

THE 2024 ARKHAIOS SHORTS SCREENING COMMITTEE

PERSEPHONE VANDEGRIFT, CHAIR



Persephone Vandegrift is a multi-award-winning screenwriter, filmmaker, and playwright but she would have loved to become an archaeologist. Her first exposure to the ancient past was at the impressionable age of 11 when her mother gave her a copy of the Reader's Digest: "*The World's Last Mysteries*". Although she pursued a career in the film industry, her fascination with the ancient world never faded and she can often be found stalking archaeology news sites until the wee hours. When she's not stalking, Seph writes children's books, screenplays, and teaches creative writing workshops.

TRISTAN BOYLE



Tristan Boyle is a digital public archaeologist with a degree in chemistry and archaeology from the University of Aberdeen. At age 16 he developed a passion for podcasting, and since has gone on to create and produce a range of podcasts about archaeology and heritage, and co-founding the **Archaeology Podcast Network** and **Kulturo Media**. An advocate of the benefits of media outreach for archaeology, he has contributed to books and journals on the subject and has led podcasting workshops and lectures at Universities. Tristan believes it is imperative for archaeologists to foster public participation in archaeology and that

communicating effectively with the public is integral to achieving that.

DR. MICHAEL CARSON



Mike T. Carson (Ph.D., University of Hawaii, 2002) investigates archaeology and ancient landscapes, based on his research throughout the Asia-Pacific region. He produces online educational content in "**Archaeology Studio**" channel on YouTube, and currently he is Associate Professor of Archaeology at the Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam. Among his several books and peer-reviewed publications, "**Archaeology of Pacific Oceania: Inhabiting a Sea of Islands**" (2018) was awarded as Outstanding Academic Title by the Association of College and Research Libraries.

RALPH FONTAINE



Ralph Fontaine is an actor, director, writer, and producer who has worked in front of and behind the camera in Los Angeles, New York, and Seattle. Stories, both fictional and true, about the origins, history, and potential future of humanity have captivated him for as long as he can remember. Characters including D'Artagnan from '*The Three Musketeers*' and real-world icon *Dr. Jane Goodall* have inspired him to continue learning about and chronicling the strange experience that is being a human. In addition to pursuing a variety of creative muses, Ralph enjoys traveling with his wife Tracy.

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BRIAN L. FRITZ



Brian Fritz is a native of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, USA with roots laid down on a farm near Stoystown. He is the owner and Principal Archaeological Investigator of Quemahoning LLC, a cultural resources consulting firm based in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Mr. Fritz earned bachelor's degrees in both geology and archaeology from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, and a Master of Science degree in geology from the University of Akron. He is a registered professional archaeologist (RPA) and geographic information system professional (GISP). Mr. Fritz is the inventor of **the PaleoDigger machine** for deep archaeological testing and the founder of the **ArchaeologyX** YouTube Channel.

DR. PEGI JODRY



Dr. Pegi Jodry is a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution.

For 35 years, she conducted archaeological and ethnological field research across North America and in Alaska, France, Siberia, and Kamchatka investigating human lifeways at the end of the last Ice Age.

Pegi works collaboratively with indigenous elders, documentary filmmakers, and interdisciplinary scientists to bring the past and present alive through stories that integrate scientific findings, traditional knowledge, and visual imagery.

Dr. Pegi Jodry is a Director on the Arkhaios Board of Directors.

DR. MATILDA SIEBRECHT



Dr. Matilda Siebrecht is an archaeologist and journalist who specialises in prehistoric cultures, artifact analysis, and science communication. She is currently working as the director of **the international society of experimental archaeology and open-air museums** (EXARC), as an archaeologist and social outreach officer at a German excavation company, and as the social media manager for the **Archaeology Podcast Network**. In her spare time, Matilda hosts several archaeological podcasts, creates online archaeological content through her digital platform "**The**

Archaeologist's Teacup", and is the founder of the **Archaeo Book Club**.