

International Co-production Accelerator Program

Participating expert bios – feature film stream



Alfons Adetuyi is an award-winning producer and director recognized for both navigating the complexities of financing international co-productions and producing successful cross-cultural films and television series. Alfons has produced and/or directed over 100 hours of prime-time features, documentaries, dramas and lifestyle series selling to over 60 countries.

His company Inner City Films specializes in international co-productions and initiated the Canada/South Africa Treaty. His recent rom-com LOVE JACKED streams on Netflix worldwide. He is currently in production on CHRISTMAS IN DETROIT for Lifetime, in pre-production on the adventure feature DREAMS OF THE MOON and in-development on his fifth co-production the political-thriller series RIO TEN. Alfons has been featured in Indie Wire's 'Shadow and Act' Filmmakers to Watch, named one of 2018's Top 30 Black Directors by blackfilm.com US, and recipient of Reelworld's 2021 Vision Award.



Jayme Alter is a partner in Dentons' **Media, Entertainment and Sports** practice group. Based in Toronto, Jayme advises clients involved in a variety of industries, including film, television, music and advertising. She represents producers, artists, broadcasters, distributors and creators in negotiating agreements in connection with the development, financing, production and distribution of film, television and commercial projects. In

addition, Jayme's particular expertise is in cross-border guild issues and in advising her foreign clients on such issues and production matters as they arise. Prior to law school, Jayme successfully completed various professional internships in the entertainment sphere, including placements in the legal department of a prominent Hollywood talent agency and, prior to law school, in the publicity department at the Canadian office of a prominent Hollywood film studio.



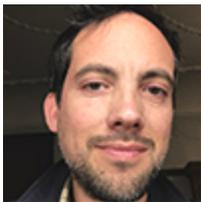
Molly Asher is an Academy Award, BAFTA, Golden Globe, Spirit Award, and Gotham Award-winning producer. She produced Chloé Zhao's NOMADLAND, (Searchlight Pictures), which won Best Picture at the Oscars, Spirit Awards, BAFTAs, Golden Globes, Critics Choice, and Gotham Awards. Other credits include Josef Kubota Wladyka's CATCH THE FAIR ONE, which won the Audience Award at Tribeca 2021, Carlo Mirabella-Davis'

Gotham-nominated SWALLOW (IFC Films), Zhao's Cannes Directors' Fortnight top prize winner THE RIDER, Sarah Violet Bliss & Charles Rogers' SXSW Grand Jury Prize winner FORT TILDEN, Anja Marquardt's Spirit Award-nominated and Berlinale award-winning SHE'S LOST CONTROL as well as Zhao's debut feature SONGS MY BROTHERS TAUGHT ME (Sundance, Cannes, Kino Lorber). Asher won the 2020 Independent

Spirit Producers Award and was included in Variety's 2021 NY Women's Impact Report. She is an alumna of NYU's graduate film program.



Born and raised in Toronto and a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and Canadian Film Centre's Producer Lab, **Paul Barkin** has been producing feature films through his company Alcina Pictures for more than 20 years. A champion of director-driven and first time filmmakers, Paul has produced an array of critically acclaimed and commercially successful films including Cherien Dabis' Sundance and Cannes Directors Fortnight entry AMREEKA, nominated for an NAACP Image Award, Gotham Award and three Independent Spirit Awards including Best Picture, Bruce McDonald's 2007 Berlinale Panorama opener, THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS starring Elliot (Ellen) Page, Jeff Renfro's ice-age apocalypse THE COLONY, starring Laurence Fishburne and Bill Paxton, the Norwegian-Canadian revenge thriller, HEVN by Kjersti Steinsbø, and Jasmin Mozaffari's powerful, award-winning debut, FIRECRACKERS. Paul recently completed NIGHT RAIDERS, the first ever Canada-New Zealand Indigenous coproduction and feature film debut of Danis Goulet, based on her screenplay. Night Raiders marked its World Premiere in Panorama at the 2021 Berlinale and is scheduled for theatrical release this fall following its North American debut at TIFF 2021.



