

MUMBAI MANTRA | SUNDANCE INSTITUTE
SCREENWRITERS LAB 2013

Creative Advisors' Biographies

BILL WHEELER *Artistic Director*



Bill Wheeler started writing while enrolled in the Playwrights Horizon program at N.Y.U. His screenplay ***The Prime Gig*** was selected for the Sundance Institute's Screenwriters Lab. ***The Prime Gig*** featured Vince Vaughn and Ed Harris and debuted on IFC. Since then, Bill has written screenplays for a wide range of partners, Mirage Enterprises, Mayhem Pictures, Steven Soderbergh's Section 8, New Regency and Disney. Current projects include an adaptation of the futurist manga ***Ghost in the Shell*** for DreamWorks, and a pilot about the adventures of the fictional pastor of a Georgia megachurch for HBO. His film ***The Hoax***, directed by Lasse Hallstrom and starring Richard Gere, was released by Miramax. It was named by both Newsweek and the Los Angeles Times as one of the ten best films of 2007. Most recently, Bill adapted for the screen Mohsin Hamid's novel

The Reluctant Fundamentalist. Directed by Mira Nair, the film features Liev Schreiber, Kate Hudson and Rizwan Ahmed. "***The Reluctant Fundamentalist***" was the opening night film at the 2012 Venice Film Festival and will be released in theaters in April.

ANJUM RAJABALI



Anjum Rajabali's first film, ***Drohkaal*** (1992), was written in collaboration with director Govind Nihalani. Subsequently, nine more films written by him have been released, including ***Ghulam***, ***The Legend of Bhagat Singh***, 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 is 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 eQuinox Paris, NFDC India's Script Lab, Mumbai Mantra | Sundance Institute Screenwriters 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 as a screenwriter include ***Satyagraha*** for Prakash Jha, ***Gaadha*** for Shaji N. Karun, and an untitled film with Abhishek Chaubey.

Anjum is an activist of the screenwriters union (the Film Writers Association) and is convenor of its committees on Copyright, the Minimum Basic Contract, and the Screenwriters Conference, a member of the Central Board of Film Certification, and a trustee of the Centre for Education and Documentation.

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ASIF KAPADIA



BAFTA award winning filmmaker **Asif Kapadia** is known for his visually striking films exploring the lives of 'outsiders' living in timeless, extreme or unforgiving landscapes. Born in Hackney, Kapadia studied filmmaking at the Royal College of Art and first gained recognition for his short **The Sheep Thief** (1997), made in India, the film won many international awards including Second Prize at the 1998 Cannes International Film Festival (Cinefondation) and the Grand Prix at the European Film Festival in Brest.

Kapadia's first feature **The Warrior** (2001, Film Four), shot in the Rajasthan desert and the epic Himalaya won two BAFTA Awards for Best British Film and Best Debut Feature as well as being Nominated for Best Film Not in the English Language. Other awards include The Sutherland Trophy for the Most Original and Imaginative First Feature at the London Film Festival 2001, Best Film Award at the Dinard Film Festival 2001 & two British Independent Film Awards for Best Debut Film and Best Technical Achievement for Cinematography, as well as Nominations for Best British Film and Best Music.

Kapadia's fourth feature the documentary **Senna** (2010, Working Title / Universal Pictures), is the thrilling and emotional story of the Brazilian motor-racing legend Ayrton Senna. The film was a breakout hit at the international box office grossing over \$12m worldwide, it is the most successful UK documentary of all time both at the UK box office and on DVD. The film won two BAFTA awards for Best Documentary and Best Editing as well as being Nominated for Best British Film. **Senna** won many international awards including won the World Cinema Documentary Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival 2011, the Audience Award for Best International Feature at the Los Angeles Film Festival 2011, Best Documentary Award at British Independent Film Awards, Best Documentary at the London Critics Circle 2011 as well nominations at the PGA and Grierson Awards for Best Theatrical Documentary.

The Odyssey (2012, Film4, BBC, LOCOG) Kapadia was commissioned to direct a short for the London Cultural Olympiad, the film traces the emotional journey from 2005 when London won the right to host the Olympic Games to the eve of the games in 2012. The film uses the voices of Londoners, archive, classic Olympic footage and stunning aerial photography of the city to show how sport is essential, how it can inspire, provide unforgettable moments of beauty, purity and the sublime.

CARLOS CUARÓN



Carlos Cuarón is a Mexican screenwriter, director and film producer. Carlos Cuarón was born in Mexico City and studied English literature at UNAM. He wrote the screenplay for **Sólo Con Tu Pareja** in 1991 which was directed by his brother, Alfonso and won the Ariel Award for best original screenplay the same year. Along with his brother, he wrote the screenplay for **Y Tu Mamá También** (starring Gael García Bernal, Diego Luna and Maribel Verdú) and received the Silver Lion for best original screenplay in the 2001 edition of Venice International Film Festival. They were nominated for the BAFTA awards as well as the Academy Award in the same category. In December 2008, **Rudo Y Cursi** (Rude and Corny) his first movie as a director was released. His second film as a writer-director was **The Second Bakery Attack** (2010). The other films that he has written include **El misterio del Trinidad** (2003), **Who the Hell is Juliette?** (1997) and **Sólo Con Tu Pareja** (1991).

