



Stony Brook  
University

# MANHATTAN CENTER

## MFA in Film

## MFA in TV Writing

Interested in applying to our programs?

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
JANUARY 15TH

Don't let finances stand between you and your Filmmaking and TV Writing dreams. Our scholarships exist to support the next generation of visual storytellers by making graduate school more accessible.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about applying to our program.

# Students See Their Work on the Big Screen



## ANNUAL SCREENINGS AT LINCOLN CENTER

In partnership with **Killer Films**, **Stony Brook University** celebrated its annual *Fall Screenings* at **Film at Lincoln Center**. First and second-year film students unveiled the collection of short films that were the culmination of a year's work. This screening is a massive milestone for our filmmakers, seeing their work on Lincoln Center's famous big screen while surrounded by the professors, classmates, cast and crew and families who helped their projects come to fruition.

"It's such a rewarding experience for our filmmakers to see their films on the big screen at such a respected venue, surrounded by friends, family, crew, and actors—it's a well-deserved celebration of all their hard work and creativity," said **Executive Director, Magdalene Brandeis**.



# Students Recount Experience at Lincoln Center



Stills from Vicki Tanner's film  
*Karen Valentine*



"I saw a lot of thoughtful work at the festival: gorgeous images and evocative points of view on personal, political, and social experiences! It was touching to witness the level of genuine enthusiasm and support. Everyone, from administrators and professors to filmmakers, crew, and actors, seemed to root for each other. It felt like family... I felt proud of all of us and grateful to be part of it." - **Vickie Tanner**

# Students Recount Experience at Lincoln Center



Still and BTS from Margarita Mina's film *Baby Fat*

"My film *Baby Fat* being projected in an actual cinema, after months of just having seen it from my laptop screen was surreal. I was reminded of how the films my cohort and I wrote as stumbling freshmen last year have grown so much beyond what we thought we were capable of." - **Margarita Mina**



Margarita Mina and Xiaoxing Chen



# Students Recount Experience at Lincoln Center



"It's such a strange feeling seeing my film screened in the theater, however, the screening reminds me of how important it is - the film is not finished until it meets the audience. You hear how they react, and you feel if they like it or not - such a precious experience!" -

**Xiaoxing Chen**



BTS Photos of Xiaoxing Chen's film *So Long, My friend*

# Stony Brook MFA Ranks #22 on TheWrap's Best Film Schools

## CONTINUING THE CLIMB UP THE RANKINGS

**Stony Brook** is moving up! Despite being a relatively new program, the school has quickly distinguished itself through a unique approach that celebrates independent filmmaking and cutting-edge TV Writing. Between guidance from indie-producing legend **Christine Vachon** and microbudget coursework and a highly-specialized MFA TV Writing curriculum designed by **Alan Kingsberg**, **Stony Brook** is becoming a household name for strong MFA programs in visual storytelling.

This ranking recognizes our commitment to nurturing emerging talent. Students benefit from a curriculum that balances artistic vision with industry practicality. By offering expansive coursework, affordable tuition, and robust post-graduate opportunities, these MFA programs are advantageous options for filmmakers and TV Writers who want to study in New York City.

# Industry Professionals Inspire MFA in TV Writing Students



Working professionals from all over the industry have made their way to Stony Brook to chat with students about their exciting work. As part of the T.V. Writing Guest Series, **Laura Eason**, showrunner of *Three Women*, spoke about creating a series with a specific female gaze and how surrealism can be utilized to emphasize emotional moments. The hit series on Starz is based on the bestseller by **Lisa Taddeo**.



Working MFA in T.V. Writing alumni **Emma Gombas**, **Sam Nosratian**, and **Mallory Baysek** spoke to a sold-out audience about their experiences with Showrunners **Debora Cahn** on *The Diplomat*, **Tom Fontana** on *Monsieur Spade*, and **Bash Doren** on three new series. They discussed their paths to break into the industry and how they leveraged their MFAs in TV Writing to launch their careers following graduation.