Daniel Bekerman, founder and president of Scythia Films, is one of Canada's most prolific feature film producers, with experience in creative producing, financing, international co-productions and service productions having completed over 25 films in the last 5 years. Credits include *Percy* (2020), starring Christopher Walken, Zach Braff and Christina Ricci. Additionally, *Falling*, Viggo Mortensen's directorial debut, as well as, *Come to Daddy* (2019), starring Elijah Wood. Most notable credits include *The Witch*, winner of U.S. Dramatic Directing Award for Robert Eggers at the Sundance Film Festival, as well as two Independent Spirit Awards, and the feature *Rememory*, directed by Mark Palansky. Daniel executive produced *The Craft: Legacy*, (Sony/Blumhouse), directed by Zoe Lister Jones, *Ready or Not* (Fox Searchlight Pictures/Vinson Films) directed by 'Radio Silence' as well as *How It Ends* and *ANON* for Netflix. Daniel has also service-produced films with financing partners that have MGM, Sierra Affinity, and Voltage Pictures.



Sol Bondy founded Berlin-based One Two Films' in 2010. The company's focus is feature films for the international market. Garnering top honors at festivals including Toronto, Berlin and Cannes, previous titles include Juho Kuosmanen's THE HAPPIEST DAY IN THE LIFE OF OLLI MÄKI (Prix Un Certain Regard 2016), Isabel Coixet's THE BOOKSHOP, or Sundance 2018 breakout THE TALE by Jennifer Fox amongst many others. Sol is a TAP & Inside Pictures alumni, member of the German and European Film Academy and was recognized as a "Future Leader"

by Screen (2013) and “Producer to Watch” by Variety (2018). He’s currently in post-production of Ali Abbasi’s new feature after his breakout hit BORDER.



Ken Dhaliwal is a Partner with Dentons Canada LLP, practicing in the Toronto office. Ken primarily practices in the film, television and digital media industries. His national and international clients are involved in a wide range of activities from financing to production and distribution. He acts for banks and other financiers, film and television producers, distributors, broadcasters and creators. In assisting his clients achieve their transactional goals, Ken brings his extensive industry experience, balanced approach and goal-oriented focus. He frequently advises them on the areas of Canadian incentives, which he combines with international incentives, treaty co-productions and co-ventures, and structuring productions to maximize the benefits of these programs. Ken has been peer-rated as “most frequently recommended” in the annual *Canadian Legal Expert® Directory* annual survey as one of Canada’s leading entertainment lawyers in *Best Lawyers in Canada*. In 2015, Ken was awarded a Crystal Mentorship award from *Women in Film and Television-Toronto*.



Director/Producer **Ainsley Gardiner** is of Ngāti Awa, Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti Pīkiao and Whakatōhea descent. Ainsley has produced more than a dozen short and feature films, documentaries and television drama. Her first short film as writer/director, *Mokopuna*, had a successful festival life, winning Gold at the Dreamspeakers Indigenous Film Festival. She was one of 9 wāhine Māori filmmakers to write and direct the acclaimed feature film *Waru*. She has just completed her second feature, *Cousins*, co-directing with the film’s screenplay writer, Briar Grace-Smith. Notably Ainsley produced the short films *Two Cars*, *One Night* and *Tama Tu* written and directed by Oscar-nominee, Taika Waititi. She went on to collaborate with Waititi on his feature films, *Eagle vs Shark* in 2005 and his first No. 1 Box Office hit, *BOY*, in 2009. In 2018 she was awarded the Mana Wāhine award at the Wairoa Film Festival and also made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to film.



Orla Garriques is a multi-faceted professional working at the intersection of film, television, digital media, arts and education. Orla is the Marketing Director for Inner City Films, overseeing marketing, exhibition and export strategies for film and tv properties. She also sits on the Advisory committee of CFC Media Lab: Fifth Wave’s female digital entrepreneur accelerator, and mentors at CFC Media Lab and OCADU Digital Futures programme. She has delivered collaborative initiatives and curated programs that promote Canadian content and talent for leading media institutions, such as Toronto International Film Festival, National Film Board, Hot Docs, Reelworld Institute and South African Documentary Filmmakers’ Association. Orla has worked with award-winning production companies in the areas of development, business affairs, marketing, digital content creation and

audience engagement. Film and TV credits include: LITTLE MOSQUE ON THE PRAIRIE, DESIGNER GUYS, STYLE DEPT., GOLDMIND, GUNS, MADE IN CANADA, SKIN DEEP, JOZI-H and LOVE JACKED.



