

Filmmaker conversations

WORKSHOP SERIES

Our popular "Filmmaker Conversations" Workshop Series returns this year to our NEW VENUE at Yavapai College Sedona Center! Each workshop is designed to give attendees insight into the various aspects of filmmaking. Workshops and discussions are presented by industry experts with vast knowledge and personal experience in the featured subject. Go behind the scenes as our panelists and presenters give you a glimpse behind the curtain into the creative process of filmmaking and getting your vision to the big screen! Rub elbows with industry professionals who are willing to share their experience and insight.





FREE WORKSHOP
Monday, February 21 • 10:00 a.m.

Docs that Make a Difference: Documentary Filmmaking at Yavapai College Sedona Center

Inspired by our “Docs That Make a Difference” film series, we are proud to present a filmmaker discussion that focuses on turning the art of film into activism and movies into movements through documentary filmmaking.

Filmmakers are making statements, effecting lives and changing the world through thought-provoking, inspiring docs that challenge audience members to make a difference through involvement, activism and motivation.

Make a movie, make a difference in this inspiring conversation! The panel will feature festival filmmakers who are bringing powerful non-fiction stories to life and to audiences around the world. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the issues that face documentary filmmakers and what it takes to get these films into the marketplace.

FREE WORKSHOP
Monday, February 21 • 1:00 p.m.

Film Representation: United Talent Agency Q&A at Yavapai College Sedona Center

The process of finding professional representation for you or your film can be a daunting task. Where do you start? Who do you contact? What does an agent look for when deciding to represent someone? And how do you find that perfect fit?

Join us as Alyssa Lanz and Talia Myers — both agents at United Talent Agency — try to unravel the mysteries in an informative Q&A that will help you navigate the representation process.

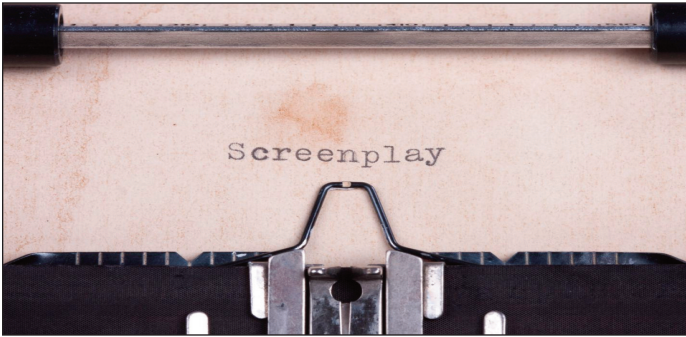
Alyssa Lanz is an agent in UTA’s Television Literary department. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Lanz joined the agency’s mailroom immediately following graduating with High Honors majoring in African American Studies and Art History from Wesleyan University in 2012.

Lanz is recognized for her dedication to fostering diverse voices and prides herself on building multi-faceted careers for her clients across all mediums and genres. She represents a host of influential actors, writers and production companies including *Blackish*’s Tracee Ellis Ross, *Dear White People*’s Executive Producer Stephanie Allain and HBO’s *Black Ladies Sketch Show* head writer Lauren Ashley Smith. She additionally represents a stable of writers on successful series including Netflix’s *Bridgerton*, Freeform’s *Grownish* and TNT’s *Claws*.

Talia Myers is an agent in UTA’s Television Literary division. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Myers joined UTA’s mailroom after graduating from USC’s School of Cinematic Arts where she majored in Critical Studies of Film and minored in Screenwriting.

As an agent, Talia identifies premium scripted opportunities for an array of diverse writers, directors, producers, production companies, musicians and more. She and her colleagues represent clients such as Bad Bunny, Chance The Rapper, Demi Lovato, Don Cheadle and his company Radicle Act, J. Cole’s Dreamville Records, Kevin Hart and his company Hartbeat, Lili Reinhart and her company Small Victories, Nicholas Hoult and his company Dead Duck Films, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and her company Purple Pebble Pictures, as well as the creators of shows like *Escape at Dannemora*, *Mrs. America*, *Flatbush Misdemeanors*, *Dr. Death*, *Station 19*, *Servant* and *Radom Acts of Flyness*.





FREE WORKSHOP
 Tuesday, February 22 • 10:00 a.m.
Screenwriting: From Page to Pitch with David Isaacs
 at Yavapai College Sedona Center

Whether it's a Hollywood blockbuster, a documentary, or a short film, it all begins with the story. From concept to pitch, to finished script, we will discuss what goes in to getting your story green lit. Studio or independent: What is best for your screenplay?

Join Emmy Award-winning screenwriter David Isaacs for an enlightening, informative and entertaining conversation and will cover what it takes to get your idea from concept to page to screen. Come with questions and leave with ammunition for your screenwriting arsenal!

