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IN THE LOOP

A Message from Stony Brook University's MFA in Film and MFA in TV Writing Programs

Welcome Back!

As we near the end of the semester, we are thrilled to share with you the progress of our students, as well as some of the amazing things that are happening on ourManhattan campus!

Info Session

Our first info session of the year, hosted by Christine Vachon, Alan Kingsberg, Magdalene Brandeis, and other faculty was a huge success, with a record number of attendees zooming in from not just New York City, but from all over the world! Prospective students got to ask pressing questions to both faculty and students on the workings of the program, and learn all about our ethos of writing yourself into your dream job. We are so pumped for what is sure to be a fantastic group of applicants!

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Welcome to our second newsletter of the 2022-2023 school year!

Fall 2022 Screenings

"Watching all those student shorts on the big screen really makes you want to keep pushing and believing in your work so that one day, it can be you up there. In a word: awe-inspiring." - First-year Film MFA student Asavari Vaidya.
On October 15th, second- and third-year filmmakers got to see their films on the big screen at the iconic Cinepolis Theater. Students, faculty, and loved ones gathering together to watch the product of everyone's hard work was, as third-year Micah Demby put it, "a delight to behold. I'm floored by the progress we've all made as artists between our first and second year screenings!"

Alan Kingsberg & the TV Academy Educators Conference

Alan Kingsberg spent three days in LA at the TV Academy's Educators Conference as an Alex Trebek Fellow. Speakers included showrunners from *Sherman's Showcase*, *Queen Sugar*, and *Hightown* on the creative side and the CEO of Sony Pictures, President of Radical Media, and Head of Production at HBO on the business side. All reported that TV production is way up this year and that hiring is increasing in all categories. Other important takeaways: The TV Academy has an archive of over 900 interviews with writers, directors, and below the liners. The deadline for the TV Academy Internships, a paid gig this summer in LA, is coming up in December. If you have a great Spec, you should/must apply — winning can launch your career.

Advance Party Readings

On November 8th, our Advance Party Class taught by Leonard Crooks held its annual table read. Based on the Advance Party screenwriting process, nine incredible actors were brought in to read aloud scripts by students of the class, developed throughout the entire semester. A night full of drama, roaring laughter, and wonderful storytelling, the table read experience is one of the many rewarding aspects of the Advance Party course. And, as first-year Sri Ram Burgula noted, "it was electrifying hearing your script come to life."

Student Accomplishments

Mars Gorman

Second-year TV MFA student Mars Gorman was recently selected for Netflix and RespectAbility's Children's Content Lab! RespectAbility, which describes itself as "a diverse and disability-led nonprofit that works to create systemic change in how society views and values people with disabilities," has partnered with Netflix to provide education, training, and networking opportunities for disabled writers seeking to create cutting-edge children's content. As a part of the program, Mars will join this five-week program culminating in a reading of their pilot, *Hawk Hall: Kid Detective*, at a showcase hosted by Netflix.

"I have always been passionate about disability representation in television -- my desire to see queer, disabled people like me on television screens motivated me to become a writer and to pursue my MFA at Stony Brook," says Mars. "RespectAbility is an organization that I've followed for many years because of their incredible work in this area, and I'm so honored and excited to be a part of this lab!"

Laila Wilson

The Alliance for Women in Media has selected first-year TV Writing MFA student Laila Wilson as one of only seven Mattel Fellows! This honor is meant to designate the next generation of women in media passionate about creating, telling, directing, and connecting stories impacting our world.

As part of the inaugural student fellowship program, honorees will attend the Gracies Leadership Awards in NYC. We can't wait to see Laila take on this exciting new challenge, and, as she enthusiastically put it, "represent our Stony Brook Campus!"

Connect With Us!

Thank you for tuning into our second newsletter of the school year! See you in our next edition.
Be sure to follow us on our social media pages for any breaking news and summer updates:

Instagram: @sbufilmtv
Facebook: @sbufilmtv
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To apply to our Film or TV Writing MFA programs or for more information, please visit http://stonybrook.edu/film-tv-writing