

## 2015 Conference Speaker List

As of 10/11/2015

### OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DON LEVY



**DON LEVY** After 17 years in senior management positions at Sony Pictures Digital and an extensive career in the entertainment industry, **Don Levy** now advises several early stage media, entertainment and technology companies, including the game, animation and visual effects talent platform, Zerply, and the mobile and the VR game publisher and producer Cosmic Forces. He consults to the Entertainment Technology Center@USC and serves on the faculty of Boston University's Los Angeles program. Levy is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He frequently speaks on topics concerning innovation, learning and visual communications. His TED Talk, "A Cinematic Journey Through Visual Effects," has more than 650,000 views on TED.com and he has since presented talks at TEDxAthens in 2014 and TEDxABQ in 2015. He was the opening keynote at the 2015 Discovery Education Spring VirtCon and led the Visual Communications Summit for the 3rd year in a row at FMX in Stuttgart, Germany. **Keynote Speaker for Opening Session, Panelist for Future of Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution, and also Media & Communications Training.**

### CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JOHN JOSEPH

**JOHN JOSEPH** is an Award-winning Executive Producer and Director. After winning the Academy Award for Documentary Short Subject while a student at UCLA film school, John began his professional life directing & editing music videos and commercials for clients such as Porsche, Toyota, Apple, and Kaiser Permanente. John went on to work in the episodic TV world doing pilots and series for FOX, CBS, ABC, NBC, and working on the long running series Unsolved Mysteries. With the explosion of documentaries and reality programming on Cable TV, John has Produced and Directed over 150 hours of television for almost every cable outlet from A&E to The Science Channel He has worked on location in Israel, Russia, Italy, Japan, China and almost every state in the U.S. John is currently an Executive Producer at The Weather Channel and has just completed the network's first 2 hour film, **Dead of Winter; The Donner Party**. The film is slated to premiere at the Boston Film Festival and will debut on the network in early December. **Keynote Speaker for Closing Session.**



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(Listed alphabetically by last name)



**ADAM AALDERKS** is an accomplished actor and screenwriter. Originally from Waterloo, Iowa. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology Education. While completing his Bachelor's degree, he played college football and toured as a drummer in a Metal-core band. Soon after leaving the band life and graduating college he relocated to Atlanta, Georgia and became a professional actor. He has played the lead in films such as *Curveball*, *Solacium*, *M.I.A.*, and *Flowers in May*. He also played Valcheck in Tony McNamara's *Ashby*. Since relocating, he has been very blessed to have worked with amazing talent and has continually pushed forward in the industry. Every day is a journey and every journey creates another story. **Instructor for Art of Storytelling: Screenwriting Workshop.**



**JOSE A ACOSTA** is a digital cinematographer and director who enjoys tells stories with moving pictures. His passion for excellence has garnered him EMMY and TELLY awards and he has been trusted with some of the worlds best-known brands like AFLAC, AT&T, Cartoon Network, CNN, Coca-Cola, Ferrari, the EMMY Awards, Disney, DIY Network, Dunkin' Donuts, the Home Depot, and the Weather Channel. Most recently Jose wrote and directed Poe's Mystery Theatre (facebook.com/PoesMysteryTheatre) a 1-hour historical drama scheduled to premiere on Georgia Public Broadcasting this October. TOOLS OF CHOICE CAMERAS: RED Epic owner/operator, Plus ALEXA, Panasonic P2, Canon HDSLRs, Sony EX-1, EX-3, F3, FS100, and GoPro. **Panelist for Non-Traditional Methods of Production.**



**BRENT BROOKS** With his start in improv comedy **Brent Brooks** has performed, organized and taught improv since taking his first class at Georgia State in 1997. Later Brent founded "Blank Stage Productions" where he produced several projects and started up an Internet show called *ThriveAmerica*. The show brought on a large number of highly successful business leaders where Brent learned the art of networking and a successful mindset. Working as a co-founder of Get Connected alongside Autumn Bailey and Cynthia Collins, Brent is constantly conjuring up ways for folks to maximize the networking experience. He created "CineCentral & CrewCall" a speed networking solution, he created the Get Connected Screening Room and works with each of the filmmakers and develops interactive workshop experiences. Currently Brent works as an actor with the J Pervis Talent Agency, a writer for self-produced projects and a hired filmmaker. He co-manages the "Blank Page Screenwriting" program, writes and produces demo scenes for actors and is working on a new web series with his beautiful wife, Lilian Brooks. **Instructor for Intro to Industry**

