



**afci**  
**WEEK**

March 27-30

2023

*Sofitel Los Angeles*

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# Welcome to AFCI Week 2023

*He aha te mea nui ki tēnei ao?*

What is the most important thing in the world?

*Māku e ki atu. He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.*

I would reply that it is people, people, people.

The Māori language is one of the most beautiful languages in the world and is experiencing an ongoing cultural rebirth. Just as film encourages us to think about ourselves and how we can improve our lives and society, language and its understanding, regardless of where you come from, is about communicating ideas.

In AFCI's 48-year history there have been many who have come before me whom you've shared ideas with, I want to acknowledge all who have led the organization in the past, but more importantly, I would like to acknowledge you – the members – for you are the reason why AFCI exists and will continue to do so well into the future.

As we move into what will be a year of transition and change, we'll be looking to be more connected and collaborative than we've ever been. I'm excited to share this journey with you and welcome you all to the Fourth Annual AFCI Week in Los Angeles.

This week we have 100+ Film Commissions representing every continent and 60 speakers who've generously provided their time to educate and inform you over the next four days. The change in this year's event format is just the beginning for a wider redefinition of AFCI events and kicks off a year of transition as AFCI steers its way into the future.

Our AFCI event team this year deserve our thanks and appreciation Marj Galas, Ortal Peykar, Coast to Coast Conferences, Rachel Rath, Erik Deutsch, Joshus Dray, Andrea Wynnyk, our volunteers and of course our board and advisory board.

We are grateful to our supporters Amazon Studios, Entertainment Partners, Monarch Private Capital, The Hollywood Reporter, Olsberg SPI, Fort Worth Film Commission, Production Service Network, Oklahoma Film and Music, Social Press Kit, Luminata Data, The Hollywood Reporter, The Film Verdict, Orbital Virtual Studios, Streetlights, Consulate of Ireland and County Limerick.

*Enjoy this year's conference!*

**Jaclyn Philpott**, Executive Director  
Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI)



Scan this QR code to connect with me.

welcome

## **AFCI WEEK 2023 STAFF**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Jaclyn Philpott  
**SNR DIRECTOR MEMBERS AND EDUCATION** Marjorie Galas  
**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS** Ortal Peykar  
**PUBLICITY MANAGER** Erik Deutsch  
**SPEAKER MANAGER** Rachel Rath  
**SPEAKER ASSISTANT** Jenn McGuirk  
**EVENT ASSISTANT** Mike Chomiak  
**IT/DEVELOPMENT** Joshua Dray  
**GRAPHIC DESIGN** Andrea Wynnyk  
**EVENT VIDEOGRAPHY** Marcus Fox Productions  
**EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY** Billy Moon  
**MASTER OF CEREMONIES** Caroline Morahan

# **STAFF & BOARD**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**CHAIR** Bas van der Ree (Netherlands Film Commission)  
**FIRST VICE CHAIR** Donne Dawson (Hawai'i Film Office)  
**SECOND VICE CHAIR** Marnie Gee (Creative BC)  
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**TREASURER** Steven Davenport (Screen Ireland)

Luke Azevedo (Calgary Film Commission)  
Sorrel Geddes (British Film Commission)  
Philippa Mossman (New Zealand Film Commission)  
Nina Parihk (Mississippi Film Office)  
Jacqueline Rainers Sitai (KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission)  
Renee Robinson (Film Jamaica)

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

**COAST TO COAST CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**  
**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER** Susannah Darcy  
**EVENT MANAGER** Calli France  
**REGISTRATION MANAGER** Madeleine Monroe

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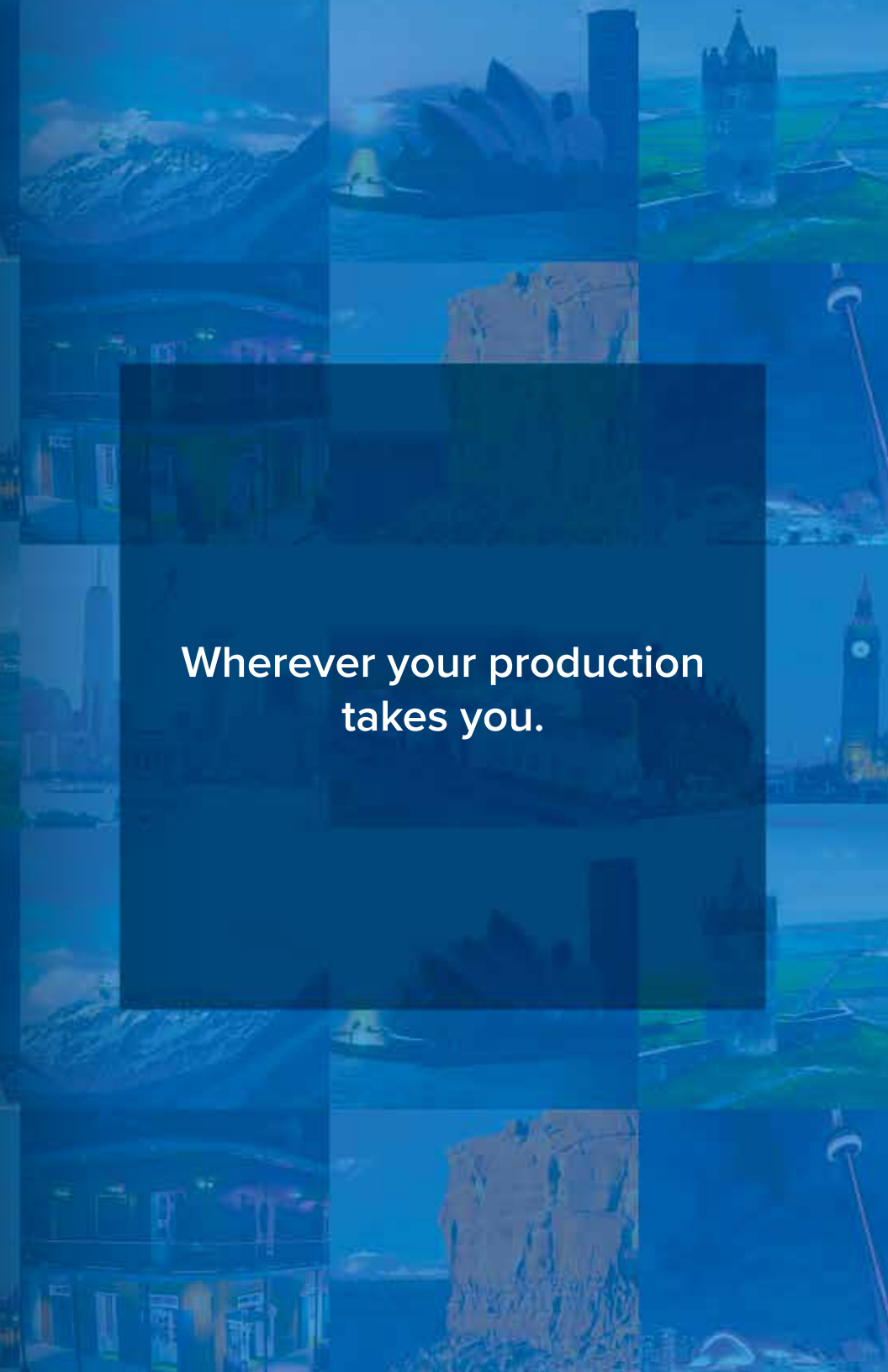
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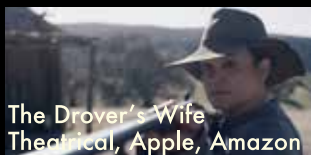


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Executive Producer & Founder  
michael@  
production servicenetwork.com  
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Cristina Mateo  
CAO & Founder  
cristina@  
production servicenetwork.com

**MEET IN PERSON DURING APRIL IN LOS ANGELES**



# WORLD LENS

## ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Explore the world of filmmaking with *The Hollywood Reporter*, as we spotlight the state of the film industry in various regions across the globe



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MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

