

ROADMAP  WRITERS

# YEAR in REVIEW

## A MESSAGE FROM CEO/CO-FOUNDER JOEY TUCCIO

2024 was a year of the unknown. The industry is rapidly evolving, but splashy stories and interesting points of view have stayed in vogue no matter what changes. The hunger for exciting voices feels more ravenous than ever as the spotlight has turned even more to the writer behind the script and what they bring to the table.

Writers from all over the world continue to get signed through our programs and introductions. In 2024, we helped 61 writers get signed to representation. We also built out our Kids TV Division for writers in the preschool to teen space. We also launched our UK Division to help UK writers connect with UK execs. More success stories include two writers' scripts going into production in 2024 (including 1 writer who had FIVE scripts produced following a meeting she had through Roadmap), 1 author's book published by Penguin, multiple writers hired, and even more writers staffed. We also worked with the WGA Committees, introducing writers to their now managers at Underground and Lit Entertainment Group.

I continue to be inspired by the tenacity of our writers. So far in 2025, two writers' scripts are going into production as a direct result of Roadmap's introductions. Additionally, there are Roadmappers in nearly every studio fellowship in town, utilizing what they learned from our programs to ace their interviews and effectively pitch their unique voices. I'm also so grateful for our community which has continued to support animals in need through my rescue Starts With One Today.

2025 is going to be an incredible year for our writers as we have already seen an increase in signings from last year-to-date. Help us help you get noticed by your perfect manager! Push your splashiest projects. Define what makes you unique as a human and ensure it influences your writing. Since our founding in 2016, Roadmap's motto has been "Get real. Get ready. Get traction." But as of 2025, we're updating that ethos a bit:

**Get real. Get ready. Get repped!**

# 2024

## BY THE NUMBERS

### ROADMAP STATS

25

Free programs offered  
(including webinars)

12

Average #  
of monthly programs

12

# of dogs fostered by  
clients & staff

150+

Daily emails sent  
to execs for our writers

143

# of Roadmapper  
Home Countries

20

# of new classes



3 MEMBERS  
joined the  
RoadCrew

**GABRIEL  
THEIS**

**TERRI  
DWYER**

**WILLIAM  
PRICE**

Director of  
Education  
Alex's Pick for  
Best Class!

Psychology  
101 for  
Screenwriters



Most Popular  
Class with  
Clients!

Breaking  
in with  
Holiday  
Romance





## SIGNING STATS

# 128

NEW EXECS ADDED  
TO OUR ROSTER

# 33

COMPANIES  
THAT SIGNED  
OUR WRITERS

AVERAGE  
NO. OF  
MONTHLY  
SIGNINGS

# 5

MONTH  
WITH  
MOST  
SIGNINGS

# OCT: 10

# 61

WRITERS  
SIGNED TO  
REPRESENTATION

## BREAKDOWN OF MONTHLY SIGNINGS

Jan: 8

Feb: 2

March: 5

April: 4

May: 4

June: 2

July: 3

August: 5

Sept: 9

Oct: 10

Nov: 6

Dec: 2

COMPANIES  
THAT SIGNED  
ROADMAPPERS  
IN 2024

3 Arts  
Affirmative  
Entertainment  
Artillery Creative  
Bohemia Group  
Citizen Skull  
Content House  
CT Media  
CultureCreative  
Echo Lake  
Endless Media  
Ensemble  
Entertainment  
Framework  
Gotham Group  
Gramercy  
Entertainment  
Heroes and Villains  
Housefire  
Management  
Innovative Artists  
Kaplan Stahler  
Leigh Hill  
Management  
Lit Entertainment  
Luber Roklin  
Marilyn Atlas  
Management  
Navigation Media  
One Moorer Media  
Persistent  
Entertainment  
Rain Management  
Sandstone Artists  
The Cartel  
Time Train  
Underground  
Verve  
Writ Large  
Zero Gravity  
Management

## INDUSTRY READ REQUESTS

# 4.25%

WRITERS RATED  
WITH MOSTLY (4 OUT OF 7)  
EXCELLENT/VIRTUALLY FLAWLESS  
FROM FULL-READ CONSULTS

= **53 WRITERS**

# 2.6%

WRITERS RATED W/ ALL  
EXCELLENT/VIRTUALLY  
FLAWLESS FROM  
FULL-READ CONSULTS

= **33 WRITERS**

# 204

HIGHEST NUMBER OF  
SCRIPT REQUESTS  
IN ONE MONTH

## Writers Signed in 2024

Ama Anane  
Ashley Sims  
Bernadette York  
Bryan Chesters  
Bryce Berkowitz  
Charlie Zicari  
Christian L. Scott  
Chrissy Maroon  
Courtney Harrell  
Craig T Williams  
David Zeltser  
Eamonn Cogan  
Elisabeth Tsubota  
Emily Rose Laochua  
Gerardo Maravilla  
Goldie Jones  
Jack Stranger  
Jaime Kawamoto  
Jamison McDermott  
Jennifer Coates  
Jimmy Miller

Jibreel Turner  
& Kenneth Hicks  
Joey Day Hargrove  
Joseph Velazquez  
Karen Pluemer  
Kelly Woyan  
Kevin Luperchio  
Kristin Palombo  
Laurie McKinsey  
Lindsay Grossman  
Lisa Cole  
Maggie Stabile  
Marisa Marquez  
Mark Rosati  
Marquita Owens  
Robinson  
Matt Bailey  
Matt Foss  
Meemee Taylor  
Megan Mazer  
Melody Herr

Michael Gutierrez  
Michi Broman  
Monique Madrid  
Nicole Falsetti  
Noelle Figueroa  
Reenita Hora  
Richard Nguyen  
Robert Axelrod  
Sam Potochick  
Samantha Clay  
Sean Rivas  
Shaun Crawford  
Stacey Russell  
Stephen Potts  
Spiro Skentzos  
Tim Day  
Tyler Spiers  
Vanita Borwankar  
Wei-Ling Chang  
William Strong

## Intern Shoutouts

Roadmap Writers partners with UCF, University of Denver, and University of Nevada, Las Vegas to give exceptional students the opportunity to put their classroom skills to the test!