**Networking Lunch Break.**



**FREDRICK D. BUSSEY** is a Marketing and Public Relations executive in the Music Entertainment industry. He has worked as a Songwriter, Producer, Publicist, Marketing Representative, and Artist Manager, spanning the Hip-Hop, Gospel, R&B, and Pop genres, for nearly 15 years. A graduate of Oakwood University, with a B.A. in Communications, he is formerly the Director of Marketing and Publicity for Xist Music, & Managing Partner & Chief Creative Officer at iPMG, a full-service PR/Media firm. Fredrick has launched several businesses, including IconStatus, a media & entertainment consulting/artist development firm. He has a strong passion for working with youth, especially those in underprivileged circumstances, and serves as a young adult ministry leader at his church. It is his belief that his purpose in life is to use his talents helping others to discover and exploit their gifts for a greater good. In addition to his role as Director of Marketing and Publicity for Xist Music, Fredrick was also Managing Partner & Chief Creative Officer at iPMG, a full-service PR/Media firm. Currently, Frederick resides in Atlanta, GA with his wife, and young daughter. **Instructor for the Intro to Networking Lunch Break.**



**AMANI CHANNEL** is an expert in video production, broadcast news, and new media. He is the founder of a media consulting, video production company called Visual Eye Media. The company offers high definition video production services, media training, and social media solutions for companies, organizations, and individuals. Content produced by channel has aired on CNN, Headline News, AP, BET, Black Family Channel, HDNews, and various local and online outlets. In 2006, Channel founded a vlog/podcast called MyUrbanReport.com. It focuses on urban news and information, as well as traditional/new media issues, video production, and Channel's media adventures. He also enjoys teaching video production and currently teaches a digital media class at Kennesaw State University. **Moderator for Producing and Directing Corporate Videos.**



**CYNTHIA CURETON-ROBLES** is Founder and CEO of Osage Phoenix Productions. As a media and marketing veteran, she has worked at some of the largest media companies in the U.S. including Clear Channel, Hearst Corporation, Cox Media, Johnson Broadcasting and others. Her media sales acumen has helped to earn her numerous sales awards, as well as set company sales records. She is the founder of One Direct Media Group, an advertising agency and co-founder of Universal Media Group-Houston, a Media Rep Agency. Cureton-Robles' media relationships led her into the music and entertainment world, working with World Wide Music and Micco World Entertainment/Bugalow/Universal Music. She is also co-founder of Ustyle Magazine, a music & lifestyle college magazine. After relocating to Atlanta, Ga in 2009, Cureton-Robles began her acting career and starred in several independent films. She discovered that she was a gifted film producer and writer. As a favor, she acquired film distribution for an independent film which expanded her career as a producer's rep and later film distributor. Presently, Cureton-Robles is the Founder/CEO of Osage Phoenix which has combined all of her talents, film production, distribution and commercial sales into one company. **Panelist for The Future of Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution.**



