

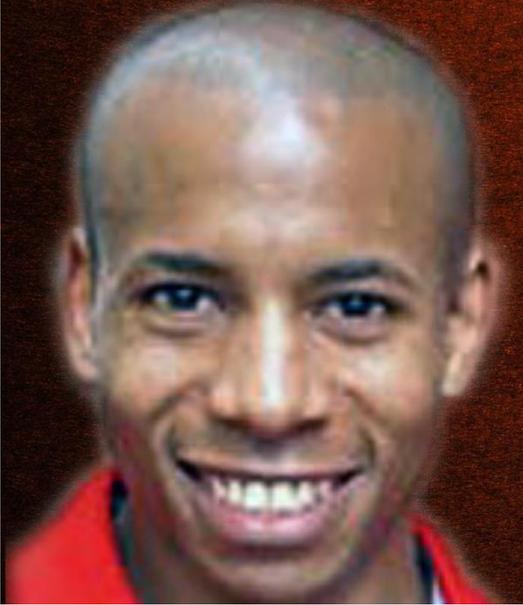


Stefon Bristol

Brooklyn-born, Long Island-bred, Stefon Bristol graduated from Morehouse College and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, just like his Oscar-winning mentor, Spike Lee. A collaboration with Lee led to his feature film debut, SEE YOU YESTERDAY—which screened at 35 film festivals. The film is a magnetic celebration of Caribbean culture and everyday superheroes which continues to resonate with audiences globally today. The film was named one of the "Best Non-Theatrical Releases" of 2019 by Online Film Critics Society and garnered Bristol the nomination for the Best First Feature at the 2020 Independent Spirit Award, with a win for the Best First Screenplay, which he shared with writing partner, Fredrica Bailey.



Darren Canady



From Topeka, Kansas to the New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Darren Canady returned to his home state to join the English Department at the University of Kansas. A thriving career with more than fifteen staged productions and a host of residencies, Canady's searing narratives often display a comic undertone, taken from stories that he grew up listening to. He imparts that same sense of life, exuberance, and expressiveness to his award-winning plays. Written against the backdrop of Jim Crow, the Great Migration, and the Civil Rights Movement, Canady's performances champion the unique culture of African-American life in the Midwest. Although at home in the Kansas Heartland, he and his plays travel widely -- the US, Europe, and Asia. We look forward to the Kansas City rescheduled premiere of his latest, *ONTARIO WAS HERE*.

Darren Canady

From Topeka, Kansas to the New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Darren Canady returned to his home state to join the English Department at the University of Kansas. A thriving career with more than fifteen staged productions and a host of residencies, Canady's searing narratives often display a comic undertone, taken from stories that he grew up listening to. He imparts that same sense of life, exuberance, and expressiveness to his award-winning plays. Written against the backdrop of Jim Crow, the Great Migration, and the Civil Rights Movement, Canady's performances champion the unique culture of African-American life in the Midwest. Although at home in the Kansas Heartland, he and his plays travel widely -- the US, Europe, and Asia. We look forward to the Kansas City rescheduled premiere of his latest, *ONTARIO WAS HERE*.

Danyelle M. Greene



Danyelle M. Greene is a PhD candidate in the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of Kansas. She is a scholar-practitioner whose work centers on African American film and representation in cinema with specific focus on the intersections of gender and religion. At the 2019 Gordon Parks Festival, Greene captivated audiences with her presentation "From the Czar of Hollywood to the Oscars: Black Filmmaking in Kansas," which examined a legacy beginning with Oscar Micheaux. She is currently completing her dissertation "Spirit in Cinema," a textual analysis of African American films between 2000 and 2020.

Danyelle M. Greene

Danyelle M. Greene is a PhD candidate in the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of Kansas. She is a scholar-practitioner whose work centers on African American film and representation in cinema with specific focus on the intersections of gender and religion. At the 2019 Gordon Parks Festival, Greene captivated audiences with her presentation "From the Czar of Hollywood to the Oscars: Black Filmmaking in Kansas," which examined a legacy beginning with Oscar Micheaux. She is currently completing her dissertation "Spirit in Cinema," a textual analysis of African American films between 2000 and 2020. Danyelle M. Greene is a PhD candidate in the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of Kansas. She is a scholar-practitioner whose work centers on African American film and representation in cinema with specific focus on the intersections of gender and religion. At the 2019 Gordon Parks Festival, Greene captivated audiences with her presentation "From the Czar of Hollywood to the Oscars: Black Filmmaking in Kansas," which examined a legacy beginning with Oscar Micheaux. She is currently completing her dissertation "Spirit in Cinema," a textual analysis of African American films between 2000 and 2020.



