



Paige Bethmann

Remaining Native

Paige Bethmann is a Haudenosaunee woman and feature filmmaker based in Rochester, New York. Over the last 10 years, Paige has worked in non-fiction television for various digital and broadcast networks such as ESPN, PBS, Vox Media, Youtube Originals, USA, and NBC. Her directorial debut *Remaining Native* premiered at SXSW, winning a Special Jury Award and Audience Award. Her work has been supported by the Sundance Institute Edit and Story Lab, the International Documentary Association, Doc Society, and the Points North Institute. In 2024 Paige was named in DOC NYC's 40 Under 40 documentary filmmakers to watch. She is currently a 2025 BAFTA Breakthrough recipient highlighting her as one of the most exciting new voices in documentary film.



Julie Cohen

RBG; Every Body

Julie Cohen has directed more than a dozen documentaries including: *RBG* (Magnolia, 2018, directed alongside Betsy West), nominated for two Oscars, winner of an Emmy and a Critics Choice Award; *Every Body* (Focus Features, 2023), nominated for an Emmy, a Critics Choice Award, and a GLAAD Award; *Julia* (Sony Pictures Classics, 2021, directed alongside West) Oscar Shortlisted; *My Name is Pauli Murray* (Amazon Studios, 2021, directed alongside West), Peabody winner; *The Sturgeon Queens* (PBS, 2014), Berlinale Official Selection, 10 time Audience Choice winner. She is an executive producer of *Frida* (Amazon, 2024) Oscar shortlisted, Emmy winner; and *Steal this Story, Please* (2026). Before making documentaries, Julie was a producer at NBC News. She graduated from Colgate and holds Master's degrees from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and Yale Law School. She received the 2024 Freedom of Expression Award from the Jewish Film Institute.



Sandi DuBowski

Sabbath Queen; Trembling Before G-d

Sandi DuBowski is the director/producer of *Sabbath Queen*, director/producer of *Trembling Before G-d*, producer of *A Jihad for Love*, and co-producer of *Budrus*. His award-winning work has screened at Sundance, Berlin, Tribeca, and Toronto, theatrically released in 150 cities, and broadcast on ZDF/Arte, BBC, Channel 4, PBS. In 2020, he was invited to become a member of the Documentary Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. DuBowski spearheaded a groundbreaking impact campaign with the award-winning *Trembling Before G-d*, personally conducting 850 live events for over 250,000 people, which changed the lives of countless individuals, their families, religious leaders, and communities around the world. Feature stories on the project appeared in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, NPR, The Globe and Mail, and BBC News.



Amber Fares

Coexistence, My Ass!; Speed Sisters

Amber Fares is an award-winning documentary director, producer, and cinematographer best known for *Coexistence, My Ass!*, which premiered at Sundance 2025 and was shortlisted for an Academy Award. She also directed *Speed Sisters* (Hot Docs, 2015), *We Are Ayenda* (Amazon, 2023), *Reckoning with Laughter* (Al Jazeera's Witness, 2021), and co-directed *Convergence: Courage Under Crisis* (Netflix, 2021). Amber served as cinematographer and co-producer on the Peabody Award-winning *The Judge* (PBS, 2017), was cinematographer on the Sundance Special Jury Award-winning *Life After*, and produced and shot the Academy Award-nominated short *The Devil is Busy* (HBO, 2025). A Sundance Momentum Fellow and Pillars Artist Fellow, she is currently based between New York and Montreal.



Vanessa Gould*Obit.*; *Between The Folds*

Vanessa Gould is a Peabody Award-winning filmmaker and editor based in Tribeca. She directed *Obit.*, about The New York Times' obituaries and their writer-reporters. It was released by Kino Lorber in theaters nationwide, with exclusive streaming on Amazon Prime. *Obit.* received critical praise from NPR, BBC, TIME Magazine, Vogue, the New York Times, LA Times, The Economist, Rolling Stone, The Nation, and many others. Gould's previous film *Between the Folds* premiered on PBS's Independent Lens and received a Peabody Award. It has been broadcast in dozens of languages and countries, and is currently part of Labocine's April 2026 program mathēmatiká. Recently, Gould has also worked as an editor and director-editor, with short-form pieces on legendary musicians and artists - including a Latin jazz drummer, a Catalan viola da gamba performer, a 20th-century still-life painter - as well as profiles of scientists for Schmidt Sciences and The New York Academy of Sciences.