**AKIL DUPONT** is a multi-award-winning director from Tallahassee, FL, graduating from Florida A&M University (FAMU) with his Bachelor's Degree in Economics. He worked as a Bank Manager in Orlando, FL for several years. He served as the CEO of Faces Modeling Troupe Inc., where he honed his skills in photography, fashion/costume design and directing. He was later accepted into the MFA program at Florida State University- one of the top film schools in the nation. During his time at the FSU Film School, he was honored by his classmates as one of the Top Production Designers and Cameraman in the class, as well as a stand-out Director! His thesis film, "Underground" has won 21 awards in 28 film festivals across the globe, including two Student Emmy awards from the Emmy Foundation. Akil later worked as a Production Designer on the independent feature film "Then There Was You", as well as Co-Producer and Cinematographer on a National Promotional Video for Florida A&M University. After moving to Atlanta, Akil was quickly promoted to Director of Photography with Image Harbor Productions as well as a Set Photographer on the SAG Indie Film, "What Love Will Make You Do" starring Darrin Dwight Hinson. Currently Akil teaches film production and editing at Clayton State University while promoting his newest short film entitled "Silhouettes" – a fairytale style romance about a visually impaired painter who sees the world through silhouettes. Akil is also expanding "Underground" into a stage play and feature-length film. **Panelist for Media & Communications Training.**



**GREGG EASTERBROOK** is a Cinematographer and Producer, and founder of Burning Eye Films. He won the prestigious Eastman Cinematography Scholarship while earning a magna cum laude MFA in Film from University of NC-Greensboro. His early professional work garnered him a selection to SHOOT Magazine's New Directors Showcase. Since then, his work has been featured in numerous film festivals and award shows (Santa Barbara, Camerimage, SXSW, Edinburgh Film Festival, Tellys, Spirits, Addys, Clios, etc.), and can be regularly seen "in theaters near you." He's lensed features for Lionsgate, eOne, IFC Films, New Films Int'l, Vertical Entertainment, Arclight and VMI, among others. Gregg has used the full spectrum of shooting formats to achieve the right look for each story, from Super-35mm film to Canon 5d digital, and nearly everything in between. Recently he was honored to DP the first feature film in the world shot on the new Sony F55 Cinealta 4K camera. Wicked Blood, starring Abigail Breslin, Sean Bean, Alexa Vega and James Purefoy, was subsequently selected to screen at Camerimage in Poland, regarded as the most important cinematography film festival in the world. **Moderator for Non-Traditional Methods of Production.**



**DENICE A EVANS** is a filmmaker and national speaker. She recently directed and co-wrote the apocalyptic-thriller short film, The Final Hour, produced by locally based film production company, No Fear Here Productions. She is currently on their writing team expanding the original concept from the film into a television series pilot. Denice is also the CEO/Owner of J' Hue Film Productions and a graduate of Emory University where she received her degree in Creative Writing and Film. Her company specializes in social cause & deep ecology media. J' Hue Film Productions is currently producing and directing a short documentary in collaboration with Safe Water Now, a nonprofit organization with the mission of providing global awareness and clean water education in Tanzania, Africa. As a socially-conscious filmmaker, Denice wrote & produced her first award-winning feature documentary, Spitting Game: The College Hook Up Culture, over a four year period. In 2008 her compelling film world premiered at the prestigious Boston Film Festival. **Moderator for Telling It Like It Is: The Art of Documentary Filmmaking.**



**KEN FEINBERG** can call upon a productive three-dimensional career that embodies performing, writing and directing. He has a long list of credits that demonstrate the fortitude of his craft. His broad knowledge of the industry and his devotion to the arts, whether on film, television or stage, has been expressed in his many accomplishments. For over 18 years Feinberg has been directing, writing, producing and acting in award-winning films, hit television series and major theater projects in Los Angeles, New York and Atlanta. He has won numerous awards in more than 50 productions, and he has achieved a great deal in the years he has been in Hollywood after nurturing his career in New York and Atlanta. **Panelist for BPC Actors Panel.**



Organizational Management from University of Phoenix. **Moderator for Media & Communications Training.**

**QUISA FOSTER** is Managing Partner of F2 Communications Group. F2 Communications Group is a savvy, strategic and integrated public relations firm that understands the importance of communications and how it impacts your brand, image, reputation credibility and growth. Ms. Foster is an accomplished public relations professional with more than 18 years of public relations experience. Her professional career includes a diverse mix of communications work in the field of television, radio, non-profit management, and higher education with expertise in media relations, crisis communications, community relations, social media management and brand development. Prior to F2 Communications Group, Quisa served as Managing Director for the Tom Joyner Foundation. In this position, she led all of the Foundation's fundraising and community relations' initiatives raising more than \$4.5 million dollars for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Quisa is a member the National Association of Black Journalists, Junior League of Atlanta, Black Public Relations Society, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Public Relations from Clark Atlanta University and a Masters of Arts degree in