Interested in an internship?

Email [alex@roadmapwriters.com](mailto:alex@roadmapwriters.com)

Alexandra St Julien

Allie Keene

Anthony McGurnn

Cody Vanhoutte

Edmund Tyle

Erik Carvajal

Fabiana Aguado Manzano

Joy Hickman

Junior Toure

Kaitlyn Sookdeo

Kiara Banerjee

Priscilla Pina

Samantha Hooker

Xiomara Moreno





# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

As a premier screenwriting education and training platform, Roadmap Writers is dedicated to guiding career-focused writers toward professional success in film and television. Since our inception in 2016, we have proudly championed the voices of underrepresented communities. As we celebrate our 9th anniversary, we remain steadfast in our commitment to diversity through the **Coletta Preacely-Garcia Diversity Fellowship**.

This fellowship honors the legacy of Coletta Preacely-Garcia, a passionate and hardworking screenwriter of color whose rising career was tragically cut short in 2016. Coletta embodied the relentless determination required to succeed in this industry—constantly writing, rewriting, and seizing every opportunity to refine her craft and build meaningful connections. Through this fellowship, we uplift diverse writers who share that same tenacious spirit.

Now offered quarterly and always FREE to apply, the fellowship awards:

- ONE Grand Prize Winner receives a full scholarship to Steps 1-4 of our Career Writer Program (a \$1,800 value!)
- ONE Runner-Up receives a scholarship for Step 1: Pitch Prep Program (a \$450 value!)

Roadmap Writers has helped more than 450 writers secure representation, while many others have been staffed on TV shows, had their scripts optioned, or sold their work. Through the Coletta Preacely-Garcia Diversity Fellowship, underrepresented writers gain access to immersive training, industry mentorship, and a competitive edge in the marketplace by connecting with working professionals from anywhere in the world.

We are proud to continue championing emerging diverse voices and can't wait to see who breaks through next!

**Tiffany Yarde, Director of Competitions**

## # OF DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS



### 2024 Diversity Fellowship Winners:

**MARISA MARTINEZ-MARQUEZ**

**CARRINGTON WALSH**

## # OF DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP WINNERS



### 2024 Diversity Fellowship Runners-Up:

**JOSIAH BROWN**

**EM IVANOV**



# COMPETITIONS

Since our inception in 2016, Roadmap Writers has consistently proven to be much more than just an educational platform—we're true advocates for emerging storytellers. Our competitions are just one way we identify unique voices that stand out from the crowd.

With a deep commitment to championing writers at every stage of their careers, Roadmap provides invaluable mentorship, industry insights, and direct access to executives who can help shape a writer's trajectory. Through personalized feedback, career coaching, and a supportive community, we create an environment where creativity thrives and industry doors open—and not just for our grand prize winners (most of our competitions include tangible benefits for the Top 50!).

Our dedication to amplifying unique voices has led to career-launching results, with over 450 writers having secured representation through our programs. By fostering real opportunities and meaningful industry connections, Roadmap Writers has established itself as an essential resource for any writer looking to break into the entertainment industry with confidence and clarity.

**Tiffany Yarde, Director of Competitions**

## # OF ROADMAP ACCELERATOR APPLICANTS



## ROADMAP ACCELERATOR RECOMMEND RATE %



## # OF 2X QUALIFYING WRITERS



## # OF SCRIPT REQUESTS



## # OF NEW COMPETITIONS



## # OF TOTAL COMPETITIONS



### JUMPSTART WINNER, FEATURE

**BRYCE BERKOWITZ**

### JUMPSTART WINNER, PILOT

**FAROOK QAIS**

### JUMPSTART RUNNER UP, FEATURE

**MICHAEL ELLIOTT**

### JUMPSTART RUNNER UP, PILOT

**SAMANTHA LAVIN**

**WINNER,  
TOP TIER COMP.  
CHARMAINE COLINA**

**WINNER,  
SHORT SCRIPT  
JOSHUA HEATON**

**WINNER,  
SHORT SCRIPT  
KAMEISHA WOOTEN**



# ROADCREW

## SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE:

Keeping up to date with current social media trends, Roadmap Writers expanded our digital presence in 2024 by officially launching our TikTok, Threads, & BlueSky accounts, and hosting our first Virtual Holiday Party!

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, & TikTok as @roadmapwriters, on Facebook & LinkedIn as Roadmap Writers, and on BlueSky as @roadmapwriters.com

### 2024 Social Media Committee Members:

#### SARAH MARSH (Head of Discord):

A writer from San Diego, CA, Sarah grew up in a Polish and Mexican family, meaning Christmas involved both pierogies and tamales. Sarah is interested in telling stories that highlight the ups and downs, struggles, and victories of people who straddle different worlds, seeking love and validation in their quests to better understand themselves.

