



*Cinema/TV Department  
at the HFPA Center*

CINEMA/TV DEPARTMENT INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES V.1

June 9, 2017 LACC TV Studio B at the HFPA Center

**PRESENT:**

**Amy Adams**, Creative Director, Global Girl Media  
**Jesse Alson-Milkman**, Faculty, LA Valley College  
**Peter Anderson**, Director of Sales, Leader Instruments  
**Juan Carlos Astoquillca**, Chief Engineer, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Linda Beal**, Faculty, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Joel Bender**, Faculty, LA Valley College  
**Nancy Ann Bevins**, Producer/Director  
**Eva Bitar**, LA Filming Coordinator  
**Ken Bolding**, Alumnus, Cinema/TV, LACC, video producer  
**Adrian Castillo**, Faculty LA Valley College  
**Shamey Cramer**, LACC Cinema Alumnus  
**Mike Dallatore**, LACC Cinema Alumnus, now at Panavision  
**Alan Daniels**, Consultant  
**Jim Desmarais**, Faculty, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Gayle Dickie**, President, Hey Girl Hey Entertainment  
**Sara Ann Fox**, Screenwriting Professor, LA Valley College  
**Richard Greenberg**, State of the Art Productions  
**Jerry Haasch**, Regional Sales, Ross Video  
**Stephen Herring**, Director Alumni Relations, Columbia College Hollywood  
**Allison Jones**, Emerita Dean, LACC  
**Charlie Kanganis**, Director, Directors Guild of America  
**Mike Kovavitch**, Sony  
**Frank Kay**, Marketing Director, J.L. Fisher  
**Gary King**, Director of Development, Machinima  
**Kia Kiso**, Free Lance Producer  
**Richard Marks**, IDEAS @ LA Valley College  
**Renee Martinez**, President, LACC  
**Ted Milner**, Leveraging Up, Executive Temps  
**Marty Mullin**, Cinematographer  
**Nancy Murray**, Sales Manager, Mole Richardson  
**Christopher Navarro**, ADR mixer and student, LACC  
**Vaughn Obern**, Faculty, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Martha Pelayo**, LACC Foundation  
**Jennifer Penton**, Faculty, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Matt Piper** LACC Student

**Michael Rogers**, Production Consultant  
**Christopher Rossiter**, Faculty, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Lissa Sherman**, Director of Recruitment, Columbia College Hollywood  
**Dylan Shields**, Faculty, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Tom Stempel**, Professor Emeritus, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Steve Slade**, Territory Account Manager, Panasonic  
**Chad Sustin**, Faculty, LA Valley College  
**Eric Swelstad**, Chair, Media Arts, LA Valley College  
**Kevin Tent**, LACC Alumnus, Academy Award nominated editor  
**Huston Tronnes**, Stage Manager, Mole Richardson  
**Joel Trudgeon**, Faculty, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Geri Ulrey**, Chair, Media Arts Department, Glendale Community College  
**Joni Varner**, Chair, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Jen Vaughn**, Faculty, Cinema/TV, LACC  
**Dr. Dan Walden**, Vice President of Academic Affairs, LACC  
**Ken Windrum**, Cinema Instructor, LA Pierce College  
**Mark Woods**, Cinematographer ICG

Before the meeting began and after it finished, the Chief Engineer, **Juan Carlos Astoquillca**, gave tours of the newly remodeled Dick Clark Television Studio, formerly Studio A.

Ms. Varner called the meeting to order at 12:46 P.M. **Renee Martinez**, the president of LACC, congratulated the department on having increased the number of students completing the Cinema/TV program. She also noted that the department had shown considerable skill in learning how to deal with the campus bureaucracy in getting all the new equipment installed.

**Dr. Dan Walden**, the vice president of Academic Affairs, said he would like to stay, since the Cinema/TV Industry Advisory Committee meetings are more entertaining than those of any other department. Both he and the president had to leave for other engagements.

**Ms. Varner** requested all attendees fill out the questionnaire online about the department, since these questionnaires have helped us get funding, \$60,000 in the last year alone. She also mentioned the new Rodney Dangerfield Institute of Comedy now part of the department. The first two programs are an internship in comedy connected with local comedy clubs, and a course this summer on film comedy as a genre.