Atlanta-based film studio, Moguldom Studios. As EVP, he led production of 10 documentary films including **A Genius Leaves The Hood: The Unauthorized Story of Jay-Z**, while establishing film distribution partnerships with new media partners. **Panelist for The Future of Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution.**

**BARION L. GRANT** is a film director, television producer, and successful new media entrepreneur. He's the founder of Angel Lion Productions, a multi-media consulting firm that connects brands, causes, and organizations with target audiences through culturally relevant programming. He brings over 15 years of film and television production experience as a producer and Executive Producer. He's produced and directed over 20 feature length films and shows for network television, Cable and digital distribution. As Co-Founder of the TheGrio.com—one of the nation's leading African American news sites – he launched the site's business development strategy, securing corporate, content, partnering with advertising clients to launch the site in 2009. Upon it's rapid growth, TheGrio was sold to NBC News in 2010. He most recently served as Executive Vice President; launching Moguldom Media Group's



**JONATHAN M HARRIS** is an instructor of film production at Clayton State University. As a filmmaker, his film and video work has been screened at film festivals nationwide including the San Francisco Documentary Festival, the Brooklyn Arts Council Film Festival and the Atlanta Film Festival. He was the Post-Production Supervisor for **The Adventures of Ociee Nash** (distributed by Twentieth Century Fox), and the director of the feature-length musical, **Last Ride**, called "visionary" and "ambitious" in press reviews. He is the director of numerous short films including the documentary, **Treasure Hunters**, which won Best Documentary Short at the F4 Film Festival in Massachusetts, and received three other nominations. He worked in public television as a producer on "C-47: Georgia's Short Film Showcase," and the "World War II Veterans Oral History Project". **Instructor for Beginners Editing Workshop, and Instructor for Advanced Editing Workshop.**



**ELISE HINES** is a graduate of Oakwood University where she received her B.A. in Communications and minor in Business Management. She started her communications career at The Weather Channel, and then moved to Crawford Communications where she worked for Fox Kids (Latin America), Travel Channel and Discovery Channel networks. Elise was the Executive Producer and co-host for a popular radio show with Atlanta's V-103 affiliate station. While on the radio show, she featured celebrity guests such as, Spike Lee, Magic Johnson, Queen Latifah, 50cent, Ludicris, Jermain Dupri, just to name a few. Elise currently works as a writer, producer and director for corporate videos produced at Georgia Power. She is also the CEO of Platinum Works Productions and has written several screenplays with hopes to one day see them on the big screen. The Denver native currently resides with her family in metro Atlanta. **Moderator for The Realities of Corporate Production.**



**MONIQUE JOHNSON** is an Atlanta based filmmaker. **Panelist for Non-Traditional Methods of Production.**



**STANLEY JOHNSON** has been a force in the music industry with over 25 years of experience in areas such as vocalist, songwriter, arranger, producer and composer. Stanley's work received double Platinum sales recognition for his vocal appearances on albums "Wild and Peaceful" as well as "Love and Understanding" with the legendary music group, "Kool and the Gang." In 1990-1991, Stanley was one of two producers who worked with Joseph Jackson, father of the legendary Jackson Family, and helped create the first album for Jackson Records in Encino, CA. Stanley is CEO/owner of Diamond Light Entertainment, Inc. (DLEI), based in Atlanta, GA, with offices in NY/NJ. DLEI has filmed some of the top movers and shakers in music, film, television and sports. Stanley is the first African American television producer to produce a golf series that was featured on the Golf Channel. He has also produced content that has been featured on, PAX / NBC network, as well as BET, NRB-TV, CTN-TV, WATC Atlanta's TV57, AIB Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, as well as "five" documentary films, and was awarded the "Key to the City of Selma Alabama," for several film projects filmed in the city of Selma, Alabama. **Moderator for The Future of Digital Entertainment Marketing & Distribution.**