#### G.T. CRUZ (Head of TikTok):

IG: @gtcruz

Afro-Indigenous-Latine Writer-Producer GT has been accepted into a handful of programs including the NHMC Writing Fellowship, CBS Writing Mentor Program, and the ABC Native TV Workshop. He has notched several feature writing assignments on his belt including period pieces, mystery thrillers, and action, and has optioned multiple 1-hr drama pilots.

#### JOSH ELLIOTT (researcher, content curator, and meme scholar):

Twitter: @TheGreatJoshby

A Black writer from Austin, TX, Josh now resides in Los Angeles, CA, where he works as a literary assistant at Art/Work Entertainment aiding clients including Eric Heisserer (ARRIVAL) & Erin Cressida Wilson (SECRETARY; THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN).

#### TORI SMITH (Head of Facebook & LinkedIn):

Tori Smith (Hartshorn) is a screenwriter by way of stand-up, sketch, and improv comedy. Represented by Citizen Skull Entertainment, Tori graduated from The University of Georgia with a BA in Journalism and Mass Communications. Her previous experience includes tenure at AMC Networks and NBCUniversal. With over ten years of experience in film/TV and theater, Tori has worked on such sets as THE VAMPIRE DIARIES, THE HUNGER GAMES, and FAMILY FEUD.

#### ALEXIS ADKINS (Head of Instagram & Threads):

An Austin-based multi-hyphenate filmmaker who enjoys creating twisted female characters, Alexis has worked as a producer, actor, director, and screenwriter all over America and draws inspiration from her travels. In her spare time, Alexis moderates sessions for Roadmap Writers and is active in animal rescue and welfare.

#### ANA PERES (Head of Twitter & BlueSky):

A horror writer-director from Brazil, Ana graduated from UCLA's Professional Program in Writing for Television and is pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing. Her horror feature film, LEGADO, is currently in post-production. Last year, Ana wrote and directed short films in USC's Horror Analysis & Film Production summer program, as well as wrote and directed an independent short film.

## NEW ROADCREW:

### GABRIEL THEIS, Director of Digital Marketing & Brand Management

A neurodivergent writer/director from Houston, Texas, Gabriel writes playful, subversive genre features with a life-affirming ethos. After seeing the glamour of show business by getting snacks for Drake and Travis Scott, Gabriel wrote, directed, and produced the mockumentary, THE CURSE OF PROFESSOR ZARDONICUS.

After being Roadmap's Head of Twitter, Gabriel was promoted to Director of Digital Marketing & Brand Management. He's repped by Industry Entertainment. To see Gabriel's hot takes, you can read his bylines at Fangoria, Dread Central, Polygon, and more.

### FORMER ROADCREW (WHERE ARE THEY NOW?)

We are so proud of our former employees who now work at **Hulu**, **Hillman Grad**, and **MarVista**, and who have sold projects to **Netflix** and **Skydance**!

We'd also like to congratulate former RoadCrew James Moorer on launching his management company **One Moorer Media**!

### MEGAN LEE (Success Stories Curator):

A comedy writer from South Florida, based in LA, Megan writes character-driven comedies that force us to ask ourselves what it means to be human—and laugh as we learn to forgive ourselves for it. Though her vocabulary is saturated with SAT words, she curses enough to make a sailor blush.





# ROADCREW

## ROADMAP U.K.

In 2024, Roadmap Writers officially went global by launching **Roadmap U.K.** to introduce UK-based screenwriters to UK-based execs, agents, and more. **William Prince** and **Terri Dwyer** are Roadmap Writers' UK Program Consultants.

To kick things off, we launched a [free initiative](#) inviting all writers from the UK and Republic of Ireland to submit their logline, bio, and screenplay for consideration. After creating a database of vetted writers to promote to the UK industry, we'll name 3 winners to discuss their projects and career paths with the UK RoadCrew. Those winners will receive face-to-face meetings and the Grand Prize winner will receive a free week at Roadmap's Scotland Retreat.



### WILLIAM PRINCE



William Prince was Operations and Finance Director at Fifth Season-backed Motive Pictures helping build the operations and infrastructure from the ground up and working on projects including *THE WOMAN IN THE WALL* (BBC/Showtime), *ONE NIGHT* (Paramount+), *GET MILLIE BLACK* (Channel 4/HBO), and the recently greenlit *YOUNG SHERLOCK* (Amazon). William then joined Little Island Productions (*PATRICK MELROSE* [Showtime/Sky Atlantic], *WHEEL OF TIME* [Amazon/Sony]), as their COO and Executive Producer before setting up his production company Level Six Films and joining forces to co-produce with Terri Dwyer of Buffalo Dragon. William & Terri have multiple Film & TV projects in development together and are now actively pitching to UK- and US-based commissioners. As a writer himself, William knows how difficult it is to land an agent and progress in the industry, so joining forces with Roadmap Writers is an exciting and very rewarding start to 2025.

### TERRI DWYER



Terri Dwyer is a BAFTA-nominated and multi-award-winning producer from the UK. Terri first produced the hugely successful play *Revlon Girl*, which was nominated for a prestigious Oliver Award for writing. In 2020, Terri launched her production company Buffalo Dragon and has successfully released a number of films into the marketplace. Terri has built an exciting slate of TV and film projects to co-produce with William Prince of Level Six Films, putting them both in a perfect position to partner with Roadmap Writers to help launch the brand into the UK.





# INTERVIEWS



## **JANET JEFFRIES**

**Production & Development  
Executive, Lawrence Bender  
Productions**

*Janet offers Month Mentorships,  
Consultations, Rewrite Clinics,  
Webinars, and more!*

### **WHAT QUALITIES EXCITE YOU ABOUT A SCRIPT?**

Great, well-rounded characters and dialogue that pop off the page.

