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**BLACK LIST AND WIF (WOMEN IN FILM L.A.) ANNOUNCE 2021 EPISODIC LAB PARTICIPANTS FROM A RECORD NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS**

October 13, 2021, Los Angeles — The Black List and WIF today announce the selection of participants who will commence sessions this week in the sixth annual Black List x WIF Episodic Lab. In a record year of over 1,200 submissions, six pilots from eight writers have been chosen to participate in the professional development-focused lab which includes master classes, pitch coaching, mentoring, and introductions to television industry representatives to help build writing careers. Advisors and instructors of the Lab over the years have included Monica Beletsky (“Parenthood”), Carly Wray (“Watchmen”), Sono Patel (“Crazy Ex-Girlfriend”), Glen Mazzara (“The Dark Tower”), Kira Snyder (“The Handmaid’s Tale”), Erika L. Johnson (“The Good Lord Bird”), and Lauren LeFranc (“Impulse”).

Over its six year history, the Lab’s alumni have gone on to work successfully in television and the industry, with over 80% having representation during or following the Lab, 44% staffed on television shows, and the majority continuing to work in entertainment. “We’re so proud of our participants, past and present, who continue to persevere in an incredibly competitive landscape. And we’re privileged to have supported them, not only during their time in the Lab, but throughout the years, as the one predictable component to success in this industry is sticking with it,” says WIF Director of Programs and Lab co-manager Maikiko James.

“We’re thrilled to have built a community, not just of writers, but of mentors and advisors that return year after year to support these up-and-coming writers, and cannot thank them enough for making the Lab what it is, particularly during the past year as the program morphed due to the pandemic,” said The Black List’s Megan Halpern, who runs the Lab alongside James. “We could not have done it without them.”

The Lab begins this week, and will run a hybrid format of both virtual and in-person sessions through November 2021. **See below for participants, and [CLICK HERE](#) to download their headshots.**

## 2021 Episodic Lab Participants

### Lydia Caradine



Lydia Caradine is a writer and actress from Cleveland, OH. She has a background in development and was previously staffed in a comedy mini-room. She writes TV and features: dramedy, historical drama, comedy, and adult animation. Caradine has a B.S. in Mass Communications, is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., performed with Monkey Butler Improv, and studied at Stella Adler Academy of Acting and Theatre. Her obsession with corsets and alternate historical POVs inspired the creation of “Polite Society,” which placed in the 2021 ScreenCraft Pilot Competition. She’s repped by Sydney Blanke/Colleen Washington at Fourth Wall Management.

### Project: *Polite Society*

An ambitious, wealthy young woman balances being young, gifted, and black at the dawn of the Harlem Renaissance with the unfortunate realities of racism, colorism, and gender inequality in the early twentieth century. Collette is going to roar, ‘20s or no ‘20s.

### Christan Leonard and Mads Gauger



Christan Leonard and Mads Gauger are bleeding-heart liberals and recovering stand up comedians from Seattle, WA. They met six years ago at a hate-free comedy show and started writing together four years later (which is about average for how long it takes to make friends in the PNW). Together they write socially relevant, queer-centered comedies inspired by their nonprofit backgrounds and northwest roots. They are the first writing team to take both first and second at the Austin Film

Festival Pitch Competition and are thrilled to be bringing their brand of screwball comedy to the Black List x WIF Episodic Lab.

### Project: *That Woman*

Ten years after an affair with a married congressman ruined her life, Zoe Bauer decides to get back at him the only way she knows how, by running against him for office.

## Marisa Hardwicke



Marisa Hardwicke was born and raised in the heart of Silicon Valley, where she spent her after-school hours doodling on whiteboards at her parents' startup and summers with her family in Mexico. Wrestling between the two cultures, Hardwicke expressed herself in writing, crafting relationship-driven dramas and grounded science fiction. She attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she earned a BFA in Dramatic Writing. In 2019 her script ¿SEGURO? was a quarterfinalist for the Nicholl Fellowship. In 2020, Hardwicke was a finalist for Universal Studios' Writing Program. She is repped by Greg Shephard and Nadya Panfilov at Writ Large.

### **Project: *Founders***

After a top VC firm announces they've set aside money to fully fund one lucky female-founded tech venture, two ex-Stanford roommates and former business partners find themselves once again at odds as they compete to get their products fully funded.

