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The National Hispanic Media Coalition Unveils Its 2021 Series Scriptwriters Program Cohort

The 35-year-old civil rights nonprofit organization is proud to announce a new group of Latinx writers entering the signature program

Los Angeles, CA – The National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) welcomes ten talented Latinx writers to its 2021 Series Scriptwriters Program. The writers were selected from hundreds of applicants across the country by the 35-year-old civil rights and advocacy nonprofit organization. This new group of talent include **Linzy Beltran, April M. Sanchez, Diego Moreno, Michel Lichand, Eli Vazquez, Ana Defillo, Rolando Gomez, Desiree Carcamo, Samantha Renee Cordero** and **Linda Dillon Moya**, who were all celebrated this past Thursday, August 5th with an event attended by Tim McNeal, Walt Disney Television; Claudia Prado, Univision; Diana Rodriguez, Union Bank; Pete Corona, Netflix; Clint Odom, T-Mobile; and Robert Baltazar, NBCUniversal among many others.

Photos can be found [here](#).

Highlights from the event include remarks from President & CEO, Brenda Victoria Castillo; NHMC Series Scriptwriters Program Mentor and former NBC V.P. of Script Development, Geoff Harris; remarks from guest speakers Erika Kennair, President of Production at Extracurricular, and former graduates of NHMC's program Zayre Ferrer and Danny Batista; along with a presentation from each of the ten graduating writers.

The writers' program has served nearly 200 diverse alumni who have gone on to write for series such as *The Umbrella Academy*, *The Flash*, *Cruel Summer*, *Generation*, *Resident Alien*, *Santiago of the Seas*, *Legendary*, *Painkiller*, *Indebted*, *Selena: The Series*, and more. Some notable NHMC Series Scriptwriters Program alumni include Emilia Serrano (Writer, Untitled Paramount+ Feature, CO-Executive Producer, ABC's *Mixed-ish*); Sierra Teller Ornelas (Executive Producer, Peacock's *Rutherford Falls*), and Rob Sudduth (co-executive producer, *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist*, co-executive producer, ABC Untitled TV Movie). Also, writers Jessica Lopez, Jorge Ramirez (Story Editor) Martinez and Pamela Garcia Rooney are all writers for *Selena: The Series* on Netflix.

"NHMC is proud to cultivate the next generation of storytellers. We are always elated to see a new group of writers start this program. They are the future of the industry. From the next staff writers to your favorite show's showrunners," said **Brenda Victoria Castillo, President & CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition**. "As we have done so for nearly twenty years, we continue to advance Latinx writers in an industry that has yet to fully utilize our community's rich and diverse talent. NHMC is here to bridge the gap and connect the entertainment industry with well-equipped writers who are ready to tell authentic stories."

NHMC's Series Scriptwriters Program was held virtually from June to July of this year, and was proudly sponsored by Univision Communications, Inc., The Walt Disney Company, NBCUniversal Telemundo,

T-Mobile, Netflix, Union Bank, and ViacomCBS. During the virtual program, ten talented Latinx writers emerged themselves in a writers room-style lab, where they learned from industry leaders and completed 30-minute to 1-hour pilots in drama or comedy. Among guest speakers were Erika Kennair, Zayre Ferrer, Pete Corona, Emilia Serrano, Lainie Gallers Tarter, Davah Avena, Alex Tse, Ryan Cassells, Kristy Grisham, and Mitch Graham.

About the 2021 Series Scriptwriters Program Participants:



Linzy Beltran

Boo Shots

(single-camera comedy)

Series Logline:

In a Texas mall that stuck in the 1990s, the owner/operator of a glamour photo studio and her fellow shopkeepers struggle to stay afloat when a for-profit community college threatens to take over their spaces, businesses, and livelihood.

Linzy Beltran is a Salvadorian-American writer and performer based in Austin, Texas. She is a member of multiple improv troupes as well as sketch teams, Glam Fam and Prayer Circle. She debuted her one-person show, *Linzy with a Z* at the Second City Diversity Comedy Festival in Los Angeles in 2019. She also hosts a jazz and comedy open mic called *Jazz Kween* in Austin, Texas. Linzy previously worked as an Event Producer for C3 Presents but the pandemonium (Covid-19) caused her to lose her job because, ya know, no events! She previously served as an Executive Assistant at Austin Film Festival and Associate Producer for *On Story: Presented by Austin Film Festival*.



April M. Sanchez

Break a Leg!

(single-camera comedy)

Series Logline:

The Type-A general manager of a live theater, who wants everything to run smoothly and efficiently, struggles to rein in the eccentric personalities of the theater's employees, performers, and the new owner, who all clash with her obsessive need for organization.