Program

## Professional Development Day

- 11:00AM**                      **REGISTRATION OPENS**
- 11:30AM - 12:55PM**      **LUNCH**  
*Sponsored by Amazon Studios*
- 1:00PM - 1:20PM**        **OPENING REMARKS**  
**SPEAKER**  
**Jaclyn Philpott**  
*Executive Director, AFCI*
- 1:20PM - 1:40PM**        **PRESENTATION: SKILLS TRAINING  
AND EXPANDING THE INDUSTRY**  
**SPEAKERS**  
**Adele Wilson**  
*Executive Director, Streetlights*  
**Charles Keyes**  
*Graduate, Streetlights*  
**Lexie Maldonado**  
*Graduate, Streetlights*
- 1:45PM - 2:30PM**        **HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE IT  
WITH AFCI BOARD**
- 2:30PM - 3:20PM**        **ESTABLISHING WORKFORCE INITIATIVES:  
CASE STUDIES OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS**  
This panel focuses on practical examples on how to initiate and establish a successful workforce development program.  
**MODERATOR**  
**Jennifer Loren**  
*Senior Director, Cherokee Nation Film Office*  
**SPEAKERS**  
**Steven Davenport**  
*AFCI Board Treasurer  
Head of US Production & Partnerships, Screen Ireland*  
**Yoni Bosker**  
*Executive Director/Vice President,  
New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture and  
Television Development / New Media at Empire State  
Development*  
**Tara Halloran**  
*VP, Production Talent & Partnerships, Film Global Talent  
Development & Inclusion, NBCUniversal*

**MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023**

**3:20PM - 3:40PM**

**BREAK**

**3:40PM - 4:30PM**

**NAVIGATING GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS**

This panel explores the complications that may arise when film commissions express their value to government officials. Topics discussed will include requesting funding and establishing/expanding incentives.

**MODERATOR**

**Jeremy Kay**

*Americas Editor, Screen Daily*

**SPEAKERS**

**Veronica Sullivan**

*SVP, Head of Global Production External Affairs,  
NBCUniversal*

**Michael Walbrecht**

*President, Public Affairs, Warner Bros. Discovery*

**Donne Dawson**

*AFCI Board First Vice Chair  
Film Commissioner, Hawai'i Film Office*

**4:35PM - 5:30PM**

**MEMBERS MEETING**

Where have we come from and where are we headed as an organization? Discussion points include: early indications of strategic pillars, financial updates, key projects and funding opportunities.

**SPEAKERS**

**Bas Van De Ree**

*Board Chair, AFCI  
Film Commissioner, Netherlands Film Commission*

**Jaclyn Philpott**

*Executive Director, AFCI*

**5:30PM - 6:30PM**

**FREE TIME**

**Industry Networking Reception**

**LOCATION:** SOFITEL GARDEN PATIO & RESTAURANT

*Sponsored by Entertainment Partners*

**6:30PM - 8:30PM**

program

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

Program

## An Executive's View

8:00AM

**REGISTRATION OPENS**

9:00AM - 9:45AM

**CASE STUDY: THE LAST OF US**

An exploration of how the studio, film commission and location manager worked together to establish Calgary as the production's location for this popular TV series.

**MODERATOR**

**Jeremy Kay**

*Americas Editor, Screen Daily*

**SPEAKERS**

**Jay Roewe**

*AFCI Advisory Board*

*Senior Vice President of Production, Global Incentives & Production Planning, HBO, HBO MAX, Warner Bros.*

*Discovery*

**Katie Hayes**

*Senior Vice President of Production, HBO, HBO MAX, Warner Bros. Discovery*

**Luke Azevedo**

*AFCI Board Member*

*Vice President Creative Industries, Operations & Film Commissioner, Calgary Economic Development*

9:50AM - 10:35AM

**THE FUTURE OF STREAMING:  
PREDICTIONS AND POSSIBILITIES**

After the surge of content during Covid-19, how do the streamers continue to remain relevant and what does it mean for content creation in your region.

**MODERATOR**

**Eric Mika**

*President and Publisher, The Film Verdict*

**SPEAKERS**

**Carol Trussell**

*Executive in Charge of Production, Apple*

**Jason Hariton**

*Chief Studio and Real Estate Officer, The MBS Group*

**Tim Clawson**

*Head of Worldwide Production and Post-Production, Amazon Studios*

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

10:35AM - 11:00AM **BREAK AND MINGLE**

11:00AM - 11:50AM **SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE:  
A CURRENT PRODUCTION  
REPORT CARD**

Sustainability programs on set are not new. How well is the industry doing? What sectors are exhibiting growth? This panel will explore the current state of onset sustainability.

**MODERATOR**

**Marnie Gee**

*AFCI Board Second Vice Chair  
Film Commissioner and Director of Production Services,  
Creative BC*

**SPEAKERS**

**Simon Hawkins**

*Vice President, Americas,  
Virgin Atlantic/Delta Airlines*

**Heidi Kindberg**

*Vice President, Sustainability, Warner Bros. Discovery/  
HBO and HBOMax*

**Susan Sanchez**

*Senior Sustainability Program Manager, Amazon Studios*

11:50AM - 12:45PM **VIRTUAL PRODUCTION:  
WHAT'S HAPPENING  
AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

What is the future of Virtual Production and how will these developments affect the lives of film commissioners.

**MODERATOR**

**Cynthia Littleton**

*Co-Editor-In-Chief, Variety*

**SPEAKERS**

**Adrian Offard**

*Managing Director, Video Screen Services, Ltd.*

**Jeffrey P. Soderberg**

*Executive Vice President, Production and Innovation,  
The MBS Group*

**Christina Sours**

*Virtual Production Producer*

program

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

Program

## An Executive's View, CONTINUED

**1:00PM - 2:05PM**

### LUNCH

*Sponsored by Monarch Private Capital*

**2:10PM - 3:00PM**

### PROS AND CONS OF INCENTIVES

A discussion highlighting the pros & cons of incentives (as it relates to the content producers create) and what producers are looking for in an incentive program.

#### MODERATOR

##### **Joseph Chianese**

*AFCI Advisory Board  
Senior Vice President & Practice Leader,  
Production Incentives, Entertainment Partners*

#### SPEAKERS

##### **Jaren Vine**

*Senior Vice President, Production Finance,  
Media Rights Capital (MRC)*

##### **Stephen Wolf**

*Senior Vice President, Production Finance, Annapurna*

##### **Leonidas Oxby**

*Senior Vice President, Production Finance, ITV America*

**3:15PM - 4:00PM**

### LEVERAGING DATA AND AI

How film commissions, streamers, studios and agencies can leverage data to build better outcomes, from using DEI data to meet inclusion requirements, to sustainability, film tourism, and production pipeline tracking.

#### MODERATOR

##### **Leon Forde**

*Managing Director, Olsberg SPI*

#### SPEAKERS

##### **Mark Hoebich**

*Executive Vice President and Head of Film and TV,  
Luminate Data*

##### **Kate Edwards**

*CXO and Co-Founder, SetJetters Inc.*

##### **Anish Deogaonkar**

*Managing Director, Americas, usheru*

**4:00PM - 6.30PM**

### FREE TIME

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

## Physical Production Power Brunch

7:30AM

REGISTRATION OPENS

9:45AM - 10:00AM

MC TO OPEN WITH SPONSOR VIDEOS  
FORMAL BREAKFAST

10:00AM - 11:15AM

PHYSICAL PRODUCTION  
POWER BRUNCH PANEL

MODERATOR

**Nekesa Mumbi Moody**

*Editorial Director, The Hollywood Reporter*

SPEAKERS

**Janet Graham Borba**

*Executive Vice President, Production, HBO /HBO Max*

**Damien Carr**

*Visual Effects Senior Vice President of Visual Effects  
and 3D, Legendary Entertainment*

**Marcy Kaplan**

*Physical Production Principal, MGM Studios*

11:15AM - 1:00PM

MEMBERS LOUNGE OPEN  
FOR MEMBERS & EXECUTIVES

## The Independent's Perspective

1:35PM - 1:45PM

UNIQUE INITIATIVES IN  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

How independent filmmakers and film commissions work with communities to develop initiatives to address specific needs.

