



TRANSATLANTIC AGENCY

SCREENWRITER ROSTER

2023

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Hilda Afrakoma

Sample pilot for half-hour sitcom available.

Hilda Afrakoma is an award-winning Canadian screenwriter and director. She's worked with independent film companies, as well as Canada's public film and digital media producer and distributor, National Film Board. Afrakoma enjoys highlighting experiences of underrepresented individuals/groups. Currently, she's in the midst of creating a prolific production company that produces diverse female-based content.

Represented by: Laura Cameron & Samantha Haywood

Contact: lcameron@transatlanticagency.com; samantha@transatlanticagency.com



Simone Dalton

Sample pilot for one-hour drama available.

Simone Dalton is an author and teaching artist. Her work is anthologized in Watch Your Head; Black Writers Matter; The Unpublished City: Volume I, a finalist for the 2018 Toronto Book Awards; and ARC Poetry Magazine's Islands of Influence issue. In 2019, her play "VOWS" was produced by RARE Theatre and performed at Soulpepper, and in 2020, her essay, "Wait of Grief," was on the longlist for Room Magazine's Creative Non-Fiction Prize. She was selected for the 2021 Writers' Trust Mentorship by literary nonfiction writer Jenny Heijun Wills. Recipient of the 2020 RBC Taylor Emerging Writer Prize for nonfiction, she holds an MFA from the University of Guelph. As a creative writing teacher, Simone has worked with writers, ages 14 to 80+, in Canada and the United States, and served as an Adjunct Professor at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2022. She is one of the inaugural Black Teaching Fellows of the Boston creative arts centre GrubStreet. Simone was born in Trinidad and curates writing retreats in the Caribbean for women writers of colour as "Island Scribe." She is working on her first memoir.

Represented by: Samantha Haywood

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Elisabeth de Mariaffi

Sample pilot script for half-hour comedy thriller available.

Elisabeth de Mariaffi is the critically acclaimed author of four books: the Giller Prize-nominated short story collection *How to Get Along with Women* (Invisible Publishing, 2012), the literary thriller *The Devil You Know* (HarperCollins Canada, Simon & Schuster U.S., Titan U.K., 2015), and the 1950s-era Hitchcock-style thriller, *Hysteria* (HarperCollins Canada, Titan U.K., 2018). Both *Devil* and *Hysteria* were named Globe and Mail Best Books and National Post Top 100 of the Year, and both were shortlisted for the prestigious Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award, while *The Devil You Know* was also longlisted for the 2017 International DUBLIN Literary Award— and optioned immediately after publication. A winner of the 2016 WIFTV From Our Dark Side genre screenwriting competition, de Mariaffi's original vampire horr-com, *Fly Girls*, is currently in development with Triton Media. Elisabeth de Mariaffi has taught fiction and screenwriting at UBC, Memorial University, and through the Humber School for Writers. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. Her newest thriller, *The Retreat*, came out in 2021 with HarperCollins Canada and Mulholland Books in the US.

Represented by: Laura Cameron & Samantha Haywood

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Natasha Deen

Sample pilot for half-hour comedy available.

Award-winning author Natasha Deen writes for kids, teens, and adults. As a Guyanese-Canadian and a child of immigrants, she's seen first-hand how stories have the power to shape the world. Her YA novel *In the Key of Nira Ghani* won the the Amy Mathers Teen Book Award, and *The Signs and Wonders of Tuna Rashad* was a Junior Library Guild Selection, an Ontario Library Association's Forest of Reading White Pine Reading List Pick. Her chapter book *Lark Steals the Show* was shortlisted for Best Juvenile or YA Crime Book in the 2023 Crime Writers of Canada Awards. She recently completed a pilot for an original half hour comedy titled "Gram Soca Masala," which features a Guyanese family moving to rural Alberta to take over the town medical practice.

Represented by: Amy Tompkins

Contact: amy@transatlanticagency.com



Kristina Fithern-Stiele

Sample pilot script for one-hour horror series available.

Kristina Fithern-Stiele is a writer and filmmaker working in Calgary, Alberta. She graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelors in Creative Writing and then from the SAIT Polytechnic Film and Video Program. She has written, directed, and produced several short films. Her most recent film, *Shadows in Time*, a film about racism faced by indigenous girls in Canada, premiered in 2021. That film was a collaboration with Stardale Women's Group, where she mentors Indigenous girls interested in filmmaking. Kristina is an alumnus of the imagineNATIVE Institute where she developed and wrote a pilot for a horror series, *In the Woods*, which is currently in development. Kristina explores her Tlingit heritage and queer identity through her art, which is often a cathartic exploration of fear and overcoming, of breaking cycles of violence, and finding compassion for others. Kristina has a deep affinity for the horror genre and uses it as a vehicle to give voice to unique stories.