# Industry Professionals Inspire MFA in TV Writing Students



**Linas Phillips**, a script doula, visited the *Post-MFA T.V. Writing Incubator* to guide writers in character development. He introduced techniques for exploring character backstories and interpersonal dynamics, challenging writers to dig deeper into their characters' psyches.

Interested in trying it yourself? Write a rant about a character from another character's perspective. What does that illuminate and reveal about their inner feelings? What hidden emotions and underlying tensions arise?



# New Spring Stand-Up Course Bridges Comedy and Television

INSTRUCTOR WENT FROM STAND-UP TO SHOWTIME



Comedian, writer, and director **Dan Perlman** joins Stony Brook's MFA in the T.V. Writing program with an innovative new course: "*From Stand-Up to Script: Adapting Comedy to TV.*"

This unique offering will explore the craft of transforming stand-up comedy material into a pitch for a dynamic TV narrative series.

As co-creator, writer, and star of Showtime's critically acclaimed comedy series *Flatbush Misdemeanors*, he offers an insider perspective on turning your narrative into a marketable story. His directorial debut in the *Flatbush Misdemeanors* episode: "Boomerang," was praised by Vulture for its "masterful direction." **Dan** also wrote and directed the award-winning short films *Cramming* and *Practice Space*.

# Our Alumni Shine in the Industry

## RACKING UP WINS IN FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS



**Yasmine Gomez** received the Grand Jury prize at the FilAm Creative Film Festival for her short film *Party Favor*. Her script *Fish Head* secured the Best TV Pilot Script award for women screenwriters at the Big Apple Film Festival Screenplay Competition.



# Our Alumni Shine in the Industry

## RACKING UP WINS IN FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS



**Nelson Downend** was named the Grand Prize Winner at Read My Screenplay. Nelson was then flown to Los Angeles, where professional actors rehearsed and performed his script, *Rock Bottom*, for an audience of industry professionals.



# Our Alumni Shine in the Industry

## RACKING UP WINS IN FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS

Exciting film releases from Stony Brook alumni are on the horizon! **Doug Forrester's** *Carry the Darkness*, and **Max Remmler's** *4 Corners of the Apocalypse* are set to premiere soon. The alumni network remains strong, with **Max Remmler** bringing fellow Stony Brook alum **Joseph Mezzatesta** on board as Director of Photography.

*4 Corners of the Apocalypse*: 4 clone brothers trapped together under the same roof, chaotically attempting to repair any connection they may have left with each other.



*Carry the Darkness*: In 1993, can a metalhead teenager protect himself and his friends from a mysterious entity while being blamed for its atrocities amidst the satanic panic?

# 'Advance Party' Reading

## CREATING AND SHARING STRONG CHARACTERS

The **Advance Party** class, led by **Lenny Crooks**, had their reading this fall. After a semester of creating and honing dynamic characters, students put their characters in scenes with their classmates' creations, letting the characters' intricate lives propel the plot. Hear from **BriAnna Olson** and **Da Xu** about their experiences in this organic approach to screenwriting.



*"The premise of Advance Party was new to me until I took **Lenny's** class. It was so fun watching our characters develop in everyone's scripts and these imaginary people clearly took over the writing process! The table read was the highlight of the whole experience, I loved getting to see our characters jump off the page and into our classroom."* - **BriAnna Olson**

*"As a new writer, I had the opportunity to get real freaky and let loose. In the 12 pages allowed, four social outsiders try to find belonging in their own unique ways. At the reading, amazing actors brought each of them alive. Much thanks to **David Shih** (Life of Pi, Broadway), **Mandarin Wu** (Pan Asian Rep, Off-Broadway), **Jose Zayas** (Marymount Manhattan College, Musical Theatre), and **Ksena Samborska**. Their performance deepened my understanding of my own story and myself as a writer. I want to take this class again!"* - **Da Xu**

# MFA IN FILM & IN TV

IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILLER FILMS 

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