MODERATOR

**Rashid Bahati**

*Host, Noir 360 and Business Development Director,  
The Film Verdict*

SPEAKERS

**Larry Laboe**

*Co-Founder, Executive Director, New FilmMakers LA*

**Damien Navarro**

*Executive Director, Outfest*

**Jacqueline Rainers Sitai**

*AFCI Board Member  
Production and Development Manager,  
KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission*

program

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

Program

## The Independent's Perspective, CONTINUED

1:45PM - 2:05PM

**BREAK AND MINGLE**

2:05PM - 2:50PM

**PARTNERING WITH GLOBAL PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS TO ATTRACT PRODUCTION**

Leaders from the top producer organizations discuss the challenges they are facing, trends they are monitoring and the ways film commissions can help them go from script to screen.

**MODERATOR**

**Eric Mika**

*President and Publisher, The Film Verdict*

**SPEAKERS**

**Wendy Noss**

*President, Motion Picture Association Canada and Head of International Production Policy, Motion Picture Association (MPA)*

**David Michael González**

*Director of Government Relations, Association of Independent Producers, (AICP)*

**Mary Ann Hughes**

*AFCI Advisory Board, Vice President, Production & Investment Planning, The Walt Disney Company*

2:50PM - 3:10PM

**BREAK AND MINGLE**

3:10PM - 3:45PM

**A LOCATION MANAGER CROSS SECTION**

Location Managers discuss challenges they currently face, changes in their approach and best practices in working with film commissioners.

**MODERATOR**

**Marjorie Galas**

*Senior Director, Members & Education, AFCI*

**SPEAKERS**

**John Rakich**

*President, Location Managers Guild International (LMGI)*

**Alison A. Taylor**

*First Vice Chair, Location Managers Guild International (LMGI)*

**Roger Fath**

*Member, Location Managers Guild International (LMGI)*

3:45PM - 6:30PM

**MEMBERS LOUNGE OPEN FOR NETWORKING**



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

# Amazon Studios Reception

LOCATION: SOFITEL GARDEN PATIO

*Sponsored by Amazon Studios*

6:30PM - 8:30PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 9:30AM - 10:00AM  | MEMBERS DEPART SOFITEL HOTEL<br>BY BUS  |
| 10:15AM - 12:45PM | MORNING TOUR OF ORBITAL VIRTUAL STUDIOS |
| 1:00PM - 1:15PM   | BOARD BUSES                             |
| 2:00PM - 4:00PM   | RECEPTION TO LAUNCH CINEPOSIUM          |
| 4:00PM            | BOARD BUSES AND RETURN TO SOFITEL       |

program

# Building a better world through impact investing

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Director, Film & Tax Credit Investments  
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"We are proud to sponsor AFCI Week, connecting productions with domestic and international film commissions and advising studio executives and producers on various film incentive programs and monetizing their tax credits."



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# afci WEEK

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES



**CAROLINE  
MORAHAN**

**Caroline Morahan** is an Irish actress and TV host. She has hosted a wide variety of Irish primetime TV shows including the popular fashion makeover shows *Off the Rails* as well as series *Chance to Dance* and *Class Act*. She has also hosted The IFTAs (Ireland's Oscars).

Caroline has judged numerous Irish TV talent shows and was invited to judge the CBS talent show *The World's Best*, hosted by James Cordon. Her fellow judges on this show included actress Drew Barrymore, singer Faith Hill and performer RuPaul. Caroline's acting highlights include her role as Queen Elinor on ABC's *Once Upon a Time*. She's also appeared in *Disjointed* on Netflix and *The Real O'Neal's* on ABC. In film she's appeared in roles opposite Sharon Stone and Andy Garcia. As a theater performer she's appeared in plays featured at The Abbey, Ireland's national theatre.

Caroline is currently working on a documentary shadowing a group of young adults with autism as they navigate their entry into the workforce. She divides her time between Dublin and Los Angeles.

speakers

# Speakers



## LUKE AZEVEDO

AFCI BOARD  
MEMBER  
VICE PRESIDENT  
CREATIVE  
INDUSTRIES,  
OPERATIONS  
& FILM  
COMMISSIONER  
**CALGARY FILM  
COMMISSION**

In 2007 **Luke Azevedo** joined Calgary Economic Development (CED) as the Commissioner for Film, Television and the Creative Industries. Luke works with Studios, government, unions & producers in Southern Alberta to facilitate and develop local projects and attract new foreign film, television and digital media productions to Alberta. Prior to joining CED, Luke was the Director of the Creative Electronic Environment, as well as the Banff New Media Institute and the Acting Director of Literary Arts at The Banff Centre, where he developed and directed television and interactive media facilities and personnel. Prior to Banff, he was owner operator of VisionWorks Commercial Productions.

Luke worked with Hockey Canada through four Olympic Games as well as numerous Junior and Women's World Championships. During this period Luke also was the broadcast liaison for the Calgary Flames hockey operations. In 2014 Luke was named as one of Venture Magazine's 50 most influential Albertans



## RASHID BAHATI

BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR  
**THE FILM VERDICT  
AND HOST OF  
NOIR 360**

**Rashid Bahati** has an extensive career producing films, television, and new media projects for domestic and international distribution. He has packaged and delivered media in major film markets, including; Cannes, Berlin, Burkina Faso, and Los Angeles. Rashid served as a founding board member of the Downtown Film Festival Los Angeles.

He also co-founded the Global Cinema and Urban Music Initiative, which produces global symposiums and knowledge exchange platforms for African Diaspora Film Festival markets. Rashid is an executive producer of *Cyclone*, a biopic on the life of Marshall 'Major' Taylor, the first sports superstar of any sport in the U.S. Currently, he is the Business Development Director of the film review platform The Film Verdict and host of the podcast Noir 360.



## YONI BOKSER

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR/VICE  
PRESIDENT  
**NEW YORK STATE  
GOVERNOR'S  
OFFICE OF  
MOTION PICTURE  
AND TELEVISION  
DEVELOPMENT  
/ NEW MEDIA AT  
EMPIRE STATE  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Yoni Bokser** is the Executive Director/Vice President of the NYS Governor's Office of Motion Picture and Television Development / New Media at Empire State Development, where he works with government and industry partners to facilitate film and TV production across New York State. In addition, he focuses on New Media and the economic recovery of Broadway and theater. Bokser has been with ESD since 2015, working to grow jobs and opportunities across NYS through industry outreach and education and the creation and implementation of targeted recovery programs. He has worked with unions, universities, media companies, local government, and legislators to craft programs and policies to ensure that New York has a highly trained workforce that represents New York's diversity, and is ready to meet the demands of the state's ever-changing and growing arts and media industry. Yoni Bokser is a lifelong New Yorker, with over a decade of experience working in government, politics, policy and economic development at the city, state, federal, and international levels.



## JANET GRAHAM BORBA

EXECUTIVE VICE  
PRESIDENT,  
PRODUCTION  
**HBO/HBO MAX**

**Janet Graham Borba** is EVP, Production, for HBO/HBO Max, where she's responsible for supervising production, post and production operations on all HBO and HBO Max programming including *Succession*, *Perry Mason*, *The Last of Us*, *House of The Dragon*, *Euphoria* and the upcoming *Love and Death* and *The Penguin*. Prior to this role, Borba was SVP, West Coast Production, overseeing films and miniseries, including *Game of Thrones* from the pilot stage onward. She's also worked on numerous award-winning series and many well-known films.

Borba joined HBO as Director, Production, HBO Films in 1995, was promoted to VP, Production, HBO Films in 2000, and later to SVP, Production, HBO Films and Miniseries in 2008. Prior to HBO, Borba held various producer titles on studio productions including October Films' *Still Breathing*, United Artists' *Hackers*, Hollywood Pictures' *Camp Nowhere*, Miramax's *The Night We Never Met* and 20th Century Fox's *Hotshots!* between 1991 and 1995.

Borba is a member of the advisory board for the Virginia Film Festival and has served as an adjunct professor in the MFA Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California.

She holds an MFA in Motion Picture Producing from USC, and a BA from the University of Virginia.

