



The Black List and WIF Announce 2023 Episodic Lab Participants



Thursday, March 16, Los Angeles - The Black List and WIF are thrilled to announce the participants for the 2023 Episodic Lab. Seven pilots from eight writers have been selected for this highly-selective and intensive Lab, which is now in its seventh year.

The Episodic Lab, which is generously supported by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and Shivhans Pictures, focuses on preparing women writers and writers of underrepresented genders for a career in writing television. The Lab meets twice a week in March, with sessions that include master classes, pitch workshops, and lectures from guest mentors. Mentors for this year include Monica Beletsky (PARENTHOOD), Jane Becker (TED LASSO), Glen Mazzara (THE DARK TOWER), Sono Patel (THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL), and Taylor Cox (GIRLS5EVA). Participants will also meet with a number of Lab alumni mentors, including: Amber Alexander (RAISING WILD), Kryzz Gautier (GORDITA CHRONICLES), Maria Sten (BIG SKY), Dagny Looper (SEE), Anna Salinas (LOOT), Marie Nguyen (BEEF), Yvonne Hana Yi (MR. AND MRS. SMITH), Hunter Toro (DIGMAN!), Hannah McMechan & Danya Jimenez (GABBY DURAN & THE

UNSATURDAYS), Gillian Weeks (2022 Black Lists's OH THE HUMANITY), Davia Carter (SNOWFALL), Erin Weller & Kate Heckman (BIG SHOT), and Hannah Stoddard & Jenny Ulmer (REBOOT).

Over 40 writers have gone through the Episodic Lab since its inception in 2016, and more than half of the Lab alumni are currently staffed and working in television.

Submissions for the 2024 Episodic Lab will open later this Spring.

See below for loglines and bios from the 2023 Episodic Lab participants.

Bev Chukwu

NATION ONE - A collegiate swimmer with multiple sclerosis undergoes an experimental procedure to achieve her Olympic aspirations and becomes entangled with a mysterious utopian Black society that has conspiratorial ties to her father's checkered past.

Beverly "Bev" Chukwu is a Nigerian American writer, filmmaker, and script consultant. She is a former screenwriting fellow from the James A. Michener Center for Writers. As a producer, her short films have screened at Women in Horror Film Festival, Cine Las Americas, and AGLIFF. Her screenplay, PRINCE OF LAVENDALE STREET, was the feature winner in the 2021 BlueCat Screenplay Competition, and her video essay "Sometimes Black" is now used as educational material at the University of Texas at Austin. Mental health advocacy for people of the Black diaspora is at the forefront of her work.

Deanna Esposito

DISSENT - Toronto's top legal aid lawyer by day and sex worker by night seeks to revolutionize the justice system for sexual assault victims. This proves nearly impossible when she comes up against her estranged mother, who defends accused rapists for a living.

Deanna Esposito received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto, with a double major in Psychology and Criminology. During undergrad, she worked as a Courtroom Reporter at Toronto's largest criminal courthouse. There, she discovered her love of storytelling and pivoted away from law school to obtain her MFA in Screenwriting at AFI (Class of '22). Post-grad Deanna entered the industry as a Writer's PA for Peacock's upcoming series APPLES NEVER FALL. Deanna is passionate about telling stories that subvert the male gaze, and her favorite stories to write are the ones she wished she had growing up.

Eudie Pak

MEET THE PARKS - Meet the Parks is a dark-humored drama about three troubled Korean-American adoptees from the South who make a game out of murdering their adoptive family members and enemies who abused them during childhood. But can the adoptees carry out their mission without destroying each other first?

Eudie Pak was born and raised in an immigrant working-class family from the Bible Belt — and has the grit and love of grits to prove it. Her childhood was surrounded by doomsday religion and too many trips to Disney World, which has naturally inspired her to write about the macabre and taboo in highly imaginative ways, with an extra side helping of irreverence. Her projects have gone on to level at screenwriting

competitions such as Final Draft Big Break, Screencraft, and WeScreenplay Diverse Voices. In 2022 she became a Circle of Confusion Writers Discovery Fellow and is currently repped by Circle of Confusion.

