



Justice for My Sister

BIPOC Sci-Fi Screenwriting Lab

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Graduates Case Studies





Long-Term Impact of JFMS' BIPOC Sci-Fi Lab

A year after Justice for My Sister's BIPOC Sci-Fi Screenwriting Lab, we surveyed our graduates to assess the long-term impact of their experience in our competitive program. We're proud to report the impressive strides of a select group of our 20 graduates in this document.





Edyka Chilomé

Edyka Chilomé is a queer indigenous mestiza writer and activist. *“The BIPOC Sci-Fi Lab gave me the confidence and support to pursue my dream projects as a woman of color who had little to no experience in film or television.”* Using the foundational vocabulary and industry processes and standards she learned through the lab, Edyka continued to develop a digital series with her writing partner. Edyka is in the final stages of submitting the series to the Austin Film Festival.

In addition, out of over 900 applicants, Edyka was chosen as a finalist in the highly competitive Sundance Institute Uprise Grant Fund. She is currently awaiting the results of the final committee review.





"Learning with and from other people of color with all levels of experience and backgrounds was invaluable. It made me feel safe to ask questions and voice my concerns as a novice in the industry."

"Having built a strong encouraging community of brilliant peers during this lab helped me feel I could dream big and be assured that anything I wanted to create and do would be supported by people who truly knew not only what it would take but also what important impact my work could make in the world! I love my JFMS family!"

-Edyka Chilomé





WELCOME TO
**JUSTICE FOR
MY SISTER'S**
INAUGURAL COHORT
OF THE
**BLACK, INDIGENOUS,
PEOPLE OF COLOR
SCI-FI
SCREENWRITING
LAB**

KRYZZ GAUTIER

Kryzz Gautier

Kryzz Gautier is a queer, Afro-Latina writer/director born and raised in the Dominican Republic. Kryzz was a lauded up-and-coming filmmaker prior to joining the JFMS Lab: she had participated in multiple programs, including Ryan Murphy's "Half Initiative" for emerging episodic directors, the DGA's "Commercial Director's Diversity Program," Women In Film's "INSIGHT" fellowship, and The National Association Of Latino Independent Producers' (NALIP) "Latino Lens: TV Pilot Incubator."

After acceptance to the BIPOC Sci-Fi Lab, Kryzz was invited to Joey Soloway's "Disruptors" fellowship for emerging television writers of color, The Black List's 2020 Episodic Fellow, and a Sundance Institute Fiction Fellowship. During the Lab, Kryzz developed her pilot "Keep, Delete." She later went on to produce the short film version of the pilot she developed with JFMS as a recipient of Women In Film's highly competitive \$20,000 Production Grant.



Syd Stewart

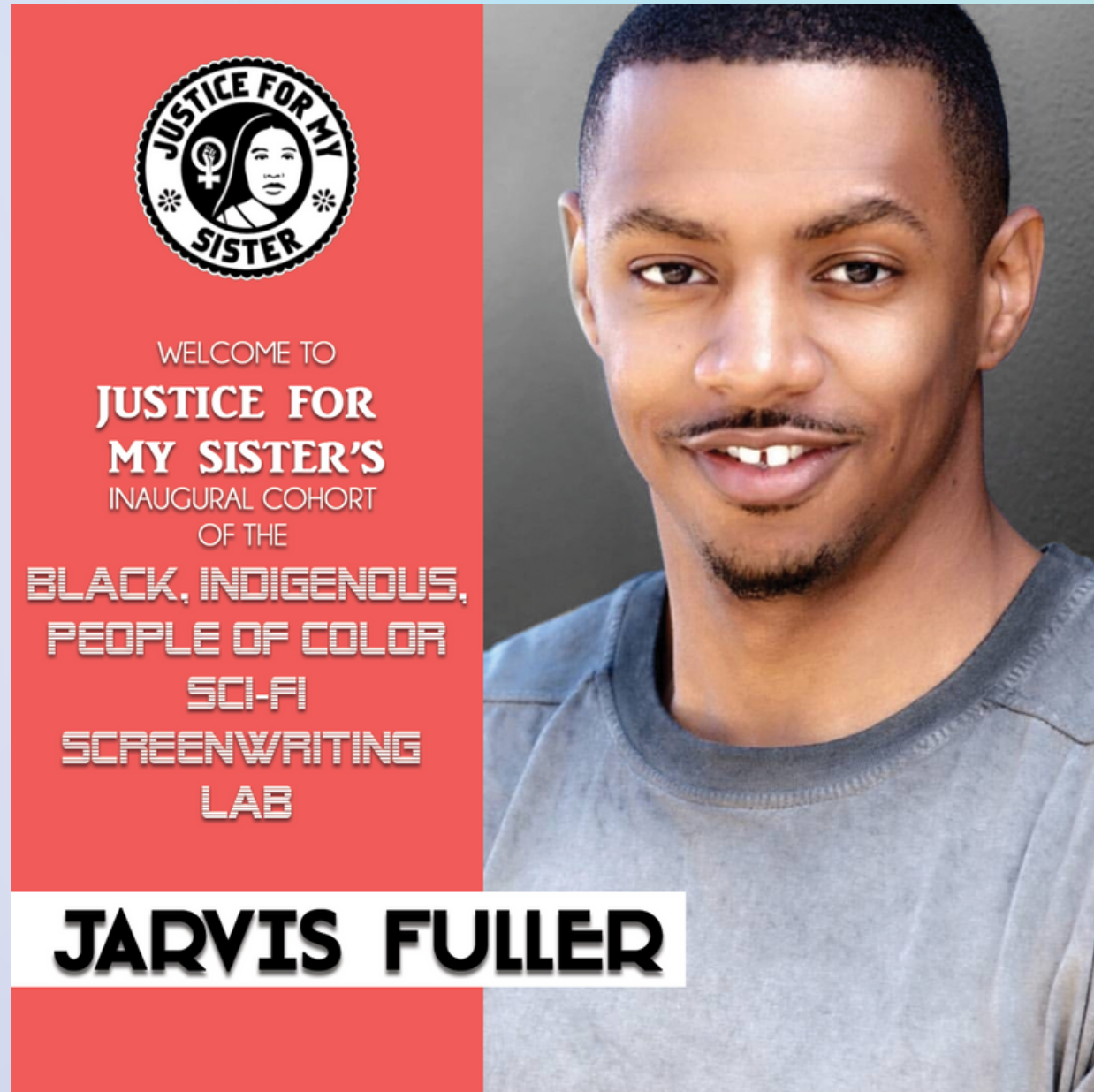
Syd Stewart is an accomplished performance poet, actor and filmmaker. She is also the founder of Better Youth, Inc., a nonprofit which uses mentoring and media arts to equip foster and homeless youth with creative confidence.