Keep your description focused on a cinematic experience with clean paragraphs (about 3-4 sentences long). Write a script that creates a visual story; don't tell us what the character is processing with their thoughts, let the dialogue and actions give us that information.

And with all of this, write a great story where you've created an experience where we as readers get a sense of what is behind a character's eyes and interactions with others, making the scene feel lived in as a realistic exchange.

### **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT ROADMAP WRITERS?**

Roadmap is a strong, accessible outlet for writers looking for outreach and connectivity to a broad range of executives, managers, and fellow writers as well as a wide variety of programs (rewrite clinics, panel discussions, pitch practice, etc...). And all of this is easily accessible online. I also think the outreach both in the US and internationally is great to introduce writers who don't know how to break into Hollywood.

### **ANY ADVICE FOR EMERGING WRITERS IN 2025?**

Keep at it! Be original! Write what you know and don't try to shove yourself in one category or another. Your brand is important; remember it can be that you write strong characters with some sort of unique specialty, flaw, or archetype (i.e. unsung heroes, etc...) Why are you the perfect writer for a story like this?

## **TOP EXECS FOR CONSULTATIONS**

20. Kira Innes
19. Ryan Stayton
18. Gio Bakunawa
17. Nicholas Bogner
16. Sydne Klein
15. Jacob Hayman
14. Brad Kessell
13. Nadya Panfilov
12. Colleen Labella
11. Justin Ross
10. Jack Geiger
9. Adrian Gonzalez
8. Justin Lee
7. Chris Deckard
6. Mitchell Bendersky
5. Lexi Lewis
4. David Baggelaar
3. John Thomas
2. Brian Williamson

And 2024's top-booked consult Exec:

**Andrew Kersey!**

**\*Editor's Note: Andrew Kersey has been the #1 Exec 2 Years running!**



## **NICHOLAS BOGNER**

**Manager/Producer,  
Affirmative Entertainment**

*Nicholas offers Consultations,  
Incubators, Rewrite Clinics, & more!*

### **WHAT QUALITIES EXCITE YOU ABOUT A SCRIPT?**

When a writer's voice is very apparent. What's voice, you're now asking? Hard to answer, but it means there's something very distinctive and unique about the writing.

### **ANY ADVICE FOR EMERGING WRITERS IN 2025?**

Have at least two complimentary scripts ready for a potential rep. Don't tell them you have ten, because you'll scare them away.

### **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING WITH ROADMAP WRITERS?**

I've lost count of how many Roadmappers I've signed over the last several years. Thanks to Roadmap's expertise, the writers I work with as eventual clients or via mentoring are very well-schooled on the norms of the business and how things work. They also have a true POV on their own material while being very accepting of notes and understanding the notion of the "note behind the note." Yet they're not pushovers, either. All in all, I am extremely impressed by the overall quality and I love how zealously Roadmap advocates for writers to find representation.





# INTERVIEWS



## KELLY GALLAGHER

**Story Editor,  
Dark Castle Entertainment**

*Kelly offers Consultations,  
Webinars, Roundtables, & more!*

### WHAT EXCITES YOU IN A SCRIPT?

Highly specific/messy/real characters. I think writers can fall into the trap of trying to make characters “likable” and lose all their specificity along the way. I’m also excited by a clever voice that demonstrates a nimbleness of language and observational power. I also always want my expectations to be subverted!

### WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING WITH ROADMAP?

Meeting writers from all walks of life. I also love when, as often happens, I do a roundtable with all different kinds of writers, but common fictional or real-life themes or ideas emerge. It reminds me that the emotions evoked by stories can unite us.

### ANY ADVICE FOR EMERGING WRITERS IN 2025?

Don’t chase trends, but pay close attention to the marketplace. Always keep in mind that movies take (at best) several years to make, so try to project forward to what audiences will want down the line, not what they’re watching now. Also, look for ways to reinvent or reinterpret classic formats – cops & robbers/hospital shows/legal procedurals – for the streaming era.



## ELLA SCHAEFER

**Signed Writer  
#342**

### WHAT’S YOUR WRITER ORIGIN STORY?

I was in front of the camera for a minute before I decided to fully pursue a career off-screen. I always had big ideas for movies and TV shows, but I wanted someone else to do the work of writing. One day, I finally stopped being lazy and terrified and sat down to write!

### YOU WORK IN TWO SEEMINGLY DISPARATE GENRES. WHAT DRAWS YOU TO THEM?

I mostly write rom-coms and horror... which are total opposites, now that I’m saying it out loud. But they both have a lot of comedy in their DNA. These two genres really bring fun to the forefront – if I’m not having fun, there’s a problem.

### WHAT’S THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF ROADMAP WRITERS?

Hands down, community. I’ve made some very dear friends through Roadmap and I don’t know what life would look like without them. I’m developing a project with one of my Roadmap besties for Smokeshow, and I cannot wait for everyone to see it.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO HAVE A PROJECT IN DEVELOPMENT AT JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP?

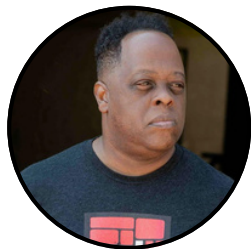
Very exciting to be getting paid to do what I love! Working with a producer to develop a concept always gets those good creative juices flowing to make you think outside of the box. But more exciting to me is my company Smokeshow, which I’ve officially launched with my creative partner Rena Sapon-White. We published a sapphic rom-com novel last year and made it to the Top 10 on Amazon’s Lesbian Fiction Bestsellers.