David Isaacs has worked as a TV and Film Writer/Producer for over 40 years. Along with his writing partner Ken Levine he has written multiple episodes and served as producer or creative consultant for series such as *M*A*S*H**, *Cheers*, *Wings*, *Frasier*, *Becker* and *Mad Men*.

He has been nominated for six Emmys with one win for co-producing the first season of *Cheers*, and nominated eight times for The Writer's Guild Award, winning twice for *Cheers* and *Mad Men*.

Isaacs is a Professor of Screen and TV Writing and Chair of The John Wells Division of Writing for the Screen and Television of the USC School of Cinematic Arts.



FREE WORKSHOP
 Tuesday, February 22 • 1:00 p.m.
From Short to Feature: Directing and Producing
 at Yavapai College Sedona Center

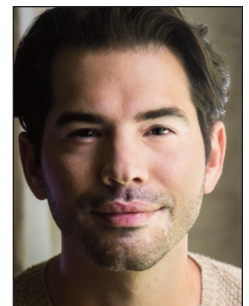
Join returning award-winning Sedona International Film Festival filmmaker Myles Yaksich as he hosts an open exchange of ideas, dialogue and advice from directing and producing to turning your short film into a feature.

This will be an eye-opening and inspiring conversation, whether you are a first-time producer or director or a seasoned veteran. Yaksich will conduct a frank and informative conversation about what it takes to be in either position in this ever-changing world of filmmaking.

How do you get a project off the ground and onto the big screen? How do you assemble your crew, team and cast? How do you turn a short film into a feature?

Learn from those who have been in the trenches, making movies and making an impact!

Through his short films, **Myles Yaksich** has created an appealing body of work that explores human experience on a global scale, with a particular focus on the complexity of self-discovery through interactions with strangers. Born in Canada, he learned at a young age to travel and appreciate art and culture. After completing his degree in Finance and Economics, he pursued investment banking in Singapore and private equity in South East Asia, before relocating to Los Angeles to pursue filmmaking.



Living abroad for more than a decade has undoubtedly informed his work, whether it be the grieving workaholic who searches for answers in the elderly passenger beside him ("Poppies"), or the young academic who questions his sexuality after a pen-pal relationship ("Erin"). His films explore universal themes that expand the definition of home, family and belonging.

Myles' feature debut, "Albatross", is a progression of this trajectory. His unique perspective and interest in stories about societal groups establishing roots, and the contrast between progress and tradition are laced throughout the narrative. Working with an intensely collaborative and supportive team has enabled Myles to exercise his strong creative control, ultimately making his debut film, "Albatross" so fascinating, fresh and powerful.

Myles' films have screened around the world at over 40 festivals (including premieres at the Academy Qualifying LA Shorts Fest), receiving over 30 awards including Best Writer, Best Director and Best Film.

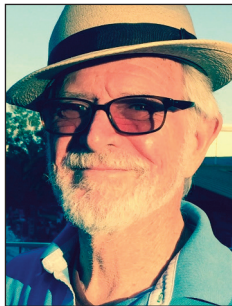


FREE WORKSHOP
Wednesday, February 23 • 10:00 a.m.
Suspension of Disbelief:
What is it?
at Yavapai College Sedona Center

Suspension of Disbelief — What is it? The contract between creators and audience and the decisions that can break it.

Gerard Maguire discusses and illustrates using his own film “Gross Misconduct”, the many choices that make a successful production and the choices that can break the contract — The Suspension of Disbelief.

Australian actor/writer/ producer Gerard Maguire is known internationally as an actor primarily for his role in the cult TV series Prisoner - Cell Bloc H. He has a BA from Australia’s premier acting school NIDA (Kate Blanchette, Judy Davis, Mel Gibson).



In theatre he was a leading actor for Australia’s state theatre companies and appeared in the West End and has had a close relationship with Australia’s most successful playwright and screen writer, David Williamson (*The Year Of Living Dangerously, Gallipoli*). He has appeared in 11 films and 45 TV episodes and tele-movies.

His screen play credits include “Gross Misconduct”, (also co-producer) and “Pamela Principal 2”. He was creator co-writer and co-producer for the TV pilot *Guilderman* for the Seven Network Australia. He has script edited four films and provided story analysis for Sundance, Hallmark, South Australian Film Corporation and for private investment clients in Australia and the US.

Maguire is a successful voice actor with studios in Sedona and Los Angeles. His voice work can be heard on his Voice Over website at www.gerardmaguire.com.



FREE WORKSHOP
Wednesday, February 23 • 1:00 p.m.
The Magic of Post Sound:
The (almost) Invisible Art Form
at Yavapai College Sedona Center

Back by popular demand after last year’s successful sound workshop! Enjoy a lively sound workshop with supervising sound editor **Vickie Sampson** (*Return of the Jedi, Donnie Darko, Speed*).