**JM Harper***Soul Patrol*; *As We Speak*

Jason is a writer/director based in Brooklyn, where he lives with his wife, two kids, and a cat named Miles Davis. A Princeton graduate in German Media Theory, he began making films as a student. *Soul Patrol*, his documentary about the first Black special operations team in the Vietnam War, won the U.S. Documentary Directing Award at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival. His previous feature, *As We Speak* (Paramount+, Sundance 2024), is an Emmy-nominated documentary about the use of rap lyrics in the U.S. criminal justice system. He executive produced the Peabody Award-winning *Daughters* (Netflix) and has edited four features including the Emmy-nominated *jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy* (Netflix). In 2024 he was named to DOC NYC's 40 Under 40.

**Judy Kibinge***Goat*; *Something Necessary*

Judy Kibinge is a Kenyan filmmaker, writer, and cultural institution builder whose career has refused to stay in one lane. From pioneering advertising creative to feature filmmaker to founding East Africa's first documentary film fund, Docubox, she has spent a decade and a half building the infrastructure for African storytellers — and now, with fresh eyes and a lot of unfinished stories, she's back where it all began: storytelling. Her latest work, *Goat* — an African folk thriller that premiered at Woodstock Film Festival in 2025 — marks a joyful return to the director's chair after a decade of building for others. She arrives at Camp Sandbox hungry, curious, and ready to play.

**Steve Maing***Union*; *Crime + Punishment*

Stephen Maing is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker. His films *Union* (POV/Criterion Channel) and *Crime + Punishment* (Hulu) both won Special Jury Awards at the Sundance Film Festival and were shortlisted for the Academy Award for Best Documentary. He has collaborated closely with whistleblowers in the NYPD, dissident citizen reporters in China, Amazon worker-turned-organizers in Staten Island, journalists exposing illicit cartel-run gold mining in the Amazon rain forest, and leakers in the State Department. His most recent film, *The Great Experiment*, made over a decade, is a cinematic account of American life during one of the most volatile and perplexing eras of US history & identity. Maing has received fellowships from The Guggenheim Foundation, United States Artists, Sundance Institute, NBC Original Voices, and was recipient of the IDA's Courage Under Fire Award.





Michał Marczak

Closure; All These Sleepless Nights

Michał Marczak is a director, writer, and cinematographer whose films fuse documentary intimacy with a highly authored cinematic style. His 2026 feature documentary *Closure* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival to critical acclaim, topping the IndieWire Critics Survey for Best International Documentary. Marczak first gained international recognition with *All These Sleepless Nights*, which won the Sundance Directing Award and the Heterodox Award at Cinema Eye Honors. The film appeared on numerous critics' year-end lists, including Rolling Stone, and was named by IndieWire as one of the 100 best films of the decade. His earlier feature *Fuck for Forest* had its North American premiere at SXSW, where it began a festival run that brought multiple awards and strong critical attention. Marczak has also directed music videos for artists including Radiohead (*I Promise*) as well as the short film/video *Beautiful People*, created for Mark Pritchard featuring Thom Yorke.



TJ Martin

Undefeated; LA 92

Martin's feature documentary *Undefeated* (2012) won the Academy Award for Best Documentary, making him the first director of African American descent to win an Oscar for a feature-length documentary. The film also earned Martin a place on Ebony Magazine's Power 100 List alongside President Barack Obama and LeBron James. His follow-up, *LA 92* (2017), an archive-only film about the 1992 civil unrest in Los Angeles, won numerous awards, including the Emmy Award for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking, and was a recipient of the Television Academy Honors. *Tina* (2021), his portrait of Tina Turner, earned three Primetime Emmy nominations, including Best Documentary and Best Director.



Archana Phadke

About Love; Indi(r)a's Emergency

Born in 1986 in Mumbai, India, Archana Phadke is a National Award-winning filmmaker and an alumna of the Berlinale Talents Campus. Her short film *Uski Baarish* (2013) screened at international festivals including Clermont-Ferrand and Aspen ShortsFest. She produced and edited the Indo-Finnish documentary *Placebo*, which premiered at IDFA 2014 and received a jury nomination for Best Film in the First Appearance category. She also co-edited *Raghu Rai: An Unframed Portrait*, which premiered at IDFA 2017. Her debut feature documentary *About Love* premiered at Sheffield DocFest in 2019, winning the New Talent Award, along with Best Film awards at DMZ Docs and Hainan Island International Film Festival. She co-directed the Netflix documentary series *Indi(r)a's Emergency* with Vikramaditya Motwane and directed an episode of the documentary series *Love Storiyaan* for Amazon Prime and Dharmatic Entertainment. She is currently directing her second feature documentary, produced by Shaunak Sen, Aman Mann, and Jim Wilson.