We’re currently developing the novel into a movie, as well as developing several other film, TV, podcast, merch, and book ideas that center queer and female voices (some of which I worked on throughout my Roadmap classes and conceptualized through Sunday’s logline writing sessions!). We’ve been hungry for the kind of femme, campy, and earnest content we see in other areas of pop culture, so we’re making it our mission to bring it alive in this space.

**ELLA SCHAEFER** is a multi-hyphenate originally from Niceville, FL—yep, that’s a real place. After heading to LA from Florida State University, an agent told Ella she had a face for comedy, so she took her funny face to UCB, Groundlings, and iO to improvise and write. Ella has since starred on network TV shows like *CONAN*, *CRIMINAL MINDS*, and *LOITER SQUAD* professionally developed and sold feature film scripts, and written and directed shorts of her own. She recently partnered with Reel One Entertainment and Fireside Pictures to write rom-com features and just published her debut sapphic novel, *The Christmas Pic*. Ella’s brain trends toward wildly imaginative premises grounded in funny fucked-up females failing to flourish (she also loves alliteration). Aside from her filmmaking pursuits, Ella is a professional photographer and has managed social media marketing efforts for high-profile clients like astronaut Michael Collins. After work, you can find Ella reading her own low-performing tweets or watching tennis (even though she’s literally never played a day in her life).



# INTERVIEWS



## **CRAIG T. WILLIAMS**

**Signed Writer  
#398**

New York native **CRAIG T. WILLIAMS** is a writer / producer at Red Wall Productions, a film production company he founded over 20 years ago with his wife and partner, Rosalyn Coleman Williams. Together, they have created over 50 film projects, including features, documentaries, and narrative short films. His journey landed him his first staff writing job on the hit TV show *TERROR LAKE DRIVE* on ALLBLK. Craig was part of the 2021 Warner Bros. Discovery All Access Writers' Program. He has several projects in development, including a 1-hour mystery procedural called *THE CONNECTORS* and a feature film he wrote and will produce called *BLACK BOYS DON'T SEW*, which has Viola Davis attached as Executive Producer. He was just hired by Polaris Media Lab to write the feature film *SMALL WONDERS*, about a disillusioned science teacher who gets elected to Congress, where he takes on a narcissistic tech billionaire to save the country's green spaces from becoming privatized. And it's a musical! Craig is the Executive Director of the newly launched *Men of Color Unite (MOCU)*, a social action and 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that focuses on remedying the inequities that face Men of Color in today's entertainment and media industries.



## **CARRINGTON WALSH**

**Coletta Precacy-Garcia Diversity Fellowship Winner**

A genre writer from LA, but based in Paris, France, **CARRINGTON WALSH** collected a myriad of stories from a short stint as a saleswoman for a cultish German tech startup and even more eclectic tales from a longer stint as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Democratic party in Washington, DC. A Harvard graduate, Carrington has a particular love for sci-fi and fantasy YA featuring BIPOC ensembles in settings that haven't traditionally included Black women. She's been a finalist in Harvardwood's TV Writers Competition, a semifinalist in Roadmap Writers' Diversity Fellowship, a quarterfinalist in WeScreenplay's Diverse Voices Lab, and a quarterfinalist in Moonshot Pilot Accelerator. In her spare time, Carrington unwinds by baking more cookies than she could ever consume.

### **WHAT'S YOUR WRITER ORIGIN STORY?**

I'm a Harlem-born, Bronx-raised kid who came to writing later than most. I was in my mid-30s when I wrote and produced my first short, directed by my then-new wife. We just celebrated our 23rd wedding anniversary and in that time she and I have produced more than 50 film projects together. As a writer, I've had the good fortune to win many fellowships and competitions including Warner Brothers Discovery All Access TV Writers Program, The Gotham Film and Media - "TV Series Creator to Watch", New York Stage and Film Feature Writers Fellowship, IFP Episodic Lab - 2019, and the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) Best Original Half-Hour Comedy Pilot.

### **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THE ROADMAP COMMUNITY?**

The other writers. As part of the Success Story Zooms, I get to hear writers pitch their projects to executives and they hear mine. It's such a supportive atmosphere and we're learning from each other with every encounter. It's an honor to be on this journey with them.

### **WHY IS DIVERSITY IMPORTANT IN STORYTELLING?**

At the core of every good story is juxtaposition or seeing something from another angle. As a mixed-race dual citizen who's lived in 6 cities in 4 countries in my adult life, I'm constantly seeing things from another angle. Without the inclusion of voices from underrepresented backgrounds, we as a society risk telling the same stories in the same ways over and over again.

### **ANY TIPS FOR FUTURE DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS?**

Apply again! I applied once and did not get selected, but I was determined and knew this program would be an incredible fit. So I reapplied with another script. And don't doubt your own writing! Shoot your shot. As a famous Canadian and former LA King once said, you miss 100% of the shots you don't take. I very much live by that.

### **DESCRIBE YOUR VOICE AND HOW IT IS REFLECTED IN YOUR WRITING.**

As a husband and father, I write comedies that amplify the grounded Black family experience. Somewhere between *BLACK-ISH* and *THIS IS US*, my voice celebrates what makes us unique but also shows how across cultures and ethnicities we all want the same things—for our families to thrive and prosper. And bacon... My writing is better with bacon.

