

# USC School of Cinematic Arts

## Oct - Dec 2025 Hot Sheet

**Sean Addo MFA '14**, **Joanna Fernandez MFA '24**, and **Mashaal Alqahtani MFA '20** were selected as members of the 2025 Blumhouse and K Period Media “Screamwriting” program.

**Judd Apatow** is set to produce a modern, edgy romantic comedy for Universal with comedian Nikki Glaser in the leading role.

**Martinou Aristidou '05** was inducted into the American Cinema Editors (ACE) society as an active member.

**Victoria Renee Bell '21** screened her narrative short film *Sext* at Debbie Allen's Writing HERStory event in March 2025, where it won the Audience Award at the 2025 Broad Humor Film Festival, and was submitted for consideration for a 2026 NAACP Award.

**Madeline Bhaskar '19** is working alongside showrunner and writer Luke Matheny on the upcoming *Charlotte's Web* three part mini-series.

**Olivia Blaustein '10** has joined Untitled as a lit manager.

**Jeff Cameron '10** directed *The Shuffle*, about the making of the 1985 Chicago Bear's iconic rap video that became a cultural phenomenon during their Super Bowl XX run. **Ken Rodger MFA '98** served as Executive Producer, and SCA faculty member **Dr. Todd Boyd** is featured in the piece.

**Jon M. Chu '03** signed a first-look film and TV deal at Paramount.

**Christine Conratt '96** is producing and directing three films for Lifetime Network alongside producer **Kenneth Sanders '86**.

**Alex Convery '14** is set to adapt Tiger Woods's book *The Tiger Slam* for Amazon MGM Studios.

**Ryan Coogler MFA '11** received the Directors Award at this year's Critics Choice Association's CCA 8th Annual Celebration of Black Cinema & Television awards.

**Susan Downey '95** is set to produce a Netflix adaptation of the Brian Watkins play *Weather Girl*.

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**Dana Fox '00** is set to write and serve as Executive Producer for the upcoming *Clue* TV series.

**Alfred Gough '94** and **Miles Millar '94** are working with Netflix to develop *Grim*, an adult animated horror-fantasy comic book series.

**Poppy Hanks '95** is set to produce the upcoming untitled romantic drama from author Eugene Ashe, known for *Sylvie's Love*, for Netflix.

**Candy Holguin '25** worked as crew for the 2025 Latin Grammy Awards held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Kelley Kali '17** premiered her short film *elle|elle* at the Hollyshorts Festival in Hollywood and is up for Academy Award contention.

**Nicolas Lam '03** received the award for best cinematography at AdFest 2025 for his Olympics *Start Your Impossible* campaign for Toyota APAC. Additionally, his 140-year anniversary ad campaign for HSBC picked up awards for Direction, Cinematography, and Editing at the Kancil Awards. Lastly, he completed direction on concert visuals for superstar Jackson Wang's global tour.

Bestselling author **Lyla Lee '16** released her latest novel, *The Cuffing Game*.

**Jody McVeigh-Schultz '05** is set to produce and direct the upcoming documentary *Cocaine Quarterback*, which follows former USC football player turned convicted drug cartel kingpin Owen Hanson.

**Patrick Michael MFA '22** was recently honored with the Josephson Entertainment Screenwriting Award for his feature screenplay *Black Silk* at the 2025 Austin Film Festival.

Producer **Neal Mortiz '84** and his production banner Original Film have signed a new overall deal with Sony Pictures Television, where he will continue to work on existing series and develop new projects.

**Craig Peck MFA '13** will produce *Slime*, a new animated feature alongside Kid Cudi and Willow Smith.

**Prentice Penny '95** is set to direct a 3-part documentary series of activist and civil rights icon Jesse Jackson as told through the perspective of his youngest daughter, **Ashley Laverne Jackson '25**.

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Romantic crime-thriller *Caroline Caroline*, which premiered at the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival, was acquired by Magnolia Pictures. The SCA alumni who produced the project include **Ross Putman MFA '10**, **Eric Fleischman '11**, and **Chris Abernathy**.

**Michael Saksa MFA '92** published his non-fiction memoir *The Negotiation Edge*, which combines personal experiences in negotiation with practical business strategies and tutorials.

