Creative Advisors’ Biographies

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ANJUM RAJABALI (Artistic Director)

His first film, Drohkaal (1992), was written in collaboration with director Govind Nihalani. Subsequently, 10 more films written by him have been released, including Ghulam and Raajneeti.

Along the way, he was also the Commissioning Editor of a TV channel, set up and headed the script department of a couple of production houses, and has been a script doctor and consultant to several films, including Gangaajal and Apaharan.

In 2004, he designed and set up India’s first full-fledged screenwriting department of which, he has since then been the honorary head, at the Film and Television Institute of India Pune (FTII). Since 2006, he has also been the head of Screenwriting at Whistling Woods International Mumbai.

He regularly conducts screenwriting workshops in India and abroad, has convened several national seminars on screenwriting, and has been a mentor in many script labs including eQuinxe Paris, NFDC India’s Script Lab, Mumbai Mantra|Sundance Institute Lab 2012, and MAISHA in East Africa, which is an annual commitment. He conducts the annual Indo-German Screenwriting Workshop in Berlin, and has co-initiated the Indo-Canadian Screenwriting Workshop in Vancouver.

Current assignments include Gaadha for Shaji N. Karun, an untitled film for Mahesh Mathai and one other project.

Anjum is a member of the Executive Committee of the Film Writers Association, and is convener of its committees on Copyright, the Minimum Basic Contract, and the Screenwriters Conference. He is also a member of the Central Board of Film Certification, and a trustee of the Centre for Education and Documentation.

DANTE HARPER

Dante Harper started as an independent filmmaker, directing The Delicate Art of the Rifle before going on to work as a producer and editor on many other indie projects and documentaries such as Cat Dancers and You’re Gonna Miss Me before Dreamland, a film project based on the life of Tim McVeigh, was accepted to the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab.

After the script garnered industry attention, he started working as a professional screenwriter, writing The Immortalist for Bennett Miller, a film adaptation The Wild Geese for Rupert Sanders, and the graphic novel adaptation Black Hole for David Fincher. His first spec script, All You Need is Kill, was listed as the 2010 Black List top action screenplay and will be released this summer as Edge of Tomorrow, starring Tom Cruise and directed by Doug Liman.

Most recently he’s worked on Ridley Scott’s Forever War, Gareth Edwards’ Forever, Marc Forster’s World War Z, Roland Emmerich’s Foundation and is currently working on adaptations of Jacques Becker’s Touchez Pas Au Grisbi, and Thomas Perry’s Metzger’s Dog. He lives in Los Angeles.
ELENA SOAREZ

Elena Soarez is a screenwriter with a BA in Economics and a Master’s Degree in Social Anthropology.

Her feature credits include Me You Them, screened in Un Certain Regard at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival and winner of the APCA Best Script Award: House of Sand, NHK / Sundance Award for Original Screenplay and nominee for Best Script Satellite Award 2006, and Twins, all directed by Andrucha Waddington. Also wrote Redeemer, with Claudio and Fernanda Torres; Diary of a Provincial Girl, winner of the 2005 Gramado Film Festival Best Screenplay Prize, Nome Própio (2007), City of Men (Panorama Berlin Festival 2012), Xingu (Panorama Berlin Festival 2012), Father’s Chair (World Competition at Sundance Festival 2012 and Best Film by the Audience Choice at Rio International Film Festival 2012). On 2013 she wrote Pas de Deux, Carlos Saldanha Rio I Love You episode.

Along with Cao Hamburguer, Soarez created and wrote the 13 episode television series The Sons Of Carnival for Latin HBO, International Emmy Nominee (2006). Her other television credits include episodes of the O2 television series City of Men.

Soarez’s current projects are The Bug, feature film to be directed by Luciano Moura, Rickson Gracie to be directed by Jose Padilha and the TV Series Dimantas Family and 50 Days Away From The Sun.

JAMES V.HART

James V. Hart (J.V.) was born in Shreveport, Louisiana and grew up in Ft. Worth Texas on Drive-In Movies and Saturday Matinees.

His writing / producing credits include; Hook, directed by Steven Spielberg based on an idea by Hart’s then 6 year old Son, Jake, Bram Stoker’s Dracula, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, Muppet Treasure Island, directed by Brian Henson, and Contact directed by Robert Zemeckis.

Other writing/producing credits include: Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, Tuck Everlasting, Jack And The Beanstalk: The Real Story, Sahara, Lara Croft: Tombraider – The Cradle of Life, August Rush.

Hart is Executive Producer and co-writer on the animated feature, Epic, with children’s book illustrator and home town friend, SMU graduate, William Joyce, and director-animator Chris Wedge, who created Ice Age and Robots And Robots with Joyce currently in release in 2013.

TV projects include Dean Koontz’s Frankenstein for Lion’s Gate and Turner, with Hart collaborating with his son, Jake; and The Republic of Pirates, AKA Crossbones, for NBC with Texas born writing partner, Amanda Welles, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr. series projects, Sirens of Titan, and Player Piano, with his son, Jake Hart.

Steel Skin is his new project in development at Fox for Actor/Director, Andy Serkis, and August Rush producer, Richard Lewis.

“Go with Gravity” is Hart’s primary mantra for the writing life.
Malia Scotch Marmo wrote Steven Spielberg's fantasy, *Hook*, and also served as associate producer on the film. Her first produced film was *Once Around*, directed by Lasse Hallstrom. Scotch Marmo also received story credit for *Madeline*. Her uncredited work includes *Jurassic Park*, *Other Sister*, *Only You*, *Enchanted*, and *Polar Express*. She has collaborated with many established directors on produced and unproduced material, including Norman Jewison, Alfonso Cuaron, Alfonso Arau, Luis Mandoki, Sabiha Sumar, Garry Marshall, and Rob Reiner. Scotch Marmo graduated from Columbia University with an MFA in film.

