



PATHWAYS

INTRODUCES...

**THE
NOTE-TAKERS**

AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' GUILD



THE MASTERCLASS

The role of the note-taker in a writers' room is a crucial one – detailed and accurate notes can either make or break a room. But creating a perfect set of notes isn't easy, and nailing it requires skills quite different to screenwriting itself.

In August 2018, the Australian Writers' Guild's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee partnered with Co-Curious to run a Note-taking Masterclass to train emerging writers in the skilful art of note-taking.

The Note-taking Masterclass was run by highly experienced and accomplished AWG Full Members Niki Aken, Michael Drake and Mithila Gupta, and featured a panel discussion, and instruction and direction on the role and the craft of note-taking. It also included a practical exercise with a mock writers' room, with individual feedback provided to participants on their 'notes', and a final master set of notes developed by the group.

We are now delighted to introduce you to these emerging writers, our new group of freshly trained note-takers. The note-taking role is widely regarded as an entry to the industry and these writers are ready to put their training into practice – in your room!

The note-takers can be contacted for work opportunities through the AWG Pathways Program by emailing james@awg.com.au.

Keep this list of note-takers on file for your next project.

VONNE PATIAG

Vonne is a Western Sydney-based, multi-skilled filmmaker with experience writing, directing and producing short films and online series. He aims to develop and produce narrative projects that authentically explore the intersection between gender, queer and ethnic identity in modern Australia, focusing on issues of racism, prejudice and class from the Western Sydney perspective.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



CLAIRE CAO



Claire is a 21-year-old writer and Law/Arts student from southwest Sydney. Her short stories have been published in *Sine Theta Magazine* and *Voiceworks* and she aspires to write romantic comedies one day.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

BINA BHATTACHARYA

Bina is a writer, producer and director living in Campbelltown. Her work focuses on themes of the immigrant experience, diaspora, queer identity, motherhood, alternative lifestyles, regional identities and class and race tensions. In 2017, her short film, *Wild Dances*, which depicts the bond between a closeted gay boy and a spirited Ukrainian-Australian teenage girl, won the Audience Choice Award at the Made in the West Film Festival and was a finalist for the Mardi Gras Film Festival's My Queer Career competition. It was also selected for festivals across the USA, Canada, the UK, Germany and Ukraine.

Bina credits her distinctive voice and sensitivity to cross-cultural issues to growing up with two cultures, being exposed to Satyajit Ray and 80s Bollywood through her Indian father and opera and Australian folk music through her Australian mother and attending a multicultural public school in Sydney's west. Bina runs her own production company, Gemme de la Femme Pictures, which produces short films, promotional videos and tailored showreel pieces for diverse actors who usually are faced with limited role choices. She is also mother to a two-year-old boy.



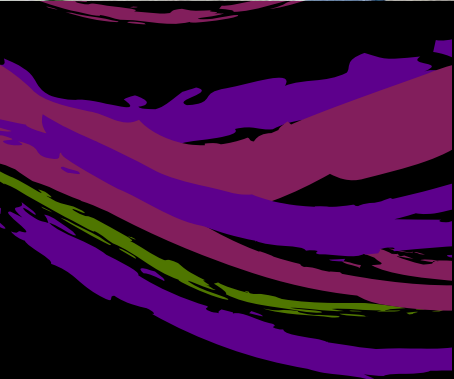
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

NISRINE AMINE

Nisrine is an actor, writer and producer from Western Sydney. Her short film *Apricot* received funding by Screen NSW as part of their SEED: Regional Funding initiative and premiered at Flickerfest 2018 and is currently available for viewing on ABC. She also wrote, produced and starred in the web-series pilot *Whatever After*. Her short play *Must Be The Dairy* won People's Choice at Round 2 of Crash Test Drama 2011.

As an actor, she has credits in Australian feature films such as *Slam* and *Deadly Women*; and plays such as *The Girl/The Woman* (NTOF/Riverside Theatre) and *Alex and Eve: The Complete Story* (Factory Theatre).