### **WHAT WAS THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF THE MONTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?**

The really wonderful thing about the Month Mentorship program was meeting such generous and thoughtful executives. It's where I met Martin To, who, after our mentorship ended, became my agent! It was a great opportunity for him to get to know me and, just as important, I got to know him. It's a really valuable tool in nurturing relationships between writers and the industry.

### **HOW DO YOUR LIVED EXPERIENCES REFLECT IN YOUR WORK?**

A boss of mine once told me I'd worked too many jobs for someone so young. Combined with the number of cities I've lived in, I think that fact really informs my writing. I've met so many different kinds of people, whether it's classmates from when I studied abroad in Sweden, colleagues while I worked in D.C. politics, or friends I made working at a West Coast start-up. All of my stories reflect the communities I've been blessed enough to be a part of and usually unpacks a question of identity within one of these environments.

### **WHAT DID IT MEAN FOR YOU TO WIN THE DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP?**

I feel so honored to be selected for Roadmap's Diversity Fellowship. As someone who writes stories with ensemble casts that are as eclectic as my own friend groups, it means a lot to have those stories recognized.



# INTERVIEWS



## GERARDO MARAVILLA

**Signed Writer #378**  
**Winner, 2023 Shorts Competition**

**GERARDO "GERRY" MARAVILLA** is a Mexican-American writer/director based in Los Angeles. Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, he escaped his suburban Catholic upbringing through punk rock and horror movies. A bicultural lovechild of Tim Burton and Guillermo del Toro, he crafts supernatural horror stories with heart. He's been a Film Independent Project Involve Writing Fellow, a New York Film Festival Artist Academy Fellow, and a Latino Film Institute Inclusion Fellow. He also developed his work through Cine Qua Non's Storylines Lab, Hola Mexico's Tomorrow's Filmmakers Today, and Stowe Story Labs. His films have screened at Palm Springs ShortFest, the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF), and Bogo Shorts, among others. His feature script, *Niño de Vidrio* (Child of Glass), was developed at Cine Qua Non's Storylines Lab, and the short version won the 2023 Roadmap Writers Short Script Competition. As a Latino Inclusion Fellow, he completed his latest short, the surreal drama *Enseñame Como Morir* (Show Me How to Die). He recently released the first issue of his limited series comic book, *The Halloween Club*.

### WHAT DRAWS YOU TO HORROR?

I'm drawn to horror and genre filmmaking, in particular, as they give me the tools to explore deep, visceral emotions – like grief, loneliness, resilience, and mental health struggles – through surreal and heightened realities that externalize inner conflicts and make the intangible – like fear, loss, trauma, and longing – feel real and immediate. I see genre as a way to express the things we often leave unspoken – sometimes because we just don't have the words to communicate them. As a Mexican-American filmmaker, I also love that horror and fantasy create opportunities for underrepresented voices.

### WHAT'S YOUR WRITER ORIGIN STORY?

I've always been drawn to storytelling, but writing became my way of making sense of the world. Growing up Mexican-American, I often felt like I existed in between spaces, not fully belonging to either place. That sense of being an outsider naturally led me to explore characters who are searching for connection, identity, and meaning. Writing allows me a cathartic space to process my own experiences while also creating stories that reflect underrepresented perspectives, especially within the Latino community. My goal has always been to tell stories that feel both deeply personal and universally resonant, whether through supernatural horror, coming-of-age narratives, or deeply human dramas. I'm especially interested in blending these genres with cultural and personal themes, using folklore, mythology, and history as a backdrop for stories that feel both intimate and universal.

### WHAT DID IT MEAN FOR YOU TO WIN OUR 2023 SHORTS COMP?

Winning the 2023 Short Script Competition was a huge milestone for me. Beyond the validation of my work, it opened doors that have helped me move forward in my career. As a result of the competition, I was able to sign with a manager, which has been instrumental in helping me navigate

the industry, develop my projects, and take the next steps toward making my first feature. Having *Niño de Vidrio* recognized in this way reinforced my belief that there's an audience for the kinds of stories I'm passionate about and it's only motivated me to keep pushing forward.

### ANY ADVICE FOR WRITERS TRYING TO GET INTO TOP TIER?

One of the most important things is to understand what Top Tier actually means for you. Is it about breaking in? Craft? Connections? Whatever it is, push yourself to grow in that direction. Intentionality matters a lot. Second, while writing can be a solitary exercise, filmmaking is also about collaboration and navigating creative relationships. Build genuine connections with other writers, filmmakers, and producers. Lastly, be clear on what makes your voice distinct. If someone else could have written your script, go deeper. I personally evaluate each of my projects by asking myself why the world would be a worse place if it did not exist. If I can't answer that question for myself honestly, then I think it's time to move on to another idea.







# INTERVIEWS



## SUZANNE GRIFFIN

Top Tier Alum  
Signed Writer #445

Screenwriter **SUZANNE GRIFFIN** creates darkly romantic dramas driven by female ambition and desire, whose fierce, witty protagonists risk everything as they claim the power of their voices and reinvent the world around them. The bi mom of a learning-disabled son, Suzanne has a passion for narratives that champion outsider voices. Chosen families, alliances among women, and the healing power of empathy are her frequent themes. Suzanne's a Stowe Story Labs/PAGE Awards Fellowship Winner for her drama pilot *The Sensualist*, and a 2x Nicholl Fellowship Semifinalist. Suzanne was mentored by showrunners JaNeika and JaSheika James (*GOSSIP GIRL*) through the WIF Mentoring Program. In 2024, Suzanne was selected for the HerArts Film Lab to develop a new Romantic Horror pilot and named a Stowe Story Labs / Bellem Entertainment Fellowship Finalist. She's been a Finalist for the CineStory Foundation TV Drama Fellowship, the Roadmap + Josephson Entertainment Short Story Award, and for the Austin Film Festival Screenwriting Competition. Suzanne is repped by Jonathan Taub at CT Media.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO BE RECENTLY SIGNED?