Speakers

Speakers



**DAMIEN  
CARR**

VISUAL EFFECTS  
SENIOR VICE  
PRESIDENT OF  
VISUAL EFFECTS  
AND 3D

**LEGENDARY  
ENTERTAINMENT**

**Damien Carr** is a Visual Effects Senior Vice President of Visual Effects and 3D for Legendary Entertainment. He began his career in 2000 with a seven-year tenure at Industrial Light & Magic. While there, he worked on the Academy Award-winning film *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* and nominees: *Transformers* and *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones*. Later moving to the studio side with 20th Century Fox's *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, Damien continued his studio production career on projects such as Academy Award-winning *Life of Pi*, and Academy Award-nominated films *Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 2* and *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*.



**JOSEPH  
CHIANESE**

AFCI ADVISORY  
BOARD MEMBER  
SVP & PRACTICE  
LEADER,  
PRODUCTION  
INCENTIVES

**ENTERTAINMENT  
PARTNERS**

**Joe Chianese** provides global production planning and production incentive planning for feature films and television. In addition, he provides production incentive legislative consulting, financing, tax and administrative services.

Joe is a member of the AFCI Advisory Board and FilmLA Finance Committee, and a guest lecturer at AFI, Carnegie Mellon, Chapman University, Columbia College, UCLA, University of Connecticut, University of Texas, and USC.

With over 35 years of accounting, government affairs, production and tax experience including positions at Sony Pictures Entertainment, The Walt Disney Company, the ABC Television Network, Paramount Pictures and Ernst & Young, throughout Joe's career Joe has been responsible for the tax and financing structures for domestic and international film and television production.

Joe is a CPA, and has earned a BBA in Accounting from the University of Connecticut, an MBT and MBA from Fordham University, and UCLA Certificate Program in Film and Television.



## TIM CLAWSON

HEAD OF  
WORLDWIDE  
PRODUCTION  
AND POST-  
PRODUCTION

**AMAZON STUDIOS**

**Tim Clawson** is a veteran physical production executive with over 40 years of industry experience. Prior to joining Amazon Studios, Clawson served as SVP of Production at HBO where he oversaw production for projects including *Lovecraft Country*, *Warrior* (Cinemax) and *Gangs of London* (AMC). He previously served as EVP Physical Production for New Regency Productions managing production on Oscar winning films *The Revenant*, *Birdman*, and *12 Years a Slave*. He served as EVP of Physical Production at the Weinstein Company from its inception until 2012 where he built the production department producing *The Reader*, *Inglorious Basterds*, *Django Unchained* and *Silver Linings Playbook*.

Tim joined Miramax Films in 2002 overseeing production on numerous films including Oscar winner *Chicago*, Terry Gilliam's *The Brothers Grimm*, *Scary Movie 3* and *Bad Santa*. He served as President of Shooting Gallery Productions, Head of Production at Propaganda Films and Limelight Film and Video. Tim began his career working on the feature film *They Call Me Bruce* both co-writing and serving as assistant director. He is a graduate of UCLA majoring in Motion Picture/Television Production and a member of the WGA and DGA



## STEVEN DAVENPORT

AFCI BOARD  
TREASURER

HEAD OF US  
PRODUCTION &  
PARTNERSHIPS

**SCREEN IRELAND**

With over 25 years' experience in the screen industry, **Steven Davenport** worked as a nationally and internationally recognised line producer, production manager and location manager in the Irish film, television and commercial industry. Currently the Head of US Production and Partnerships at Screen Ireland and based in Los Angeles, Steven is an active member of the AFCI board and is the current treasurer.

Prior to moving to the US he served as the inward production manager with Screen Ireland for the previous five years and is responsible for promoting Ireland for inward investment, assisting international producers and studios to locate production in Ireland and the promotion of Irish talent internationally.

speakers

Speakers



**DONNE DAWSON**

AFCI BOARD  
FIRST VICE CHAIR  
FILM  
COMMISSIONER  
**HAWAI'I  
FILM OFFICE**

**Donne Dawson** is the Hawai'i State Film Commissioner. She has managed the Hawai'i Film Office—the state's 44-year-old film commission—since 2001. She currently serves as First Vice Chair on AFCI's Board and as a 20-year member of the organization has earned her certified film commissioner designation. In her role as state film commissioner, Dawson has established critical working relationships with government officials across the Hawaiian Islands.

The consolidated film permitting program her office administers is unique in the United States and is predicated on government agreements that make filming in Hawai'i a priority. Dawson is Kanaka Maoli and is committed to educating producers on the history and culture of the Native Hawaiian people and her homeland Hawai'i.



**ANISH DEOGAONKAR**

MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
AMERICAS  
**USHERU**

**Anish Deogaonkar** is a firm follower of the 'Life-long Learning/Continuous Improvement' principle(s) and holds a formal qualification in Information Technology as well as ITIL & PRINCE2 Practitioner certifications. After working in India, New Zealand and Germany, he is now based in Los Angeles and leads usheru's Americas business.

His current focus areas include ushering AI/Web3 implementation in the #entertainmentindustry, growing usheru's global customer base, identifying opportunities for operational excellence, and most importantly, partnering with progressive clients to ensure #usheru products and services are helping them achieve even greater #movie #marketing #success

usheru is an innovative #entertainment discovery and audience-connected data analytics firm serving 100+ forward-thinking movie studios, distributors, national film agencies, film schools and live arenas; across 20+ countries.





**KATE EDWARDS**

CXO AND  
CO-FOUNDER  
**SETJITTERS, INC.**

**Kate Edwards** is the CXO and Co-Founder of SetJitters, the film tourism app that allows users to find the real-world locations of their favorite films and TV series while providing resource data and marketing tools to help promote the location's business economy. Kate is a 29+ year veteran of the game industry, and CEO and principal consultant of Geogrify, a consultancy that innovated content culturalization. She is also the former Executive Director of the International Game Developers Association (IGDA) and the Global Game Jam. In addition to serving in several board and advisory roles, she is a geographer, writer, and corporate strategist. In 2021, she was included in Forbes' "50 Over 50" Vision List and was also inducted into the Women in Games Hall of Fame.



**ROGER FATH**

LOCATION  
MANAGER

**Roger Fath** grew up in Southern California daydreaming about working in the film and television industry. After graduating Chapman film school, he started working on *Alias* and *Ugly Betty* as a Production Assistant. He decided to become a location scout and worked on hit television shows like *Southland*, *NCIS: Los Angeles* and *Marvel's: Agents Of Shield*. He moved up to Location Manager and has been blessed to have worked with ABC, Netflix and Hulu on such shows as *Promised Land*, *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *From Scratch*.

He is a proud member of The Teamsters: Local 399, LMGI and the Television Academy.

speakers

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**LEON FORDE**

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
**OLSBERG SPI**

**Leon Forde** is Managing Director of global screen sector consultancy Olsberg•SPI, leading and delivering high-level strategic advice, insight, and business planning for the company’s global client base. Current and recent projects include The Cultural Dividend Generated by Ireland’s Section 481 Film and Television Incentive, a ground-breaking study for Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland, Creative Industry Tax Reliefs Evaluation for HM Revenue and Customs in the UK (with Ipsos and London Economics), an analysis of the production sector in the State of Maine, and a crew mapping and skills forecasting study for the British Film Institute.

With extensive knowledge of production strategy and incentives, Leon has overseen the creation and development of sectoral policy and funding mechanisms in a wide range of markets globally.

He is a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).



**MARJORIE GALAS**

SENIOR DIRECTOR  
MEMBERS AND  
EDUCATION  
**AFCI**

**Marj Galas** serves as Senior Director, Members and Education for AFCI, where she is involved in supporting the member body, overseeing AFCI University course content and managing partnerships that benefit AFCI’s connections with the production community.

Prior to joining AFCI, Galas was the Editor at Variety 411 where she managed the 411 e-newsletter, web and marketing content. As a reporter, her stories have been featured in Variety, Variety 411, Below the Line News, Creative Content Wire and Tradeshow Week. Her foray in the entertainment business began in Boston where she worked as an edit tutor at Boston Neighborhood Network, an Assistant Stage Manager for the Segan Theater and a Prop Master for Boston Conservatory.



