



## 2020 Pro Sessions Speaker Bios

### **Phil Berman**

Phil Berman is a producer with CBS News in Los Angeles. Throughout his 18-year career, he has produced for news stations in Miami, Tampa, Sarasota and Tulsa. Phil has also produced, reported, and anchored in Greenville, Mississippi. He is honored to be taking part in his seventh STN Convention.

### **BroadcastSIMS**

Jacob Horchler and Liz Wigglesworth spent four years in their high school's live production program where they excelled in live sports and special events. Jacob attends Oklahoma State University studying Sports Media and is in the student broadcast program. Liz is a student at the University of Texas at Dallas and is majoring in Computer Science. Steven Doherty has over 15 years' experience in the live production industry.

### **Carlsbad High School Television**

Carlsbad High School's live daily broadcast is the recipient of 12 STN Awards of Excellence honors and two Pacemaker Awards. Their broadcast reaches an audience of 2,600 students and is carried live on two cable stations. The program has produced award-winning internationally-acclaimed documentary films on controversial subjects including vaccinations, hunger and the Holocaust.

### **Leah Clapman, Amna Nawaz & PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs**

Leah Clapman created Student Reporting Labs (SRL) in 2009 as an experiment to engage middle and high school students with current events and reimagine public media for tweens and teens. Under her leadership, SRL has grown from 6 pilot sites to 150 schools in 46 states with wide-ranging partnerships. Amna Nawaz joined PBS NewsHour in April 2018 and serves as a national correspondent and primary substitute anchor. Prior to joining the NewsHour, she was an anchor and correspondent at ABC News and NBC News.

### **Emily Corio**

Emily Corio developed the West Virginia University Sports and Adventure Media major and teaches a course in Adventure Sports and Travel writing. She is a journalist and a journalism professor.

### **Ricky Cornish**

Ricky Cornish is studying broadcast journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. He has interned at television and radio stations in Phoenix and Las Vegas. Ricky attended Faith Lutheran High School in Las Vegas and was part of its broadcast program. At Cronkite, he works with the social media team for the School of Public Affairs.

### **Carly Danek**

As a television news photographer, Carly Danek has covered every kind of story you've seen on the news. She has worked in Oregon, Oklahoma and Minnesota and for the past four years has worked on a show that challenges the conventions of local news at KARE-TV in Minneapolis.

### **Stephanie Dawson**

Full Sail University graduate Stephanie Dawson has worked on a wide range of projects as a producer, director and writer. She is currently a Line Producer for the production arm of CNN.

### **Shelby Doroshow**

Shelby Doroshow is a documentary/lifestyle filmmaker and former STN Student of the Year. She has won a NATAS Student Production Emmy Award, and been a finalist and award winner at several national film festivals for young filmmakers. Shelby is currently pursuing a career in non-fiction TV filmmaking.

### **Marie Gallo Dyak**

Marie Gallo Dyak is the President/CEO of Entertainment Industries Council, and co-executive producer of the PRISM Awards. She designs and implements communication strategies among common and unlikely partners to advance dissemination of health information that is based on science, best practices and reflective of real stories. EIC focuses on prevention, treatment and recovery of individuals and their families.

### **Brandon Garcia**

Brandon Garcia is an STN alumnus and Arizona State University graduate. He has produced and directed for FOX as well as networks from Phoenix to Los Angeles to Connecticut to the nation's capital.

### **Lee Giat**

Lee Giat is executive director of Flying Ostrich Media. He began making videos at the age of seven and has become a 3x Cannes filmmaker ever since. As an STN and US-Russia TV Bridge alumnus, Lee also became a pilot, NASA astronomer, and astronaut-in-training. He now combines his passion for filmmaking with astronomy to create sci-fi short films and science education content.

### **Noah Gray**

Noah Gray is a CNN and STN guru, starting his career at the age of 16 while attending Miami Palmetto Senior High. He has travelled the world as a producer, reporter and shooter, covering presidential elections and the White House, to Secretaries of Defense and the Pope.

### **Jim Guarasci**

Jim Guarasci has 28 years of experience in film and television production and is currently Executive Producer at BECON-TV (WBEC-TV). He has worked in multiple areas of production, as a producer, director, director of photography and videographer. His awards include a Suncoast Chapter Emmy Award, five regional Telly Awards and a Communicator Award of Excellence.

### **Hawaii Creative Media**

John Allen III, Kevin Matsunaga, Austin Zavala, Luane Higuchi and Donn Yamamoto are media teachers from Hawaii who have formed Hawaii Creative Media, a group that provides training in digital media to students and teachers.