Former General counsel of Pandora Cinema a sales and financing company based in Paris and LA, **Ilann Girard** set up ARSAM a one-stop consultancy and production operation based in Paris and then founded of Olffi.com, the largest database and toolbox about public funding around the world. He has produced more than 20 feature films and his credits include "March of the Penguins" "Goodbye Bafana", "Lebanon", "I Anna" by Barnaby Southcombe, Stanley Tucci's "Final Portrait" and Alla Kovgan's 3D feature dance documentary "Cunningham". His last production, the Bangladeshi film "The Salt in our Waters" premiered in Pusan and London in 2020.



Katie Holly is owner and Managing Director of Dublin-based Blinder Films, through which she has produced critically acclaimed features including Whit Stillman's LOVE & FRIENDSHIP starring Kate Beckinsale and Chloe Sevigny, Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman's EXTRA ORDINARY starring Maeve Higgins and Will Forte, Ant Timpson's COME TO DADDY starring Elijah Wood, and Sophie Fiennes' GRACE JONES: BLOODLIGHT & BAMI. Recent projects include FRENCH EXIT, an Irish/Canadian co-production directed by Azazel Jacobs, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Lucas Hedges, ABOUT JOAN directed by Laurent Larivière, starring Isabelle Huppert and MR. MALCOLM'S LIST, directed by Emma Holly Jones, starring Freida Pinto, Zawe Ashton, and Şöpe Dirisù which is currently in post-production. She is a member of IFTA, BAFTA, BIFA and the European Film Academy, and a former board member of Screen Ireland. She is also founder and co-creative director of X-Pollinator, a cross-disciplinary training initiative for female creative talent.



Mynette Louie is an Emmy-nominated, Spirit Award-winning producer. Her credits include Heidi Ewing's Sundance-winning, Spirit Award-nominated I CARRY YOU WITH ME (Sony Pictures Classics), Carlo Mirabella-Davis' Gotham-nominated SWALLOW (IFC Films), Jennifer Fox's Emmy, Golden Globe, and Spirit Award-nominated THE TALE (HBO), Karyn Kusama's THE INVITATION (Drafthouse/Netflix), and Martha Stephens & Aaron Katz's Spirit Award-winning LAND HO! (Sony Pictures Classics). Mynette co-founded The Population in 2019 with Mollye Asher (NOMADLAND) and Derek Nguyen (THE HOUSEMAID). The company has a first-look deal with Topic Studios. Mynette won the 2013 Independent Spirit Producers Award, is on Film Independent's Board of Directors, and serves on the executive and diversity committees in the Producers branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She was named one of Business Insider's "12 Movie Producers at the Top of Their Game to Watch in 2020 and Beyond" and Indiewire's "100 Filmmakers to Follow on Twitter." Mynette previously worked at the Hawaii Film Office, where she authored the state's production tax credit, and in marketing and business development at SportsIllustrated.com, Jupiter Research, and Time Magazine. A native

New Yorker, Louie graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University, where she studied Chinese literature and film.



Aranka Matits is the founder of Featurette, an agency focused on feature film acquisitions, co-productions and strategic planning. She works with a roster of theatrical distributors across Europe, and past clients range from sales agents to platforms to multinational broadcasters. Notable acquisitions credits range from Oscar winners *Parasite* and *Another Round* to *Shoplifters* (Palme d'Or) and *Happening* (Golden Lion) to *First Cow* and *The Souvenir* (Sundance Grand Jury Prize) to *Minari* (Golden Globe). Aranka also trains for various film institutes and producer organizations, and is a reader for select grant-giving institutions. She regularly serves on juries, is a voting member of the European Film Academy and holds a PhD in Literature and Film Studies.



Under the banner of her company, [See-Through Films](#), **Kathleen McInnis** offers strategic planning for emerging world-cinema filmmakers. Focusing on Short, First and Second Features (documentary, narrative and animation), Kathleen uses her three decades of festival programming, film publicity and producing experience to help bring films and filmmakers to their broadest possible audience, merging the filmmakers' creative and business development as they launch their careers from the global film festival circuit. A thought-leader in audience design, Kathleen created the SIFF New-Works-In-Progress Forum to bring together the three vital parts of the cinema experience at a critical junction before the film has locked picture: filmmaker (as artist), industry (as conduit), and the ticket-buying audience. As strategic publicist, Kathleen represents world cinema films premiering at festivals such as Toronto, Cannes, Berlin, Sundance, Karlovy Vary and Hot Docs. Kathleen is also a Senior Advisor (Film) for the European Bank Reconstruction & Development.