**MARNIE  
GEE**

AFCI BOARD 2ND  
VICE CHAIR  
FILM  
COMMISSIONER  
AND DIRECTOR  
OF PRODUCTION  
SERVICES  
**CREATIVE BC**

As BC Film Commissioner and Director of Production Services, **Marnie Gee** leads the Provincial Film Commission team at Creative BC to deliver motion picture industry services, from locations marketing and physical production resource support, industry and community relations and overseeing Reel Green™ and Creative Pathways™. She works to sustain and grow ongoing opportunities and collaborations for the network of industry and government stakeholders who together contribute to the motion picture industry's success in British Columbia.

With 20+ years of experience in location and production support in the film and television industry, Marnie has worked throughout B.C. and brings specialized knowledge of local communities and geographical areas as well as a strong understanding of the dynamics between communities and motion picture production. She joined the AFCI Board of Directors in January 2022, and works closely with Canadian Film Commission and Film Office partners and co-created the National Reel Green Committee. Her commitment to collaboration and inclusiveness is driven by a strong belief that “we’re better together.”



**DAVID  
MICHAEL  
GONZÁLEZ**

DIRECTOR OF  
GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS  
**ASSOCIATION OF  
INDEPENDENT  
PRODUCERS  
(AICP)**

**David Michael González** is Director of Labor Relations and Government Affairs for the Association of Independent Commercial Producers (AICP), which represents the interests of companies specializing in the physical and postproduction of television commercials. In his capacity, David administers AICP's eight collective bargaining agreements with the industry's unions and guilds on behalf of over 200 signatory production companies. He also oversees AICP's legislative advocacy at the state and local levels across the U.S. David advises producers on labor protocols and regulations for travel and on-location shoots in over 30 countries across six continents. David is an advisory board member of the Film Liaisons in California Statewide (FLICS) and a board member of the L.A. County Business Federation (BizFed).

speakers

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**TARA HALLORAN**

VP, PRODUCTION  
TALENT &  
PARTNERSHIPS,  
FILM GLOBAL  
TALENT  
DEVELOPMENT &  
INCLUSION  
**NBCUNIVERSAL**

**Tara Halloran** began her career in Ireland working with emerging film talent before moving to the UK to take on the role of Managing Director at Moonstone International, the European satellite of the Sundance Labs, running one Directors’ and two Screenwriters’ Labs each year. From there she joined ScreenSkills UK as Screen Academy Manager to initiate a UK Government strategy elevating the industry impact of the top UK Film Schools. In 2008 she left London to join the UK Film Council’s Los Angeles office as Senior Executive, Industry Relations, where she promoted British creative talent and launched the ground-breaking DEI initiative Breakthrough Brits. In 2011, Tara was engaged by the British Film Commission US as SVP, US Partnerships to promote the UK as a global production hub. In 2016 she joined Pinewood Studios as VP, North American Partnerships, representing studio studios in Atlanta, Malaysia, Dominican Republic and Toronto. Tara joined Universal’s Global Talent Development & Inclusion department (GTDI) in 2021 as VP, Production Talent & Partnerships which leads on below-the-line strategies and initiatives as well as internal and external strategic partnerships.



**JASON HARITON**

CHIEF STUDIO  
& REAL ESTATE  
OFFICER  
**THE MBS GROUP**

Representing the fourth generation of his family in the L.A. entertainment industry, **Jason Hariton** is currently Partner and Chief Studio & Real Estate Officer for The MBS Group, the world’s largest studio owner/operator and production services provider, exclusively servicing over 600 soundstages and 900+ productions per year through 100+ locations in 7 countries.

Prior to this role, Jason was Head of Worldwide Studio & Production Operations for Netflix, where he was globally responsible for production operations for nearly 1,000 productions per year, including overseeing Production Planning, Studio Strategy, Production Services, Transportation, Data & Physical Security, Safety, Insurance and Risk, as well as overseeing Global Real Estate including acquisitions, leasing, construction, development, and production facility operations. Jason created and executed Netflix’s “hub-and-spoke” strategy, which created the largest production infrastructure footprint in the content industry.



**SIMON  
HAWKINS**

VICE PRESIDENT  
AMERICAS  
**VIRGIN ATLANTIC/  
DELTA**

**Simon Hawkins** has been based in the US since 2018. Under his expanded role, Simon heads up the Virgin Atlantic US organization. He is also embedded into the Delta Air Lines Sales Development organization focused on delivering US-UK Commercial performance and delivering a seamless customer experience. Simon has worked across Commercial teams since joining Virgin Atlantic and previously headed up sales development in the UK. Simon was previously based in the US in 2013 where he led the implementation of the Sales Joint Venture with Delta Air Lines. Prior to joining Virgin Atlantic, Simon worked in a number of Actuary roles.



**KATIE  
HAYES**

SENIOR VICE  
PRESIDENT,  
PRODUCTION  
**HBO/HBOMAX/  
WBD**

**Katie Hayes** is a Senior Vice President at HBO where she oversees physical production on scripted projects all over the world. She graduated from Purdue University with a double major in English and Radio & Television Communications. While in college, she worked as an Associate Producer for Fox Sports in Chicago where she helped produce game coverage for her favorite professional teams. After graduation, Katie moved to NYC to explore the world of episodic TV production and got her first break working as a PA on *Law & Order: SVU*. During the show's summer hiatus, she worked on a few films until happening upon an opening at *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. When the show ended, Katie moved to LA and began work as a Coordinator at A+E Studios. After 6 years there, she was lucky enough to join the team at HBO where she's now worked for 7 years.

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**MARK  
HOEBICH**

EXECUTIVE VICE  
PRESIDENT AND  
HEAD OF FILM  
AND TV  
**LUMINATE DATA**

**Mark Hoebich** is the EVP of Luminate & Head of Film & TV. Luminate is the preeminent entertainment data and insights company, unlocking the most essential information across the music, film, and television industries.

An entertainment and technology entrepreneur, Mark founded TVtracker.com, a leading research data solution for the entertainment industry. The company was acquired by Reed Business Information.

Mark's entrepreneurial ventures and technological insights have been covered by Fast Company, the New York Times, USA Today, Variety and Forbes, among others. His speaking engagements include SXSW, MIT Media Lab, Harvard Alumni Network, industry podcasts and more. He earned his bachelor's degree in History from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and attended graduate school at NYU.

Beyond entertainment, Mark is well versed in ostrich ranching as he grew up on the largest of its kind on the west coast of the United States, Silver Oaks Ostrich Ranch.



**MARY ANN  
HUGHES**

AFCI ADVISORY  
BOARD MEMBER  
VICE PRESIDENT,  
PRODUCTION  
& INVESTMENT  
PLANNING  
**THE WALT DISNEY  
COMPANY**

**Mary Ann Hughes** is a 30+ year veteran with Disney. As the head of Production and Investment Planning, her team supports all business units across the Disney Enterprise to identify and access worldwide government-based incentive opportunities, including but not limited to worldwide film and television production incentives. The Production and Investment Planning group identifies opportunities for savings, evaluates and minimizes risks, and assists in implementing the changes necessary to realize those benefits in a fashion aligned with operational objectives.

Mary Ann works collaboratively with all business units and joint ventures, as well as operational stakeholders including government relations, finance, legal and business affairs. Mary Ann is the Disney liaison to government representatives when discussing and negotiating government-based incentives.

As an industry influencer, Mary Ann sits on the Board of Directors of FilmLA and the Advisory Board for the Association of Film Commissioners International. She holds a Bachelor's in Accounting from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



**MARCY  
KAPLAN**

PHYSICAL  
PRODUCTION  
PRINCIPAL

**MGM STUDIOS**

**Marcy Kaplan** has been actively involved in all aspects of TV and film production for more than three decades.

As the newly appointed Physical Production Principal at MGM Television and MGM+, Kaplan has quickly taken the reins of the studios' robust slates. Kaplan is leading production on the fifth installment of the Primetime Emmy Award winning series *Fargo*; season 2 of MGM+'s *FROM*; and season 6 of *The Handmaid's Tale*. Kaplan is also prepping for *Hotel Cocaine* from Chris Brancato and season 2 of *Billy The Kid*. She is also excited for production to begin on the second season of *Wednesday* (Netflix).

Prior to joining MGM, Kaplan was Vice President, TV Production at The Walt Disney Company/ABC Signature.