Nisrine is also the Co-founder and Creative Director of Parramatta Actors Centre.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

DANIELLE STAMOULOS

Danielle is an actor, writer and producer born in Sydney of Greek Samian heritage. Danielle works as a producer and a co-artistic director of independent theatre company Edgware Forum whose work champions the young female voice in today's divided Australia. In 2017, she had the opportunity to work as the Script Coordinator and production attachment on *The Letdown* (ABC/Netflix). Danielle was also selected as a participant in Information and Cultural Exchange's Screen Cultures' Produce Perfect Program in Parramatta and won the program's final pitch competition for her original TV series concept.

This year, she was selected into the National Theatre of Parramatta's 'Playwrights of Parramatta' program as an emerging playwright.

Currently, Danielle is harnessing her abilities as a producer, writer and poet. With an impassioned mission, Danielle seeks to rise the tide of a more inclusive and balanced screen industry representing more authentic stories of culture, women and equality. The stories that interest her in particular concern voicing the forgotten as well as immediate diaspora experiences of past and present generations of Australian migrants.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

ABHISHEK GURJAR



Abhishek is an Australian-born screenwriter with an Indian background. He graduated with an Agricultural Economics degree at the University of Sydney in 2016, and has been a member of the Australian Writers' Guild for one year and has self-learned the art of screenwriting.

His interest in screenwriting began when writing small scripts for his occasional stand-up gigs at university and competitions. Abhishek believes screenwriting enables us to portray diverse characters and storylines to the wider Australian audience. Having spent time in regional Australia Abhishek has a passion for combining multicultural characters and stories with true-blue Australian personality.

DIVERSITY SHOWCASE

SARINAH MASUKOR

Sarinah is a writer and artist working with film and video. Her current work explores the texture of 21st century life, the mixed-race experience and how it feels to live in times of change. She has worked as an art teacher, a journalist, a research assistant, a waitress and a room service attendant. She is interested in writing complex and emotionally resonant characters for screen and creating work that makes people think and feel.



DIVERSITY SHOWCASE

MIRANDA AGUILAR



Miranda is a queer Filipina artist, living and working in Western Sydney. While completing her Masters in Public Relations and Advertising at UNSW, Miranda pursued her artistic practice primarily through the Curious Creators program.

In 2016, Miranda was the lead facilitator of the CuriousWorks Writers Group, where she led the other writers in the development of their scripts and worked on developing her own script, *Into the Closet*. The script was picked up by PWA for New Play Development. The writers' group led to the creation of the *Las Rosas* web series in 2017, of which Miranda was the showrunner and one of the lead writers. She brought back the writing group in 2018, and is continuing to lead other young writers as its lead facilitator.

Miranda is also an enthusiastic community volunteer. She volunteers with Youth Action's Outburst, a Western Sydney-based youth group, and was a part of the team that created the Friend2Friend program, a youth-led mental health workshop, which she has given at schools and community centres. As she continues her creative career, Miranda wants to continue combining her artistic practice with community engagement and give them the same opportunities that she was given.

BREAKTHROUGH!

TAMAR CHNORHOKIAN

Tamar is Associate Director of SWEATSHOP: Western Sydney Literacy Movement.

She completed a Communications degree in writing and publishing at the Western Sydney University in 2004 and has also worked as a columnist, journalist and freelance writer.

Her debut novel, *The Diet Starts On Monday*, was published by SWEATSHOP in 2014. She is the recipient of the 2016 Copyright Agency's WestWords Western Sydney Emerging Writers' Fellowship and is currently developing her second work of fiction.



BREAKTHROUGH!



MONIKKA ELIAH



Monikka is an Assyrian-Australian writer. She graduated from the University of New South Wales with an Arts degree having majored in English.

She has presented at the NSW Writers' Centre, Studio Stories in Parramatta and at the Wollongong Writers' Festival. She was involved in the Girls Write Up Sydney event, helping to workshop stories by young writers. Her work has been published in *The Big Black Thing*. She is currently a member of SWEATSHOP and is participating in National Theatre of Parramatta's Page to Stage program.



BREAKTHROUGH!

KATIE BECKETT

Katie has a passion for storytelling, both for the stage and film.