Jamila Wignot

Stax: Soulsville U.S.A.; Ailey

Jamila Wignot is an award-winning Brooklyn-based filmmaker who explores the intersections of history, culture, and identity through innovative storytelling. Her body of work includes the Peabody Award-winning series *Stax: Soulsville U.S.A.; Ailey*; the Peabody, Emmy, and duPont-Columbia award-winning *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*; *Town Hall* a feature-length co-production with ITVS about the Tea Party; and for *American Experience* the Peabody Award-winning "Triangle Fire" and Emmy-nominated "Walt Whitman". Wignot's producing credits include Sierra Pettengill's *Riotsville, U.S.A.*; "Hands On," for The New York Times series *The Weekly*; and W. Kamau Bell's directorial debut *Bring the Pain: The Documentary*.



Roger Ross Williams

Music By Prudence; Life, Animated

Roger Ross Williams is an Oscar, Emmy, and Peabody Award-winning director, producer, and writer, and the first African American director to win an Academy Award®, with his film *Music by Prudence*. Williams directed *Life, Animated*, which was nominated for an Academy Award® and won three Emmys. His production company One Story Up produced the acclaimed food series *High on the Hog*, an adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*, the Ben Crump documentary *Civil*, the award-winning film *Master of Light*, and the Primetime Emmy Award-winning feature documentary *The Apollo*. Williams' first scripted feature *Cassandra* from Amazon Prime Video had its world premiere at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival to universal acclaim. He also released *The Supermodels* for Apple TV+, *Stamped from the Beginning*, based on the book by Ibram X. Kendi, for Netflix, and the Emmy award-winning series *The 1619 Project* for Disney/Hulu.



Jeremy Workman

Secret Mall Apartment; Lily Topples the World

Jeremy Workman has been praised for creating his own genre of uniquely cinematic character portraits that bring you deep inside extraordinary worlds. Workman's documentaries have garnered significant recognition, playing at major film festivals and seeing global releases in theaters, television, and on streaming platforms. His films include *Secret Mall Apartment* (stream on Netflix), *Lily Topples the World* (stream on MAX), *Deciding Vote* (stream on The New Yorker), *The World Before Your Feet* (stream on Prime), and *Magical Universe* (stream on AMC+). In 2026, he has been premiering his newest documentary *School for Defectors*, which tells the story of a tiny school in South Korea where all the students are North Korean defectors. He is also hard at work on his next film, *Whiz-Bang!*, a madcap journey into the world of Rube Goldberg artists.



**Ema Ryan Yamazaki**

Instruments Of A Beating Heart; The Making Of A Japanese

Ema Ryan Yamazaki is a documentary filmmaker based in Tokyo. She is the director of *Instruments of a Beating Heart* and editor of *Black Box Diaries*, which were both nominated for the Academy Awards in 2025. Her latest feature *The Making of a Japanese*, which captures students and teachers over one year in a Japanese elementary school, was nominated for an Documentary Emmy in 2026. With a unique perspective as both an insider and an outsider in Japan, Ema strives to tell stories that empathetically show human struggle and triumph. Ema's other feature works are *Koshien: Japan's Field of Dreams* (2019), exploring the phenomenon of high school baseball as a microcosm of Japanese society, and *Monkey Business: The Adventures of Curious George's Creators* (2017), about the couple who created the Curious George books. Her latest editorial work, Poh Si Teng's *American Doctor*, premiered at Sundance's US Documentary Competition in 2026.



Heather K. Beasley*Cancer Biologist & Health Equity Hero, Vanderbilt University Medical Center*

Dr. Heather K. Beasley is a cancer biologist and clinical postdoctoral researcher whose work explores breast cancer and the factors that shape aggressive disease. Her research brings together patient-derived data and molecular approaches to better understand how cancers develop and to inform more effective treatment strategies, particularly for individuals with inherited risk. Trained at the intersection of basic science and clinical research, she is motivated by questions that connect laboratory discovery with patient outcomes. Heather has contributed to over 60 peer-reviewed research articles in cancer biology and STEM education, reflecting a broader interest in how science is generated, taught, and translated. She is also active in national scientific leadership and advocacy, including engagement in Washington, DC to support sustained federal investment in biomedical research and strengthen dialogue between scientists and policymakers. Through her leadership roles in international cancer organizations, she supports trainee development and more inclusive research communities.