## Alex Rubin



Alex Rubin writes about broken families trying to put themselves back together. She was a resident of SPACE on Ryder Farm and the National Winter Playwrights Retreat, a Big Vision Empty Wallet Playwriting Fellow and Annenberg Fellow, and the winner of The Writers Digest Award in Playwriting. Her work has placed in the Austin Film Festival, Final Draft Big Break Competition, ScreenCraft Competition, and more. Rubin has written for iHeartRadio's "Solve" and "The Jackie Cox Variety Show" on PEG. She holds an MFA from University of Southern California's John Wells Division of Writing for Film and Television.

### **Project: *Lost Hope Hotel***

The most haunted hotel in the world is in Lost Hope, Pennsylvania, plagued with spirits since Crazy Lainey died there ten years ago. But the secret Katie, manager of the hotel and daughter of the legendary Lainey, has kept for a decade is... it's all fake.

## Nalini Sharma



Nalini Sharma spent her childhood on naval bases in India, grew up in small towns across the U.S. and is currently in Los Angeles. She is a writer and performer across all mediums. She was selected for the legendary Steve Martin's comedy writing Masterclass and as a performer for the CBS comedy showcase in 2018. She co-wrote "A Funny Thing Happened On Our Way To India," a hit sketch show with sold-out runs at the Second City Theater. Her short film GARBAGE was an official selection at HBO's Women In Comedy Festival 2019. Her dark comedy pilot, "Crooked," was a semifinalist at the 2019 Screencraft Writing Fellowship Award.

### **Project: *Rowdy***

A successful Indian American diplomat returns home to Atlanta only to discover her uber-dysfunctional family in ruins, forcing her to stay and fix their lives while possibly getting a life of her own...all before she has to freeze her eggs and shit.

## Hannah Stoddard & Jenny Ulmer



Hannah Stoddard & Jenny Ulmer are an L.A.-based writing duo defined by their female-led dark comedies and unshakeable love of Judy Greer. Stoddard hails from Las Vegas and possesses a knack for magical period pieces. Ulmer grew up in South Dakota and has a flair for the dark and twisted. Together, they form a unique partnership with an appetite for transgressive women, impassioned second winds, and

reliably unpredictable plots. Their genre-blending scripts have become finalists at Austin Film Festival, the AFF Pitch Competition, and the Josephson Entertainment Fellowship. (Also, Judy, if you're reading this, please call us.)

### **Project: *Dark Horse***

Life in the '80s goes from glam to gore when a washed-up circus star accidentally kills the ringmaster. Packing up her family—and the corpse—she flees to her estranged mother's lavish estate, only to discover that when it comes to disposing of bodies, mother knows best.

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### **ABOUT THE BLACK LIST**

The Black List, an annual survey of Hollywood executives' favorite unproduced screenplays, was founded in 2005. Since then, at least 440 Black List scripts have been produced, grossing over \$30 billion in box office worldwide. Black List movies have won 54 Academy Awards from 267 nominations, including four of the last twelve Best Picture Oscars and eleven of the last 28 Best Screenplay Oscars.

In October of 2012, the Black List launched a unique online community where screenwriters make their work available to readers, buyers and employers. Since its inception, it has hosted nearly 80,000 screenplays and teleplays and provided more than 130,000 script evaluations. As a direct result of introductions made on the Black List, dozens of writers have found representation at major talent agencies and management companies, as well as sold or optioned their screenplays. Several films have been produced from scripts showcased on the website including Golden Globe nominated NIGHTINGALE, starring David Oyelowo.

Currently, the Black List hosts over 5,000 scripts by approximately 3,700 writer members. These scripts are available for download by industry professionals ranging from agency assistants, to studio and network presidents, to A-list actors and directors.

The Black List's first feature production, COME AS YOU ARE, debuted at SXSW in 2019 and is Certified Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes (98% Critics, 80% Audience). Its second feature, BREAKING NEWS IN YUBA COUNTY, directed by Oscar-nominated director Tate Taylor and starring Allison Janney, Mila Kunis, Regina Hall, Awkwafina, Wanda Sykes, and Juliette Lewis, was released in February 2021 by MGM Studios.

More information on the Black List is available at [www.blcklst.com](http://www.blcklst.com). For regular updates, join our [mailing list](#) or follow the Black List on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

### **ABOUT WIF**

Founded in 1973 as Women In Film, Los Angeles, WIF advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries, to achieve parity and transform culture. We support women and non-binary people in front of and behind the camera and across all levels of experience. We work to change culture through our distinguished pipeline programs; we advocate for gender parity through research, education, and media campaigns; and we build a community centered around these goals. Membership is open to all screen industry professionals, and more information can be found on our website: [wif.org](http://wif.org). Follow WIF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).