April M. Sánchez was born and raised in El Paso, TX, on the US/Mexico border. Growing up in a bicultural city has inspired her stories, which often reflect the beauty, wonder, and traditional elements of border town Latinx culture.

April holds a bachelor's degree in Screenwriting and a Latino Media Studies certification UT Austin. Her scripts have made their way to the finalist round in the Sundance Screenwriters and Episodic Labs and as a Semi-Finalist in The Academy Nicholl Fellowship and the Universal Writers Lab, amongst others. April is currently a participant in the inaugural Stowe Story Labs Launch, a feature film intensive for advanced development.

As a writer, April is drawn to exploring themes of family, belonging, alienation and power. Magical realism and border town Latinidad is often featured in her stories. She is repped by James Smith of Aaron Kogan Management.



Diego Moreno
Sins of the Father
(Drama)

Series Logline:

A former true crime author returns home to his Indian Reservation in search of his missing sister, but in the process, he uncovers a dark secret of two families.

Diego is a Pascua Yaqui and Mexican American screenwriter from Tucson, Arizona. He received his BA in Film and Media Studies from Dartmouth College in 2018 and is currently an MFA candidate in the screenwriting program at the Institute for American Indian Arts. In 2016, Diego's horror short, *MY-A-KNEE*, won the Laing Memorial Screenplay Award. In 2021, Diego was selected as a fellow for both the inaugural Mentorship Matters Writing Program as well as the 6th annual LA Skinsfest Native TV Writers Lab. Diego's most recent television project, ICCU (INDIAN COUNTRY CRIMES UNIT), is an hour long procedural drama that follows a team of Native Special Agents in the FBI tasked with investigating the most serious crimes in Indian Country.



Michel Lichand
Loose Ends
(single-camera comedy)

Series Logline:

A grieving widower finds unexpected solace in a small group of eccentric people who make dead people's last wishes come true posthumously.

Michel was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to a Jewish family who always said he was funny. Once he realized that was actually a compliment, he decided to be a comedian and moved to LA to pursue a lucrative career in comedy writing. This turned out to be extremely difficult. Luckily, he was also pursuing a much more realistic (but still painfully expensive) MFA in USC's prestigious Screenwriting program, where he was also a recipient of the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship. Since then he's worked at AMC Networks, Whitaker Entertainment, Lionsgate Games, and has also performed improv at the Pack Theater.



Eli Vazquez
That One Girl

(single-camera comedy)

Series Logline:

After beating cancer, a nonconformist teenager wants only to return to her angsty life, but everyone treats as an inspiration and won't let her be herself.

Eli Vazquez, is a proud afro-Mexi-Rican, hailing from Chicago, IL. After disappointing his mother who wanted him to be a priest, Eli went on to become a filmmaker, writer, and digital storyteller. Eli is a writer/producer for BuzzFeed's Latinx digital brand Pero Like, generating over 500 million views online through his scripted/unscripted work. In 2018 he became a fellow in the HOLA Mexico Film Festival's, Tomorrow's Filmmakers Today program and recently was a semi-finalist for LALIFF/Netflix Afro-Latinx Film Fellowship. Eli's projects have been seen at such festivals as the Chicago International Latino Film Festival, Philadelphia Latino Film Festival, and most recently nominated for multiple awards at the Official Latino Film and Arts Festival.



Ana Defillo

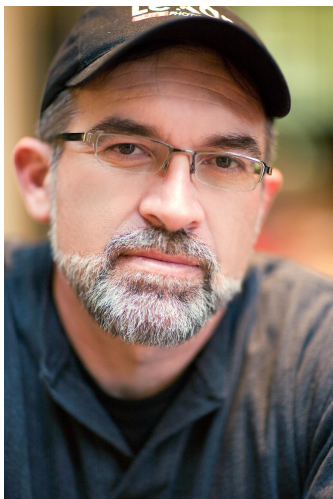
Good Intentions

(single-camera comedy)

Series Logline:

After a well-meaning volunteer unwittingly uncovers widespread corruption at a busy nonprofit in Washington Heights where she works, she's recruited by the FBI, only to expose her true intentions for helping others. (Based on true events)

Ana Maria Defillo is a Venezuelan immigrant raised in Miami, FL by her working-class Dominican family. A True American. Before her career as a UCB trained writer, researcher, and producer, she paved her road to hell as a nonprofit professional, human rights graduate student, & Christian missionary. Now she mines her unique traumatizing experiences to tell comedic stories. Her writing's been published by several online publications such as Vulture and McSweeney's. TV credits include Desus and Mero on Showtime, The Read on Fuse, and The Vote on PBS. Her comedy half-hour, Missionary, was a quarterfinalist in the 2021 Nashville Film Festival Screenwriting Competition. She's a proud 2021 alum of NHMC's Scriptwriters Program sponsored by ABC/Disney, NBC, and Netflix.