Represented by: Laura Cameron

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Catherine Hernandez

Sample pilot script for half-hour comedy available.

Catherine Hernandez (she/her) is an award-winning author and screenwriter. She is a proud queer woman who is of Filipino, Spanish, Chinese and Indian descent and married into the Navajo Nation. Her first novel, *Scarborough*, won the Jim Wong-Chu Award for the unpublished manuscript; was shortlisted for the Toronto Book Awards, the Evergreen Forest of Reading Award, the Edmund White Award, and the Trillium Book Award; and a finalist for Canada Reads 2022. She has written the critically acclaimed plays *Singkil*, *The Femme Playlist* and *Eating with Lola* and the children's books *M Is for Mustache: A Pride ABC Book*, *I Promise* and *Where Do Your Feelings Live?* She wrote the screenplay for the film adaptation of *Scarborough*. It was the 1st runner up for the coveted People's Choice Award at the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival, won the Shawn Mendes Foundation Changemaker Award, was nominated for 11 Canadian Screen Awards and won 8, including Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay. Her second novel, *Crosshairs*, published simultaneously in Canada and the US and the UK, was shortlisted for the Toronto Book Award and made the CBC's Best Canadian Fiction, NOW Magazine's 10 Best Books, Indigo Best Book, Audible Best Audiobooks and NBC 20 Best LGBTQ Books list of 2020. Her third novel, *The Story of Us*, about the extraordinary friendship between a caregiver and her elderly client, was published this year by HarperCollins Canada and was an instant bestseller. She is currently working on a few television projects and her fourth novel.

Represented by: Marilyn Biderman & Samantha Haywood

Contact: marilyn@transatlanticagency.com; samantha@transatlanticagency.com



Kim Izzo

Sample pilot scripts for one-hour crime thriller and half-hour comedy available. Sample scripts for holiday rom com and true crime thriller features available.

Kim Izzo is an award-winning screenwriter, author, and journalist. Kim's produced features include the holiday rom com, *A SWEET CHRISTMAS ROMANCE* (2019) and the true crime thriller, *AMISH STUD* (2023), both for Lifetime. Her coming-of-age feature, *BOOB JOB*, is optioned by Buffalo Gal Pictures and is slated for production in 2024. Kim currently has television pilots under option with Alibi Entertainment and Gunn Films. Accolades for Kim's screenwriting include the prestigious Humanitas Prize: New Voices Award, which granted her a one-year mentorship with Emmy-Award winning showrunner David Shore. That same year she was also a recipient of the Telefilm Canada New Voices Award. In 2015, her original feature, *THE SHAME SISTERS*, was selected for development by the National Screen Institute's Script-to-Screen program. Kim is also the bestselling author of three novels and two non-fiction books. She is a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre Prime Time Television Program as well as York University Film School. Kim is a member of the WGA and WGC.

Represented by: Laura Cameron & Samantha Haywood

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Carlos Alonzo Morales

Sample script for noir sci-fi feature available.

Carlos Alonzo Morales is a Mexican-Canadian screenwriter and novelist. He has a Master's degree in English Literature from Brock University, and brings his extensive academic background in literary analysis to his creative work. His specialties as a screenwriter are in all forms of genre fiction, particularly horror, Westerns, noir, and science-fiction/fantasy. He blends his insight into the mediums of both film and literature to create his approach to cinematic storytelling.

Represented by: Léonicka Valcius

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Naben Ruthnum

Sample pilot script available.

Naben Ruthnum has written two thrillers as Nathan Ripley, both of which have been optioned for development. As a screenwriter, he's collaborated with Kris Bertin for feature and TV projects in development at Oddfellows, Automatik, Skybound, Blink49, and Film Forge. Under showrunner Patrick Tarr, with whom he also developed and co-wrote an adaptation of one of his thrillers, Naben worked in the writer's room on the final season of Cardinal. Naben recently worked in the writers' room for Murdoch Mysteries and penned the highest rated episode of the season. His new novel A Hero of our Time came out from Penguin Random House in early 2022 and is in development for TV with Naben executive producing the series. Naben's horror novella Helpmeet is under option and Naben is penning the adaptation with frequent collaborator Kris Bertin.