**SHANDRA MCDONALD** is an award-winning writer, director and producer of short and long-form content and documentary projects that have screened in festivals around the world. She has received awards from the Director's Guild of America, Atlanta Film Festival, IFP Film Festival, Roxbury Film Festival, Women in Film and Television/Atlanta and Reel Shades of the Diaspora for projects that she has written, directed or produced. Shandra's film projects have aired on the web, and major television networks, including: ABC, NBC, UPN, Showtime and CBS. As CEO/President of Kiss the Limit Productions, Inc., Shandra has led the creation of uplifting web series, reality shows, documentaries, PSA's, commercials, corporate videos and cooking shows for clients across the United States. In 2006, Shandra produced and co-wrote her first award-winning feature film, *The Last Adam*, which is currently being distributed by Redbox, Amazon Video and Wal-Mart. In the summer of 2011, she served as co-producer on a feature film titled, *A Cross to Bear* with Nina Holiday Entertainment, which aired on the Gospel Music Channel in February 2012. That same year, she co-produced a documentary titled, *Versailles 73: An American Runway Revolution*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. Shandra is also a seasoned television, story editor and field director having traveled all over the world creating original documentaries for production companies and prime-time networks. She is also a proud film and television professor having taught beginners and advanced directing at various colleges in Atlanta, GA. **Instructor for Film Production Strategies, and Panelist for Telling It Like It Is: The Art of Documentary Filmmaking.**



**NICHOLAS L. MINTER** is CEO of Ida Audio and a professional Production Sound Mixer, Composer, and Sound Designer from Rochester, New York. He received his M.F.A in Sound Design from the Savannah College of Art and Design and eventually earned his spot as a well-respected audio artist within the entertainment industry. Recent productions he has worked on include BRAVO's Real Housewives of Atlanta, VH1's T.I. and Tiny: The Family Hustle, Mena starring Tom Cruise, FOX Sports 18 Holes, Adobe, Kodak, and VICE AT&T. His audio and musical influences are rooted in his childhood. He first learned Gospel piano by ear, then eventually was classically trained on the piano, drum set, and percussion in the areas of Classical and Jazz, while serving as a musician Symphonic Orchestra, Marching Band, and Jazz Ensemble which lead to him to soon becoming an audio engineer. In addition to composing Nicholas L. Minter has worked on various films, and with many musicians serving as a recording and mix engineer in the areas of music, film, games, children toys, and audio books. **Instructor for Audio for Dummies: Sound 101.**



**RYAN MONOPOLUS** is the Founder and Head Instructor of Monopolus Productions. In this capacity, he created **On Camera Combatives (OCC)** – an original program that combines elements of martial arts, combat systems, and performance techniques into a uniform and skill-building curriculum. The goal of the program is to better on-camera action for actors, filmmakers and enthusiasts, and create a global network of industry professionals. OCC holds seminars, full-day intensive courses, collaborative events, acting classes and boot camps – all with the goal of educating the community and boosting employability for those in the film industry, and to those breaking in. Affiliates of the program already include big names in the martial arts world, fitness models and SAG actors throughout the country. Currently the program is based out of Atlanta, Georgia which is arguably the fastest growing film market in the world and where Monopolus lives and works in the film and entertainment industry. **Instructor for On-Camera Combatives.**



**JOSH SAIDEMAN** is a Director, Cinematographer, and Editor. He was born in London and raised in New York where he attended film school at Ringling College of Art and Design. Josh has worked as a Cinematographer and Gaffer on projects of all sizes, from feature films to national commercials. He was also the Key Grip on an independent film starring Ving Rhames and Director for a number of music videos in the Atlanta. He also directed, shot and edited an award winning documentary short in Sarasota, Florida. Josh also directs and produces corporate videos. Some clients he has recently worked with include: Aflac, The Bleacher Report, Goodwill, Delta, Smite World Championship, Chick-Fil-A, BitPay, Lady Antebellum, and Geraldo Rivera. Josh is well-versed in a broad range of productions including narrative films, documentaries, commercials, corporate, music videos, live event coverage and anything else that requires compelling visual storytelling. **Panelist for Telling it Like It Is: The Art of Documentary Filmmaking.**