Jan Miller is an international consultant and trainer specializing in film and television co-production and co-venturing. She also continues to present one of the world's top Pitching & Content Development Workshops around the world. A talent that makes things happen, Jan collaborated eleven years ago with the Erich Pommer Institut to design the hugely successful Trans Atlantic Partners (TAP), She is now the lead on CMPA's international Coproduction Accelerator Program. She also launched and served as Director of Halifax's Strategic Partners, (Now FIN Partners) for 15 years. Jan was one of the driving forces behind setting up Canada's first film school, the National Screen Institute. Committed to supporting women working in the industry, Jan established Women in Film and Television-Atlantic and co-designed and presented four iterations of the Five Women in Focus training opportunities for Women in View including one specifically for animators, and one for Indigenous writer/directors.



Christina Piovesan has produced a dozen feature films including FRENCH EXIT which earned a 2020 Best Actress Golden Globe nomination. Other films include THE NEST by Sean Durkin, MOUTHPIECE by Patricia Rozema, AMERICAN WOMAN by Semi Chellas and THE WHISTLEBLOWER by Larysa Kondracki. Under her production banner First Generation Films, Christina is actively producing tv series including Jeff Lemire's ESSEX COUNTY commissioned by the CBC for production in early 2022. FGF is in post-production on an animated series for DreamWorks Animation and Apple +. In development are a number of adaptations including the popular true crime podcast, SOMEONE KNOWS SOMETHING; an adaptation of the Giller Award winning collection of short stories HOW TO PRONOUNCE KNIFE, and the debut book of essays from celebrated culture writer Scaachi Koul.



Mike S. Ryan is the bold independent producer behind such remarkable and ground-breaking art-house films as Todd Solondz's Palindromes and Life During Wartime, Bela Tarr's Turin Horse, Phil Morrison's Junebug, and Kelly Reichardt's Old Joy. As a producer / executive producer, he has helped realize many ground-breaking films in the last twenty years, most made for under \$3 million. He was nominated for an Independent Spirit "Producer of the Year" Award, and was one of Variety's 2007 "10 Producers to Watch." His films have garnered nominations and prizes from the Academy Awards, Independent Spirit Awards, Gotham Awards, and many more. As an EU passport holder and Irish citizen, Mike is available as a production services provider in both the European Union and US. In 2020, Mike released three new films that were shot before Covid including The Artist's Wife, starring Bruce Dern and Lena Olin, and a new Jake Mahaffy film, featuring Julia Ormond and shot in New Zealand.



Tania Sarra has worked as an executive in the film industry for over a decade. As a Director at MGM Studios, Tania spearheaded and oversaw all the buying and distribution for MGM's acquisitions across Europe, Middle East and Africa. Prior to, she held leading roles on sales teams for UK based indies where she ran the operations of global sales divisions and oversaw the development of original projects for production. In 2015 the Business of Film named her a top Upcoming Executive, and in 2014 she was named a Future Leader by Screen International. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the London Film Academy and has been the Guest of Honour at the Marche du Film Producer's Breakfast at the Cannes Film Festival which celebrates producing talent across the world. She is the Founder of Hot Sauce – a boutique consulting firm specializing in Producing, Executive Production and Creative Direction for major film and television projects.



Noah Segal is the co-president of Elevation Pictures, a Canadian film distribution and production company focused on the most innovative and inventive content available. Since its launch, Elevation has established itself as a leading independent distributor in Canada with Academy Award winning titles such as *THE IMITATION GAME*, *MOONLIGHT*, *ROOM* and *MINARI* alongside box office hits *LADY BIRD*, *THE UPSIDE*, *COLD PURSUIT* and *HUSTLERS*. In late 2016, Noah expanded his duties to spearhead Elevation's new production division. Elevation Productions is actively focused on producing and co-producing original film and TV content in Canada. Recent productions include features *FRENCH EXIT* (directed by Azazel Jacobs, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Lucas Hedges), *THE NEST* (directed by Sean Durkin, starring Jude Law) and *ALICE, DARLING* (directed by Mary Nighy, starring Anna Kendrick). Current projects include Brandon Cronenberg's next film *INFINITY POOL*, scripted TV shows in development with AGC (animated YA) and CBC (police drama), and a docu-series in collaboration with Universal Music.



