





AKAYLAH ELLISON

Writer Bio

Akaylah Ellison is a Latina and Black writer who swore she'd never end up in entertainment. She grew up bouncing between homelessness and comedy clubs, thanks to her comedian mom. Everyone told her to chase "stability," and stifle her own dreams. So, she fled to UC Davis farmland... only for TV to come knocking anyway.

Fueled by rage (and a healthy dose of humor), she rebrands "hysterical" as power. Giving women of color the unapologetic emotions they deserve, now she writes gloriously damaged women who want to watch the world burn. Back in LA's hottest corner, she's a proud Valley girl with a mission: to make sure every girl and dreamer from tough beginnings goes for it, because the most "unstable" dreams often make the best stories.

One-liner

Akaylah Ellison (LA) - Writer; HBO Max's *Doom Patrol*, CW's *Walker*, in development with A Bird and Bear Entertainment; BA in English with emphases in Creative Writing (Poetry and Playwriting) and Literature, Criticism & Theory from University of California, Davis

Pilot Logline

TV DINNER - 1 hour drama

Generations after the top one percent has monopolized access to real food, a zero-percenter who has never fried an egg stumbles her way through an inaugural televised cooking competition that offers its winners a chance to eat a gourmet meal—until things get deadly.



ANN VALDES

Writer Bio

Ann Valdés, born and raised in Los Angeles, is a writer and filmmaker with seven years in television, producing social justice documentaries for PBS and unscripted programs like Dr. Pimple Popper for TLC. In 2021, she expanded into directing with her first short film, Arroró, which earned her a fellowship with the Hola Mexico Film Festival's Tomorrow's Filmmakers Today program. Since then, she has directed her second short, Omw home, and was accepted into the Alliance of Women Director's inaugural Mentor Latina Directors cohort in 2024.

The only child of two Cuban therapists, Ann loves to write, direct and produce psychological horror drama—because if her parents taught her anything, it's that the demons lose their power when brought to light.

One-liner

Ann Valdés (LA) - Writer, Director, Producer; Alliance of Women Director's Mentor Latina Directors Fellow 2024; Hola Mexico Film Festival's Tomorrow's Filmmakers Today Fellow 2022; NALIP Emerging Content Creator 2020

Pilot Logline

BREAKING POINTS – 1 hour horror drama

When a hurricane descends upon New Orleans, an E.R. nurse must defend his family from all that the water washes their way – debris, looters, and... centuries-old vampires.



ARIANA PADILLA-ROGERS

Writer Bio

Ariana Padilla-Rogers is a Puerto Rican-Austrian writer and proud Jersey Girl based in Philadelphia. She earned a BFA in Writing for Film & Television from the University of the Arts—becoming the last graduate to cross the School of Film’s commencement stage. Her love for storytelling began in sixth grade with *The Sims 3*, where she crafted detailed, outrageous plotlines.

Often called the “oddball” growing up, Ariana now wears the title with pride. Raised by her mother and grandmother—two fierce women whose motto was “take care of business”—she brings their strength into every story she tells. Ariana writes comedic, character-driven tales about family, womanhood, workplaces, and life’s delightful absurdities. Her voice is shaped by her identity as a queer, neurodivergent, Jersey Shore–raised Latina who believes that the oddest stories are often the truest.

One-liner

Ariana Padilla Rogers (Philadelphia/New Jersey) - Screenwriter and Short Story Writer, University of the Arts, BFA in Writing for Film & Television; NFFTY Story Starts Here Screenplay Competition—Best Pilot Winner 2024

Pilot Logline

DISAPPOINTING - 1/2 hour dramedy

An offbeat Puerto Rican family reluctantly bands together to save their less-than-luxurious motel from gentrification on the Jersey Shore, while learning to accept the only thing messier than the business – themselves.



CHRISTINA INGRALDI

Writer Bio

Christina Ingraldi is a Puerto Rican and Italian writer based in LA—though she swears she remains a New Yorker at heart. She loves exploring themes of identity and found family, often highlighting characters who don't quite know where they fit, and will sprinkle in a bit of romance at every possible chance. She is particularly interested in crafting diverse YA stories, fun ensemble dramedies, and epic fantasy worlds. She is a 2025 NHMC Series Scriptwriters Program fellow and a 2025 Nickelodeon Writers Program Semi-Finalist.