### **Taylor Horky**

Taylor Horky has worked as a producer/director in television, film and commercial production. He runs his own production company developing unscripted film and TV, and serves as Head of Strategic Initiatives and Co-Curricular for Biola University's School of Cinema and Media Arts in Los Angeles. Taylor teaches Entertainment Business and first year Film seminar, and is dedicated to mentoring film students and helping them launch careers.

### **Melissa Houghton**

Melissa Houghton joined Women in Film & Video (WIFV) as Executive Director in 2005. She has served on the boards of the DC Architectural Foundation, DC Film Alliance, and Wide Angle Youth Media. Melissa is currently a member of the WETA Community Council, the FAVS Advisory Board at George Mason University and the Advisory Board for The Actors' Center.

### **Juliet Kaufman & Mike Cullen**

Juliet Kaufman and Mike Cullen are writers who live in Los Angeles. Juliet works at *The Simpsons* as an assistant to showrunner Matt Selman. Mike has starred in countless commercials from Toyota to Bravo Channel and has guest starred on TV shows like *Wrecked* and *The Expanding Universe of Ashley Garcia*.

### **Will Linn, Ph.D.**

Will Linn, Ph.D., chairs the General Education Department at Studio School, where he teaches courses on myth to storytellers. Will has served as a radio host for the Santa Barbara News-Press (*Mythosophia*), editor and director for the Joseph Campbell Foundation, and a documentary interviewee (*Memory: The Origins of Alien, Great Myths*).

### **Jason Lobe**

Jason Lobe is a Washington, D.C.-based director who has directed a featurette and two short films. He has also written a feature length screenplay. He is an active member of Women in Film & Video and has presented on Independent Cinema to their Narrative Director Roundtable.

### **Mark Lodato**

Mark Lodato is Associate Dean of the Cronkite School and Associate General Manager of Arizona PBS at Arizona State University. He supervises Cronkite School and Arizona PBS broadcast news operations, including the national award-winning television newscast, *Cronkite News*. The program reaches 1.9 million homes each weeknight on Arizona PBS. Under Mark's leadership, Cronkite School broadcast students have consistently ranked among the nation's best in premier journalism competitions.

### **Emilie Lorditch**

Emilie Lorditch has been a science journalist for 20 years and has written for print, online and video. But it was her experience as an American Film Institute Catalyst fellow that transformed her career. Now, Emilie helps screenwriters use science in their stories even if their story isn't about science.

### **Kevin Matsunaga & Luane Higuchi**

Kevin Matsunaga and Luane Higuchi have been taking their students to STN for over 10 years, and have learned a thing or two over their combined 45+ years of fundraising.

### **Jeremy Menard**

Jeremy Menard is the Manager of Television & Radio Operations within Ithaca College's Roy H. Park School of Communications. He serves as the advisor and general manager of the school's student-run television station, ICTV and radio stations, WICB-FM and VIC Radio. Prior to joining Ithaca College's staff, he served as the Operations Manager and Programming Director of WPIE-AM, the ESPN Radio affiliate in Ithaca, New York.

### **Tracy Misner**

Tracy Misner is 2016 STN Teacher of the Year, 2018-2019 STN Craft Gold Medalist, Apple Distinguished Educator and recipient of 22 Student Production Awards. He has been teaching film and video since 2009 and has been involved in media since 1985.

### **John (JJ) Murray**

JJ Murray is an award-winning educator and media professional with 30 years of experience in the video production industry. He has worked in 11 small and major market TV stations, as well as taught high school and college media production. JJ currently manages the Upper Midwest Emmy® Awards and freelances as an IATSE Union stagehand and A/V event tech for concerts and conventions.

### **Tom Oliva**

Tom Oliva is executive director and co-founder of the All American High School Film Festival. He has worked with young creatives for over 20 years, helping them harness their talent. Tom has also evaluated more student films than anyone on the planet, so he knows what works! He has produced films for AT&T, IMAX, Sony, Blackmagic Design, Jostens, Refinery 29 and Music Choice.

### **Kevin Patterson**

Kevin Patterson is a Certified Journalism Educator in his ninth year of advising WROR-TV at Oviedo High School. His work has been recognized statewide and nationally. Kevin is a graduate of Florida State University's College of Communication. He also hosts a podcast called *They Teach That*.

### **Robert Pennybacker**

Robert Pennybacker is Executive Producer of PBS Hawaii's HIKI NO program, the nation's first statewide student news network. An honors graduate of USC's School of Cinematic Arts, he has written and/or produced approximately 30 television documentaries. Robert was a co-creator of *Pacific Heartbeat*, a nationally distributed series for PBS.

