



ASTORIA FILM FESTIVAL MEDIA PRODUCTION LAB

ASTORIA FILM FESTIVAL'S MEDIA PRODUCTION LAB AIMS TO EMPOWER HISTORICALLY-IGNORED NYC YOUTH AGES 18-28, AND FOSTER INCLUSIVE MEDIA REPRESENTATION

THE AFF MEDIA PRODUCTION LAB IS A FREE 3-MONTH PROGRAM THAT OFFERS MASTER CLASSES WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AND HANDS-ON FILMMAKING TRAINING, ALONG WITH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING. WE PROVIDE THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE, AND VALUABLE CONNECTIONS NEEDED FOR MARGINALIZED YOUTH TO CREATE FILMS THAT REFLECT THEIR OWN VOICES AND TO PURSUE INDUSTRY CAREERS IN FILM/TV/DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION.



**AGES 18 - 28
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**



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AFF'S FOUNDER NINA FIORE EDM IS A DISABLED FIRST-GEN WOMAN WHO GREW UP IN QUEENS, GRADUATED FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY, AND THEN STRUGGLED TO GAIN ENTRY INTO THE MEDIA INDUSTRY, BUT FINALLY WAS ABLE TO WORK ON A VARIETY OF PRODUCTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION. HER GOAL WITH CREATING THE FESTIVAL AND ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO HELP OTHER LOCAL YOUTH WITHOUT INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS FIND A WAY IN.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO INCREASING REPRESENTATION OF HISTORICALLY-IGNORED AND MARGINALIZED VOICES AND FACES IN THE MEDIA, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE DISABLED, BLACK, BROWN, INDIGENOUS, ASIAN, LOW-INCOME, IMMIGRANT, AND/OR WOMEN, BY PROVIDING TRAINING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MENTORSHIP TO OUR LAB FELLOWS. THE ONLY WAY THE MEDIA INDUSTRY WILL PROPERLY REPRESENT ALL THE VOICES IN THE COUNTRY IS IF ALL VOICES ARE INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF MEDIA ITSELF". OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE GREATER DIVERSITY IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY BY EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRODUCTION PROFESSIONALS.

LAB CLASSES INCLUDE:

- PRE PRODUCTION: VIRTUAL PRODUCTION, PITCHING, PRODUCING, PRODUCTION ACCOUNTING, LOCATION SCOUTING, PROP CREATION, CREATING ACCESSIBLE SETS/WORKPLACES.
- PRODUCTION: DIRECTING & DP-ING, CAMERA TECH, GAFFING/GRIP WORK, SOUND MIXING & BOOM POLE OPERATION, HAIR AND MAKEUP.
- POST PRODUCTION: EDITING, VFX, SFX, MARKETING, LAW, DISTRIBUTION
- THE LAB CONCLUDES WITH A 3-WEEKEND INTENSIVE FILMMAKING WORKSHOP WHERE PARTICIPANTS WORK AS A TEAM TO CREATE AND SHOOT THEIR OWN FILM WHICH IS THEN PREMIERED DURING THE ASTORIA FILM FESTIVAL AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE IN ASTORIA NY.

FORMER LAB PROJECTS:

DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT ASTORIA'S MT SINAI HOSPITAL AND ITS ROLE IN CARING FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE COVID OUTBREAK (2021)

DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT DISABILITY REPRESENTATION IN US MEDIA (2022)

YOUTUBE VLOG FOR A LOCAL LATINA HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST (2023)

NARRATIVE HORROR FILM ABOUT COLLEGE ROOMMATES (2024)

FORMER LAB PARTICIPANTS ARE CURRENTLY WORKING AS:

MANY LAB ALUMS WORK WITH AFF AS INSTRUCTORS, VIDEOGRAPHERS, AND EDITORS. WE ALSO DO OUR BEST TO MATCH UP LAB ALUM WITH INDUSTRY JOBS SUCH AS ASST EDITORS WITH AMAZON PRIME AND PRODUCTION ASST AT SESAME STREET.

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