Gary Shapiro has held executive marketing and distribution roles at Columbia Pictures, MGM, including Senior Vice President at Sony Pictures Entertainment and Beacon Pictures. He initially specialized in the United States and Canada and later managed the marketing of major Hollywood studio films and independent films worldwide. Previously He consulted with The Telluride Film Festival in the U.S., The Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in The Czech Republic, the Berlin International Film Festival in Berlin and The Montblanc Company in Hamburg. He is a long time member of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and serves on The International Language Film Selection Committee. Gary is currently associated with Inner City Films Toronto, a major Canadian film and TV production company specializing in diverse entertainment. He manages the company's international distribution and marketing campaigns from LA and is an Executive Producer on several of their upcoming films. He set up the company's last feature film *LOVE JACKED* at Netflix which is currently streaming the film on their service globally.



Bob Tarantino is Counsel at Dentons Canada LLP and focuses his practice on the interface between the entertainment industries and intellectual property law, with an emphasis on film and television production, financing, licensing, distribution, and IP acquisition and protection. His clients range from artists and independent producers to Canadian distributors and foreign studios and financiers at every stage of the creative process, from development to delivery and exploitation. He holds graduate degrees in law from Osgoode Hall Law School and the University of Oxford, including a PhD from Osgoode Hall Law School. Bob is the co-author of *Canadian Film & Television Business & Legal Practice* (published by Thomson Reuters), and has also been recognized as one of Canada's leading lawyers in the area of entertainment law in the *Lexpert / American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*, *Who's Who Legal: Canada* and *The Best Lawyers in Canada*.



As Producer at Feracious Entertainment, **Michele Turnure-Salleo** develops, finances and produces independent films. Executive Producer/Co-Executive Producer credits include; FAREWELL AMOR (Sundance 2020), BEFORE YOU KNOW IT (Sundance 2019), THE SOUND OF SILENCE (Sundance 2019) and BUOYANCY (Berlinale 2019). BUOYANCY won Best Indie Film at The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards 2019 and was Australia's submission for Best International Feature at the 2020 Oscars. Turnure-Salleo is also Executive Producer on BLUEBACK and STRANGER WITH A CAMERA. In addition to her work at Feracious Entertainment, Turnure-Salleo is also a Development Mentor for Biennale College Cinema and Attagirl Labs, an external Development Assessor for Film Victoria and Adjunct Film professor at CCA in San Francisco. Previously, at S.F Film Society (now SFFilm) Turnure-Salleo was instrumental in developing filmmakers who are defining today's generation of film and television storytellers including Ryan Coogler, Chloe Zhao, Boots Riley and Ben Zeitlin.



Allison Wilson-Forbes has had a varied background in film production, academic study, and the performing arts. A mid-career performer who recurred on Saving Hope, she also appeared on other Network shows like Orphan Black, The Expanse, and the upcoming Y: The Last Man for FX. She attended UCLA's TV writing program graduating just before the Pandemic hit. She has fresh takes on story ideas drawing on her diverse journey as an arts professional that includes short filmmaker premiering at US festivals and opening the Heart of Gold in Australia; to story assistant for an Emmy award winning Doc; to lone scriptwriter for The Harry Jerome Awards; freelance moderator for festivals like TIFF, Reelworld, Planet in Focus; to film festival manager and curator. Most recently, she worked as a freelance writer/producer developing sizzles and copy for third party companies. She's currently, writing a feature drama for a new production company.



Tara Woodbury is currently serving as Vice President of Development for the Toronto based production company Sphere Media Plus, where she oversees domestic and international development. She is an Executive Producer on the new smash hit medical drama TRANSPLANT for CTV and NBC. TRANSPLANT is the most-watched scripted series on broadcast television in the US and debuted as number one in Canada. Independently, Tara recently produced the sci-fi thriller feature film NIGHT RAIDERS by Danis Goulet, with Academy Award Winner Taika Waititi (THOR: RAGNAROK, JOJO RABBIT) as Executive Producer. Night Raiders is the first ever Indigenous co-production for Canada and New Zealand. The film was recently selected as a Gala Presentation for TIFF '21 and the Panorama section at the 2021 Berlinale Film Festival. She current volunteers with POV and WIFT's Programming Committee and is a member of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Tara attended the Executive Program for Media Leadership at the Rotman School of Management and has a BA in Communications from University of Winnipeg.