**SUZAN SATTERFIELD** is owner and executive producer of Picture Window Productions. She started in news production, migrated through producing big live shows to become an ad agency producer. She also worked on independent and documentary films, and now creates, writes and produces television and transmedia. Suzan has helmed several television series as EP, including "Mega Dens" (DIY Network), "Ground Breakers" (HGTV), as well as "The Natural South," for Turner Broadcasting. She has served on numerous industry boards, including as President of Women In Film & Television/Atlanta and member of NATAS, the Producers Guild of America and Georgia Production Partnership, and served as an appointee on the film commission under Governor Roy Barnes. **Panelist for Producing & Directing Corporate Videos.**



**MICAH STANSELL** is an Atlanta-based video/filmmaker and installation artist. He received an MFA in Digital Filmmaking and the Arts from Georgia State University. His work has screened in galleries and film festivals across the United States and internationally. Stansell has received several awards for his work, most recently a 2011 Artadia Award, 2010 Working Artist Project Award from the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, a Special Jury Prize for Innovative Filmmaking at the 2009 Atlanta Film Festival, and a 2008 Student Academy Award Nomination for his graduate work. Stansell's work has been reviewed in numerous publications including Art in America, Moviemaker Magazine, Atlanta Art Now: Noplaceness (book) and The Atlanta Journal Constitution. **Instructor for DJI Ronin Camera Stabilizer Workshop.**



**ANGELA TUCK** is an award-winning writer and editor at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. As a feature writer & coach, she helps reporters develop their work and writes stories for Personal Journeys, the front page and other sections of the newspaper. For four years, Tuck led the newspaper's education team, directing coverage of the Atlanta public schools cheating investigation and subsequent trial, the selection of several school superintendents, the challenges of charter schools, and redistricting. Tuck has written extensively about the 1961 Freedom Riders, including profiling the family of Denise McNair, one of four girls killed in the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. She also covered the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. During her 26 years at the AJC, she has worked as a reporter, editor, newsroom recruiter, trainer and public editor. In her personal blog, [www.lovemypeople.me](http://www.lovemypeople.me), she writes about faith, family and culture. In November, she will retire from the AJC and begin her own writing, editing and training firm, Angela Tuck and Associates. She can be reached at [angeladtuck@gmail.com](mailto:angeladtuck@gmail.com) or 678-231-1858. **Panelist for Media & Communications Training.**



**DIVA TYLER** is an actress (Stage, Television and Film), and was awarded the 2015 Best Black Female "Rising Star" in the Arts by The National Black Women in Jazz and Arts Association. She provides private coaching for beginners, and she is an Inspirational/ Transformational Personal Growth Life Coach. She is also an activist, community ambassador and spokesperson for the Fulton County Based Organization "YouthSpark," and founder of "Not On My Watch Endeavors" (NOMWE), an Anti-Trafficking/ Anti-Slavery Movement. For more information, check out [www.thedivatylerpresents.com](http://www.thedivatylerpresents.com). **Panelist for BPC Actors Panel.**

## SHORT FILM FESTIVAL JURY



**LY BOLIA** – Associate Professor of Film/Video at Georgia State University

**Ly Bolia** (M.F.A., New York University, 1994) is Associate Professor of Film/Video with Georgia State University, with creative specializations as a writer, director, editor and cinematographer. Bolia's films have screened nationally and internationally. Bolia's work spans feature films, short films, public service announcements, and political campaign advertisements. His work has been distributed on DVD, and reviewed in Variety Magazine, Hollywood Reporter, Village Voice, TV Guide, Box Office Magazine, Filmmaker Magazine, and Entertainment Today. Research Areas: Cinematography; Film Lighting & Editing. Degree Track Affiliations: Ph.D. (Moving Image Studies), M.F.A., M.A. (Film & Video). *Instructor for Intro to Lighting Workshop.*