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HABIB FAISAL



Habib Faisal is an Indian screenwriter and director. His debut feature as a director directed *Do Dooni Chaar* (2010) starring won the National Award for the Best Hindi Film in 2010. His second film *Ishaqzaade* (2012) was the Official Selection at the Toronto, Busan, Helsinki and Vancouver International Film Festivals in 2012).

Some of the other films for which Habib has written the screenplays and dialogues include *Ladies Vs Ricky Bahl* (2011), *Band Baja Baraat* (2010), *Har Pal* (2008), *Jhoom Barabar Jhoom* (2007), *Ta Ra Rum Pum* (2007) and *Salam Namaste* (2005). Habib has also directed a host of Television commercials.

With an MFA in Cinema & Photography from the Southern Illinois University, USA and a MA in Mass Communication from Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia University, Delhi, Habib Faisal had started his career as a cameraman for NDTV where he had covered the Kargil War, Orissa floods and General Elections.

Habib has also conducted Master Classes at the Southern Illinois University, Whistling Woods, MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, IIT Chennai among other institutions.

JOSHUA MARSTON



Joshua Marston recently completed his second feature film, *The Forgiveness of Blood*, which had its world premiere at the 2011 Berlin International Film Festival, where it was awarded the Silver Bear for Best Screenplay. His first feature, *Maria Full of Grace* (2004), won the Audience Award at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival and received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. He also directed the Coney Island section of *New York I Love You*, starring Cloris Leachman and Eli Wallach. In addition, he has directed episodes of *The Newsroom* (HBO), *Six Feet Under* (HBO), *Law & Order* (NBC), *How to Make it in America* (HBO), *In Treatment* (HBO), and *The Good Wife* (CBS). Marston received an MA in Political Science from the University of Chicago and an MFA in filmmaking from New York University.

MALIA SCOTCH MARMO



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. 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 and has been honored as a Distinguished Alumna of the Film School. She is now an adjunct professor at Columbia Graduate Film School, and has also taught at la FEMIS in Paris, and served as a mentor with the Maisha project in Rwanda. Recently Scotch Marmo co-wrote a script with Sundance Institute Lab alumna Sabiha Sumar. The film, *Good Morning Karachi*, screened in January at the Goteborg Film Festival. Scotch Marmo is currently co-adapting Soman Chainani's first novel, *School for Good and Evil*, which hits the stands on May 15.

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MARTI NOXON



A versatile writer/producer who works fluidly through genres and mediums, **Marti Noxon** launched into the feature world with her debut ***I Am Number Four***. The film was adapted from the popular novel, and stars Alex Pettyfer, Dianna Agron, and Timothy Olyphant. She followed this with ***Fright Night***, a reimagining of the classic cult horror film, starring Anton Yelchin and Colin Farrell. Additionally, Noxon is currently developing ***The Glass Castle***, based on the best-selling memoir, for Lionsgate. Noxon has written and executive produced for many critically acclaimed shows including ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer***, ***Grey's Anatomy***, ***Private Practice***, ***Brothers & Sisters***, ***Point Pleasant***, and ***Still Life***. She has also acted as consulting producer for ***Mad Men***, ***Prison Break***, ***Angel***, and ***Glee***. Current projects include ***Proof***, a scripted pilot project she is co-writing with M. Night Shyamalan (***The Sixth Sense***) that she will also Executive Produce. She is also in talks with Showtime Network to develop a semi-autobiographical half-hour comedy called ***Guide To Divorce*** in which she will also be Executive Producer. A graduate of UC Santa Cruz, Noxon currently lives in Hollywood with her two children.

SABRINA DHAWAN



Sabrina Dhawan graduated from Columbia University's graduate film program in 2001. Her student short ***Saanjh – As Night Falls*** won 'Best of the Festival' at the Palm Springs Film Festival; 'Most Original Film' from New Line Cinema, 'Audience Impact' Award at Angelus Awards, and was nominated for a Student Academy Award. That short led to her to Mira Nair and to her debut feature as screenwriter, ***Monsoon Wedding***. Amongst other awards, it won the 'Leon D'Oro' at the Venice Film Festival and received a Golden Globe nomination.

Sabrina's other produced screenplay credits include ***Kaminey***, directed by Vishal Bharadwaj for UTV; ***Ishqiya***, directed by Abhishek Chaubey, for Shemaroo. ***11.9.01***, directed by Nair for Canal Plus; ***Cosmopolitan*** for PBS; She served as co-producer on ***Bollywood Hero***, a mini-series for IFC and as story consultant on Bharadwaj's ***Matru Ki Bijli Ka Mandola***. Sabrina has also written for 20th Century Fox, HBO, Disney, Fox-Star, Killer Films, ABC Family etc.

Sabrina is an Assistant Professor and the Area Head of Screenwriting at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. She has taught at filmmaking labs around the world, including Uganda, Tanzania, India, and the continental USA.

Sabrina is currently working on a Broadway musical adaptation of the movie ***Monsoon Wedding***. She was raised in Delhi and lives in New York with her son, Kabir.