



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE BLACK LIST AND WIF (WOMEN IN FILM, LOS ANGELES)
ANNOUNCE PARTICIPANTS FOR 2021 FEATURE RESIDENCY**

June 16, 2021, Los Angeles — **WIF** (Women In Film, Los Angeles) and the **Black List** have announced the participants of the 2021 Feature Residency, which begins today. The program, a joint effort between both organizations, provides mentorship and career opportunities to six rising women and non-binary screenwriters over the course of a year.

"Said it before, will say it again: I very much look forward to the year that doing two writing labs with WIF with only women and non-binary participants makes no rational sense, because they represent at least fifty percent of the working screenwriters in film and at every level of television. We are, sadly, very far from that date. Until then, we look forward to our ongoing work with WIF, this year's lab, and the success of all of the writers who were selected," says Black List founder **Franklin Leonard**.

The Residency includes intensive script and professional development sessions. Throughout the year, participants will have meetings and receive feedback from working feature writers, executives, and industry leaders. Past mentors include Jac Schaeffer (**BLACK WIDOW**), Emily V. Gordon (**THE BIG SICK**), Stephany Folsom (**TOY STORY 4**), David Rabinowitz (**BLACKKKLANSMAN**), Mattson Tomlin (**PROJECT POWER**), Haifaa Al-Mansour (**WADJDA**), Andrea Berloff (**THE KITCHEN**), Aline Brosh McKenna ("Crazy Ex-Girlfriend"), Scott Myers (**Go Into the Story**), Liz Hannah (**LONG SHOT**), Kirsten "Kiwi" Smith (**LEGALLY BLONDE**), and others.

2021 Feature Residency Participants

Myra Aquino

Script: **LAMB**

Logline: Set in the island of Guam in 1996, a young CHamoru boy tries to save his grandfather from dying of a broken heart.

Bio: Myra Aquino is a Los Angeles-based writer-director who grew up in Guam and the Philippines, and graduated with an MFA in Directing from the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television. She is passionate about writing stories that explore the impacts of multiculturalism and globalization on Southeast Asian, Pacific Islander, and other underrepresented communities.

Liann Kaye

Script: **ELECTABLE**

Logline: When Quinn Chin becomes the mastermind behind her crush's high school presidential campaign, she stumbles upon someone much better for the job – Herself.

Bio: Liann Kaye is a Chinese American writer/director. She is a grant recipient of The NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music, and Theatre, a 2020 Athena Lab winner, and a Top 9 Semi-Finalist for SeriesFest's Women Directing Mentorship in partnership with Shondaland. Her short film THE BLESSING won "Best Comedy" at the New York Short Film Festival and is now becoming an episodic series.

Diana Ly

Script: **MISEKAKERU**

Logline: A Japanese rental wife, along with her best friend, searches for true connection after her long-time fake husband "breaks up" with her.

Bio: A Vietnamese-American screenwriter and playwright born in Oklahoma and raised in the Philippines, Diana's been a Project Involve Fellow at Film Independent and is currently a member of The Sóng Collective's Inaugural Việt Writers Lab. Coming into her creativity after a career in tech, she writes stories about dysfunctional families, immigrants, nerds, and women who defy stereotypes.

Emily-Anne Mikos

Script: **MISS DICKPUNCHER**

Log line: After a failed attempt to lose her virginity, a sixteen-year-old girl is sent to an all-girls etiquette camp where she solicits the help of her delinquent CIT to lose her V-Card before the summer of '84 ends.

Bio: Emily-Anne Mikos is an MFA Screenwriting student at the University of Texas and a self-proclaimed cool Canadian. As the queer feminist daughter of a strip-club owner, Emily-Anne writes funny, female-driven young adult narratives that challenge the perceived norm and characters that seek to find understanding in friendship and community.

Huriyyah Muhammad

Script: **GOD HELP THE GAYES**

Log line: As the world awaits a new ruling from the Supreme Court that could effectively overturn gay marriage, a lesbian celebrity couple, Pam and Rosa Gaye and thrust into the

spotlight and hands of a publicity seeking marriage guru, when Rosa insists she wants a divorce.

Bio: Huriyyah is an award-winning writer, director, and producer whose projects have been invited to the Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Institute, AFI Fest, Austin Film Festival, New Voices in Black Cinema, and many others. She is a recipient of the 2020 Sundance Creative Producing Award for the critically acclaimed film, Farewell Amor and her directing credits include the cult-favorite sci-fi series, KELOID, which screened extensively throughout the U.S. and won Best Web Series at multiple film festivals including the American Black Film Festival. Her award-winning children's short, OUTGROWN, continues to screen at festivals and has won awards including Best Short Film.

Yael Schick

Script: **BLESSING**

Logline: When her religious girl band breaks up, a young Jewish woman starts drumming for a decidedly un-Orthodox rock group. But nothing in Bracha's sheltered upbringing prepared her for the rock and roll life, and she must find her own rhythm between these two worlds that march to very different drums.

Bio: Yael Schick is a writer and educator from New York City. An alumna of Yeshiva University, she serves as the Director of Programs at the national literacy nonprofit Writopia Lab, and is currently a Saul Zaentz fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

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ABOUT THE BLACK LIST

The Black List, an annual survey of Hollywood executives' favorite unproduced screenplays, was founded in 2005. Since then, at least 440 Black List scripts have been produced, grossing over \$30 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 nearly 80,000 screenplays and teleplays and provided more than 130,000 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.

Currently, the Black List hosts over 5,000 scripts by approximately 3,700 writer members. These scripts are 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, was released in February 2021 by MGM Studios.

More information on the Black List is available at www.blcklst.com. For regular updates, join our [mailing list](#) or follow the Black List on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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. Follow WIF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).