Josalynn Jennings



Josalynn Jennings was born in Washington D.C. and grew up about 10 minutes outside of the city in Lanham, Maryland. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill she majored in Communications with a concentration in Media Studies and Production and minored in Information Systems. After spending over a decade at Disney/ABC Studios in Casting Administration, she then moved up and over to Paramount TV for a few years, where she was responsible for creating a thriving Casting Administration department. The Paramount experience paved the way to a key position at Netflix in 2018. Currently, her position in Original Series Casting Administration allows her to use the composite of her experience as a Business and Legal Affairs executive with extensive knowledge of actor contracts, negotiations, production, casting, finance, and union agreements. She also enjoys wine, traveling, movies and - not surprisingly - television.

Josalynn Jennings

Josalynn Jennings was born in Washington D.C. and grew up about 10 minutes outside of the city in Lanham, Maryland. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill she majored in Communications with a concentration in Media Studies and Production and minored in Information Systems. After spending over a decade at Disney/ABC Studios in Casting Administration, she then moved up and over to Paramount TV for a few years, where she was responsible for creating a thriving Casting Administration department. The Paramount experience paved the way to a key position at Netflix in 2018. Currently, her position in Original Series Casting Administration allows her to use the composite of her experience as a Business and Legal Affairs executive with extensive knowledge of actor contracts, negotiations, production, casting, finance, and union agreements. She also enjoys wine, traveling, movies and - not surprisingly - television.



Kevin Willmott



Junction City, Kansas native Kevin Willmott, best known for his Academy Award film, *BLACKKKLANSMAN*, which he co-wrote with Spike Lee, is Professor of Film and Media Studies at the University of Kansas. A two-time Sundance Festival winner, Willmott's films have become legendary, including the ground-breaking *CSA (CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA)*, *THE BATTLE FOR BUNKER HILL*, *JAYHAWKERS*, *DESTINATION PLANET NEGRO*, *FROM SEPARATE TO EQUAL: THE CREATION OF TRUMAN MEDICAL CENTER*, *GORDAN PARKS ELEMENTARY*, *FAST BREAK*, *WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE: WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH KANSAS*, and *THE 24TH*. Willmott entered a new stage of his career with the Spike Lee partnership, which has also produced the critically acclaimed film, *CHI-RAQ* and *DA FIVE BLOODS* for Netflix. As his films indicate, Willmott remains one of Kansas's most loyal citizens, displaying a humility that belies his remarkable career.

Kevin Willmott

Junction City, Kansas native Kevin Willmott, best known for his Academy Award film, *BLACKKKLANSMAN*, which he co-wrote with Spike Lee, is Professor of Film and Media Studies at the University of Kansas. A two-time Sundance Festival winner, Willmott's films have become legendary, including the ground-breaking *CSA (CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA)*, *THE BATTLE FOR BUNKER HILL*, *JAYHAWKERS*, *DESTINATION PLANET NEGRO*, *FROM SEPARATE TO EQUAL: THE CREATION OF TRUMAN MEDICAL CENTER*, *GORDAN PARKS ELEMENTARY*, *FAST BREAK*, *WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE: WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH KANSAS*, and *THE 24TH*. Willmott entered a new stage of his career with the Spike Lee partnership, which has also produced the critically acclaimed film, *CHI-RAQ* and *DA FIVE BLOODS* for Netflix. As his films indicate, Willmott remains one of Kansas's most loyal citizens, displaying a humility that belies his remarkable career.



Malcolm Wright

Malcolm Wright was born in the UK, and grew up in a transcultural environment, heavily influenced by his mother, Julia, a journalist, and his grandfather, the famous author Richard Wright. His studies in Marine Biology and FILM at the University of Miami led to a highly successful industry career in visual effects. Between 1998 and 2018, he worked with 22 productions including LORD OF THE RINGS, AVATAR, and GAME OF THRONES. Ten years into his career, Wright founded Quiet Heart Film to incubate projects exploring environmental and social concerns. In 2021, Quiet Heart is set to release WHALE LIKE ME, a documentary at the core of the fault lines between conservationists and whale-eating cultures, shot in 11 countries. The grandson of one of the most celebrated African-American authors, Wright uses his international, literary, historical, and political perspectives to inspire and empower individuals and communities to get involved with creative solutions to the challenges we face.

Malcolm Wright

Malcolm Wright was born in the UK, and grew up in a transcultural environment, heavily influenced by his mother, Julia, a journalist, and his grandfather, the famous author Richard Wright. His studies in Marine Biology and FILM at the University of Miami led to a highly successful industry career in visual effects. Between 1998 and 2018, he worked with 22 productions including LORD OF THE RINGS, AVATAR, and GAME OF THRONES. Ten years into his career, Wright founded Quiet Heart Film to incubate projects exploring environmental and social concerns. In 2021, Quiet Heart is set to release WHALE LIKE ME, a documentary at the core of the fault lines between conservationists and whale-eating cultures, shot in 11 countries. The grandson of one of the most celebrated African-American authors, Wright uses his international, literary, historical, and political perspectives to inspire and empower individuals and communities to get involved with creative solutions to the challenges we face.