Christina discovered her passion for writing later in life. She started her career in management consulting and spent half a decade helping Fortune 500 companies complete multi-million-dollar business and tech transformations. However, she pivoted away from a successful corporate career to pursue her passion for storytelling. With a creative heart and a robust business background, she loves bridging the creative and business sides of the industry to bring stories to life.

One-liner

Christina Ingraldi (LA) - Writer, Producer, Strategist; Development Assistant at 20th Century Studios; MBA from University of Southern California; BS from The Wharton School of Business; 2025 Nickelodeon Writer's Program Semi-Finalist

Pilot Logline

GARDEN CLUB - 1/2 hour YA dramedy

When a group of misfit teens turn their high school garden club into a secret drug operation, it's all fun and profit... until they piss off the wrong mob boss.



GRASIE MERCEDES

Writer Bio

Grasie Mercedes is a first-gen Dominican-American and product of 12 years of Catholic school; so guilt is basically her love language. She writes character-driven comedies and dramedies rooted in her Afro-Latinidad, Catholic trauma, and a lifetime of feeling misunderstood.

She was a staff writer on NBC's Perfect Harmony. Her entry pilot into NHMC's SSP, Gracie the Gringa, was inspired by her experience growing up Afro-Latina—never quite fitting in but always trying. Her dark comedy short Just the Two of Us won the Audience Award at the 2021 Atlanta Film Festival, and her quirky short Postmate was distributed on American Airlines from 2022–2023.

Grasie also starred as Fay on NBC's Grand Crew, earning an Imagen Award nomination. She draws on her acting background to write layered, emotionally grounded characters and sharp, natural dialogue.

One-liner

Grasie Mercedes (New York / LA) - Writer, Actor; Staff Writer on NBC's Perfect Harmony; Developed series with Le Train (Will McCormack, Rashida Jones); Series Regular on NBC's GrandCrew; Filmmaker and Content creator @grasiemercedes

Pilot Logline

SCRUPLES - 1/2 hour YA dramedy

In 1995 NYC, a deeply earnest Afro-Latina at an all-girls Catholic high school grapples with scrupulosity (religious OCD) as her obsessive guilt and imaginary spiritual guide sabotage her coming-of-age.



JANET QUINONEZ

Writer Bio

Janet Quinonez is a queer, sober, Mexican-American screenwriter and comedic performer from Austin, Texas. Legend has it she was conceived at the Longhorn Drive-In during a screening of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory—which explains a lot.

Janet inherited a strong work ethic from her parents but was fired from the family countertop business for botching the tax return. (In her defense, she was only 13.) She redeemed herself by holding nearly every job imaginable including Christmas bow-maker, warehouse clerk and corporate auditor... just to name a few. Her teen years in Atlanta introduced her to drag shows, John Waters, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show—and she found her queer community.

Janet writes about sobriety, unconventional families, misfits, second acts, and second chances. She is a mentor for Young Storytellers and the LA LGBT Center. Janet also produces comedy shows all over LA.

One-liner

Janet Quinonez (LA) - Writer, Comedic Performer, Producer; Austin Film Festival quarter-finalist; Sundance Episodic Second Rounder; Semi-Formal Productions Second Place winner RomCom competition; NHMC SSP alum

Pilot Logline

USED GOODS - ½ hour workplace comedy

A chronic hoarder takes a job at a Texas thrift store to salvage his crumbling marriage, only to discover the family he's been looking for all along.



KARI MOTE

Writer Bio

As the daughter of a Mexican immigrant and a wartime veteran, Kari Mote's work is deeply rooted in her lived experience. Raised in a household marked by PTSD and schizophrenia, she draws from generational trauma to tell stories grounded in resilience and truth. After leaving high school as a freshman, Kari became a full-time parent and provider, working in the fields to support her family. She writes with the urgency of someone breaking cycles and rewriting her legacy.

In 2025, Kari was selected for the NHMC Scriptwriters Program with her pilot *Crooked County*, inspired by her time as a single parent in conservative, rural Idaho. During the program, she took a stab at comedy—because we could all use a laugh right now. Kari writes across genres, with stories anchored in the grit of her journey. Her scripts have earned over 100 awards across all major screenwriting competitions.

One-liner

Kari Mote (Portland, OR) - Writer; 2024 HollyShorts Winner; 2024 Nicholl Semi-Finalist; International Screenwriters Association's Top 25 Screenwriters to Watch in 2025.