She received the Andrew Sarris award, given to distinguished Columbia alumni, in 2012. Scotch Marmo is an adjunct professor at Columbia Graduate Film School, and has taught at la FEMIS in Paris.

Recently, Scotch Marmo co-wrote *Good Morning Karachi* with the film's director, Sundance Institute Lab alumna and Pakistani filmmaker Sabiha Sumar. Currently, Scotch-Marmo is adapting *School for Good and Evil* with co-writer and novelist Soman Chainani. School for Good and Evil, the first of a trilogy, is being produced by Palak Patel and Roth Films, and Jane Startz Productions, for Universal Pictures. Scotch Marmo is also developing a compilation film of five short films written and directed by Rwandan filmmakers.

Michael Handelman attended Yale University and received a M.A. in philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. After co-founding the improv theater group Circus Maximus, he and his writing partner, David Guion, wrote their first script, *Mondo Beyondo*, which Terry Gilliam attached himself to direct. Though it was never produced, it was enough to convince them to quit their day jobs. Since then, they have written *The Ex* (2006), *Dinner for Schmucks* (2010) and *Night at the Museum 3* (currently filming), and have done numerous uncredited rewrites. They are currently working on *Rentaghost*, with Ben Stiller attached to star, and recently optioned the novel *Ride a Cockhorse*, by Raymond Kennedy, which they are adapting to direct. Mike lives with his family in Brooklyn.
NAOMI FONER

Naomi Foner has spent her career as a screenwriter exploring the exquisite complications of family. She was nominated for an Academy Award and received the PEN West and Golden Globe Awards for her original screenplay *Running on Empty*, starring River Phoenix and directed by Sidney Lumet. She wrote and produced *A Dangerous Woman, Losing Isaiah*, and *Bee Season. Very Good Girls*, which she wrote and directed, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2013. It stars Dakota Fanning and Elizabeth Olsen and will be released by Tribeca films this summer.

Foner began her career as a producer for the Children’s Television Workshop, where she was involved with the development of both *Sesame Street* and *The Electric Company* as well as the historical drama series *The Best of Families*. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Writers Branch of the Academy and is a member of the Nichols Fellowship selection committee. She is co-chair of the USC Library Scripter Awards and she has taught screenwriting at Columbia, UCLA and USC film schools. She is also a longtime advisor to the Sundance Labs.

She has an ongoing interest in progressive politics; has been on the board of 826LA, and is an active supporter of the ACLU and *The Nation Magazine.*

She is most proud of her children, her grand girls and the Blue Ribbon she earned for her carrots at the Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Fair.

ROSE TROCHE

Rose Troche is an award winning writer, director and producer of both film and television. Her first feature, *Go Fish* was released to wide acclaim, garnering awards at The Berlin, London, Rimini and Deauville Film Festivals. It also won the prestigious Open Palm at New York’s Gotham Awards. Bedrooms and Hallways followed, receiving the audience award at the London Film Festival.

2003 saw the release of Troche’s third feature, *The Safety of Objects*, which received stellar reviews and went on to open the San Sebastian International Film Festival, and win best feature and best actress (Patricia Clarkson) at the Deauville Film Festival. In 2003 Troche completed the pilot for Showtime’s *The L Word* and went on to direct, write and co-executive produce the series through six seasons. Troche also directed the pilot for the popular teen series, *South of Nowhere* where she remained as a consulting producer, and director. She has also directed award winning series including, *Six Feet Under, Ugly Betty* and *Law & Order.*

In 2011 she executive produced the wildly popular web series, *Hunting Season*, currently prepping its second season. She also directed a limited series for Rodrigo Garcia and Jon Avnet’s most successful web series, *Wiigs.* In 2013 Troche produced Concussion, Stacie Passon’s debut feature, released by Radius/TWC. She also wrote and directed Elliot King is 3rd a film for the ITVS series Future States. *Wendy Drinks Beer for Breakfast,* written and directed by Troche is slated for fall, 2014. She is also producer/director/writer for, *Sugar* a limited series for ITVS Story lab as well as producing *Black Kid* with Jared Goldman and Jordan Horowitz, shooting the summer of 2014.
SOONI TARAPOREVALA

Soonie Taraporevala (who is also a photographer) has been a professional screenwriter since 1986 when she wrote her first screenplay Salaam Bombay! for Mira Nair. Her other produced screenplays also for Mira Nair are Mississippi Masala, My Own Country and The Namesake, adapted from the book by Jhumpa Lahiri, Such A Long Journey adapted from the book by Rohinton Mistry for director Sturla Gunnarson, and Dr Babsaheb Ambedkar, co-written for director Jabbar Patel. She wrote, co-produced and directed Little Zizou in 2007. In addition to these produced screenplays she has written many other commissioned screenplays for a variety of directors, producers and studios in USA & UK.

She was awarded the Lilian Gish award for Excellence in Film in 1988 for Salaam Bombay!, won the Osella award at the Venice Film Festival for Mississippi Masala, a Shine nomination for My Own Country, A Genie nomination for Such A Long Journey, the Time / Warner Best Screenplay award for Little Zizou. This year she was awarded a Padma Shri India’s fourth highest civilian honour.