**Charles Emogor***Tropical Ecologist & Pangolin Champion, Cambridge University*

Charles Emogor is a Schmidt Science Fellow at the University of Cambridge, working at the intersection of biodiversity conservation, law enforcement effectiveness, the exploitation of wild resources, and community-based approaches to tackling conservation challenges. His current research uses decade-long data on illegal hunting across African national parks to design cost-effective ranger patrol strategies. He previously studied the drivers and dynamics of African pangolin exploitation (one of the most heavily trafficked mammal groups globally) and founded the Pangolin Protection Network, a Nigerian grassroots organisation dedicated to protecting pangolins and their habitats. Charles is a 2025 Explorers Club 50 awardee and a National Geographic Explorer.

**Carrie Filion***Astrophysicist & Galactic Archaeologist, Flatiron Institute*

Carrie is a Local Group archaeologist and sonification engineer at the Center for Computational Astrophysics at the Flatiron Institute. She uses observations of nearby stars along with large simulation suites to investigate galaxy formation and evolution, leveraging the highly detailed data only available in nearby galaxies to gain insight into how evolution mechanisms work more generally. She is creating a more accessible, immersive way to think about and interact with data by using the same mathematical tools that she uses to quantify dynamical structures in galaxies to turn galaxy data into sounds.

**Timothy Glotch***Planetary Geologist & Cosmic Rock Detective, Stony Brook University*

Tim Glotch is a planetary geologist whose research interests include remote sensing of the surfaces of the Moon, Mars, Earth, and small bodies, laboratory spectroscopic measurements of minerals, extraterrestrial samples and their analogs in simulated lunar and asteroid environments, and micro-Raman and nano-infrared spectroscopy of terrestrial and extraterrestrial samples. Tim was the PI for the RIS4E and RISE2 nodes of NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI). He is also a Co-Investigator on the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Diviner Lunar Radiometer science team and was a Participating Scientist for the asteroid proximity operations phase of NASA's OSIRIS-REx mission. Tim was selected as a Participating Scientist for the Artemis Lunar Surface Science Team. Tim works to identify potential signatures of uranium mining and milling activities from orbital hyperspectral imagers as part of the Department of Energy's nuclear nonproliferation efforts.



Kurt Gray*Social Psychologist, Deepest Beliefs Cartographer, & Common Ground Seeker, The Ohio State University*

Kurt Gray is a social psychologist who studies morality, politics, and human-AI interactions. He grew up in Calgary, Alberta (the Texas of Canada), started college as a geophysics major, and ultimately received his PhD in psychology from Harvard University. He holds the Weary Foundation Endowed Chair in Social Psychology at The Ohio State University, where he directs both the Deepest Beliefs Lab and the Center for the Science of Moral Understanding. His research examines how people form moral judgments, why those judgments fuel conflict, and how best to bridge political divides. He is the author of *Outraged: Why We Fight About Morality and Politics and How to Find Common Ground* and co-author of *The Mind Club: Who Thinks, What Feels, and Why It Matters*. His work and writing have been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *The Economist*, and *Scientific American*, among other outlets.

**Carl Hart***Professor of Psychology (in Psychiatry) & Neuropsychopharmacology Trailblazer, Columbia University*

Carl L. Hart is the Mamie Phipps Clark Professor of Psychology (in Psychiatry) at Columbia University. He is also a Research Scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Professor Hart is one of the world's preeminent experts in the field of neuropsychopharmacology. He has published more than 100 scientific and popular articles investigating the effects of drug use on the brain, behavior and society. He has received numerous awards for his research, writing, teaching, and activism. His book *High Price* was the 2014 winner of the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. He is co-author of the textbook *Drugs, Society and Human Behavior* (with Charles Ksir). His latest book *Drug Use for Grown-Ups* has contributed much-needed evidence and nuance to the national conversation on responsible drug use. In 2022, the American Association for Social Psychiatry recognized his contributions to human rights by presenting him the Abraham L. Halpern Humanitarian Award.