It's a great validation of a lot of hard work and risk-taking. I'm very grateful. It's been a joy, too, that my stories have allowed me to meet so many smart, passionate execs and peers in the past several years. I'm so looking forward to taking the work out into the world, collaborating, and creating new work and new relationships.

### WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF THE CAREER WRITER PROGRAM?

Building industry relationships. Before I joined the Top Tier Program, I had won a prestigious fellowship for a TV pilot but still wasn't meeting people in the industry who could offer me their advice, insights—and opportunities. After joining Top Tier, the number of my industry connections who believed in me and my work exploded. That gave me so much needed confidence and allowed me to push on.

### ANY ADVICE FOR UP-AND-COMING WRITERS LOOKING TO GET REPPED?

Everyone's journey is different. It's important not to compare the time it takes for you to be repped or to make a sale with the time it takes other writers. There are so many factors we can't control, like industry cycles, politics, discriminatory barriers, mandates, and the challenges in our personal lives. But any emerging writer can be ready for when the opportunities hit. All the writer success stories I know have certain components: strong relationships, a drive for excellence in the work, curiosity, a clear, compelling voice, a willingness to keep educating yourself, engagement with what's happening in the world, and a positive, supportive vibe. Successful writers build relationships broadly both with peers who share similar passions and with execs who will champion their voice. Don't go to meet-ups or into generals and only recite loglines and accolades. Be the curious, empathetic human being you are. Make a real connection. Believe that your voice and your perspective are your greatest assets, and lean into them – ideas without a voice go nowhere. Your voice will make you stand out and give your career longevity. Ask yourself why you are so compelled to tell your stories despite how difficult this career is. Do that emotional work and that answer will help sustain you through the setbacks. You'll be able to carry the power of that self-knowledge into every meeting. Learn from mentors and execs of all ages and backgrounds who have been or are in the trenches getting shows and films made. Read screenplays, pilots, novels, and plays, and listen to music that has story-telling power. Strive for that excellence that you see in the best narrative work in all genres and mediums. Remember that the incremental progress you make in developing your network and honing your craft may seem slow or insignificant, but it's what adds up to the big breakthroughs.

### WHAT'S YOUR WRITER ORIGIN STORY?

Writing seemed like a very natural path for me, growing up in a house filled with books with a costume designer dad who brought me to movies and the theater. In college, I studied English Lit and Art. The artwork I made always had narrative content; film school was a way to combine my passion for words and images. At NYU Grad Film, we were immediately thrown into the deep end, writing and directing our own shorts – on tight schedules and limited budgets – on the streets of New York. It was exhilarating. After school, I worked in film and video editing on indie and commercial projects. Editing is very analogous to writing and I learned so much about making a story move while still centering the film on the character's emotional journey. As I raised my learning-disabled son, I continued to write feature screenplays, winning an award from the Independent Feature Project. As streaming evolved, I dove into pilots – I love creating a show that can sustain a big, novelistic structure with a great ensemble of characters. I write darkly romantic dramas centered on female agency and desire with fierce, witty protagonists who won't take no for an answer.





# INTERVIEWS



**KATHRYN  
ORWIG**  
2024 GPS Fellow

**KATHRYN ORWIG** is an award-winning author, poet, and screenwriter. Most recently, she was named as one of the Top 25 Writers to Watch in 2024 by the International Screenwriters Association and one of the Top 10 Writers to Watch by the Golden Script Competition, and 1 of 4 selected recipients of Roadmap's 2024 GPS Fellowship. She has seven pieces of writing published in *Confined Connections* by Z Publishing House (2017) and five pieces in the anthology she founded with nine other talented writers titled *Bring Your Words: A Writer's Community Anthology* by Fifth Avenue Press (2021). Her *Romantasy* novel *The Shadow King* just placed as a Finalist in the 2024 #RevPit Annual Competition. Kathryn's YA novel *THE SEA CHILD* placed as a Top 10 Finalist in Roadmap's Write Start Manuscript Competition and Second Rounder in Launch Pad Prose earning it a Top 10 spot on Coverfly's Red List. In addition, *THE SEA CHILD* was selected for the First Five Pages Workshop where the guest agent chose the manuscript as the workshop winner and gave it a full manuscript critique. It was also selected for #RevPit 10 Queries and given a review by a #RevPit Editor. She holds a B.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Michigan. She is a neurodivergent writer who comes from a low-income background, which influences her writing greatly.

## WHAT DID IT MEAN FOR YOU TO BE ONE OF OUR 2024 GPS FELLOWS?

I was, am, and will always be grateful to have been selected as one of Roadmap's GPS Fellows! I thought it was amazing to work with such talented creatives from many backgrounds and writing experiences as we critiqued each other's work, learned from industry executives, and had great advice from mentors! I feel ready for the next stage in my career because of the guidance I received through the Fellowship.

