

SUMMERFILM

BEHIND THE SCENES 2020

MONDAY, JULY 6

10:00 am

CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:20 am

SCREENWRITING INTENSIVE, PART 1 – IRIS TORRES & TOM FRANCO

In this hands-on screenwriting workshop, students will learn the importance of creative collaboration, character, and storytelling.

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 with Elissa Shay to create Future Retro Productions with 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.

12:30 pm

LUNCH

1:15 pm

SCREENWRITING INTENSIVE, PART 2 – IRIS TORRES & TOM FRANCO

2:45 pm

INTRODUCTION TO STAGE COMBAT, PART 1 – RICHARD SQUERI

Richard will discuss and demonstrate the fundamentals of stage combat work and the film tools that trick viewers' perceptions of danger and comedic movement.

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*.

3:50 pm

CLOSING

TUESDAY, JULY 7

10:00 am

CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:20 am

INTRODUCTION TO SILENT FILM, PART 1 – BRUCE LOEB

Bruce will present a series of classic silent short films with live piano accompaniment. Today's presentation will feature the earliest cinema including Georges Méliès, the Lumiere Brothers, and Edwin S. Porter's *The Great Train Robbery*.

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.

11:00 am

1/DAY, 1/ROLL SUPER 8 YOUTH FILM CHALLENGE, PART 1 – JASON ASBELL

Jason will lead us through basic photographic principles, Super 8 camera operation, and how to work inside limitations as a creative exercise. We will also go through the recipe for making Caffinol-C, an at-home non-chemical alternative for developing film, and how to hand-process Super 8 film.

Jason Asbell brings a wealth of experience from film curation, production, presentation, and teaching film workshops. A graduate of the Simon Fraser University film program in Vancouver, BC, Jason has had his experimental work screened internationally in film festivals in Canada, US, France, and Germany. As the Programming Director for The Civic Theatre, he has programmed, presented, and curated a diverse array of alternative programming. He is a driving force behind the development of the Kootenay Screen-Based Industry Initiative and conceptualized the 1/Day, 1/Roll Super 8 Youth Film Challenge.

11:40 am

LUNCH

12:30 PM

1/DAY, 1/ROLL SUPER 8 YOUTH FILM CHALLENGE, PART 2 – JASON ASBELL

Jason will offer tips and techniques as you start production of your own Super 8 short film from home.

2:10 pm

COMEDY TECHNIQUES FOR ON-CAMERA ACTING – BETTINA DEVIN

Students will explore their inner comedic talents with Bettina, who describes her technique as "a blend of Meisner, Strasberg, and Joan Darling channeled through my own years of hard-earned experience."

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*. In addition to being a working actress, she is a busy casting director and producer in all aspects of the entertainment industry. As a coach, Bettina's students have recently been seen starring on Broadway, in principal recurring roles in television series, and voicing lead roles in major animated films for Pixar, Disney, and more.

3:50 pm
CLOSING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

10:00 am
CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:20 am
INTRODUCTION TO CASTING (ADS/TV/MOVIES) – BETTINA DEVIN
Students will engage in short mock auditions, which will be recorded for review and discussion to follow.

12:20 pm
LUNCH

1:20 pm
INTRODUCTION TO VOICE OVER – BRIAN SOMMER
This workshop will demonstrate what voice acting is, where it is used, and how auditioning, selection, and recording are conducted. Each student will have the opportunity to develop a voice character, guided by Brian.

Brian Sommer is a voice actor with over 15 years of experience. He has provided the voices 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, which he has done for the last 10 years at Voicetrax in Sausalito and The Global Voice Acting Academy online.

3:05 pm
INTRODUCTION TO STAGE COMBAT, PART 2 – RICHARD SQUERI
Richard will continue to discuss and demonstrate the fundamentals of stage combat work and the tools of film that trick viewers' perceptions of danger and comedic movement.

3:50 pm
CLOSING

THURSDAY, JULY 9

10:00 am

CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:20 am

SILENT FILM, PART 2 – BRUCE LOEB

Bruce will continue his presentation of classic silent short films with live piano accompaniment. Today's presentation will feature silent comedy featuring Charlie Chaplin.

11:00 am

INTRODUCTION TO ANIMATION – BENJAMIN RAGASA

Benjamin will walk students through the invention of animation, starting with its early history and continuing through contemporary film titles we all know and love. Special Pixar guest to be announced!

Ben Ragasa is an animator-in-training who is currently studying at the University of Southern California. As a former attendee of CFI summer camps, Ben is happy to continue the tradition of teaching animation where his film career began.