Helen Sun & Laura Malatos

CLOSING COSTS - An inexperienced real estate agent strikes big with the opportunity to sell a mansion in a bizarre Bavarian-style town, only to discover that it's a stigmatized property where a gruesome murder took place.

Laura Malatos & Helen Sun are a writing-filmmaking duo with an appetite for overly ambitious characters and darkly comedic worlds. Despite being born 5,000 miles apart (in Seattle and literal Moscow, Russia), they came together at USC and have been ride-or-die roommates ever since. Alongside writing, they collaborate on social media ads, music videos, and narrative films - jobs that have brought them unhinged experiences, from transforming their apartment into an underground bunker to staging medieval fights in the California mountains. They are excited to keep exploring heightened worlds in their work and bring complex queer and female-driven narratives to the screen whilst having a laugh.

Katherine Ruppe

LIFTOFF - LIFTOFF intercuts the propulsive true story of America's first female astronauts – six intrepid pioneers who blast through the chauvinistic brotherhood of spaceflight in 1978 – with the heartrending tale of the Challenger disaster, which claims the life of one of our first women and spurs Sally Ride to investigate, uncovering NASA secrets even as she keeps her own.

Katherine grew up rodeo racing and exploring the wilds in Michigan's rugged Upper Peninsula. A love of imagery inspired her early work in the International Cinematographers Guild, learning to convey story visually while advancing to camera operator on films and TV. Now Katherine writes about daring underdogs who go after the impossible, whether it's rocketing to space or seeking justice. She's developed an original crime drama with WBTV and her thriller feature TRUE NORTH is set to be produced by Resonate Entertainment. She's a Humanitas New Voices Winner, Film Independent Episodic Lab Fellow, Fox Writers Incubator Finalist, and Sloan Foundation Grant Winner with LIFTOFF.

Lorin Williams

THE ANCESTORS -When a pragmatic FBI agent starts seeing her deceased relatives clear as day, she must figure out if this is a supernatural gift or a curse of her deteriorating mind, without losing footing in a very public and grisly case.

Lorin Williams is a television writer and producer living in the Los Angeles area. After graduating from film school, she moved to Los Angeles where she produced unscripted television for several years and joined the Producers Guild of America where she currently serves on the national board. In 2020, Lorin pivoted to scripted television and started working as a script coordinator on Transformers: Earthspark for Nickelodeon where she wrote her first episode of television for the series. Currently, Lorin is a freelance writer on the second season of the Rugrats reboot.

Thea Rodgers

THE BOOK OF BO - When a young medieval nun discovers a fundamental flaw in the Church's logic, she sets out to rewrite the laws of what it means to be A Good Person-and sets off a revolution within the walls of her convent even as the Inquisition threatens its doors.

Thea Rodgers is a Latine actor and writer who attended Emerson for a BS in neither. After starting her entertainment career at an award-winning trailer house and moonlighting as a producer's assistant, Thea made the transition to the creative side, working in theaters around Los Angeles and Mexico and placing in script competitions such as Acclaim, the Page Awards, and the A-List. Most recently, she published a web novel with Tapas Media, was thrilled to write for the fourth season of the Emmy-winning interactive scripted show Artificial: Factions on Twitch, and was selected for the 2023 Mentorship Matters Writers Initiative. In her spare time you can find her talking about space at the Griffith Observatory.

Contact:

Megan Halpern

megan@blcklst.com

Catherine Olim

Catherine.Olim@rcpmk.com

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 273 nominations, including four of the last 14 Best Picture Oscars and eleven of the last 28 Best Screenplay Oscars.

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. For more information on The Black List, visit <https://blcklst.com/>.

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. Follow WIF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).