Represented by: Laura Cameron & Samantha Haywood

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Zalika Reid-Benta

Sample script for comedy-drama feature available.

Zalika Reid-Benta's debut story collection, *Frying Plantain*, won the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize, Literary Fiction category, and the Danuta Gleed Literary Award. It was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, shortlisted for the Toronto Book Award, shortlisted for the White Pine Award, shortlisted for the Trillium Book Award, was a Cityline Book Club Pick, was on Quill & Quire's Best Books of 2019 List, and was on the CBC Books Best Books of 2019 list. Zalika is writing the screenplay adaptation of *Frying Plantain*. Her highly anticipated novel *River Mumma*, comes out in August 2023 with Penguin in Canada and in 2024 with Erehon in the US.

Represented by: Amy Tompkins

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Sonya Singh

Sample pilot for half-hour romantic comedy and script for one-hour romance drama available.

Sonya Singh is an author, screenwriter/producer, and storyteller living in Toronto, Canada. Her debut novel *Sari, Not Sari*, had a spring release in '22, becoming an instant bestseller. Sonya recently signed a two-book deal with Double Day/Penguin Random House, with her second book, *The Fake Matchmaker*, slated for a Spring of '24 release. Sonya is working with Nikki Ray Media on the TV pitch for *Sari, Not Sari*; she wrote the pilot for the Rom-Com series as well as another TV series. Sonya is also working with Crown Media/Hallmark as the screenwriter for a holiday movie, *Christmas Spice*. Sonya's interests include screenwriting for romantic comedies, sitcoms, dramas and thrillers.

Represented by: Carolyn Forde & Samantha Haywood

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Marissa Stapley

Sample one hour pilot script available.

Marissa Stapley is the internationally bestselling author of the novels *Lucky*, a Reese Witherspoon Book Club December 2021 Pick, *The Last Resort*, *Things to do When It's Raining*, and *Mating for Life*. Her work has been published in fifteen countries and three of her novels, including *Lucky*, have been optioned for television. *Things to do When it's Raining* is currently in development with Blink49 and Marissa is co-writing the adaptation of *The Last Resort*. She also co-authors holiday rom-coms (*The Holiday Swap*, *All I Want for Christmas*) under the pen name Maggie Knox. She lives in Toronto with her family.

Represented by: Laura Cameron & Samantha Haywood

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Wanda Taylor

Sample one hour procedural pilot script available. Sample script for holiday rom com feature available.

Wanda Taylor is an award-winning writer, filmmaker, journalist, and college professor. As an author of fiction and non-fiction, Wanda writes and publishes across children's, YA, and adult markets. As a former television producer, Wanda has written and produced content in the film, television, and documentary space. Two of her documentaries recently re-aired across Canada as part of Eastlink Television's Films That Teach series. Wanda's magazine features and essays appear in publications across Canada, the UK, and the US. As a former Acquisitions Editor, she acquired and championed award-winning titles from notable emerging and established Canadian authors. She currently works with major publishers and authors on manuscripts in progress as a book editor and a sensitivity reader. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Creative Non-Fiction Collective, and teaches courses in screenwriting, journalism, story writing for media, and communications. Wanda is as a Faculty/Mentor in the MFA Writing and Publishing Program at Kings College and is also Faculty in broadcasting at Centennial College. Wanda's awards include a Canadian Association of Journalists Award and the Women of Excellence Award for Arts and Culture.

Represented by: Léonicka Valcius

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Sarah Mian

Sample script for comedy drama feature available.

Sarah Mian is an author and screenwriter of South Asian/European descent based in Queensland, Nova Scotia. Her debut novel, *When the Saints*, won the awards for best first book and best book overall in Nova Scotia, and it was a top-three finalist for the national Stephen Leacock Medal. *When the Saints* was optioned for a feature film by Lady Hammond Entertainment Inc. for which Sarah wrote the much-lauded screenplay. She is known in the Nova Scotia film community as a "hired gun" with an uncanny ear for dialogue, performing screenwriting and editorial work for production companies such as Workhorse Pictures Inc, Bad Fem Productions, Two East Productions and Chronicle Pictures Inc. Sarah works in all genres.

Represented by: Carolyn Forde

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