Rolando Gomez

Lens Diaries

(drama)

Series Logline:

Inspired by true events, a former combat photographer trades the battlefield for the stage of glamour photography and must navigate a new world of fame while he searches for the love he's never had.

Known to drink deadlines for breakfast with his military "can do" attitude, Gómez utilizes research methods to make original stories authentic. He

earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication, Electronic Media, summa cum laude, from the University of Texas, San Antonio and trained as a mediator in conflict resolution plus served almost nine years as an active-duty soldier, non-commissioned officer, and combat photographer in the U.S. Army. When he left the army with an honorable discharge and a recipient of a Dept. of Defense Meritorious Medal, and the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal, Gómez joined the Federal civil service system and became the Chief of Multimedia for the Air Force News Agency, AFNEWS, a multi-million-dollar public affairs office. There he managed radio and television products plus on-set productions where he supervised military and civilian personnel. In 2020 Gómez was invited to join the Ron Howard and Brian Grazer's Impact Creative Network as a screenwriter and signed with Emmy award-winning manager, Jonathan Groce at Bohemia Group, only to lose Groce to an unexpected death the following year.



Desiree Carcamo

The Blue House

(comedy – documentary)

Series Logline:

A South-Central L.A.-based medium, who side-hustles as a ghost counselor, deals with the hijinks of the house's resident evil entity, inter-ghost drama, and the community that wants to get rid of her business.

Desiree Carcamo is a queer first-gen Mexican-Salvadoran-American writer-actor-filmmaker raised by strong, independent women in vibrant BIPOC communities on occupied and unceded Tongva and Cahuilla land (South Central LA and the Inland Empire). They play with comedy, drama, and horror over a foundation of rich characters with dense, nuanced inner-worlds and real emotional backbones. Carcamo was introduced to storytelling by being unexpectedly cast in their university's annual dance choreography showcase. Since then, Carcamo was part of the Disney/ABC, NBCU, and Netflix sponsored NHMC Series Writer Program (2021), was waitlisted as a writer-director for NALIP's WOC Short Film Incubator Lab sponsored by Netflix (2021) won *Nosotros' 2nd Annual Ya Tu Sabes! Monologue Slam* Presented by NBCU (2020), made several shorts as a solo filmmaker and crew of one, and most recently, showrunned, wrote, and starred in their first web series *AMIGXS* (2021) which will soon enter the festival circuit. They were part of the TV/Film teams at MACRO and Eclectic Pictures and studied bioengineering at University of California Riverside.



Samantha Renee Cordero

The Flip

(single-camera comedy)

Series Logline:

A ragtag group of friends from the inner city upend their lives to invest in a suspiciously affordable foreclosed building that turns out to be a money pit.

Samantha is a proud Nuyorican writer born and raised in Manhattan. Her love for TV began at the ripe age of 5 when she became a child actress [*Death to Smoochy*, *Law & Order: SVU*] and developed throughout her elementary years as she wrote, directed and performed in short dramas

for her family, classmates and anyone else who would listen. Samantha is a first-generation college graduate. After earning her MFA from the New York Institute of Technology, Samantha worked in Integrated Marketing at Freeform before moving to LA in 2018. She became a Development Coordinator at The CW, providing coverage on hundreds of scripts and assisting in the development of dozens of projects. This exposure to the craft of storytelling compelled her to TV writing and led to her current job as a Showrunner's Assistant. She writes grounded dramedies centered around women who are driven to succeed against all odds.



Linda Dillon Moya

The Good Latina

(single-camera comedy)

Series Logline:

An ethnically ambiguous Latinx woman juggles her career in Hollywood and her traditional elitist Mexican family when they move into her small home.

Linda Moya is a writer, producer, and development executive, with more than 10 years of experience in the entertainment industry. Some highlights of her many career achievements include the production of her pilot episode, "Whole Planet," for ARTv, which she also co-executive produced, and the option of her feature script, "The Art of Happiness," by Seedling

Entertainment. She has also written for Sony Crackle and Rabbit Bandini Productions. Linda received her MFA in Television & Screenwriting from UCLA and currently has a script in development with PM Productions. Linda received multiple awards and scholarships while at UCLA, as well as an Emerging Creators Scholarship from NALIP. Linda endeavors to contribute her knowledge of production and screenwriting to Latinx communities worldwide to elevate diverse representation in film and media.

About NHMC

The National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) civil rights organization that was founded to eliminate hate, discrimination, and racism towards the Latino community. We educate and increase visibility of Latinx from our policy work in Washington D.C. to our media advocacy work in Hollywood where we collaborate, create, and connect Latinx talent with the entertainment industry. For more information, visit <https://www.nhmc.org/>

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