



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE BLACK LIST AND WOMEN IN FILM, LOS ANGELES
ANNOUNCE PARTICIPANTS AND MENTORS
FOR 2019 EPISODIC PROGRAM

October 1, 2019, Los Angeles — Women In Film, Los Angeles (WIF LA) and the Black List have selected the participants in their **2019 Episodic Lab**, now in its fourth year.

A joint effort between both organizations that provides mentorship and career opportunities to six rising women television writers over the course of a year, the Lab will run twice weekly for four weeks beginning on October 1, 2019 and will consist of script development, peer workshoping sessions, and Master Classes with established writers and industry executives. Lab participants will have their final pilots read by agencies and networks. Advisors and Master Class teachers include Monica Beletsky (“Parenthood”), Carly Wray (“Westworld”), Sono Patel (“Crazy Ex-Girlfriend”), Glen Mazzara (“The Dark Tower”), and many others.

The Lab participants and their projects are:

Kim Garland

“The Resurrected” – When a dead body comes back to life and then escapes from a Manhattan funeral home, the determined Funeral Director must track down the body to clear herself of wrongdoing.

Kim Garland was raised in New York City’s Hell’s Kitchen, and grew up as part of a family of Puerto Rican descent, that ran and lived above their funeral home. She worked her way through college covering the night shift at her family business, and graduated from Columbia University with a degree in Creative Writing (and a whole lot of stories about the dead). She’s written and directed several films that have screened at film festivals and comic conventions across the country. Garland’s work focuses on dark stories set in dark worlds, reflecting her particular love of the horror, sci-fi, and thriller genres.

Robin Hayes

“Fortune Bay” – In the American territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Captain Owen Arthur Bradshaw and his descendants fight to claim their inheritance of a sugar plantation from a clan of billionaires while great events in history unfold between 1917 and 2017.

Dr. Robin J. Hayes is an award-winning filmmaker who directed the documentary feature **BLACK AND CUBA**. A Yale alumna who studied at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, she produced the off-off-Broadway play **9 GRAMS**, which was directed by Emmy- and Obie-winner S. Epatha Merkerson. The Ford Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities have both funded Hayes’ work. Her book, *A Love for Liberation*, is forthcoming from University of Washington Press. Hayes is currently developing several

projects including the Screencraft Film Fund semi-finalist INSIDE EXILE, about iconic Black Panther Party leader Neal Cleaver.

Rosette Laursen

“Oh Monica” – A scandal erupts at Freedom High when incoming freshman Monica Lewinsky develops a crush on popular school president Bill Clinton... and the rest, is history class.

Rosette Laursen was born in a hut in Kauai and raised all over California. She was a professional ballet dancer for years before having the epiphany that she could combine her three favorite things—writing, TV, and comedy—into a profession. She immediately quit dance and started studying screenwriting at UCLA Extension while working as an assistant at a variety of entertainment offices and on television shows. Laursen is very happy to no longer be dancing on her toes for money, but has applied the aggressive discipline she learned from dance to her writing endeavors.

Jude Roth

“Homefront” – A group of female veterans are struggling to salvage their lives in the American South when tragedy strikes amid their ranks, leading them to set out to help fellow veterans throughout the country.

At the age of nine, Jude Roth dabbled in crime by stealing stacks of notebooks because she desperately needed to write—but couldn't *tell* anyone. (Now, she tells *everyone*.) Growing up in Leominster, Massachusetts, the “Plastics Capital of the World,” Roth experienced the effects of big business on small-town America, inspiring her to write personal stories against grander political backdrops. Her scripts have been finalists in the Sundance Episodic Lab and HUMANITAS New Voices program, and have earned her spots on the acclaimed WeForShe WriteHer List and The Black List's “Featured” category. (And she's also very sorry about the whole *stealing* thing.)

Anna Salinas

“Inside Cunt” – When a depressed twenty-something suddenly starts intercepting Russian spy signals through her vagina, she's pulled into a dangerous world of global intrigue.

Salinas is a Latinx writer, filmmaker, and comedian, and the creator of the viral Instagram webcomic *Bad Comix by Anna*, which chronicles her struggles with anxiety, depression, and cheese. She is a regular writer/performer at the Upright Citizens Brigade and one half of the all-Latina sketch duo John Baxter—whose comedy videos have been featured in various publications including *Mashable*, *WhoHaha*, and *Vulture*. Salinas holds an M.F.A. in screenwriting from UCLA and is a 2018 Sundance New Voices Lab fellow.

Gillian Weeks

“Political Science” – A mother and daughter, both fallen politicians, battle for power in the dirtiest swamp of all: the political science department of an elite college.

Gillian Weeks has turned to narrative film and television writing after a decade in the documentary space. In 2018, the Tribeca Film Institute awarded Weeks a Sloan Grant to write her first feature, THE NEW MIRACLE, which chronicles the invention of in vitro fertilization. A year later, she was selected as a 2019 Sundance Institute fellow for the same project. In addition, Weeks is now developing several original drama series. Before writing full-time, she oversaw series development for Alex Gibney's Jigsaw Productions, helping create series including Netflix's “Salt Fat Acid Heat” and “The Family,” Showtime's “Enemies,” and AMC's forthcoming “Hip Hop.” Weeks graduated with a B.A. in Political Economy from Williams College and Oxford University.

About Women In Film. Los Angeles

Women In Film, Los Angeles (WIF LA) advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries—to achieve parity and transform culture. Founded in 1973, Women In Film supports all women working in film, television, and digital media from emerging to advanced career. Our distinguished programs include: mentoring, speaker and screening series, production training program, writing labs, film finishing funds, legal aid, and an annual financing intensive. Women In Film advocates for gender parity through research, education, and media campaigns. Women In Film honors the achievements of women in Hollywood through the Legacy Series, annual Emmy and Oscar parties, and our signature event, the Women In Film Annual Gala. Membership is open to all media professionals and more information can be found on our website: wif.org. Follow Women In Film on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

About the Black List

The Black List, an annual survey of Hollywood executives' favorite unproduced screenplays, was founded in 2005. Since then, more than 319 Black List scripts have been produced, grossing over \$26 billion in box office worldwide. Black List movies have won 51 Academy Awards from 264 nominations, including four of the last nine Best Picture Oscars and ten of the last twenty Best Screenplay Oscars. In October of 2012, the Black List launched a unique online community where screenwriters make their work available to readers, buyers and employers.

Since its inception, it has hosted more than 65,000 screenplays and teleplays and provided more than 100,000 script evaluations. As a direct result of introductions made on the Black List, dozens of writers have found representation at major talent agencies and management companies, as well as sold or optioned their screenplays. In only three years, a half dozen films have been produced from scripts introduced on the website including Golden Globe nominated NIGHTINGALE, starring David Oyelowo. Currently, the Black List hosts over 3,500 scripts for consideration by over 3,500 film industry professionals ranging from agency assistants, to studio and network presidents, to A-list actors and directors. More information on the Black List is available at www.blcklst.com.

The Black List Contact

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