



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE BLACK LIST AND WIF (WOMEN IN FILM, LOS ANGELES)  
ANNOUNCE PARTICIPANTS  
FOR 2020 FEATURE RESIDENCY**

June 29, 2020, Los Angeles — WIF (Women In Film, Los Angeles) and The Black List have announced the participants of the 2020 Feature Lab and Residency. The program is an expansion of the original writing lab, a joint effort between WIF and The Black List that provides mentorship and career opportunities to seven rising women screenwriters over the course of a year. The Lab and Residency will include intensive script and professional development sessions, initially in online sessions to address stay-at-home requirements.

"I very much look forward to the year that doing two writing labs with WIF with only women participants makes no rational sense, because women represent at least fifty percent of the working screenwriters in film and at every level of television. We clearly have a long way to go, and so until then are committed to our ongoing work with WIF, this year's Lab, and the success of all of the women who were selected," says Black List Founder Franklin Leonard.

Throughout the year, participants will have meetings and receive feedback from working feature writers, executives, and industry leaders. Past mentors and advisors include Haifaa Al-Mansour (WADJDA), Jessica Bendinger (BRING IT ON), Andrea Berloff (THE KITCHEN), Aline Brosh McKenna ("Crazy Ex-Girlfriend"), Scott Myers (Go Into the Story, the official blog of the Black List), Liz Hannah (LONG SHOT), Kirsten "Kiwi" Smith (LEGALLY BLONDE), and others. The Residency is supported by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

**2020 Feature Residency Participants**

**POPCORN by Katy Berry**

Logline: Wanting to escape her oppressive home life on Long Island and fit-in with 'the guys,' sixteen-year old Jemma Bauer gets her dream job at the local movie theater only to learn the true price women pay for male approval.

Bio: Katy Berry is a New York based comedian, writer, and musical improviser who has traveled the world performing at venues including The Kennedy Center and multiple sold out Edinburgh Fringe Fest runs, and was recently featured in *The New York Times* for her improvised cabaret show, Electric Bitch. In addition to live performances, Katy's original writing and videos have

been featured in Vulture, Studio360, Bustle, Reductress, the Magnet Comedy Film Festival, NYC Web Fest, Chain Film Festival, and more.

### **SUNDOGS by Elizabeth Chatelain**

Logline: When Alex's father dies and family farm slips into debilitating debt, she takes her 12-year-old daughter Jenny with her to work on the North Dakota oilfields. But after the oil industry's decline begins and Alex loses her job, she must decide which is more important: the farm, or her fragile relationship with her daughter.

Bio: Elizabeth Chatelain is an award-winning writer and director from North Dakota. Her feature screenplay SUNDOGS participated in the Berlinale Script Station, the Hedgebrook Screenwriter's Lab, and was an Academy Nicholl Fellowship Semi-Finalist, Atlanta Film Festival Screenplay Competition Winner and Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Competition Winner.

### **DANNY CORPSE WALKER by Zoe Cooper**

Logline: In the wake of an apocalyptic event, a Native American woman must walk 300 miles with her sister's corpse in order to perform a proper burial on their home reservation.

Bio: Zoe Cooper is a screenwriter with a passion for dark comedy and all things horror. She lives in Los Angeles, California.

### **THE GIRL by Laci Dent**

Logline: After a 13-year-old girl begins to experience peculiar bodily symptoms, she and her mother find themselves at the center of a dark practice tied to their ancestry and the Baptist church in rural Louisiana.

Bio: Laci Dent is a writer, filmmaker and production designer from New Orleans, LA -- receiving an MFA in Directing from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. At UCLA, she received the Gina Prince Bythewood/Mara Brock Akil Four Sisters Screenwriting Award and founded the genre-driven production company, Nite Cloud Films.

### **YEAR OF THE SHEEP by Caroline Guo**

Logline: When a young Chinese woman brings her Asian-American girlfriend to meet her conservative family in the countryside over Chinese New Year, this unexpected guest forces them all to reconsider their relationships, values, and the true meaning of home.

Bio: Hailing from Atlanta, Caroline Guo is a Chinese-American writer and director. A graduate of Northwestern University, Caroline has published in film journals, co-wrote a Chinese-French feature film in development, placed as semifinalist for the Universal Writers Program, and wrote and directed the award-winning short film THE TEST in Beijing, China. Currently based in Los Angeles and working at MACRO, Caroline is most interested in telling personal stories, especially of Asian and Asian-American women, to shed light on larger societal issues.

### **MAD by Michelle Steffes**

Logline: When Henry, a charming, off-kilter hatter living in Victorian London, falls in love with Kitty, a brilliant, poetic noblewoman, he must find a way to win her heart and free them both

from restrictive social convention while battling the effects of mercury poisoning and an increasingly consuming madness.

Bio: Originally from North Carolina and now sheltering in place in Los Angeles, Michelle Steffes is an award-winning writer-director whose whimsical takes on reality earned her a spot in the short film and feature animation branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Michelle has worked as a development executive for Gary Ross, has participated in AFI's Directing Workshop for Women, and is a current fellow in Disney's 2018-2020 television directing program.

### **FINDING PHOEBE by Krenée Tolson**

Logline: A teenage girl sets her sights on becoming a spoken word poet in the underground poetry scene in Baltimore Maryland in 1997. Her pursuit of her dream turns into a story of survival when her sexual abuser, and mother's boyfriend, is released from prison.

Bio: Krenée A. Tolson is a writer/producer/actor born and raised in Baltimore, MD, currently residing in Los Angeles. Her authentic, gut-led approach to filmmaking uses a universal approach to exposing the unheard stories of the underrepresented.

The list of the Semi-Finalists can be found [here](#).

### **ABOUT THE BLACK LIST**

The Black List, an annual survey of Hollywood executives' favorite unproduced screenplays, was founded in 2005. Since then, more than 400 Black List scripts have been produced, grossing over \$29 billion in box office worldwide. Black List movies have won 54 Academy Awards from 267 nominations, including four of the last twelve Best Picture Oscars and eleven of the last 28 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 70,000 screenplays and teleplays and provided more than 120,000 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. Several films have been produced from scripts showcased on the website including Golden Globe nominated NIGHTINGALE, starring David Oyelowo, and Amazon's HONEY BOY, written by Shia LaBeouf.

Currently, the Black List hosts over 4,000 scripts by nearly 2,700 writer members, available for download by industry professionals ranging from agency assistants, to studio and network presidents, to A-list actors and directors.

The Black List's first feature production, COME AS YOU ARE, debuted at SXSW in 2019 and is Certified Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes (98% Critics, 80% Audience). Its second feature, BREAKING NEWS IN YUBA COUNTY, directed by Oscar-nominated director Tate Taylor and

starring Allison Janney, Mila Kunis, Regina Hall, Awkwafina, Wanda Sykes, and Juliette Lewis, is currently in post-production.

### **ABOUT WIF**

Founded in 1973 as Women In Film, Los Angeles, WIF advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries, to achieve parity and transform culture. We support women and non-binary people in front of and behind the camera and across all levels of experience. We work to change culture through our distinguished pipeline programs; we advocate for gender parity through research, education, and media campaigns; and we build a community centered around these goals. Membership is open to all screen industry professionals, and more information can be found on our website: [wif.org](http://wif.org). Follow WIF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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