This workshop — for both film-goers and filmmakers — will go “behind the magic” as Sampson dissects a short film for its sound needs by having a mock spotting session, discussing both seen and unseen sounds as they apply to the story, showing the various steps of the sound process: examining and evaluating the production (on set) sound, suggesting ambient background sounds to give the film a “place” and trying out what different sound design and/or music choices do to affect the film. Every film has sound possibilities that often even the filmmakers can’t imagine!

We will be examining a short film, “Moon”, written and directed by Toy Lei as part of Women in Media’s Camaraderie program, who will be part of the workshop.

For film goers, don’t worry – it won’t destroy the magic of seeing/hearing films!

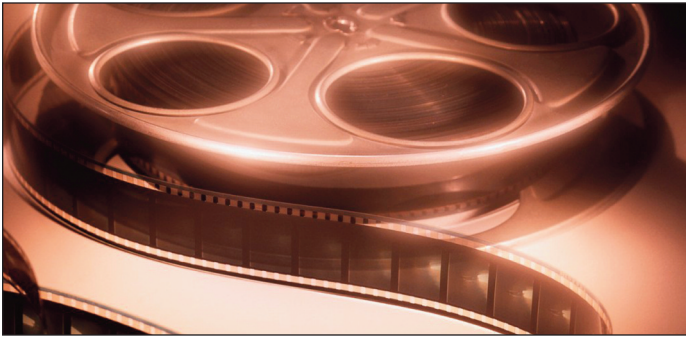
For filmmakers, this will give you new tools with which to expand your knowledge of what post sound can do to elevate your film to the next levels!

After a successful and award-winning 40 year career as a Supervising Sound Editor with over 200 film credits, Vickie Sampson retired in 2014 to devote her time and energy to directing and teaching.

She has received an Emmy, 4 Golden Reel Awards (from the Motion Picture Sound Editors) and has edited on Sound Oscar winning films (“Speed” and “The River.”) Her mother, Kay Rose, was the first woman sound editor to win an Oscar for her stellar work on “The River.” Vickie worked with her mom on many award-winning films, including “On Golden Pond,” “The Prince of Tides,” “The Rose,” and “Ordinary People.”

In 1987, Vickie was one of twelve women (out of 600) selected to the Directing Workshop for Women from AFI, where she made her first short (30 min) film, “The Last Chance Saloon.” She has since directed 7 award-winning short films, over 15 commercials and PSAs and is in pre-production for a new short, “Fortunate Cookie” to be shot in the fall.





FREE WORKSHOP
Thursday, February 24 • 10:00 a.m.

Independent Filmmaking: Everything You Need to Know at Yavapai College Sedona Center

Paul and Hollace Davids have produced nine independent films since 1995, with Paul writing and directing each of them. The Davids define the independent filmmaker as someone who is so committed to a project and getting it made and seen, that this becomes a passionate mission. The independent filmmaker frequently breaks the cardinal rule of securing financial funding to make, market and ensure distribution of the film before it is made — and precariously invests personal capital. The true independent filmmaker, despite many rejections and hearing “no” frequently along the way, will do whatever it takes to tell a story through the art of film.

The Davids team has seen and done it all. They will share insights and strategies of how they navigated the obstacles to get their films made and seen by diverse international audiences. They were able to make their films economically successful, allowing them to produce independent films for over two decades. Their award-winning films have been seen in theatres, streamed, shown on television and at retrospectives and dozens of film festivals. In the workshop, you will review the technological advances in filmmaking which have led us to today, when anyone with a cell phone can make a film.

Hollace Davids spent 1995 to 2018 at Universal Pictures as Senior Vice President of Special Projects in the Feature Marketing Department. She was responsible for planning and implementing all Universal premieres for motion pictures including the franchises *Jurassic Park*, *Bourne*, *Fast and Furious*, *Pitch Perfect*, *Fifty Shades*, *Dispicable Me*, among many others. She worked on Academy Awards and other awards campaigns, including *A Beautiful Mind*, *Erin Brockovich* and the ground-breaking *Get Out*.

Filmmaker and artist **Paul Davids** has been writing, producing and directing films and TV shows in Hollywood since the mid-1980’s, when he was a segment producer for F. Lee Bailey’s daily syndicated show *Lie Detector* and production coordinator (and writer) for Marvel Productions. As director and producer, his first feature film was *Timothy Leary’s Dead*, followed by *Starry Night*, which he directed based on his original screenplay.



FREE WORKSHOP
Thursday, February 24 • 1:00 p.m.