**Eugene Hauptmann***AI Researcher & Technologist, MIT*

Eugene is a humanist, AI-driven technologist, serial entrepreneur, angel investor, advisor, and mentor. He is pioneering the integration of cutting-edge AI solutions with visionary entrepreneurship, working to shape the future of tech through both innovation and ethical leadership. A recognized expert in AI, machine learning, and scalable software architectures, Eugene has extensive experience building high-performance tech teams and creating AI-driven products. His expertise extends across industries like cybersecurity, deep tech, neurotech, fintech, media, AI/ML, data platforms, marketplaces, healthcare, space, and more. He's also leading the development of next-gen AI chips, pushing the boundaries of hardware to unlock the full potential of artificial intelligence. In his spare time, Eugene is committed to mentoring first-time entrepreneurs and advising experienced founders and science leaders on navigating complex tech decisions in the rapidly evolving fields of AI and emerging technologies like human-computer interactions.

**Michelle Lim***Clinical Psychologist & Loneliness Luminary, University of Sydney*

Associate Professor Michelle Lim is CEO and Scientific Chair of Ending Loneliness Together, Australia's peak body focused on addressing loneliness and social isolation. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Sydney and a practising psychologist with over 22 years' experience. Associate Professor Lim was the chief investigator of the Australian Loneliness Report (2018), the Young Australian Loneliness Survey (2019), State of the Nation: Social Connection (2023), Why We Feel Lonely report (2024) and A Call for Connection: Understanding and Addressing Youth Loneliness (2025). In 2026, she will also release a book on loneliness in young people.



Jonathan Mattingly*Applied Mathematician & Voting District Avenger, Duke University*

A mathematician and computational scientist who grew up in Charlotte, Jonathan Mattingly studies the long-time behavior of random dynamical systems and computational algorithms. He has been particularly interested in Bayesian sampling methods, modeling biological systems, and statistical theories of turbulent fluids. He has been a member of the NC School of Science and Math, Yale University, the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Princeton University, Stanford University, and is currently the Kimberly J. Jenkins Distinguished University Professor of New Technologies at Duke University. He has led the development of new ways to quantify and assess political gerrymandering that have become the standard in many recent court cases. These methods have helped focus the conversation from “How to know it is gerrymandering?” to “Do we think gerrymandering is okay?” He was awarded the Defender of Freedom Award from the Common Cause for this work.

**Khristopher Nicholas***Nutrition Scientist & Climate Resilience Storyteller, Tufts University*

Khristopher M. Nicholas is a food systems scientist whose work examines human-environment interactions and climate vulnerability. His research explores how climate change and other environmental stressors shape planetary health outcomes while also analyzing how human behavior both adapts to and influences these shifting conditions. Reflecting his own upbringing in the Caribbean and Florida, much of his work builds on collaborations with communities practicing smallholder farming and small-scale fishing in climate vulnerable island settings such as the Galápagos Islands of Ecuador and in southwestern Madagascar. He also explores food security in the United States, ranging from agricultural resilience to federal nutrition assistance program access. A current Assistant Professor at Tufts University, Khristopher earned a PhD in Nutrition from UNC Chapel Hill, a BA in Sustainable Development from Columbia University and completed a Yerby Postdoctoral Fellowship at Harvard University. His non-academic loves include (motor)cycling, wood carving, science fiction novels, his cats, and no-recipe cooking.

**Daniela Schiller***Neuroscientist & Memory Maestro, Mount Sinai School of Medicine*

Dr. Daniela Schiller is a Professor of Neuroscience and Psychiatry at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she directs the laboratory of affective neuroscience. Her lab focuses on emotional memory and social cognition. Her research has elucidated the neural computations underlying threat learning, how the brain modifies emotional memories, and how affective states and social relationships are dynamically tracked. Schiller’s work has been published in numerous scholarly journals, including Nature, Neuron, Nature Neuroscience, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Schiller is a Fulbright Fellow and a Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow, and has been the recipient of many awards, including the New York Academy of Sciences’ Blavatnik Award, and the Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship Award in the Neurosciences. Schiller is also two-time Moth StorySLAM winner.