## WHAT'S YOUR WRITER ORIGIN STORY?

I've been crafting stories since before I could hold a pen. In 6th grade, I wrote on a slip of paper I wanted to grow up to be a journalist (close enough, small self!). In high school, I wrote page after page in class after I finished homework, on buses, between work shifts, late at night, on sick days – writing was what I loved to do (still true). Whenever someone asks me what else I would do as my passion or career, I don't have an answer; writing is it. At the University of Michigan, I majored in Creative Writing, joined a writing club, and submitted my work for publication to journals and anthologies. Meanwhile, I fell in love with my screenwriting classes; having always written dialogue first when creating my novels and short stories, it felt very natural to write for the screen. Now, I have a book under consideration at multiple agencies (waiting for that rep offer to come in!), a script being shopped around town by an amazing agent, and a web series in development through an indie production company.

## HOW DOES YOUR EXPERIENCE IN BOTH NOVELS AND SCREENPLAYS INFORM YOUR WRITING?

Screenwriting has pushed my dialogue skills and I love how that translates into sharpening my dialogue in the novel space. If I get stuck on a scene in script writing, I will go explore it in prose to understand where the characters are in space, define a character's inner motivations, and discover how the conflict interweaves at that critical moment.

Then, I take what I've found back to the script. Both mediums offer a different level of insight into a story and each refines skills; I've only improved my craft by immersing myself in both.

## AS ONE OF INTERNATIONAL SCREENWRITERS ASSOCIATION'S TOP 25 WRITERS TO WATCH IN 2024, ANY ADVICE FOR UP-AND-COMING WRITERS LOOKING TO STAND OUT?

My first advice is always to keep going! Find a way to pursue your writing and have balance in your life, because some of the best (and worst) moments of living have influenced the best (and most heartfelt) parts of my stories. Second, work on a script that reflects you as a person; your background, your experiences, your little niche of the world you thought no one would be interested in (for me it's growing up in a small town in Michigan!). That piece tied to your story is very powerful and memorable since you are the only one who can tell it your way. Third, find a community that will champion you and your work and push you to be a better writer. Lastly, as writers, the biggest thing that will move your career forward is an undeniable script, so have fun writing it; it will get itself out there when it's ready. You'll know when you have it, trust me. And one very last thing, whatever you do, I hope you do it to the best of your abilities, have so much fun along the way, and support others joyfully – we are all in this together and that's what matters in the end.







# INTERVIEWS



**MARISA  
MARQUEZ**  
Diversity  
Fellowship Winner  
Signed Writer #428

**MARISA MARTINEZ-MARQUEZ** is a proud Filipina American. Playwright turned screenwriter, her focus on the complications of being Asian while American earned her multiple grants, publications, and honors, including being named 100 Most Influential Filipino Women. In addition to playwriting, this 17-year survivor of NYC made a living as a corporate events manager for a global law firm before opening her own events business. Marquez turned to fulfilling her dream of shifting into TV and film while living in London and received a grant to attend MetFilm School. Emmy-nominated executive producer Francie Calfo chose her for an Unlock Her Potential Mentorship in 2022. She was a 2023 Black List and Women in Film Episodic Lab semifinalist with her pilot THIRST. Work continues with a London team on her series MIND THE GAP, a top 13% of BBC Comedy Writers Room scripts in 2020. Marquez co-hosts the Paranormal POC Podcast, covering everything from supernatural to extraterrestrial through the BIPOC diaspora. She now splits her time between Los Angeles and the PNW Portland. Marquez, often the only person of color in creative spaces growing up, is driven by diversity in storytelling, ensuring future generations see their worth matched on the page, stage, and screen.

## WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO WRITE?

I started to write because I wanted to act. As a curvy Filipina American just coming up in NYC in the early '00s, there weren't ever any roles that fit my description, so I started writing them. I found a new kind of freedom I didn't have as an actor – an opportunity to craft my own story. As a playwright, I started to write shows reflecting the Filipino American experience. I fell in love with the opportunity that every blank page provided, a chance to create a world that not only had people who looked like me but the chance to make people of color the main characters.

## WHAT DID IT MEAN TO BE SELECTED FOR THE DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP?

It changed everything! James Mooror, who led the charge when I applied, changed my life by truly seeing me. That's how I felt about every instructor and many of the people I met through Roadmap. They actually saw me. To have a program that often celebrated the cultural nuances of my storytelling was life-affirming. There was so much to learn, especially about the business. You get so much inside information from execs to instructors; I felt more prepared for the business of it all. While the program is definitely challenging, I know I am a better writer and far more equipped to withstand the blows this career can dish out.

## ANY TIPS FOR DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS?

Be yourself and be prepared! Roadmap and all the executives, agents, and managers you meet are genuinely interested in who you are. They don't want a cookie-cutter version of you, they want everything that makes you unique. While all of the programs are amazing for exposure, that exposure means nothing if you don't have the goods to back it up. Your materials need to be in the best place possible and have 2 to 3 scripts minimum. All the programs are about improvement, so your stuff doesn't need to be perfect. They just need to reflect your effort, professionalism, and most importantly your voice. That first 10-15 pages is no joke. People will know if you understand the format, cleaned up spelling/grammar mistakes, and have a story that compels them to read past the first 10 pages because your voice is clear. My scripts got so much better because of the Career Writer Program, but I also made sure that I read over and watched all the free materials that Roadmap has to offer while going through the selection process. Plus, if selected, you want to be as prepared as possible – it's a serious amount of work! Also, I focused on TV, but I wish I had a feature ready, as well. There's a lot of talk about features and it would have been good to have that as something to talk about in my portfolio.



The Coletta Preacely-Garcia  
Diversity Fellowship





# 2024







**BE A  
HUMAN  
FIRST,  
A WRITER  
SECOND.**

**– Joey Tuccio  
CEO/Co-Founder,  
Roadmap Writers**