**Jac Schaeffer '04** is set to co-showrun Emily St. John Mandel's next novel *Exit Party*.

**Ian Shorr '07** sold his sci-fi spec *Shiver* to Warner Bros, with Tim Miller directing, Matthew Vaughn producing, and Keanu Reeves attached to star.

**Soraya Simi '19** premiered her debut feature *Row of Life*, featuring a crew of fellow USC and SCA alumni, including **Joseph DeRose '20**, **Ruhi Mansey '22**, **Nestor Trujillo '20**, **Lukas Dong '19**, **Aodhan Burns '19**, **Ryan Griswold '14**, **Retta Madison (Thornton)**, and **Shaun Wolfe '13 (Dornsife)**.

**Trace Slobotkin '95** was the writer and an AI artist for Kalshi's "The Whole Darn Rock Is Fair Game" national commercial.

**Dallas Sonnier '02** released his latest western feature *Frontier Crucible* starring Armie Hammer and Thomas Jane, both in theaters and on-demand.

**Danny Strong** is developing a documentary about the making of *The Wizard of Oz*.

**Conrado TerrazasCross MFA '91** received a grant from the Eastside Arts Initiative to produce two staged readings and a sizzle reel for his screenplay *Sunset Junction*. The project was also selected in the Feature Screenplay category for the Unlock The Gates Showcase at Universal Studios, held in November 2024.

**Davern Wright MFA '12** has released the first episode of *Out From Undor*, a fantasy adventure podcast musical set in a kingdom where anyone rated below a "seven" is exiled underground. It's available on YouTube and all major podcast platforms.

**Mindy Zemrak '05** was nominated for her fourth Casting Society of America Artios Award for Season 16 of Shark Tank, where she is the Supervising Casting Producer.

**Xindi Zhang '25** received the 2025 Student Academy Award for her alternative/experimental film *The Song of Drifters*.

# USC School of Cinematic Arts

## New Films in Release

*After the Hunt*

**Brian Grazer '74** (Producer)

*Avatar: Fire and Ash*

**Jon Landau '83** (Producer)

**Amanda Silver '89** (Writer)

**Rick Jaffa '81 (Marshall)** (Writer)

*Black Phone 2*

**Scott Derrickson '95** (Director/Writer/Producer)

**Adam Hendricks '03** (Executive Producer)

*Bone Lake*

**Mercedes Bryce Morgan '16** (Director)

**Anjoum Agrama '16** (Editor)

*Christy*

**Erica Bream '05** (Casting Director)

*Eternity*

**Tim White** (Producer)

*Ella McCay*

**Robert Elswit '75** (Director of Photography)

*Frankenstein*

**Evan Schiff '04** (Editor)

*Games We Play*

**Raza Rizvi '23** (Producer)

**Abhineet Kumar '23** (Producer)

*Hamnet*

**Steven Spielberg** (Producer)

*The Housemaid*

**Paul Feig '84** (Director/Producer)

**John Schwartzman '85** (Director of Photography)

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## *Keeper*

**Penny Lin '18** (Associate Producer)

## *Last Days*

**Ben Ripley '95** (Writer)

## *Nuremberg*

**James Vanderbilt '99** (Director/Writer/Producer)

## *Predator: Badlands*

**Patrick Aison '03** (Writer)

## *Rebuilding*

**Douglas Choi '05** (Executive Producer)

## *Rental Family*

**Hikari '11** (Director/Writer/Producer)

## *Roofman*

**Jonathan Glickman** (Executive Producer)

## *Sarah's Oil*

**Cyrus Nowrasteh '77** (Director/Writer/Producer)

## *Trap House*

**Paul O. Davis '00 MFA '04** (Producer)

## *Tron: Ares*

**Jeffrey Cronenweth '85** (Director of Photography)

## *Tuner*

**Christina Piovesan '04** (Executive Producer)

## *Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery*

**Rian Johnson '96** (Director/Writer/Producer)

**Steve Yedlin '96** (Cinematographer)

**Bob Ducsay '88** (Editor)

## *Wicked: For Good*

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**Jon M. Chu '03** (Director)

