

EMERGENCE FILMS 2026

Friday, February 13, 2026 | 5:30pm
Studio Channel Islands Art Center www.studiochannelislands.org

WELCOME 5.15

LOCAL STUDENT FILMS 5.30 -7.00

Angelique Pineda Oxnard College / CSUN

Maarte
The Space Between Us
Loving You

Guillermo Guttierrez / CSUN

It Glows

Emily Faucret / CLU

Versions of Me

Isabella Ortiz / CLU

Stitched

Christian Garnica / CLU

It's Just Business

Zack Daly / CLU

Get You Home

Marlee DeAnda and Haley Barr / CLU

Blind Fate

Riley O'Hara / CUNY

Unfounded Woman
Preparation

Aliana Nuño / Chapman U

Scrap Metal

DISCUSSION: 7.00-7.15

ROBIN WANG + MAHMOUD SALIMI

AWARD WINNING STUDENT FILMS 7.15 - 8.30

Sofia Figueroa: California Baptist College

Warehouse Empire / 2025 Emmy
Off The Rails / Peoples' Choice for Environmental Justice

Xindi Zhang / USC

Song of Drifters / 2025 Student Academy Award / Experimental

Zefan / Columbia

XXX Mon Amour / 2025 Student Academy Award / Narrative

Robin Wang / USC

Wei Lai / 2025 Stage 32 Short Film Grand Prize, Best Comedy of the Year, New Filmmakers Los Angeles, Best Comedy, 42nd College TV Awards

FILMMAKER BIOS

Angelique Pineda was raised in Ewa Beach, Hawaii and moved to Oxnard, California in 2018. In 2015 she won the NCAC Youth Freedom of Expression Film Contest with a piece I directed, shot, and edited titled, "Only If You Let It". A film I directed and shot, "Miracle Baby" was aired on PBS Hawaii, and won first place in the PBS Hawaii's 2017 Hiki No Best Profile Piece Award. In 2017 I worked for Hawaii Women in Filmmaking as a mentor for students! It is a passion of mine to pass along the knowledge I've acquired about filmmaking to others! "Skin", a short film I created was an award recipient at the Cinematografo Original's 2018 Student Short Film Contest.

Guillermo Guttierrez is an Oxnard-based filmmaker and visual artist whose work spans narrative shorts and experimental films. Writing, directing, and producing, his work often explores science fiction, atmosphere, and conceptual storytelling across a wide range of styles and forms.

Emily Faucret is a graduate of CLU with a BA in Film and TV. After serving as an intern, she was offered a job at her dream production company. Emily gives thanks to God for clearly directing her purpose and making her path straight, her encouraging family, friends, and parents (best friends) for always having faith that she can do anything she puts her mind to.

Isabella Ortiz is a graduate of Film and TV from CLU. Beyond film, Isabella leads her school's Delight chapter, a nationwide non-profit Christian ministry for college women.

Justin Duverge Jimenez is a Dominican American student at CLU, majoring in Communications with an emphasis in Film. He would love to work in the film industry as a screenwriter, editor, or producer. Other projects that Justin is involved in are performing with a music group called Unknxwnoutsiders. He is also an executive producer for upcoming albums, such as "Hills Have Eyes" by Ace Riverside.

Marlee DeAnda is an aspiring independent filmmaker based in Southern California. She is a graduate of California Lutheran University, with a B.A. in Film and Television Production and a minor in Art. Marlee currently works as a content creation manager for local brands, utilizing her skills as a videographer, editor, and graphic designer to elevate brand visibility. Her goal is to be part of the ever-expanding representation of women in the film industry, with a focus on telling stories that spark conversation and drive positive change.

Haley Barr is a senior at CLU graduating with a degree in Film and TV. Over the past few years, she has worked in various positions as a production assistant for a popular YouTube channel, producer and director of her own short films, and script supervisor for a full-length feature. Most recently, she interned on ABC's television show, Grey's Anatomy.

Zack Daly / CLU
Get You Home

FILMMAKER BIOS CONTINUED

Christian Garnica is a senior Film & TV student at CLU. Originally from Blythe, California, he moved west to experience the film world he had long heard about but never seen firsthand. Growing up far from the industry shaped his perspective and fuels his interest in visual storytelling rooted in grounded experience. His dream career goal is to pursue cinematography as a profession.

Riley O'Hara is a lifetime entertainer, and she continues to show it in her dedication towards the craft of filmmaking. With her direction of *Every Man's Death Avenges Me*, her horrifyingly creative use of Special Effects Makeup in *Watching Paint Dry* and her acting credits in multiple shorts and a feature, Riley continues to prove herself a lover of the craft. She continues to build her skills with classes, self-education and lots of practice. She continues to have something 'coming soon' and continues to outdo herself.