12:30 pm

1/DAY, 1/ROLL SUPER 8 YOUTH FILM CHALLENGE, PART 3 – JASON ASBELL

1:00 pm

LUNCH

1:45 pm

STOP MOTION ANIMATION – THALIA FRY

In this session, we dive further into animation history to study the principles that make it work, and learn how to make and record our own short animated flip books. We will explore the core concept of animation: The Persistence of Vision, with historical context and connection to animation as we know it today.

Thalia Fry is a multimedia artist from Oakland, CA. She is an alumna of the CalArts Film and Video Department program, where she earned her BFA in Experimental Animation. During her time there she helped curate *CALARTS: A 40 Year Evolution* screening for the Anecy International Animation Festival, and became a grantee of the Princess Grace Foundation, awarded with the Charles Evans Film Award. Thalia has worked with the Oakland-based company GoldieBlox, producing a variety of animated commercial media and has been an art director for productions of episodic media. Thalia got her start in education working with the animation department at the California State Summer School for the Arts. She is a lead facilitator for the YouthBeat animation program where she teaches an animation CTE course.

3:50 pm

CLOSING

FRIDAY, JULY 10

10:00 am

CHECK IN + OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

10:20 am

DOCUMENTARY & SOUND DESIGN – JIM LEBRECHT & NICOLE NEWNHAM

Jim and Nicole will walk students through the use of sound in documentary film from the perspective of both the director and the sound designer/mixer.

Jim LeBrecht has more than 35 years of experience as a film and theater sound designer and mixer, author and disability rights activist. Jim began his career in theater, working as the resident sound designer at the Berkeley Repertory Theater for 10 years. His documentary film credits include *The Island President*, *The Waiting Room*, *The Kill Team*, and *Audry and Daisy*. A complete list of his film credits (more than 145) can be viewed on [IMDB.com](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0498141/). Jim co-authored *Sound and Music for the Theater: The Art and Technique of Design*, which is used as a textbook all over the world. Jim's work as an activist began in high school and continued at UC San Diego, where he helped found the Disabled Students Union. Jim is currently a board member of the Disability Education and Defense Fund, which works for the rights of the disabled through education, legislation, and litigation.

Nicole Newnham is an Emmy®-winning documentary producer and director, Sundance Film Festival alumnus, five-time Emmy-nominee, and graduate of the Stanford Documentary Film Program. She recently produced two virtual reality films with the Australian artist/director Lynette Wallworth: the breakthrough VR work *Collisions*, which won the 2017 Emmy for Outstanding New Approaches to Documentary; and *Awavena*, featured this year at the World Economic Forum in Davos and at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival. Previously she co-directed *The Revolutionary Optimists* and co-produced and directed the acclaimed documentary *The Rape of Europa*, which was shortlisted for an Academy Award.

11:00 am

DOCUMENTARY DISCUSSION: CRIP CAMP – JIM LEBRECHT & NICOLE NEWNHAM

In preparation for a midday screening of the acclaimed Netflix documentary *Crip Camp*, Jim and Nicole will share their journey from conception through production of the film.

11:30 am

LUNCH + SCREENING OF CRIP CAMP

In the early 1970s, teenagers with disabilities faced a future shaped by isolation, discrimination, and institutionalization. Camp Jened, a ramshackle camp “for the handicapped” (a term no longer used) in the Catskills, exploded those confines. Jened was their freewheeling Utopia, a place with summertime sports, smoking, and make-out sessions awaiting everyone, and campers experienced liberation and full inclusion as human beings. Their bonds endured as many migrated West to Berkeley, California—a hotbed of activism where friends from Camp Jened realized that disruption, civil disobedience, and political participation could change the future for millions.

1:15 pm

DOCUMENTARY INTERVIEWING SKILLS - SARAH CAHLAN

Sarah shares her experience as a documentary director to walk students through some exercises necessary to prepare and conduct a successful interview.

Sarah Cahlan is a visual journalist and documentary filmmaker currently producing shorts for the *Washington Post*. As a student at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, she directed *TheirStory*, a documentary short that was shortlisted for a BAFTA and premiered at the Mill Valley Film Festival. Sarah is an alumni of the NBC/NAHJ News fellow program where she wrote stories, produced videos, and developed the multimedia Hispanic Heritage piece for NBC Latino. Sarah has worked on HBO films and Emmy Award-winning documentaries and produced videos while living in Bhutan. Her college majors—archaeology and environmental studies—led to her first video job, filming her archaeology professor for National Geographic at his dig in Israel. The team uncovered the oldest wine cellar ever found. True to these roots, she continues to make fact-driven, wonky, and investigative stories into gripping long and short-form documentaries.

3:00 pm

1/DAY, 1/ROLL SUPER 8 YOUTH FILM CHALLENGE SHOWCASE

A viewing party and celebration of the week's finished films.