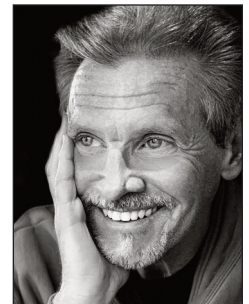
The Power of Subtext at Yavapai College Sedona Center

Award winning director John Gray demonstrates the Writer/Actor/Director’s most powerful tool — subtext. By staging a short scene, we’ll explore ways in which altering the subtext can completely reshape the scene without changing a word of the text.

John Gray is a New York based writer-director-producer. He created the long running hit CBS series “Ghost Whisperer”, starring Jennifer Love Hewitt, as well as writing and directing many award-winning and critically acclaimed movies for television, such as “Martin and Lewis”, starring Sean Hayes and Jeremy Northam, the Emmy nominated “A Place for Annie” with Sissy Spacek, the Emmy nominated mini-series “Haven” with Natasha Richardson and Anne Bancroft, “Helter Skelter” with Bruno Kirby, and many others.

He has directed dozens of episodes of series across the broadcast and cable spectrum, and was also the producing director of the CBS series “Reckless”. He has written and directed several studio and independent feature films, including the award winning “White Irish Drinkers”, starring Stephen Lang and Karen Allen, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival.

His acclaimed short films have played and are playing in film festivals all over the world, including the Sedona International Film Festival, where his last two short films — “Extra Innings” and “Exit Package” — have won top awards. His short film “French Kiss” has notched 6.3 million views to date on YouTube.





FREE WORKSHOP

Friday, February 25 • 10:00 a.m.

Screenplay Table Read: Award-winning Scripts

at Yavapai College Sedona Center

A Table Read is an invaluable tool to the writer! When a group of actors come together to read a scene or two, the writer listens in a different way. They can now hear it interacted on the "stage" literally and not just between the writer's ears, in that lonely mind-space. They get a new perspective, a deeper level perhaps!

The genuine hope in presenting sequences from the winning scripts in LIVE READS is to help writers "hear" the characters come alive. A read allows a writer to fully understand the translation from page to stage to screen! Otherwise, it's just voices in the head. What sounds perfect may in 'reality' come off as clunky in a read and allow the writer further refining. When their characters come to life, they can fully incorporate them into the working story ... keeping what helps, cutting what hinders and learning more about their characters sub-text.

A read is one of the many tools that help a writer deliver on a winning script. And finally, after a read the writer, audience and actors can further exchange ideas to expand what works. In the end, it's a win-win for all involved, (especially other writers looking on!)



FREE WORKSHOP

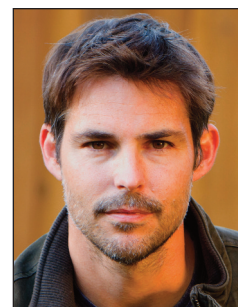
Friday, February 25 • 1:00 p.m.

From Daytime TV to the Silver Screen

at Yavapai College Sedona Center

Emmy nominee Jason Cook, a TV favorite from "Days of Our Lives" and "General Hospital," has transitioned from actor to an award-winning writer, director, and producer of the acclaimed film "The Creatress" (featuring a cast including the legendary Peter Bogdanovich and Fran Drescher) along with this year's SIFF entry "Four for Fun." Seven-time Emmy nominee and Emmy winner Jacob Young has played iconic roles on "General Hospital," "All My Children," and "The Bold and The Beautiful." Jason and Jacob will be giving the audience behind-the-scenes insight on starring in a daily television serial to their journey creating independent movies. The symposium will be moderated by Broadway producer Mark Rozzano. The event will include a meet-and-greet with the stars.

An Emmy nominated actor, **Jason Cook** is recognized by TV fans as Matt Hunter on "General Hospital." He was also a daytime fan favorite in his long running-role as Shawn-Douglas Brady on "Days of our Lives." These "days," he's more often found behind the camera, focusing on writing, directing, and producing, with several more projects in development.



Seven-time Emmy nominee and Emmy winner **Jacob Young** has played some of daytime TV's most memorable characters: Rick Forrester on "The Bold and the Beautiful," JR Chandler on "All My Children," and Lucky Spencer on "General Hospital." Jacob has headlined in Las Vegas at The Tropicana Hotel Showroom and The Southpoint Hotel Showroom, performing his original album of country music. He hosts his own weekly podcast, "Real Conversations with Jacob Young," featuring stars from the worlds of TV, movies, music, and sports. He is a producer and star of Jason Cook's film "Four for Fun," having its' world premiere here at the Sedona International Film Festival.



Mark Rozzano (moderator) was the Associate Producer of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway, which ran 13 years, and is still the 10th longest running show in Broadway history. For a decade, Mark managed and traveled the world with the iconic Jerry Lewis. This is Mark's fifth visit to SIFF. In prior years here, he presented Peter Bogdanovich, Dame Joan Collins, Stefanie Powers, and Cloris Leachman.