**JEREMY  
KAY**

AMERICAS EDITOR  
**SCREEN DAILY**

**Jeremy Kay** is Americas Editor of the international trade publication *Screendaily*. From his Los Angeles hub he regularly travels to the major markets and festivals on the calendar to report on market news and interview talent and executives.

Besides focusing on the independent business, festivals and markets, Kay reports on production and financing, streamer and studio activity, the Canadian and Latin American film industries, and awards season.

Kay has moderated panels at TIFF, Cannes, AFM, Ventana Sur and other top tier events on the circuit.

As a freelancer he has written on film for *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*, and has written more broadly on news, sports and travel for *Time Out*, *The Independent On Sunday*, *The Express*, and *The Sunday Irish Tribune*.

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**HEIDI  
KINDBERG**

VICE PRESIDENT,  
SUSTAINABILITY  
**WARNER BROS.  
DISCOVERY/HBO  
AND HBOMAX**

**Heidi Kindberg** is VP, Sustainability at Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD), responsible for overseeing the sustainable production program on scripted HBO and HBO Max shows with the dual end goal of reducing environmental impacts behind the scenes while increasing sustainability awareness on screen. She began this role in March 2020.

Additionally, Kindberg has successfully collaborated with industry partners through the Sustainable Production Alliance (SPA) for more than a decade; these efforts can be found on the Green Production Guide site. Prior to joining WBD, Kindberg served as Director, Environmental Sustainability at Sony Pictures. She holds a B.S. in Telecommunications and Film and an M.A. in Urban Sustainability.

**LARRY  
LABOE**

CO-FOUNDER,  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
**NEWFILMMAKERS  
LA**

**Larry Laboe** is Co-Founder and Executive Director of NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA), an organization championing filmmakers and storytellers worldwide. Larry is a member of the Producers Guild of America and has been a Faculty Member at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) and L Art University. He is a Board Member of the BRIC Foundation and Film Festival Alliance (FFA), a Committee Member of SAGindie and the Co-Chair of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Entertainment, Arts and Media Committee.

Larry has produced content directed by talent such as Joseph Gordon Levitt, for some of the world's leading brands, networks and studios, including Disney, NBC, VEVO, Dailymotion, MTV, DEFY Media, Comedy Central, Verizon go90, Amazon, Complex Media, Mountain Dew, Samsung, Coca-Cola, Verizon and Smuckers. These productions have been official selections at top festivals including South by Southwest (SXSW) and have won major awards including a BANFF World Media Festival Rockie Award.





## CYNTHIA LITTLETON

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**VARIETY**

**Cynthia Littleton** is Co-Editor in Chief at Variety. She has covered the television beat for the past 25 years. She began her career at United Press International, followed by stints at Broadcasting & Cable magazine, Variety, and The Hollywood Reporter, where she rose to Editor before rejoining Variety in 2007. At Variety, she also co-hosts the weekly “Strictly Business” interview podcast.

Cynthia is the author of *TV on Strike: Why Hollywood Went to War Over the Internet* (Syracuse University Press, 2013), the definitive account of the 2007-2008 Writers Guild of America strike and the impact of the disruptive digital advancements that fueled the labor strife. She is also the co-author with Susanne Daniels of *Season Finale: The Unexpected Rise and Fall of the WB Network and UPN* (HarperCollins, 2007).



## JENNIFER LOREN

SENIOR DIRECTOR  
**THE CHEROKEE NATION FILM OFFICE**

**Jennifer Loren (Cherokee)** is an award-winning tv host and documentary filmmaker and the senior director of Cherokee Film. In this role she sets strategy and oversees Cherokee Film Productions, Cherokee Film Studios, Cherokee Film Commission and the Cherokee Film Institute.

In 2019, Loren helped the Cherokee Nation create and roll out the first certified Native American film commission to open in the United States, the Cherokee Nation Film Office. The mission of CNFO is to increase the presence of Native Americans in every level of the film and television industries, while creating opportunities for economic development and jobs in the Cherokee Nation – a reservation area in northeast Oklahoma.

Under Loren’s direction in 2019 CNFO launched the first-of-its-kind Native American talent, crew and consulting directories and in 2020 Loren oversaw the buildout of a virtual production soundstage in the Cherokee Nation. In 2021, she led CNFO to be the first tribe in the US to offer a film incentive program.

Jennifer also hosts three television and streaming series, all focusing on Cherokee and other tribal topics.

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**ERIC MIKA**

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
**THE FILM VERDICT**

**Eric Mika** recently founded and launched The Film Verdict, a digital platform focused on international film reviews, interviews and features. His publishing experience arose through positions with media giants Reed Elsevier and Nielsen Entertainment and Business Media.

Eric joined Nielsen Business Media in London as SVP, Managing Director, International, heading all its global entertainment brands including THR and Billboard. where he led the companies through transformational expansion, redesign and globalization and launched multiple digital products.

Prior to Nielsen, Eric served as VP and Managing Director for Reed Elsevier’s entertainment business magazine group, overseeing Variety magazine’s European, Middle East and Asian operations. He was the Variety China Publisher and oversaw many Variety festival dailies.

Eric’s entrepreneurial life began when he was brought on board Vivendi Universal in Paris to develop a European, multi-access, direct marketing, advertising sales and content company. He launched five Vivendi Universal digital companies throughout Europe, integrating content and distribution technologies.

Eric was born in Orléans, France, and grew up in Europe. He has worked professionally in Rome, Paris, London, New York and Los Angeles.



**NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR  
**THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**

**Nekesa Mumbi Moody** is the editorial director of The Hollywood Reporter, leading a dynamic team of journalists expertly covering the business of Hollywood, its personalities and its culture across platforms, from its print magazine to its website and video products. She joined in 2020 and is proud to continue its rich legacy of investigative journalism, probing profiles and eye-catching visuals while expanding THR’s reach.

Moody came to THR after more than two decades of covering entertainment at The Associated Press, including eight years as its Global Entertainment & Lifestyles Editor. There, she managed a multiformat team of dozens of journalists, and oversaw coverage of major entertainment events including the Oscars, the Cannes Film Festival and the Grammys. She also interviewed a who’s who of the industry’s top names, from Beyonce to Taylor Swift to Prince, and broke the news of Whitney Houston’s death to the world.

Her essays can be found in the anthologies “Where Did Our Love Go: Essays on Love & Relationships in the African American Community” and “An Illustrated History of Women Who Rock.”

Moody is a native of upstate New York and graduated from Barnard College. She relocated to Los Angeles amid the pandemic last year with her husband, a native of Los Angeles, and their young son.



**DAMIEN  
NAVARRO**

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
**OUTFEST**

As Executive Director of Outfest, **Damien Navarro** oversees all day-to-day leadership and oversight responsibility for staff and programs, including fundraising, finance and administration, staff supervision, and external relations.

Damien is a native Angeleno and a graduate of film studies from California State University, Fullerton. He began his career as a start-up entrepreneur, building the LA-based digital marketing and tech agency, Earthbound Media Group (EMG) / Brighter. Following 2013, Damien co-created The Institute, a boutique marketing and fundraising consulting firm and joined the faculty of Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. In 2017, he became President of VIMBY, a global content and brand entertainment studio previously co-owned by Mark Burnett and MGM.

His business and creative portfolio includes award-winning docu-series, as well as national and international advertising, events management, public relations, and fundraising campaigns for several Fortune 100 global brands, studios, nonprofits and publishers. He has sat on boards for several trade and industry organizations including the OC Ad Club and Think LA and a public speaker and mentor for South by Southwest (SXSW), the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

He is the proud owner of Monkey Business Farms, a sustainable urban farm in LA's Laurel Canyon, where he lives with his husband Adam.

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**WENDY  
NOSS**

PRESIDENT  
**MOTION PICTURE  
ASSOCIATION  
CANADA**  
HEAD OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
PRODUCTION  
POLICY  
**MOTION PICTURE  
ASSOCIATION  
(MPA)**

**Wendy Noss** is President of the Motion Picture Association Canada – serving as the voice and advocate of the major international producers and distributors of film, television, and streaming content in Canada. A respected government and public affairs executive, Wendy is responsible for overseeing MPA member companies’ legislative, regulatory, legal, and content protection strategies across Canada and for promoting their interests in the country.