### **Tracy Perlman**

Tracy Perlman is the 10 p.m. and sports executive producer at WCCO-TV (CBS) in Minneapolis. She has won several awards for her reporting and producing of breaking news, sports and feature stories.

### **Sean Phillips**

Sean Phillips is an Assistant Manager of Communications for Hillsborough County Public Schools in Tampa, Florida. He spent 13 years as a high school TV and film instructor, most recently at Blake High School. Sean is the director of the Gasparilla International Film Festival High School Competition.

### **Katelyn Rivera**

With over ten years of makeup artistry training and experience, Katelyn Rivera's passion for creating art through cosmetics remains prevalent in her work today. She has worked on TV shows, movie sets, live television and special events around the country.

### **Jacki Romey**

Jacki Romey is currently President of the STN Board of Directors and a retired Broadcast Journalism teacher. She has been the Executive Producer of the Collaborative Documentary projects for the past five years.

### **Les Rose**

Les Rose teaches at Syracuse University and is an honored member of the STN Advisory Board. Les was formerly a photojournalist for CBS News, Los Angeles. He worked for The Evening News with Scott Pelly, CBS This Morning and CBS Sunday Morning. Les also worked with Steve Hartman on and off for 20 years for the *Everybody Has a Story* series, *Assignment America* and *On the Road with Steve Hartman*. He is also a fellow student and has recently completed his Masters at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

### **Cathie Saadeh**

Cathie Saadeh is an entertainment attorney providing business and intellectual property law advice to filmmakers, writers, musicians and creative businesses through her law firm, Saadeh P.C. She serves on the Board of Directors of Women in Film & Video, Washington, D.C. and is admitted to practice in California, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and New York.

### **Sheila Smith**

Sheila Smith is a director of photography and Steadicam operator working on independent features, commercials, documentaries, sport, music and dance videos. She owns a Sony F5 package, Steadicam and lighting and grip equipment. Her clients include, NBC, WETA, Al Jazeera English, BBC and many others.

### **Dean Staley**

Dean Staley is a broadcast professional with 25 years of experience including two years at the network level working as a correspondent for ABC News. He has won numerous awards including 14 Emmy Awards and three Edward R. Murrow Awards. Dean also spent three months in Iraq embedded with the 101st Airborne Division during the invasion of 2003. He is currently the principal anchor and special projects reporter for the FOX/CBS TV station in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### **Ken Stone**

For 20 years, Ken Stone was a TV and radio news anchor and reporter, news director, show producer, talk show host and Emmy Award winner. He was on the faculty at the University of Minnesota's Journalism School for 7 years and now runs his own video production company.

### **Misha Tenenbaum**

Misha Tenenbaum is the CEO and Founder of EditStock.com and EditMentor.com. As a proud member of the Motion Picture Editor's Guild (MPEG), Misha has logged more than 5,000 hours of union work on TV and film projects including the FX series *American Horror Story*, *Wayward Pines* on FOX and the feature film *JOBS* starring Ashton Kutcher.

### **Al Tompkins**

Al Tompkins is Senior Faculty for Broadcast and Online at The Poynter Institute. He has taught thousands of journalists around the world, including Canada, Japan, Egypt, Ecuador, Denmark, Cayman, Czech Republic and 49 states. Al comes to his teaching with more than 40 years of journalism experience and has been awarded many of journalism's top prizes including the Emmy, the RFK and the NPPA's highest award.

**Patty Vincente**

Patty Vincente is a third year student at the Cronkite School majoring in Sports Journalism with a minor in Spanish. She is involved in various organizations on campus such as the Walter Cronkite Sports Network and currently is a digital media intern with Fox Sports Arizona. Patty hopes to work in a Spanish-speaking country as a bilingual sideline reporter/content creator for a team or network.

**Christopher Walker**

Christopher K. Walker's acclaimed film *Welcome to Leith* premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and later aired on PBS' Independent Lens. He edited and produced *Flex is Kings* (2013), and most recently co-wrote and edited *Wrinkles the Clown* (2019). He is a founding partner of New York City-based company No Weather Productions.

**Jamie Yuccas**

Jamie Yuccas is a national news correspondent based out of Los Angeles. She has worked for CBS News since 2011. She joined Newspath in New York in 2015, and has covered high profile stories including Orlando's Pulse Nightclub shooting and the presidential campaign. Jamie was previously reporter and morning anchor of WCCO-TV. She has won two Emmy Awards, including one for her coverage of 2012's Hurricane Sandy.