**XAVIER L BURGIN** – University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts MFA Fellow

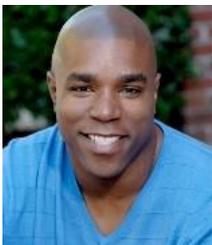
**Xavier Burgin** is a graduate student at USC's School of Cinematic Arts graduating in December. Hailing from the deep south, Xavier brings a personal, and intimate aesthetic to his films. He's screened at the San Diego Black Film Festival, was a finalist at the Stage 32 Raindance Short Film competition, and was a finalist for the UCFTI Expo. His latest shot film, *Olde E*, will premiere in 2016.



**CLEMENTINE LEGER** – Programming Coordinator at Florida Film Festival

**Clementine Leger** is a graduate of Rollins College. Leger is the Festival Manager at Slamdance Film Festival. Prior to joining Slamdance she enjoyed a two-year tenure at Florida Film Festival as the Programming Coordinator. She oversaw the day-to-day logistics of the festival's programming and year round events. When she is not occupied with saving the work one-film-at a time, she can be found enjoying some refreshing cheap beer.

## SHORT FILM FESTIVAL MASTER OF CEREMONIES



**DAVID MARTYN CONLEY** is a Writer, Director, and Actor with over 20 years' experience as a stage and cinematic artist. Through his company, Munirah Entertainment, Conley has:

- Won awards for his independent features, shorts and series.
- Written the UpTV original movie, *Raising Izzie*

As an Actor, Conley has appeared on Network television programs including:

- Army Wives*
- Drop Dead Diva*
- Tyler Perry's House of Payne*
- Disney's *Let It Shine*

Conley is currently in production on the second DNR episode and in pre-production on three features to be produced over the next year. **Host for Short Film Showcase.**

## Board of Directors and Conference Planning Committee



**NANCY B. HOWARD** is the Founder and Executive Director of The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation, and Founder and Producer the Georgia BigPictureCon Film & Technology Conference (formerly GABPC). She is also an independent film and video producer with over 18 years of production experience. She received her Bachelor degree in Mass Media Arts – Radio/TV/Film from Clark Atlanta University and a Master's degree in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University. She is currently the Executive VP and & COO of Kiss The Limit Productions, certified female and minority certified business entity and boutique film, video and web production company which has produced corporate projects for Coldwell Banker, Atlanta Medical Center, USAID, The Coca-Cola Company Family Federal Credit Union, and Swiss Trilingual School, among others. Nancy is a current member and former Board Member of Women in Film & Television Atlanta, and currently a member of the Georgia Production Partnership, and the Atlanta Film Festival.



**JOE HOWELL** is an executive music producer and President of Stage Ten Studios. Joe has worked in the music and film industries for over 20 years, as an audio engineer, music producer, executive producer and songwriter. Joe worked for ABC Television Channel 31 (WAAY) in Huntsville, AL in audio and video. While working as a recording engineer in studios such as NYC's Chung King Studios, Sony studios, The Hit Factory, Sound on Sound and others, he was able to land a music publishing contract with Polygram/Universal Music Publishing. His work is showcased on many LP album and live projects including Record Label LaFace/Arista, Record Label Bad Boy/Universal, StepSun/Tommy Boy, and many others. In 1996 he received ASCAP's prestigious Rhythm and Soul Award for his chart-topping work on Billboard, and he holds many gold and platinum awards from the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America). Joe is the CFO of The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation, and the Executive Producer and webmaster for the BigPictureCon.