As a member of the MPA’s senior leadership team, Wendy also serves as Head of International Production Policy, supporting colleagues and MPA studios producing entertainment made for global audiences in locations around the world. Wendy works as an effective partner with film and television stakeholders to build mutual opportunity wherever production takes place, contributes to several boards, councils, and non-profit organizations, and has been selected as an advisor to work with various levels of government.

Wendy received a J.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Ontario.



**ADRIAN  
OFFORD**

MANAGING  
DIRECTOR  
**VIDEO SCREEN  
SERVICES, LTD.**

**Adrian Offord’s** long experience in the entertainment technology business, from coal-face to boardroom, has given him a deep understanding of both the technical and creative needs of clients. His close relationships with leading Art Directors, production and lighting designers underpin the VSS approach to service.

Immersed in the business of show technology for over 30 years, Adrian has provided lighting and video solutions for film, theatre, television, live touring and special event productions worldwide. After leaving his role as Head of Europe at VER in 2018, he founded Video Screen Services to provide the best quality video equipment, service and support for valued clients large and small.



**LEONIDAS  
OXBY**

SENIOR VICE  
PRESIDENT,  
PRODUCTION  
FINANCE  
**ITV AMERICAS**

As ITV America's Senior Vice President of Production Finance, **Leonidas Oxby** is responsible for the group's production accounting functions, including reporting, workflows, and systems development. A graduate of Kingston University Business School with a BA (Hons) Degree in Accounting and Finance in 1999 (UK), Leonidas entered the TV and Film industry, first working for the BBC's prestigious events department in London, eventually moving to BBC Worldwide in New York in 2005. Leonidas has worked in all aspects of production, including 1st A.D., Line Producer, and Production Accountant.

Having been the Head of Production Finance at the BBC and then Leopard Films, Leonidas took on the role of Vice President of Production Finance at Leftfield Entertainment. Following the acquisition of Leftfield Entertainment by ITV America, Leonidas transitioned to the ITV team as Senior Vice President, overseeing the production finance function for the US business. Leonidas is passionate about technology and tax incentives and is currently in the final year of his MBA studies at Florida Atlantic University.



**JACLYN  
PHILPOTT**

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
**AFCI**

As Executive Director of AFCI, **Jaclyn Philpott** leads the only global organization representing film commission professionals. She oversees advocacy, educational programs and events that empower AFCI members to work more effectively with policymakers and businesses in the screen sector – all with the goal of fostering economic growth in an inclusive and sustainable manner. Philpott relocated from New Zealand to the U.S. to take on this role, bringing deep yet diversified experience in economic development, strategy, transformation, international marketing and event management.

Philpott earned an MBA from the University of Canterbury (New Zealand) with a specialization in management and growth strategies.

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**JACQUELINE  
RAINERS  
SITAI**

AFCI BOARD  
MEMBER

PRODUCTION AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER

**KWAZULU-NATAL  
FILM COMMISSION**

**Jacqueline Rainers Setai** is the Manager of Production and Development at the Kwa-Zulu Natal Film Commission and oversees the strategic management of the Film Fund. Kwa-Zulu Natal is the third biggest region in South Africa, with the longest running film commission. Jacqueline has experience in entertainment, film and television across public and commercial broadcasting and is an experienced manager of creatives and production teams.

Jacqueline is currently enrolled in a Masters in Fine Art in Screenwriting at the New York Film Academy and holds a Bachelor in Journalism and Media Studies (Honours) from Rhodes University and an BA Honours degree from the University of Johannesburg. She holds memberships at the Documentary Filmmakers Association SA, the South African Writers' Guild and SWIFT (Sisters Working in Film & Television), a non-profit organisation committed to championing empowerment and access to equal opportunities for women. She is also a scriptwriter, writer and lecturer.



**JOHN  
RAKICH**

PRESIDENT  
**LOCATION  
MANAGERS GUILD  
INTERNATIONAL  
(LMGI)**

**John Rakich** DGCO/ATAS/LMGI is a Supervising Location Manager and Location Scout with over 23 years of experience working on long and short format features and numerous television series for studios and streaming services. He is the current President of the Location Managers Guild International and a board member of the Directors Guild of Canada Ontario as the elected Location Caucus Representative.

John is also a speaker at college campuses, international industry symposiums, podcasts, and a contributor of articles about, labor workforce development, education and training and the economic benefits of location-based filming as well as a member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and has been a jurist for the Location Guide's Makers & Shakers Awards.



**JAY  
ROEWE**

AFCI ADVISORY  
BOARD MEMBER  
VICE PRESIDENT  
OF PRODUCTION  
PLANNING  
AND INCENTIVES  
**HBO/HBOMAX/  
WBD**

**Jay Roewe** is Senior Vice President, Global Incentives & Production Planning & at HBO/HBO MAX. He helps manage the physical production planning of limited series, and scripted series filmed all over the world and oversees the film and tv incentives both domestically and internationally for all productions.

Roewe joined HBO in 1994, originally serving as Vice President of Production for HBO Pictures. In 2000, he began overseeing the miniseries division until 2010 when he was promoted to Head of Physical Production for all Television scripted original productions. Roewe's involvement with programs ranges from *Real Time with Bill Maher* to *Game of Thrones*.

Jay is a 40-plus year veteran of film and television production, with experience from news to television to feature film production. In 2019, Jay was given a Doctor of Letters Honorary Degree from Ulster University for his services to the Screen Industry in Northern Ireland for his work on *Game of Thrones*.



**SUSAN  
SANCHEZ**

SENIOR  
SUSTAINABILITY  
PROGRAM  
MANAGER  
**AMAZON STUDIOS**

**Susan Sanchez** started her career as a botanist, working in the Amazon, E. African and SE Asian jungles as a researcher and later as a botanical surveyor for projects in the U.S. She started working in supply chain sustainability in renewable fuels, developing fuel pathways for EU, U.S. and California governments. She has held leadership roles in apparel, film production, consumer product goods sustainability and safer chemistry. She has worked on decarbonizing supply chains at the City of Los Angeles and is passionate about the transition to an accessible low-carbon economy. She currently manages the Amazon Studios sustainability program. Susan holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Studies and Biology from University of California, Santa Cruz and is a Certified Safety and Health Manager.

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**JEFFREY P. SODERBERG**

EXECUTIVE VICE  
PRESIDENT,  
PRODUCTION AND  
INNOVATION  
**THE MBS GROUP**

**Jeffrey P. Soderberg** has thirty years of experience on set as a Best Boy Electrician and Chief Rigging Electrician. His array of titles and previous experience includes: Co-Founder/Partner at LiteGear. Founder/Owner at All One Energy, Inc., Charter Member and Founder MBS Equipment Company, Advisory Board Member and Executive Vice President - Production and Innovation at The MBS Group, Virtual Production Project Manager at MBSi including Netflix NLAB, Trilith Studios Phase 4 Development, Trilith Studios LED Car Process Facility, “Devotion” LED Volume, Amazon/Kilter Films LED Volume.



**CHRISTINA SOURS**

INDEPENDENT  
PRODUCER/  
VIRTUAL  
PRODUCTIONS  
OPERATION

**Christina Sours** is a consulting producer for productions and vendors, such as Disney Television Studios and the MBS Group, on virtual production projects and is a Partner with Los Angeles-based production consulting firm, Nextgen Production.

Ms. Sours spent the start of her career working across marketing and publishing before jumping into on-set film production roles. In 2016 she worked at GoPro in their original content division until 2017 when she moved into VFX at Industrial Light and Magic. She spent her first ILM years in the Technology department project managing Rendering, Comp and Virtual Production R&D teams. In 2019 Christina transitioned to StageCraft Production to manage both ILM’s development of the StageCraft full production service as well as their Motion and Facial Performance Capture stage team.





