

The UCLA Extension Writers' Program congratulates our
2019 Feature Film, Television Pilot, and Television Spec Competition Semi-Finalists!

Listed in alphabetical order below.

Feature Film Writing Semi-Finalists

Zach Drummer

Caregiver (Horror)

When a burnout falls in love with a sheltered girl at community college, he quickly learns that the girl lives with nightly demonic possessions that require a meticulous caretaker or risk the demon running dangerously wild.

Warren Hull

USNB-22 (Historical)

A young trumpet player struggles to make the Navy band destined for the U.S.S. Arizona — and tragedy at Pearl Harbor

Charlies Murray

Fall Awakening (Coming of Age)

An arrogant Ivy League legacy teen must rebuild his life after his acceptance from Yale is rescinded and he is forced to attend community college.

Tyler Rainey

Big Country (Western/Drama)

When Trevor's mother receives a terminal diagnosis, he reaches out to his estranged brother, Shane, for help. Their plan: rob a dangerous drug dealer in order to pay for their mother's experimental treatment.

Christine Speer

Purgatory (Dramedy)

When her mother suddenly announces that she's leaving, a sheltered, suburban tween questions her faith in everything and everyone as she tries to get things back to normal but her family, puberty, and the queen of the PTA have other plans.

Screen reader support enabled.

Rachana Suri

Dukkha (Drama)

Set against the tragedy of the 2013 Rana Plaza manufacturing plant in Bangladesh where over 1,000 laborers were killed. An impoverished daughter of an Indian farmer arranges his daughter's marriage abroad, she must face slave labor and brutal assaults in hopes of saving her sister from the same fate.

Emily Wahlund

Elizabeth Kline Has No Friends (Comedy)

When a woman is excluded from her best friend's wedding party, she sets out to prove that she has other friends -- only to realize just how hard it is to both make friends and sustain them in her 30s.

Television Pilot Writing Semi-Finalists**Jarod Backens**

Heart of America (One-Hour)

Private detective Catherine McCasey battles the corruption and sexism of Chicago at the onset of World War II as she helps a brothel madam solve the murder of an African American boy.

Matt Clune

The Highway (One-Hour)

A true crime drama. Frustrated by corrupt police, the desperate First-Nations family of a female homicide victim hires a relentless investigator whose quest to find the killer uncovers decades-old unsolved murders connected by a remote highway.

Thomas Kuljurgis

Blown (Half-Hour)

A massive security breach forces covert spy Morgan Stone to relocate to the suburbs, where she poses as a middle school guidance counselor while taking down enemies of the state. But when she falls for Larry, a sweet but naïve single dad, she struggles to balance her new relationship and her dangerous profession.

Fiona Luong

Lessons in the Unfamiliar (One-Hour)

A young teacher's life is upended when she finds out she's a witch and needs to go back to school.

Huzaiifa Mogri

Taming Wonderland (One-Hour)

In 1887 a Civil War veteran, haunted by the Army's subjugation of Native Americans, leads his cavalry on a mission to protect Yellowstone, where he faces ruthless poachers, unscrupulous entrepreneurs, and the raging Earth itself.

Justin Phillips

Vanport Juke (One-Hour)

Worlds collide when a blues bar owner teams with the new Chief in policing patrons after a body is found at the ruckus music venue.

J. Scott Worthington

The Pastor's Daughter (One-Hour)

When the senior pastor of a Georgian megachurch commits suicide, his daughter steps in and takes over, challenging centuries of conservative tradition while trying to keep her own family together.

Television Spec Writing Semi-Finalists**Vanita Borwankar**

Broad City: Art Contest (Half-Hour)

When Abbi has a chance to submit her artwork to an ad campaign for Bed, Bath & Beyond but feels blocked, Ilana helps her realize that her vagina may be the key to unlocking her creativity. Meanwhile, Ilana has a nerve-wracking realization about her relationship with Lincoln.

Taylor Casey

Broad City: The Hangover (Half-Hour)

Ilana wakes up with a mysterious wedding ring on her finger and no recollection of how it happened after a wild night out; together her and Abbi retrace her steps to help piece back her night.

Grace Fetterman

BoJack Horseman: The Prime of Miss Jean Horsey (Half-Hour)

BoJack is forced to cover Heron Sorkin's master class while Mr. Peanutbutter trains to become a therapy dog.

Gabe Gabriel

Stranger Things: Operation Find Mage (One-Hour)

While everyone else is trying to return to normal, Mike is desperate to find and rescue Eleven, and Will is still physically and psychologically connected to the upsidedown world he was hostage in.

Huzaiifa Mogri

The Orville: The Months of May (One-Hour)

When the crew of the Orville find an orphaned baby alien whose species' natural lifespan is only several months, they must struggle with the realization that she will live her entire life before their eyes.

Jared Pascoe

American Housewife: Bring it On (Half-Hour)

Katie Otto becomes the Westport High School cheerleading coach.

Courtney Peterson

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy is a Mom (Half-Hour)

When Kimmy takes in a stray dog, she and Titus must face their inner children.