**LYDIA "SUE-ELLEN" CHITUNYA** is an emerging, multilingual, budding filmmaker who hails from Zimbabwe. She is a Georgia State University graduate. She also completed a producing certification program at UCLA. Chitunya has produced several award-winning short films; which have screened at different festivals such as the Atlanta Film Festival, and Zimbabwe International Images Film Festival. She participated in the following programs: Durban Talents, Kyoto Filmmakers Lab, and the Caribbean Tales Incubator. Her varied work experience includes consulting for Zimbabwe International Film Festival, producing the Georgia BigPictureCon, Programmer of Education for the Atlanta Film Festival, interning for International Creative Management at Cannes Film Festival, programming for Slamdance Film Festival, and marketing for the Disney College Program. She has recently launched a production company in Zimbabwe. She aspires to create ground-breaking projects that transcend cultures and genres. She is also the Festival Director of the BigPictureCon Short Film Festival.



**AMANI CHANNEL** is a broadcaster, educator, award-winning storyteller, video producer, and a communications professional. He helps brands, nonprofits, individuals and students tell traditional and digital stories. During his career Amani has worked as a news reporter, PR practitioner, content/community manager, media consultant, and he's an award-winning video producer. He provides media consulting and corporate storytelling services through Visual Eye Media, and serves as an adjunct professor. Channel's content, commentary, and reports have been featured across the airwaves on outlets like NPR, APTN (Associated Press Television News), CNN, Headline News, Fox News Channel, BET, Black Family Channel, HDNews, and across the Web. He's also managed digital and broadcast PR campaigns with brands that include Visa, Coca-Cola, Hershey's, Chick-fil-A, and IHG. Channel often speaks at conferences, workshops, and universities across the country about traditional and new media. He's taught video production at Hillsborough Community College, Connecticut School of Broadcasting in Tampa, FL; the University of West Georgia, Kennesaw State University, and Southern Polytechnic University. Amani serves as a Board member

of The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation.



**MELISSA RANDLE** is a professional freelance script supervisor and producer/associate producer. Her diverse production experience includes a dozen TV shows, 20+ films, and hundreds of Commercial//Corporate videos & live events, with content in English, Spanish & Portuguese. She is also an active participant in the Atlanta Film Community serving as an advisor/ past president of Women In Film & Television Atlanta, in addition to participating with several local film festivals. She regularly attends the Toronto International Film Festival, Sundance, Slamdance, ABFF & even travelling as far as South Korea for the Busan International Film Festival. As a guest speaker/moderator she has been asked to cover a variety of topics from networking etiquette, to getting started in the film business, to teleprompting techniques for actors. Melissa serves as an Advisory Board Member for The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation, and is the Program Coordinator for the BigPictureCon.

## Conference Planning Committee



**LILLI HOWELL** is an experienced administrative and technology professional with over fifteen years' experience in both fields. She possesses strong communication, planning and diagnostic skills and has a great reputation for productivity, integrity and professionalism. She graduated from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) with a degree in Business Management. Lilli lends quality support and interacts professionally with all levels of staff and maintain the highest level of confidentiality; and is known for tact and diplomacy in handling sensitive issues. She has been involved with The Big Picture Film & Video Foundation since the inaugural Georgia Big Picture Conference in 2005, and currently serves as the conference Registration Coordinator.



**LISA MASON** is an aspiring playwright, who has worked as an assistant coordinator for SONSscreen Film Festival and as a production assistant on MzCarriage of Justice; PraiseVision; Metro Cafe TV and Cooking With Caspino! Lisa is very compassionate about encouraging others to never give up on their dreams and firmly believes that what God has blessed her with is meant to be shared. She is currently working with the BigPictureCon as a Conference Production Assistant.



**VICTORIA PORTER** is a Script Supervisor in the Atlanta metro area with four (4) years of experience as a filmmaker under her belt. She's worked on projects ranging from short films to features, as well as a few of television projects. Her passion is episodic storytelling because with every new script there is another layer added to the story arc. She currently serves as the Volunteer Coordinator for the BigPictureCon.



**LINDA SAYSENG** is a film production student at Clayton State University. She has worked on many videos varying from documentary, comedy, to music. She was an intern for Atlanta's Q100 radio station, The Bert Show as well as Atlanta's Business Video. She was also a media intern for the office of Career Services at Clayton State, where she enhanced her skills in video production, video editing, and marketing. She now serves as a PR and Communications intern for the BigPictureCon.