She has recently been nominated for a Green Room Award 2017 for her play *Which Way Home*. She is currently writing with Matchbox Pictures on a new TV series and is also writing a film, a web series and two plays.

She is an active member of the Cope St Collective and they are part of a new skit show called *The Slot*.



BREAKTHROUGH!



LAP NGUYEN

Lap is the Creative Director of the Perennial Theatre Company and is an actor, writer and director from Vietnam.

Predominantly stage-based, Lap is branching out to screen works and continuously delving into different forms of storytelling.

Lap likes to explore themes of the human condition, often in search of different paths to telling the story of humanity. He strongly believes in the transformative power of stories.

BREAKTHROUGH!

SHAWN SPINA

Shawn has been with CuriousWorks since early 2013, picking up valuable skills and experience on several of our professional and community projects, including *Ritual*, *Riz* and *Meet+Eat*.

He has also been an enthusiastic participant in the Curious Creators' Writers Group and Film Club.

His artistic ambitions stretch from just wanting 'to make people enjoy themselves and smile' to exploring his family's Sicilian background. 'I wish I could explore my cultural background a bit more but it is starting to disappear around where I live.'





CRISTOBAL OLGUIN



Cristobal first linked up with CuriousWorks in 2014, playing the role of 'Alejandro' in their feature film *Riz*. He has since developed a passion for filmmaking and has aspirations to be a storyteller from the other side of the camera.

Alongside developing his skills by crewing on our later films, he is studying at UTS for a double degree in Communications, Creative Intelligence and Innovation. He continues to work on private projects and loves dissecting screenplays from his favourite films. He also may reprise the role of 'Alejandro' for an upcoming web series being made by the Curious Creators.

Born in Chile, Cristobal came to Australia with his family as a child before they returned nine years later. By 2011, he was back, this time in Western Sydney. So his formative years were divided between Chile, Cabramatta and Canley Vale (with a short period in Norway), giving him a unique worldview.

'Because I have moved around the world, seeing different aspects of culture and people, it's easier for me to see the grey side of cultural or social issues. I never considered myself Chilean or Australian by culture, even though I grew up between both worlds, so it's hard to identify which world I'm part of. As a filmmaker, I'm interested in telling stories about youth, family and isolation. I want to explore and expand different genres to find new and interesting ways to tell my stories.'

ANDREA BEETEN

Andrea grew up in Western Sydney and has a Bachelor of Communications & Media from the University of Notre Dame.

She majored in film and screen production, and joined CuriousWorks in 2012 to pursue her ambitions of being a filmmaker.


'As a filmmaker I hope to engage with audiences by showing social issues in a creative way that encourages them to open their mind to other possibilities and perspectives. I think film is a powerful medium as it has the ability to creatively express and challenge worldviews which opens the doorway for audiences to think critically.'





NICK ATKINS

Nick is a playwright, theatre maker and emerging screen artist. He graduated from UNSW with a BA Media and Communications with 1st Class Honours in practice based research. He's currently the Director, New Work for Penrith Performing & Visual Arts where he leads the Q Theatre program at The Joan. He was awarded ATYP's Foundation Commission for his play *Wonder Fly*, which was produced by ATYP in 2017.



Recently Nick presented his new work *Boom* at the National Play Festival 2018 with the support of Playwriting Australia and National Theatre of Parramatta. His one-man show, *A Boy & A Bean* (PACT, Q Theatre), was awarded Best Performing Arts event at Mardi Gras 2015 and his play *Out of the Bars* was awarded Gasworks' Playtime Initiative 2016.

Nick has worked as Co-Artistic Director of Crack Theatre Panel and is currently a Board Member of PACT Centre for Emerging Artists and Theatre Network NSW. He has completed residencies with Urban Theatre Projects, Performance Space, Blacktown Arts Centre, UNSW and Marnay Sur-Seine, France. He trained with ATYP's Fresh Ink and PACT's Ensemble projects. In 2019, Nick is working on a residency with NES, Iceland and an adaption of *The Ugly Duckling* for Q Theatre.



CURIOUS WORKS