**She mentioned how the certificates are encouraging to students, and intends to add three new “skills” areas: one in “Soft skills” Entertainment Skills for PAs (or how to be a professional) this year, another in Screenwriting skills in 2018, and another in animation skills in 2019.** Sara Ann Fox felt a screenwriting certificate would not only acknowledge recipients’ talent and ability, but its course of study would also prepare them for work as story analysts and script editors. Kia Kiso stated that the Entertainment Skills PA certificate would be of great help in preparing students to obtain entry-level jobs production jobs. She would hire future interns at her company with such a certificate.

**Christopher Rossiter** gave a shout-out to all the industry support the program has been give over the last few years. Red, Panavision, and J.L. Fisher have loaned a total of \$1 million in equipment, and other companies have also loaned gear. He had a list of what they have accomplished in the cinematography area and 2016-2017,

and another list of what he hopes to accomplish in 2017-2018. He is especially proud of the Grip and Electrician class, which most film schools do not have, but is perfect for LACC and its students.

**Jen Vaughn** is looking forward to the opening in the fall of the Dick Clark television studio, which will have Hi-Def cameras and updated control equipment. She also ran a series of slides with pictures of former students and their comments on how much the courses at LACC have helped them. One of them mentioned that out in the real world she had done “underwater cinematography.” When she read that Jen thought, “I didn’t teach them that.” But she had taught them how to learn beyond the basics taught at LACC, a valuable lesson.

**Dylan Shields** talked about the industry people he has brought in to talk to the students. They included a production executive, an Academy Award winning sound designer, two digital colorists, a location manager, and an expert in finding finance and distribution. He is hoping to have the students produce a web comedy show. The pilot script was developed in TV 25, and scripts will be developed in the screenwriting classes.

**The meeting was then opened up to comments from members of the committee:**

A cinematographer noted that when he shot on film, the final film looked like what he had shot, but now shooting on digital, colorists can change the whole look of the piece.

Another member noted on the importance of teaching students how a single shot connects with the rest of the film.

**Sara Ann Fox**, a teacher of screenwriting at Valley College, says she is getting more and more pitches of ideas that show no sense of story. She thinks teachers should focus on storytelling. **Geri Ulrey** added that they should be taught the importance of structure even in digital filmmaking.

**Michael Rogers** recalled how he worked at the lowest level in the business and worked up to owning five production trucks that in constant use. He agreed with Christopher Rossiter on the need to learn how to work from the bottom up.

**Kia Kiso**, a producer, wanted to know how to get LACC interns. Joni Varner said our procedure is informal: email her and she will pass around the request. We had invited the internship coordinator to the meeting, Julie Medina, but she was unable to attend. Dylan Shields keeps resumes of his students on his computer so he can select possible interns.

Another member suggested teaching how to make promotional films and “sizzle reels.” **Shamey Cramer** agreed.

**Mark Wood** recommended students take courses like he did in anthropology, to learn about other culture. Dylan Shields mentioned our documentary film course involves seeing films from many different cultures in an effort to broaden our students’ outlook.

Another member said in 2006 at USC students were told not to put their films on YouTube, but it is more important to keep up with the changes, as fast as they come.

**Mike Dallatore** said that at Panavision he learns of a lot of projects that need camera interns.

**Martha Pelayo** of the LACC Foundation reminded everybody that the Foundation is here to help on developing the suggestions made today.

**Frank Kay** suggested that in our promotion we should emphasize what we do that other film schools don't, such as the Grip and Electrician course.

**Nancy Ann Bevins** noted that pitches she gets are getting more and elaborate, including videos attached to the pitches.

**Christopher Navarro** who works a lot with sound recommended emphasizing the importance of sound to a film. Several other members agree quite heartily. It was mentioned that we used to have prerequisites for the sound class, but now we do not to start students early on the importance of sound. On the other hand, **Ken Bolding**, a former student and now a producer of videos, said that when he came to LACC ten years ago he only wanted to study sound. He had to take the prerequisites, and by the time he completed those two things had happened: 1) he learned to love film and not just sound, and 2) the Great Recession of 2008 hit so he could stay in school longer. He figured having the prerequisites ended up giving him a much more interesting career than he might have had

**Mark Wood** said that anybody thinking about going into camera work for television should learn out to light for multi-camera shoot, i.e., learn how to light so the mic booms do not show.

**Peter Anderson** suggests we need to update the video on our website. As an equipment vendor, he visits lot of film schools and their sites go into more detail than ours.

**Eva Bitar**, in addition to her day job, teaches at two colleges, suggests we try to get creative computer people and teach them storytelling.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stempel

Professor Emeritus, Cinema/TV Department