-access tour of the Smith Rafael Film Center, complete with details about the historic building and an inside look at what it takes to, quite literally, run the show.

*Dan Zastrow has been the General Manager of the Smith Rafael Film Center since it first opened in 1999. He manages the beautifully restored building and is responsible for all theater operations. He has long served as the Technical Director for the internationally renowned Mill Valley Film Festival, which takes place every October.*

#### 10:45 - 12:00 | SILENT FILM – BRUCE LOEB

Bruce will be presenting Buster Keaton's *Sherlock, Jr.* with live piano accompaniment, with an introduction and discussion after the screening.

*Bruce Loeb performs piano accompaniments for silent films at the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum and the Pacific Film Archive here in the Bay Area. He has performed at venues across the country including The Cleveland Museum of Art, The New York Public Library and The Esalen Institute. Bruce draws upon his knowledge of classical piano, popular music and his talent for improvisation to create scores that complement the visual storytelling of silent movies.*

12:00 - 12:30 | LUNCH

12:30 - 2:15 \ 2:20 - 4:00 | DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING & INTERVIEWING – WILL PARRINELLO

Will will be discussing techniques for filming a good interview, screening a few examples, and conducting group exercises where students will practice interviewing one and another. Learn the best strategies for getting a good interview, what kind of preparation goes into an interview, and how you can make your subject comfortable enough that they want to share with you.

*Will Parrinello has been making films together with John Antonelli, his partner in the Mill Valley Film Group, or more than 30 years. Beginning in 1983 with a short documentary for MTV on Jackson Browne's protest against the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, they have produced an extensive filmography of documentaries on cultural, social and environmental topics. Their films have screened at festivals around the world including Sundance, Tribeca, Full Frame, Venice, Telluride, Zanzibar and, of course, Mill Valley.*

12:30 - 12:30 | LUNCH

12:30 - 2:15 \ 2:20 - 4:00 | AVANT GARDE FILM – CRAIG BALDWIN

This direct-animation workshop gives students hands-on access to 16mm film—to be freely bleached, scraped, and colored! Small groups around light-tables will collaboratively select 10-foot sections to be manipulated with sandpaper, scrapers, and water-color brushes, and then spliced head-to-tail for big-screen projection.

*Craig Baldwin is a filmmaker and curator whose interests lie in archival retrieval and recombinatory forms of cinema and performance. Over the last two decades, his productions have been shown and awarded at numerous international festivals, museums, and institutes of contemporary art, often in conjunction with panels, juries, and workshops on collage and cultural activism.*

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

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10:00 | CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:15-12:15 | ACTING, CASTING & AUDITIONING – BETTINA DEVIN

Short mock auditions will be enacted with students playing the roles of actors, director, and casting director for each scene—everyone will have the opportunity to play one of those roles. Scenes will be recorded on video to be reviewed and discussed afterward.

Seasoned veteran of stage, small and large screen, voiceover and concerts, **Bettina Devin** remains a working actress/singer whose students benefit directly from her own continued activity out there in the trenches. Known for her chameleon-like ability to change her look/character, Bettina is best known for her role as Idina Menzel's ("Frozen", "Wicked") clueless Mom in the film version of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Rent" (directed by Chris Columbus). In addition to being a working actress, she is a busy casting director and producer in all aspects of the entertainment industry.

12:30 - 12:45 | LUNCH

12:50 - 2:20 | SOUND DESIGN – BEN BURTT

Making movies is about creating illusions. The illusion is all the more powerful with SOUND. Using clips and audio, I will celebrate my love of sound effects, the basics of sound design, and outline things a student can do to have fun with sound in their own movies.

*Ben Burtt has more than 30 years of experience as a writer, director, film editor, sound designer, and sound mixer. His work includes feature films, documentaries, network television movie specials, and educational specialty films. Ben received an Oscar® for the creation of the alien, creature, and robot voices featured in the original Star Wars and for Sound Effects Editing for Raiders of the Lost Ark. He won Oscars for Sound Effects Editing for E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. He has also earned nominations for Sound Mixing for Return of the Jedi and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade; for Sound Effects Editing for Return of the Jedi, Willow and Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace; and for Sound Editing and Sound Mixing for WALL-E. Ben is the voice of Wall-E, as well as the breathing of Darth Vader.*

2:20 - 3:20 | COSTUME DESIGN – GAY MAXEY

Costume Designers play a big part in the development of the characters in theater and film. They study the history of clothing and film and understand fashion illustration and color theory. Students will get an in-depth view of costume design and develop a character for different film genres.