Aliana Nuño is passionate about post-production and all aspects of storytelling. Her end goal is to be a narrative film editor and continue telling bold and impactful stories.

Sofia Figueroa is a Latina creative, born and raised in San Bernardino, CA. My passion is helping artists, businesses, and non-profit organizations tell their story through authenticity and empathy. Ever since I was little, I had always been fascinated with the arts and with serving my community. After high school, I attended California Baptist University and graduated with a Bachelors in Film Studies and a minor in Sociology. Through my college experience, I began partnering with local non-profits and community organizers to document their events. This then led me to working with local businesses and artists. Today, my mission is to bring awareness, empathy, and authenticity to all my work and partnerships.

Come and See Media started in 2022 with the vision of helping people share their voice and vision. After working in the community for several years in San Bernardino, I realized there was a rising generation of growth and education in the form of local businesses and community programs. Yet, this movement went completely unnoticed by most locals. This realization motivated me to create this production company. I developed a passion for documenting the revitalization taking place in San Bernardino and I look forward to capturing, sharing, and promoting the coming development of this city and the Inland Empire.

The name "Come & See Media" actually was inspired by the bible verse John 1:46, "Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'".

Coming from San Bernardino, a place infamous for violence and poverty, I was always faced with negative reactions when I told people I'm from this city. So when I read this story in the Bible, I felt that. Many are quick to stereotype and stigmatize, but if invited in – Come & See – they will see the creative, resilient, and passionate people that make up San Bernardino. This exact sentiment is what this company is based on. Inviting people in to hear or watch a story and have them open up their minds and broaden their perspectives.

FILMMAKER BIOS CONTINUED

Xindi Zhang / is a 3D animator and visual developer currently studying at the University of Southern California. She loves storytelling, making images, and building world views. She would love to share her ideas with people who have similar interests.

Coming from both game and animation backgrounds, Xindi Zhang is familiar with pipelines to make 3D animation and games.

Zefan is a filmmaker born and raised in Ganzhou, China. He holds a BA in economics from Nankai University and a MFA in film from Columbia University. Zefan's films take interest in the inter-action and -construction between human beings and their memories, as well as the surreality embedded in contemporary life. His short film XXX, Mon Amour (2024) won Best Film at the 11th Chongqing Youth Film Festival. His subsequent short, Kubrick, Like I Love You (2025), received the Bronze Medal (Narrative Category) at the 52nd Student Academy Awards and a Special Mention at the 19th FIRST International Film Festival.

Robin Wang was born in Xi'an, China but had spent most of his youth traversing the rich and intricate cultural landscapes of China, Singapore, and the United States. As a Chinese diaspora storyteller, Robin is recognized for his global Asian-themed dramas with a blend of bittersweet poignancy, twisted ethics, and heartfelt realities. As one who wanders on the margin of cultures, he wants to continue to explore the meaning of "home" and "homelessness" against the massive backdrop of cultural displacement and the Asian diaspora.

As a director and producer, Robin has brought his works to over a hundred international film festivals worldwide, including the Telluride Film Festival and many prominent Oscar-qualifiers such as LA Outfest, Cleveland, St. Louis, Urbanworld, deadCenter, Hollyshorts, and LA Shorts. He is especially known for directing the historical biopic short film, Neither Donkey Nor Horse, based on the life of the first Nobel Prize-nominated Chinese scientist, Dr. Wu Lien-teh. The film, sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, premiered at the 51st Telluride Film Festival, won the Student Academy Awards®, and is longlisted for Best Live Action Short Film at the 97th Academy Awards®.

Robin holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English (Highest Distinction) from Duke University and an MFA degree in Film & Television Production from the University of Southern California. He is a Student Academy Award® winner, a DGA Student Award winner, and a two-time Student Emmy winner based in Los Angeles.

MAHMOUD SALIMI

Mahmoud Salimi is an educator and filmmaker—a writer and director whose work casts a probing and compassionate eye on the struggles that shape human lives, exploring the resilient threads of the human condition. Across Asia, Europe, and North America, he has brought stories to life through fiction and documentary films, music videos, and corporate productions, each marked by a distinct sensitivity to place and perspective. His work has earned recognition at international film festivals, affirming both its artistic depth and social resonance. He has collaborated with global non-profit organizations such as the United Nations and the BBC. In the classroom, he shares his craft with emerging storytellers, teaching film and theater production with the same passion that fuels his own creative journey.