Syd says that being accepted into the JFMS BIPOC Screenwriting Lab “*significantly helped to validate my voice, especially during the onset of the pandemic. Interacting with my peer group and mentors helped to sharpen my writing process as an emerging creative.*”

JFMS is proud to report that shortly after attending the Lab, Syd was hired as a staffed television writer for the Cedric the Entertainer-produced original series “Johnson,” putting to use what she learned in the Lab during her interview. “Johnson” is a dramedy set to premiere on Bounce TV on August 1, 2021.



"I am a proud member of the JFMS community and I continue to receive and provide professional support."



Jarvis Fuller

Jarvis Fuller is a Los Angeles based actor and writer. Jarvis came to the Lab with some background in professional film sets, but minimal experience in screenwriting. Driven by his passion for storytelling and working for the betterment of underrepresented communities, Jarvis used the Lab to develop a pilot, “Legendary.” He later pitched the pilot he created in the BIPOC Sci-Fi Lab to an agent and landed representation at one of the largest agencies in Los Angeles.

In Jarvis’s own words: “After participating in the Lab, I know that my work is just as good if not better than what we see on our screens daily. As a black writer, I learned so much from the other writers in the class in terms of different perspectives and the sheer volume of unshared perspectives and talent that are out here waiting to be seen. The Lab was a gift.”



Ang Cruz

Ang Cruz is a Women, Queer, and Gender Studies major at Cal State Fullerton. They've won numerous awards for their work in college journalism and have been honored by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and Los Angeles Film Critics Association. Ang was inspired to become a storyteller after growing up without seeing themselves represented in television and film. Ang found the Lab to be “*enlightening*” and a place where they felt “*seen and valued in [their] time and effort.*”

Although they are only at the very beginning of their career, Ang feels the Lab provided them with unparalleled access to information and peers/mentors already entrenched in the industry, and with a BIPOC-centered perspective that is generally missing in traditional film studies. The Lab helped Ang gain formal training in developing screenplays that will take them to the next level in their professional career in creative content. Currently, Ang is finalizing their screenplay with plans to submit it to other labs and fellowships.





Kristal Sotomayor

Kristal Sotomayor is a bilingual Latinx documentary filmmaker, festival programmer, and freelance journalist based in Philadelphia, PA. Drawing inspiration from their Peruvian heritage, Kristal's community-based work practice focuses on Latinidad, immigration and belonging. Per Kristal, *"One of my main hesitations about writing a TV show [was] the lack of resources for writers of color. Most screenwriting labs are predominantly white and cis-male which makes it an uncomfortable and, at times, an unsafe space for people like me who are queer and Latinx to bear our hearts on the written page."*

The Lab helped Kristal achieve their goal of writing a script for a sci-fi television show in a supportive environment with peers who shared common values and backgrounds. *"The Lab provided supportive mentorship from people in the industry to collaborate and brainstorm with, and to learn how to be in this industry as a queer, Latinx person."* Kristal was able to develop their script to the point of acceptance in "Serial Storytellers," an artistic development program for emerging writers and future showrunners run by the Bay Area Video Coalition.

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"The Lab introduced me to new writings/films that incorporated BIPOC that I had never been exposed to before and to see representations I wouldn't have been exposed to otherwise."



Evelyn Martinez

Evelyn Martinez is a first-generation Latina filmmaker and artist based in Los Angeles. Evelyn came to the Lab with some initial experience in production and has since become a prolific producer. Evelyn says that JFMS rises above other artist development opportunities in creating space for the cohort to share their personal experiences.

After the Lab, Evelyn produced the short film Joyride, a Latino Public Broadcasting grantee directed by BIPOC Sci-Fi mentor Edwin Alexis Gómez. The film premiered at the 2020 PBS Short Film Festival and is currently streaming on the PBS platform. Evelyn went on to be a producer on Trans Los Angeles, a four-part anthology feature by trans Latina director Kase Peña, one of our BIPOC Sci-Fi guest speakers. Trans Los Angeles has garnered support from Warner150, Netflix, and the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF).

Evelyn recently was a Story Producer for Apple's annual developer's conference, WWDC21. Currently, Evelyn is completing her Project Involve Fellowship program with Film Independent. She was accepted to their Producing Track and is completing a live-action short, supported by Panavision, as well as a stop-motion animation short supported by Laika Studios. Evelyn's experience at the JFMS BIPOC Lab inspired her to continue writing her own projects, which she is currently developing to submit to future fellowships and/or production in the near future.



"It really broadened my horizons to know what is possible in our future as BIPOC peoples. Listening to everyone else was just as inspiring as developing my own ideas."