Kaitlyn Webster*Reproductive Geneticist & Gonad Guru, Harvard University*

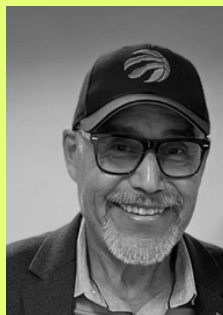
Kaitlyn is a reproductive biologist at Harvard Medical School, where she explores big questions about sex development and fertility using small, eyeless cavefish. She studied Biology at Smith College and then cultivated a passion for all things reproduction while working in a gynecologic pathology lab and cancer genetics center. Kaitlyn earned a PhD in Molecular Biology from UMass Boston through her research on genetic causes of male infertility using zebrafish as a model system. Currently, she studies ovary and testis development and uses rapidly evolving cavefish as a platform to discover factors that ensure species-specific sperm-egg fusion, a project that earned her a 2025 L'Oréal For Women in Science fellowship. Kaitlyn is on the Board of Directors of the non-profit Science Club for Girls, through which she serves as a mentor/experiential STEM teacher to kids in her hometown of Cambridge, mirroring – and paying forward – her own entryway into science.

**Christine Wilkinson***Conservation Scientist & Professional Coexistence Optimist, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County*

Dr. Christine Wilkinson is the Assistant Curator of Community Science at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and a Research Associate at the California Academy of Sciences. She is a National Geographic Explorer, carnivore ecologist, and conservation scientist. Her work in California and Kenya combines animal behavior, community engagement, and an environmental justice lens to understand how people and wildlife (like spotted hyenas, coyotes, and more) share landscapes and how we might coexist. Christine collaborates with communities, organizations, and governments to translate research into practical conservation policy and action. She is also a science communicator who shares her work through various media, such as an upcoming children's book about misunderstood animals. Outside of science, Christine is a musician – which includes drawing broad inspiration from the rhythm, collaboration, and storytelling inherent in taiko performance.

**Michael Yellow Bird***Professor of Social Work & Indigenous Knowledge Scholar, University of Manitoba*

Michael Yellow Bird, PhD is a Professor and former Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba. In 2027, he will join the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto as the inaugural endowed Lee Wu Kee Ming Chair in Indigenous Social Work. He has held faculty and senior administrative leadership roles across universities in Canada and the United States and has received international recognition through appointments as a visiting scholar at the University of Auckland, Trent University, and Simon Fraser University. He is also Faculty Emeritus at Cal Poly Humboldt. A citizen of the MHA Nation (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara), Dr. Yellow Bird is a certified, internationally trained mindfulness meditation teacher and scholar. He works closely with Indigenous communities to advance neurodecolonization, integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, mindfulness, and neuroscience to address colonial trauma and promote collective well-being. His scholarship spans Indigenous neuroscience, healthy aging, ethnobotany, artificial intelligence and the cultural significance of rez dogs.

**Bargeen Turzo***Computer Scientist & Protein Designer, Flatiron Institute*

Bargeen Turzo, PhD, is a computational scientist who applies machine learning and physics-based modeling to better understand and design proteins, the building blocks of life. At the Flatiron Institute (Simons Foundation), he develops advanced computational tools to help discover new medicines and improve how scientists study complex biological systems. His work combines statistical modeling, molecular simulation, and high-performance computing to solve problems that are difficult to test in the lab alone, including such as molecular glues, large language models for protein design and “hinge” protein designs that can change shape in controlled ways for potential therapeutic use. Turzo earned his PhD in Chemistry from The Ohio State University, where he conducted his doctoral research under the supervision of Dr. Steffen Lindert, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Flatiron Institute.

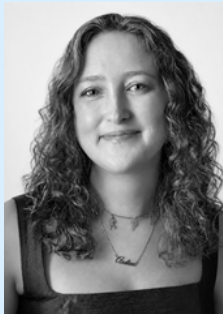




Harris Dew

IFC Center

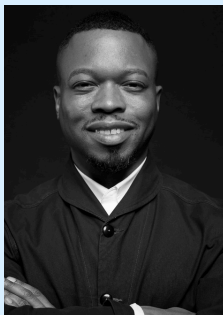
Harris Dew is Senior Vice President and General Manager of IFC Center. He oversees programming and operations for the noted five-screen downtown New York City art house and supervises its annual documentary festival, DOC NYC. He joined IFC Center in 2005, following previous positions in programming and publicity at Film Forum, The Museum of Modern Art, and New Yorker Films, and has served on numerous selection committees and festival juries. He holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Columbia University and an M.A. in Cinema Studies from NYU. He is also a longtime board member of the Francisco Pancho Ramos Community Garden on the Lower East Side.