*Gay Maxey is a college representative for FIDM - The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and part of its Speaker's Bureau.*

## THURSDAY, JULY 25

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10:00 | CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:15-11:00 / 12:00-1:00 | THE ANATOMY OF A FILM SET – JOHNNY ALVAREZ

An in depth look into the functionalities of a working film crew and how each individual role comes together to create a single shot, a scene, and an entire film.

*Johnny Alvarez is a Cuban-American writer and filmmaker originally from the Midwest and currently based in the Bay Area. He has worked on a number of film, television, and commercial shoots, as well as working for organizations like Sundance, Film Independent, and SFFILM. His most recent short film "Victory Boulevard" premiered at Outfest Los Angeles 2018.*

10:15-11:00 / 12:00-1:00 | GREEN SCREEN – CHRIS GONZALEZ WITH INTREPID STUDIOS

This workshop will focus on understanding the basics of lighting a green screen.

*With nine years of experience in video production, Chris Gonzalez is the current cinematographer and colorist at Intrepid Creative.*

1:00 - 1:45 | LUNCH

1:50 - 3:50 | LIGHTING – CHRIS GONZALEZ WITH INTREPID STUDIOS

This workshop will explore the fundamentals of three point lighting.

*With nine years of experience in video production, Chris Gonzalez is the current cinematographer and colorist at Intrepid Creative.*

## FRIDAY, JULY 26

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10:00 | CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:15 - 11:45 | VOICE OVER – BRIAN SOMMER

This workshop will provide an explanation of what voice acting is, where it is used, and how auditioning, selection and recording are conducted.

*Brian Sommer is a voice actor with over 15 years of experience. He has provided the voice of hundreds of characters in nearly 200 video games such as The Walking Dead, League of Legends, The Wolf Among Us, Diablo III, Vainglory, Disney Hidden Worlds, Elderscrolls On Line, CSI, Assassins Creed, and Tales of Monkey Island. Brian enjoys teaching the craft of voice over, and has done so for the last 10 years at Voicetrax in Sausalito and The Global Voice Acting Academy online.*

11:45- 12:15 | LUNCH

12:15 - 1:45 | ART DIRECTION & PRODUCTION DESIGN – KRIS BOXELL

Kris will explore and uncover how the Production Designer works with their creative team to create convincing environments for a motion picture or television show. Students will be introduced to the Art Department crew and learn how they collaborate to make sets that support the story.

*As a Production Designer, **Kris Boxell** enjoys the process of creating settings that support cinematic storytelling. She has extensive experience as a Set Decorator on feature films, episodic television and new media. While heading the Production Design Track in the school of Motion Pictures and Television at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, Kris continues to work on projects for the big and small screens. Her feature film credits include Bull Durham, James and the Giant Peach, All About Evil, Fruitvale Station, and Blue Jasmine.*

1:50 – 3:40 | STUNT & STAGE COMBAT – RICHARD SQUERI

Richard will discuss and demonstrate the fundamentals of stage combat work and the tools of film that trick viewers' perceptions of danger and comedic movement. Students will learn about the three elements of Anticipation, Separation, and Definition as well as concepts of Space, Time, and Point of View.

***Richard Squeri** is an award winning Fight & Intimacy Director and Choreographer, as well as Executive Producer and Assistant Director of Birdbath Theatre. As a Stunt and Stage Combat Instructor he has 40 years of experience and a record of safety. His work has appeared in every media genre. He is an adjunct faculty member at The College of Marin and EBCPA, with fight directing credits for over 350 shows including Romeo & Juliet, Uncle Vanya, Richard II, Othello, Hamlet, Arabian Nights, Macbeth, Taming of the Shrew, I Hate Hamlet, and King Lear.*