Pilot Logline

THE TRAIL - 1/2 hour supernatural comedy/drama

After pissing off a fallen angel who runs a karmic porta-potty business, a ruthless tech CEO is demoted to the knockoff version of his life, where he discovers that redemption is his ticket home.



KAT CASTANEDA

Writer Bio

Kat Castañeda is a writer with rifle skills, thanks to her four years in the Marine Corps. When risking her life for her country got mundane, she pivoted to something harder: writing TV comedy. Raised by a single mother in a Mexican, Pentecostal family of migrant fieldworkers, higher education meant attending the University of So-Long-as-it-Doesn't-Cost-Dinero. Kat used the Montgomery GI Bill to enroll in UCLA's Screenwriting Extension Program, forging her own path with grit and humor. She writes irreverent comedies about resilient, consciously naïve, and flawed underdogs, often exploring identity, gender, and family.

After 8 years in Sydney, she returned to the U.S. and hit the ground running—becoming a WGF Veterans Writing Project fellow, a 2025 Disney Writers Program finalist, and a 2025 NHMC SSP selectee. She's in her second season as Writers' Assistant on NCIS: ORIGINS, honing her comedic voice... one dead body at a time.

One-liner

Kat Castaneda (LA / Sydney, Australia) - Writers' Assistant, NCIS: Origins; 2025 Disney Writers' Program Finalist; Writers Guild Foundation Veterans Writing Project; DIY Survivalist

Pilot Logline

IN THE REAR - 1/2 hour single-camera comedy

After 9-11, an idealistic teen with major man issues enlists in the Marine Corps—only to find she's the lone woman in her unit. As she fights to fit in (or outdo the guys), the men scramble to figure out how the hell to deal with a woman in their ranks. (Think: the streamer version of "New Girl" set in a 2002 Marine Corps.)



MICHELLE DE LA ROSA DRISCOLL

Writer Bio

Michelle Christine Anastasia De La Rosa Driscoll (Michelle, for short) is a gay, Latina comedian and writer. Born to a Dominican mother and a father from Queens, she's half Dominican, half townie, and 100% New Yorker. After a childhood spent in and out of CPS offices and police stations, Michelle now writes half-hour comedies —because, let's face it, after all that, she needs a good laugh. Her work, rich with humor and heart, champions underdogs like herself.

An NYU Tisch grad and Gates Millennium Scholar, Michelle is an alum of the Writers' Guild Foundation's Writers' Access Support Staff Training Program and recently served as a Writers' PA on Amazon's Every Year After. She's held production roles from Set PA to Managing Editor of The Belladonna, was a 2020 NALIP Emerging Content Creator, and has a podcast in development. Her comedic short-form videos have earned 10M+ views. She's also pretty good at impressions and committing to the bit (ask her about her bucket of wigs).

One-liner

Michelle De la Rosa Driscoll (LA) - Writer; BFA from NYU Tisch; Writers Access Support Staff Training Program graduate; Writers' PA for Amazon's Every Year After; NALIP Emerging Content Creator of 2020; 10+ million views across socials; podcast in development

Pilot Logline

METS IT UP - 1/2 hour single-camera comedy
When a young, eccentric billionaire purchases the NY Mets and adds a rival player to the roster, the team must come together to win the season.



SIBIA MILLAN

Writer Bio

Sibia Millan is a Puerto Rican writer shaped by a life on the move. Raised by a single mother—a career Army officer—Sibia was always the new girl in class. That nomadic childhood taught her the art of small talk. As her mother puts it: “The girl could make friends with a brick wall.”

Inspired by that spirit, Sibia joined the Navy with dreams of adventure at sea—only to serve eight years without setting foot on a single boat. Instead, she trained in aviation electrical engineering and listened to the hilarious, deeply human stories of fellow service members.

A graduate of Fayetteville State University, one of North Carolina’s oldest HBCUs, Sibia now writes about the messy, meaningful bonds that shape who we are. Whether it’s found families or people searching for belonging, her work explores identity with humor and heart.

One-liner

Sibia Millan (LA) - Writer; Writers Guild Foundation Veterans Writing Project fellow '24-'25; Features Development Intern, Blumhouse Productions; Features and TV Development Intern, Skydance Media; Fayetteville State University, BA in Sociology.

Pilot Logline

IN REAL LIFE - 1/2 hour, single-camera comedy

When an out of touch beauty influencer’s glossy empire implodes online, she’s forced to swap followers for front porches, moving back in with her mother in a small Southern town where secrets spread faster than a TikTok trend.