## VERONICA SULLIVAN

AFCI ADVISORY  
BOARD MEMBER  
SVP, HEAD  
OF GLOBAL  
PRODUCTION  
EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS  
**NBCUNIVERSAL**

**Veronica Sullivan** is Senior Vice President, Head of Global Production External Affairs and State & Local Government at NBCUniversal. As head of Global Production External Affairs, Ms. Sullivan supports Universal Filmed Entertainment Group, Universal Studios Television Group, Telemundo and NBCU streamer Peacock, with governments on economic development policy to attract production investment, which lead to the creation of jobs across the United States and internationally. As the Head of State & Local Government Affairs for NBCU, she leads government relations and legislative strategy in support of all NBCUniversal brands including, NBC Sports and all NBC News divisions across 50 states and hundreds of municipalities.

Ms. Sullivan previously served as Chief of Staff for two New York Members of Congress including U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer for whom she continues to serve as an informal advisor.

During her time at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Ms. Sullivan led the government affairs strategy during the transition of NYSE-to-NYSE Group Inc. and its merger with the pan-European exchange, Euronext, creating the world's first global marketplace – NYSE Euronext.

Before joining NBCU, Ms. Sullivan was a member of the senior management committee at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centre responsible for corporate and internal communications, media strategy, public affairs, and government relations.



## ALISON A. TAYLOR

FIRST VICE CHAIR  
**LOCATION  
MANAGERS GUILD  
INTERNATIONAL  
(LMGI)**

Over the course of her 28-year career as a Location Manager, **Alison A. Taylor** has had the privilege of working on many recognizable film and television projects such as the Emmy-nominated limited series for Amazon Studios, *The Underground Railroad*, two features in the Purge franchise, *Southland*, *The Soloist*, *Training Day*, and many more.

Alison is the recipient of multiple California on Location Awards for her work on: *Southland* (2012), *Straight Outta Compton* (2015), *A Wrinkle in Time* (2017) and *Insecure* (2021). She is an active member of Location Managers Guild International (1st Vice President), Hollywood Teamsters Local 399 (Trustee), Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (Producers Peer Group Executive Committee Member). Alison is currently working on a feature film for Amazon Studios.

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**CAROL TRUSSELL**

EXECUTIVE IN CHARGE OF PRODUCTION  
**APPLE**

**Carol Trussell** has a long history in both content development and production. Carol has produced Network, Cable and Streaming series over the past twenty years. In 2012 Carol joined Gaumont Television as Head of Production. There she oversaw production on the series *Hannibal*, *Hemlock Grove*, *F is for Family* and *Narcos*.

In 2018, Carol joined the launch of Apple TV+. She oversaw the building of the platform as well as the production of the original slate of shows including *The Morning Show*, *See*, *For All Mankind*. Carol has been instrumental in the building of Apple Studios and the expansion of content on the Platform. As Head of Production Carol has lead a team that has overseen and produced such series as *Foundation*, *Severance*, *Pachinko*, *Invasion*, *Black Bird* and *Ted Lasso*.

This Spring, Carol stepped down as Head of Production and is currently involved as a Producer on several high profile Apple series currently in Production.



**BAS VAN DER REE**

AFCI BOARD CHAIR  
FILM COMMISSIONER  
**NETHERLANDS FILM COMMISSION**

With over 20 years of experience as a location scout, line producer and producer on independent feature films, series and docs, **Bas van der Ree** currently heads the Netherlands Film Commission where he began his role in 2014. The Film Commission is the national liaison between the Dutch creative media industries, foreign producers and production companies in the Netherlands.

Throughout his career Bas established partnerships for numerous international co-productions and gained in-depth knowledge of the entire filmmaking process. He has cooperated with many Film Commissions around the world.

In January 2022 he was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the Association of Film Commissioners International, based in Los Angeles. With his profound understanding of the filmmaking process, including locations, film production, budgeting, scheduling and networking, Bas is the primary source of information for all film related inquiries. Recent examples are Lana Wachowski's *Sense8*, Christopher Nolan's *Dunkirk* and Patrick Hughes' *The Hitman's Bodyguard*, *Killing Eve*, *The Goldfinch*, *Atlanta* and *Lima 616*.



## JAREN VINE

SENIOR VICE  
PRESIDENT,  
PRODUCTION  
FINANCE

**MEDIA RIGHTS  
CAPITAL (MRC)**

**Jaren Vine** is the Senior Vice President, Production Finance at MRC, where he oversees all aspects of production finance for MRC's television projects. As a 28+ year entertainment executive with a background in television and features, Jaren Vine has been an integral part to producing notable series *Ozark*, *The Great*, *Poker Face*, *Hello Tomorrow*, *Shrink Next Door*, *Shining Girls*, *The Outsider*, and *Terminal List*.

Jaren spent more than seven years at NBCU Comcast as Vice President of Production Finance at NBC Universal's Universal Television and Universal Cable Productions, where he played a key role in expanding the original programming slate and formulating business strategy for the networks. He oversaw production finance across the network and cable television divisions for scripted and unscripted shows including award-winning series *Mr. Robot*, *The Sinner*, *Homecoming* and *Brooklyn Nine Nine*.

Having worked on over 250 productions throughout his career, Jaren has held finance roles at prominent networks and studios as well as a freelance production accountant, including ABC Studios, Freeform, Disney Channel, Saban Entertainment, Abominable Pictures and Alcon Entertainment, which produced highly-popular feature films such as *Blindside*, *Book of Eli*, and *Dolphin Tale*. Jaren started his career as a tutor and football coach at Camp Vernon Kilpatrick, part of the Los Angeles Probation department, where he worked with youth whose lives inspired the movie *Gridiron Gang*.



## MICHAEL WALBRECHT

AFCI ADVISORY  
BOARD MEMBER  
VICE PRESIDENT,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**WARNER BROS.  
DISCOVERY**

**Michael Walbrecht** serves as Vice President, Public Affairs, Warner Bros. Discovery, with responsibility for handling government and community affairs for the company's corporate, feature film, and television production divisions as well as for the Studio's facilities located in Burbank, California.

Prior to joining Warner Bros., Walbrecht served as Associate Director of the California Film Commission under Governor George Deukmejian. Before that, he worked for Century Productions as a production coordinator and for independent producer, Laura A.S. Phillips as a postproduction coordinator. He graduated from the University of Southern California, where he studied political science and history and film criticism. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Walbrecht currently serves on several local advisory commissions and nonprofit boards. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Walbrecht currently serves on several local advisory commissions and nonprofit boards. He lives in the Pasadena area with his wife and two children.

Speakers

Speakers



**ADELE WILSON**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**STREETLIGHTS**

Executive Director **Adele B. Wilson** joined Streetlights in 2007, bringing with her more than 20 years of experience working in the entertainment industry, both in-front-of and behind-the-camera.

Adele embarked on her entertainment career at the innovative and irreverent Rhino Records label. She also produced and performed in award winning plays throughout Los Angeles while working in television, independent films, and commercials. Adele has appeared on TV (*Cheers, China Beach, The Rookie*), in Commercials (*Cheetos, Hardee's, Harrah's*), and independent features (*They Shoot Movies, Don't They?*), and cofounded the independent production company, Nobody Productions. Prior to joining Streetlights, Adele combined her passion for social justice with her production skills when she joined the non-profit Mediascope, producing social awareness media campaigns and roundtable events for television writers and creative executives to promote accurate depictions of people, events, and in TV and Film when writing about diversity, violence prevention, drug abuse, and identification and prevention of human trafficking, among others.



**STEPHEN WOLF**

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,  
PRODUCTION FINANCE  
**ANNAPURNA**

**Stephen Wolf** is Senior Vice President of Production Finance at Annapurna. He joined Annapurna in late 2017 to build the production finance department and currently oversees all production finance for Film, Television, Animation and Theatre Productions. Prior to joining Annapurna, Stephen spent seven years at HBO working in both Planning & Analysis and Production Finance. He got his start in the entertainment industry at The Endeavor Talent Agency in 2007. Stephen was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and received his Bachelor of Science degree from DePaul University in Chicago.

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**afci** ASSOCIATION OF  
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**Cineposium  
2023**

## **AFCI's Cineposium 2023 will take place in Limerick, Ireland.**

The Cineposium conference is open to both AFCI members and production professionals.

Information about pricing, program and other details are coming soon.

**Visit AFCI's event landing page on [afci.org](https://afci.org) for updates.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH -  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2023**