Rose Ermer

Apple TV+

Rose Ermer is a nonfiction development executive at Apple TV+, where she works across the development and production of documentary features and series. During her time at Apple, she has helped shepherd a wide range of premium nonfiction projects, including the feature documentaries *STILL: A Michael J. Fox Movie*, *Girls State*, *Stiller & Meara: Nothing Is Lost*, and *Come See Me in the Good Light*. On the series side, her work includes *The Line*, *Cowboy Cartel*, *Twisted Yoga*, and *Hollywood Con Queen*. Before joining Apple, she worked at Boardwalk Pictures, where she gained experience in the premium documentary and unscripted space. She began her career in the WME mailroom.



Jon-Sesrie Goff

Ford Foundation

Jon-Sesrie Goff is a multidisciplinary artist, filmmaker, curator, and cultural strategist. As part of the Ford Foundation's Creativity and Free Expression team, he makes global grants for the JustFilms program, focusing on creative non-fiction film, new media, and visual storytelling. He contributes to cross-sector initiatives focused on narrative equity, AI ethics, global media infrastructure, and the future of public-interest media.



Zana Lawrence

Netflix

Zana began in the documentary space early in her career, interning for esteemed NYC documentarian, Marc Levin at Blowback Productions. She has spent the last 12 years as a part of the Netflix Documentary team, working with a wide array of filmmakers across various projects. Recently, she has overseen projects such as *Marty*, *Life is Short*, *Noah Kahan: Out of Body*, *Titan: The Oceangate Submersible Disaster*, and *Aileen: Queen of the Serial Killers*.



Ivvet Modinou*Simons Foundation*

Ivvet Modinou has been working in public engagement with science for over two decades. In her role as senior vice president of Science, Society & Culture, she leads public engagement for the Simons Foundation, including strategic oversight of Science Sandbox, a flagship grantmaking program seeking to inspire and engage people with science. Her portfolio also includes public events, researcher engagement, national initiatives and editorially independent media units Quanta Magazine, The Transmitter and Sandbox Films. Previously, Modinou was head of engagement at the British Science Association, overseeing public programs, including the British Science Festival, and also building the association's national community-engagement portfolio. She has an M.S. in science communication from Imperial College London and has worked for the BBC, the Natural History Museum, and The Times of London.

**Kim Yutani***Sundance Film Festival*

Kim Yutani has been the Director of Programming of the Sundance Film Festival since 2018. Throughout her tenure, Yutani has overseen short films, curated panels, and expanded the international scope of the Festival's programming. Her programming direction has been instrumental in independent cinema, and her leadership has launched the careers of hundreds of filmmakers and counting. Yutani started her programming career at Outfest Los Angeles, where she was Artistic Director and Director of Programming. She is a member of AMPAS and the European Film Academy, and serves on various advisory boards. Prior to her film festival work, Yutani was a film critic and assistant to director Gregg Araki.



Jessica Harrop*Executive Director, Sandbox Films*

Jessica Harrop is Executive Director of Sandbox Films and an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning documentary producer who has dedicated her career to inspiring passion about science through film. In her role at Sandbox Films she oversees all project decisions and company strategy and acts as an executive producer across Sandbox Films' documentary slate. Jessica has produced content for a variety of outlets including Netflix, Showtime, Discovery, National Geographic, and PBS. As an establishing partner of Sandbox Films, Jessica's passion for science storytelling shines through in each project she produces. She holds a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and a Certificate in Theater from Princeton University, where she also co-taught an undergraduate film course on communicating climate change. Jessica is a member of both PGA and WGA and she serves on the board of Reel Works Teen Filmmaking.

**Sam Lazar Riviello***Head of Operations & Events, Sandbox Films*

Sam Lazar Riviello leads the operational and financial functions and develops the systems and infrastructure that support the company's long-term growth. An establishing partner of Sandbox Films, she plays a key role in shaping the organization's strategic direction, brand identity, communications, and public presence, while guiding cross-organizational initiatives that translate mission into measurable impact. In addition, Sam manages the company's studio space and leads the execution of all Sandbox Films convenings and events, including the organization's signature gathering, Camp Sandbox. She holds a Masters focused in Nonprofit Administration and Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Bachelor's degree in Film Marketing from Brooklyn College.

