

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION OFFERS  
COLLEGE FACULTY NATIONWIDE ACCESS TO  
TOP-TIER TELEVISION TALENT, CREATORS AND  
EXECUTIVES IN 'MEDIA EDUCATORS CONFERENCE'  
OCT. 27-29**

**Three-Day Event Features Curriculum-Enhancing Sessions for  
Media Educators With Industry Leaders in Hollywood**



(**LOS ANGELES** - Oct.18, 2022) — The Television Academy Foundation today announced that its annual **Media Educators Conference** will be held **Oct. 27-29** at the Television Academy’s North Hollywood campus. Returning in-person after three years as a virtual event, the program brings college and university media arts educators from across the country together with top Hollywood professionals for an immersive three-day educational event.

Sponsored by Kia America as part of the automaker’s ongoing commitment to higher education, the event is co-chaired by **Tina Perry**, president, OWN Network

and OTT Streaming, and **Jamila Hunter**, executive vice president of programming and development at Freeform, and offers a wide variety of curriculum-enhancing seminars with industry heavyweights. The conference presents the latest insights and news on the art, science and business of television and provides invaluable information on how professors can connect the classroom with the television industry.

The conference will kick off with opening remarks from Foundation Chair **Cris Abrego**, chairman of the Americas, Banijay, and president and CEO, Endemol Shine Holdings, followed by a slate of industry panels and sessions that include:

**"In Conversation With Tony Vinciguerra,"** the chairman and chief executive officer of Sony Pictures Entertainment, moderated by Jeff Conway, senior contributor, Forbes Hollywood and Entertainment.

**"Showrunner Superpanel"** currently featuring writer, actor and showrunner **Diallo Riddle** (*Sherman's Showcase; South Side*); writer, producer **Shaz Bennett** (*Queen Sugar; Billions; Bosch*); writer, producer, actor **Krister Johnson** (*A Futile and Stupid Gesture; Murderville*); and writer, producer **Jason Rothenberg** (*The 100*), moderated by **Jamila Hunter**.

**"Production: The New Normal"** with **Frank Scherma**, president and co-founder of RadicalMedia, chairman and CEO of the Television Academy, and producer **Ann Leslie Uzdavinis** (*Voicemail*) will focus on television innovations born from necessity that will outlast the pandemic and are changing the way content is produced.

**"Directing for TV"** with director/producer **Dr. Rachel Raimist** (*Queen Sugar; The Sex Lives of College Girls*). Raimist will discuss her experience directing for television and share tips to help educators advise students on episodic direction.

**"Industry Insights"** is a networking session that connects professors with top writers, producers, directors, showrunners, creatives and industry executives in a small-group setting. It includes **Harry Friedman**, executive producer, Capital One College Bowl on NBC; Emmy®-winning production designer **James Pearse Connelly** (*The Masked Singer*); executive producer/development executive **Daniel Barnes** of Cloudco Entertainment; supervising casting director at McNulty Casting Inc. **Michelle McNulty**; director of voiceover talent at Coast to Coast Talent Group **Portia Scott**; Allegory Creative Talent agent **Tyler Kahl**; and **Jo DiSante**, vice president of current programming, ABC.

**"Pathways From College to Career"** with panelists including **Val Cheung**, vice president, production, Shondaland; **Phillip Kobylanski**, president, Valhalla Motion Pictures; and artist/director **Neil Truglio**, education director, SeriesFest; moderated by **Dan Birman**, president, Daniel H. Birman Productions Inc. Panelists

will discuss what hiring managers are looking for in emerging new talent and how educators can effectively set up students to transition into industry careers.

**“Alumni Spotlight: Journeys to Success”** featuring Television Academy Foundation program alumni CNN national correspondent **Natasha Chen**; **Sev Ohanian**, co-founder of Proximity Media and executive producer (*Ironheart*; *Foursome*); executive producer/director **Jason Ensler** (*Monarch*; *Love Victor*; *The Passage*; *The Exorcist*); and **Pamela Soper**, senior vice president, current programming, CBS, moderated by *The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation* correspondent and Foundation alumnus **Albert Lawrence**.

“We’re thrilled to bring this important conference back from virtual to an in-person event to allow educators from across the country to learn the very latest trends and convene with some of the industry’s top professionals,” said **Abrego**. “This year’s lineup presents the most varied slate of instruction ever for the conference with insights on how things have evolved with the pandemic to championing representation, diversity and inclusion behind and in front of the camera.”

**Kia America** is the presenting sponsor for the 2022 Media Educators Conference. Additional sponsors include **Freeform** and the **UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television**. The **Alex Trebek Legacy Fund**, which provides financial aid for eligible attendees and supports conference programming, is sponsored by **The Harry & Judy Friedman Family Foundation**, **Sony Pictures Entertainment** and **Village Roadshow Entertainment Group**.

Price is \$350 per person, to register visit <https://TelevisionAcademy.com/media-educators/registration>. **Registration closes Friday, Oct. 21, at 5 p.m. PDT.**

This Television Academy Foundation “Media Educators Conference” was formerly known as “Faculty Seminar: The Conference.”

### **About the Television Academy Foundation**

Established in 1959 as the charitable arm of the Television Academy, the Television Academy Foundation is dedicated to preserving the legacy of television while educating and inspiring those who will shape its future. Through renowned educational and outreach programs, such as [The Interviews: An Oral History of Television Project](#), [College Television Awards and Summit](#), [Student Internship and Fellowship Programs](#) and the [Media Educators Conference](#), the Foundation seeks to widen the circle of voices our industry represents and to create more opportunity for television to reflect all of society. For more information on the Foundation, please visit [TelevisionAcademy.com/Foundation](https://TelevisionAcademy.com/Foundation).

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**Media Contacts:**

Jane Sparango

**breakwhitelight** (for the Television Academy Foundation)

[jane@breakwhitelight.com](mailto:jane@breakwhitelight.com)

310-339-1214

Rick Rhoades

**breakwhitelight** (for the Television Academy Foundation)

[rick@breakwhitelight.com](mailto:rick@breakwhitelight.com)

818-468-5585