**Dana Fox '00** (Writer/Producer)

**Alice Brooks '01** (Director of Photography)

*The Woman in Cabin 10*

**Mark Day '79** (Editor)

*Zootopia 2*

**Ke Huy Quan '99** (Cast)

**Grace C. Kim '10** (Casting Director)

## **New TV in Release**

*Abbott Elementary*, Season 5 (ABC)

**Ava Coleman '15** (Writer)

*The Artist* (The Network)

**Robert Hoffman '92** (Editor)

*Being Eddie* (Netflix)

**Will Znidaric '96** (Editor)

*Boots* (Netflix)

**Megan Ferrell Burke '07** (Story Editor)

*Boston Blue* (CBS)

**Randy Zisk '81** (Director/Co-Executive Producer)

**Brandon Sonnier '04** (Writer/Showrunner/Executive Producer)

**Rebecca Perry Cutter '05** (Writer/Consulting Producer)

*Chicago Fire*, Season 14 (NBC)

**Avi Youabian '02** (Director)

*DMV* (CBS)

**Aaron Kaplan '90** (Executive Producer)

*Elsbeth*, Season 3 (CBS)

**Ron Underwood '74** (Director)

**Erica Shelton '98** (Writer)

**Zoe Marshall '15** (Supervising Producer)

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**Liz Glotzer '85** (Executive Producer)

**John Aronson '87, MFA '89** (Director of Photography)

*Grey's Anatomy*, Season 22 (ABC)

**Shonda Rhimes '94** (Creator/Executive Producer)

**Jess Righthand '17** (Producer)

**Byron Shah '98** (Director of Photography)

**Madison Margeaux '21** (Writers' Assistant)

**Sophia Arnao '22** (Writer's Assistant)

*The Last Frontier* (Apple TV)

**Akela Cooper '06** (Writer)

**Kelli Johnson '09, MFA '13** (Writer, Co-Producer)

**Shelby Malone '15** (Producer)

*Love Is Blind*, Season 9 (Netflix)

**Ewa Mularczyk '06** (Co-executive Producer/Supervising Story Producer)

*Marvel Zombies* (Disney+)

**Kevin Feige '95** (Executive Producer)

**Brad Winderbaum '05** (Executive Producer)

*The Mighty Nein* (Prime Video)

**Matthew Mercer '10** (Executive Producer)

*NCIS*, Season 22 (CBS)

**Marco Schnabel '93** (Co-Executive Producer/Writer)

**Avery C. Drewe '84** (Co-Executive Producer)

**Steven D. Binder '93** (Executive Producer/Writer)

*The Neighborhood*, Season 8 (CBS)

**Robbie Countryman '88** (Director)

**Aaron Kaplan '90** (Executive Producer)

**Amy Skjonsby-Winslow '92** (Production Designer)

*Pluribus* (Apple TV)

**Peter Gould '90** (Executive Producer)

*Red Alert* (Paramount+)

**Lior Chefetz '09** (Writer/Director)

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*Selling Sunset*, Season 9 (Netflix)

**Pyongson Yim '03** (Co-Executive Producer)

*Sheriff Country* (CBS)

**Obiageli Odimegwu '19** (Writer/Producer)

*Stick*, Season 2 (Apple TV)

**Jaffar Mahmood '02** (Director/Executive Producer)

*Stranger Things*, Season 5 (Netflix)

**Shawn Levy '94** (Director/Executive Producer)

*St. Denis Medical*, Season 2 (NBC)

**Jeffrey Blitz '97** (Director)

**Yana Gorskaya '02** (Director)

*Sullivan's Crossing*, Season 4 (The CW)

**Josh Granovsky '22** (Executive Story Editor)

*Tracker*, Season 2 (CBS)

**Amanda Mortlock '09 (SCA/Marshall)** (Writer)

**Neda Davarpanah '18 (SCA/Dornsife)** (Writer)

Any omissions or errors on this list are unintentional. If your name is missing from a project or if you have an upcoming credit or news item that you'd like shared in future Hot Sheets or for In Motion, please submit your project or upcoming credit through the [Hot Sheet Submission Form](#). Thank you, and Fight On!