**Patrick Hurley***Head of Distribution & Business Affairs, Sandbox Films*

Patrick Hurley is Head of Distribution & Business Affairs for Sandbox Films, developing bespoke plans and campaigns for each production and working closely with filmmakers and release partners worldwide to maximize each film's impact and audience. In addition, Patrick oversees the company's financing agreements and contracts for all projects. Patrick has over a decade of experience in connecting new documentaries with audiences via roles as Industry Director at Sheffield DocFest and Distribution Manager at Dogwoof, UK. During his five years at Dogwoof, Patrick focused on theatrical campaigns and non-theatrical distribution across a wide range of over 100 feature documentaries. Patrick holds a degree in Economics from the University of Sydney with Honors in Political Science. His dissertation titled 'Making Ideas Matter' studied the communications strategies of think tanks and research institutes. Prior to working in film, Patrick was a researcher and a teacher.

**Caitlin Mae Burke***Head of Production & Development, Sandbox Films*

Caitlin Mae Burke is Head of Production & Development for Sandbox Films, bringing over fifteen years of producing experience to her work supporting and expanding the Sandbox Films slate. An Emmy-winning producer and Oscar-shortlisted Executive Producer, Caitlin's work has been broadcast and screened in movie theaters internationally, recognized with Emmy, Grand Clio, and Gotham Awards, and nominated for Critic's Choice, Independent Spirit, and Cinema Eye Honors, as well as numerous "Best of festival" designations. In her prior role as Co-Director of IF/Then Shorts at Field of Vision, she oversaw over 115 short documentaries from development to distribution as a supervising or executive producer, including 2024 Oscar-shortlisted *Between Earth and Sky*. Caitlin is an inaugural inductee into DOC NYC's 40 Under 40 and alumna of Berlinale Talents, and member of the Television Academy's Documentary branch. She is a graduate of Vassar College, where she returns to guest lecture/give pep talks to anxious film and media studies majors. Caitlin serves on The Redford Center Advisory Board.

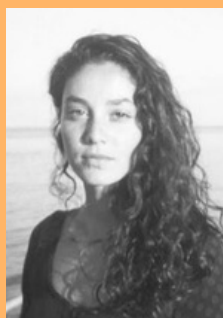




Marcus Wright

Associate Producer, Sandbox Films

Marcus Wright supports all creative and administrative aspects of film development at Sandbox Films, with a focus on managing new and existing development avenues, discovering captivating science stories, and liaising with filmmakers across the documentary space. Additionally, he ideates and facilitates multiple Sandbox events that bring the scientific and filmmaking communities into conversation. Marcus worked in development, writing, and producing capacities at 9 Story Media and Majordomo Media, and has experience across the narrative film, non-scripted television, animation, and podcast spaces. Prior to film and television, Marcus worked in the tech, journalism, and education sectors. Marcus holds a B.A. in Biology from Bowdoin College.



Mara Sheban

Associate Producer, Sandbox Films

Mara Sheban works directly with the Head of Distribution & Business Affairs to support all aspects of distribution at Sandbox Films. She has a passion for community-led distribution and specializes in non-theatrical screenings and impact strategy. Previously, Mara worked in Chicago creating short-form film content for the Field Museum and various environmental organizations, and began her work in impact strategy at the documentary production company Kindling Group. Since moving to New York in 2021, she's led community outreach and strategic company partnerships in the nonprofit sector. She holds a B.A. from the College of Wooster in Geology, with a career focus of making science engaging and accessible to all audiences.



Tate Nova

Production Manager, Sandbox Films

Tate Nova is Production Manager for Sandbox Films, bringing a wealth of experience from a career in narrative and documentary production and a deep dedication to the company's mission of boundary-pushing storytelling. She was a co-producer on Sandbox's *A Life Illuminated* and helped produce several films still in development with Sandbox before joining the staff full time. Tate is passionate about fostering the long-term relationships and collaborative environment that allow independent filmmakers to thrive. With a career spanning documentary, commercials, and television, Tate has held assistant director and field supervisor roles at *Saturday Night Live*, *The Problem with Jon Stewart*, and *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*. Tate holds a degree in writing from Sarah Lawrence College. She is a member of the Directors Guild of America as a First Assistant Director,



Cate Latessa

Operations Coordinator, Sandbox Films

Cate Latessa is Operations Coordinator with Sandbox Films. Prior to joining the team, Cate was Program Manager for the D.C. Environmental Film Festival, leading festival operations and shorts programming. She began her career in Washington, D.C. as a field producer and video editor, but found her passion for supporting filmmakers through festivals like DCEFF, Sundance, and Brooklyn Film Festival. Cate holds a degree in Cinematic Arts and English from Virginia Tech, with a focus on screenwriting and film theory.

