

## UPTILT FILM FEST 2023 GRANT READERS



BRANDI BERRY, M.E.A. IS A TENURED PROFESSOR AT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY IN OXFORD, PA, WHERE SHE TEACHES IN THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT. FROM 2020-2022 SHE SERVED AS DEAN OF FIRST YEAR STUDENTS. IN 2021 SHE WAS A RECIPIENT OF THE MELLON GRANT, WHERE SHE USED HER FUNDS TO PRODUCE A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT A HAITIAN SONG ENTITLED "LISETTE," ALSO THE FILM'S NAME. BRANDI ALSO SERVES AS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO GOTHAM EDU AND THEIR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM. BRANDI'S TEACHING PHILOSOPHY IS THE COLLEGE CLASSROOM IS A SAFE SPACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN EXPLORE THEIR CREATIVITY, VALUES, INTELLIGENCE, AND FAILURES WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF PARENTAL CONTROL OR THE CONSTRAINTS OF A STRUCTURED GRADE SCHOOL SYSTEM. IT IS THE PERFECT ENVIRONMENT TO DEVELOP THEIR SUPERPOWER. STRONG ACADEMICS ARE ONLY A PORTION OF WHAT MAKES AN ACCOMPLISHED GRADUATE. SHE INCORPORATES EVERYTHING FROM ANGELA DUCKWORTH'S GRIT TO JANE MCGONIGAL'S GAME THEORY TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS, HAPPINESS HACKS, AND MAPPING OUT A PLAN FOR SUCCESS. FOR HER, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO INVEST IN A STUDENT'S MIND AS WELL AS THEIR WELL-BEING.



CINDY HSIEH, M.E.A. UNCG CLASS OF 2013, RESIDES IN ATLANTA, GA, AND IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHERS' GUILD, LOCAL 600. SHE WORKS AS A 2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA IN NARRATIVE FILM AND VIDEO PRODUCTION. IN ADDITION TO HER NARRATIVE WORK, SHE IS AN ASSOCIATE PRODUCER AND CAMERA BLOCKER FOR NBC IN THEIR FIGURE SKATING COVERAGE AND WINTER AND SUMMER OLYMPICS BROADCASTS. SHE ATTENDED HER 7TH OLYMPIC GAMES IN BEIJING IN FEBRUARY 2022.



MELISSA WILLENBORG, M.E.A. IS A DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER, GUEST LECTURER, AND PROFESSIONAL MEDIA PRODUCER WITH SPECIALTIES IN EDITING, AUDIO ACQUISITION, AND CAMERA OPERATION. SHE IS THE SOLE PROPRIETOR OF ZIRIN PRODUCTIONS LLC, A CLIENT-BASED MEDIA PRODUCTION COMPANY BASED IN CALIFORNIA'S NORTH BAY AREA. SHE'S ADMINISTERED GUEST LECTURES ON DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING AT SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE, SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO.



MARIAH DUNN KRAMER, M.E.A. IS A LECTURER OF FILM STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, WILMINGTON, AND AN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER. SHE HAS RECEIVED MULTIPLE AWARDS FOR HER WORK, WHICH HAS BEEN SCREENED IN OVER TWENTY FESTIVALS INCLUDING THE PORTLAND OREGON WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL, CUCALORUS FILM FESTIVAL, AND THE BEND FILM FESTIVAL. MARIAH'S SHORT DOCUMENTARY, THIS IS MY HOME NOW, WAS BROADCAST ON PBS AND THE WORLD CHANNEL. MARIAH ALSO SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE UPTILT FILM FEST WHICH SHINES A LIGHT ON FILMS THAT ARE WRITTEN AND/OR DIRECTED BY WOMEN OR GENDER-EXPANSIVE FOLKS WHO IDENTIFY WITH WOMANHOOD.