

MEET OUR JURY



Mariah Dunn Kramer

Mariah Dunn Kramer is an instructor in Film Studies at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, and an independent filmmaker. She has received multiple awards for her work. Her most recent film, *This is My Home Now*, was broadcast on PBS and the World Channel.

Malaika Paquiot

Malaika Paquiot is a Digital Strategist with ARRAY, founded by Ava DuVernay. She is currently a member of the Sundance Institute, a board member of Working Films, a board member of Cucalorus, and a former board member of the San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild.



Tanya Fermin

Tanya Fermin is an actress and director, known for *Haon* (2017), *The Penthouse* (2021) and *Two-Eleven* (2015), *The Arrangements* (2016).

Rebecca Busch

Rebecca Busch is a director and writer, known for *Killer Bees* (2016) and *Got No Fetish* (2015).



Christen Christian

Christen found her filmmaking spark late one night in 1983 when the lake near her house was lit up like daylight. It was Wilmington's first major motion picture, *Firestarter*, and it was being filmed practically in her backyard. Enthralled, Christen found her uncle's old Super8 camera, bought a few rolls of film and started shooting a movie. The rest, as they say, is history.

Natalie Lentz Blake

Natalie Lentz Blake began programming films for Cucalorus Film Festival in 2013, and later operated as Senior Programming Coordinator until 2017. She dabbled in set design for various independent films in Wilmington, NC. She now works as a commercial interior designer and serves as President of the Cucalorus Festival Board of Directors.



Patti Mason