



NYTVF NAMES 2018 INDEPENDENT PILOT COMPETITION SELECTIONS – INCLUDING ARMAGEDDON, DEMONS, MEDIOCRE CIA AGENTS AND BEER! (AND THOSE ARE JUST THE COMEDIES)

*Female Creators, Writers, Directors Driving 70% of this year’s Pilots;
Trending Themes Include Relationships, Cop Shows and Most Animation in Festival’s History*

Official Selections – including 45 World Festival Premieres – to be Screened for the Public from July 14-19, with Awards Given Out at July 20 Brunch (Industry Passes now on sale!)

[NEW YORK, NY, May 22, 2018] – The NYTVF (www.nytvf.com) today announced the Official Selections for its flagship [Independent Pilot Competition](#) (IPC). 59 original television and digital pilots and series will be presented for industry executives and TV fans at the 14th Annual New York Television Festival.

This year’s Festival takes place across seven days (and in the summer) for the first time – July 14-20, 2018 at The Helen Mills Theater and Event Space, with select events at the SVA Theatre.

The slate of in-competition projects represents a level of diversity well above the industry at large, including:

- A record 72% of all selected pilots feature persons of color above the line, up from 56% in 2017;
- 70% of these pilots include a woman in a core creative role (creator, writer, director) – including 53% with a female creator (up from 50% in 2017 and the largest number in the Festival’s history);
- 40% of Official Selections have a person of color on the core creative team; and
- Nearly one third of selected projects (30%) hail from outside New York or Los Angeles, with international entries from the UK, Austria, Australia, and Canada.

Additionally, 45 of the 59 projects (i.e., 76%) selected are World Festival Premieres, and slightly more than half (51%) enter the competition with no representation.

“Some of the most compelling storytelling on TV is coming from writers and creators with a variety of backgrounds, and this has become a real inspiration point for the next generation of creators. We are seeing this in full force in 2018, and the unique stories being brought forward by indie artists are a clear reaction to this important industry trend,” said NYTVF Founder and executive director **Terence Gray**.

He added, “At its core, the Festival has always been about elevating the best new creative voices and introducing them to industry decision-makers. The fact that more than half of these projects don’t have representation, and three quarters are premiering at our Festival, aligns perfectly with our mission and the growing spotlight the industry is shining on independent television.”

Independent Pilot Competition – Opportunities for Artists & Industry Executives

In addition to being part of the annual independent television showcase, IPC selections will compete in a variety of categories (including “Best Comedy” and “Best Drama”) by a jury comprised of the NYTVF screening

committee and the emerging television executives selected for the [NYTVF-HRTS Next Generation Committee](#), with winners being announced at a July 20 closing awards brunch.

As Official Artists, the creators of these pilots qualify for a chance to receive a development deal from one of the NYTVF's Development Partners – networks and studios which have guaranteed to offer deals to independent artists this year. These independent creators also have exclusive access to the NYTVF's industry partners through the [NYTVF Connect](#) marketplace, which includes the opportunities to meet, network and pitch some of the top network and studio executives in the business.

For buyers, agents, managers, development executives, and others interested in participating in the NYTVF Connect program, **industry passes are available for purchase through mid-July, with the standard rate of \$1000 good through June 15.** The NYTVF Connect Industry Pass provides accredited participants with pre-Festival access to all officially-selected projects and scripts, as well as the opportunity to request facilitated meetings with artists or projects of interest via the NYTVF's Executive Hub. For information on participation opportunities or to request accreditation, email industry@nytvf.com or visit <http://www.nytvf.com/industry.html>.

Information on the 2018 IPC Official Selections

(including links to trailers where available)

Noted Festival Director Erin Day, “In addition to diversity – which remains a strong theme at the Festival, including 10 LGBTQIA-themed projects in competition as well as some sketch comedy from new POVs – we have seen other trends from the just-concluded pilot season and upfront presentations reflected in this year's lineup. This includes 14 projects that tackle relationships and dating, eight Chicago-based pilots and the most animation selections (seven) and strongest drama pilots we have ever had.”

The Official Selections also feature a number of names, faces, and voices recognizable to TV fans, including projects created and executive produced by **Timothy Busfield** (*Thirtysomething*, *The West Wing*), **James Lafferty** and **Stephen Colletti** (*One Tree Hill*), **Will Arnett** (*Arrested Development*), **Marc Forman** (*The Gong Show*), and **Nate Smith** (*Inside Amy Schumer*), **Tony Gilroy** (*Rogue One*, *Michael Clayton*) and **Kerry Orent** (*The Tick*, *The Affair*), **Kitao Sakurai** (*The Eric Andre Show*), **Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim** (*Tim and Eric Awesome, Great Job!*), Thank You, Brain! Productions' **Tracey Baird** and **Kraysia Plonka** (*Those Who Can't*), **Brittany Scott Smith** (*The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*) and **Arjay Smith** (*Sons of Anarchy*, *Perception*), **Alesia Etinoff** (*The Mayor*), **Susane Lee** (*Gilmore Girls*), and starring/featuring the talents of **Robin Thede** (*The Rundown with Robin Thede*), **Colin Mochrie** (*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*), **Michael Cyril Creighton** (*High Maintenance*, *Spotlight*), **Paul Scheer** (*The League*), **Carla Gallo** (*Bones*), **Joey Slotnick** (*Nip/Tuck*, *Boston Public*), **Nathan Kress** (*iCarly*), **Melissa Gilbert** (*Little House on the Prairie*), **Dylan Baker** (*Homeland*, *The Good Wife*), **Marin Mazzie** (Tony-nominee *Kiss Me Kate*, *Ragtime*), **Danielle Campbell** (*The Originals*, CW's upcoming *All American*), **Matthew Atkinson** (*Jane by Design*), **Jim Santangeli** (*Our Cartoon President*), **Ann Carr** (*Red Oaks*), **Caldwell Tidicue** (*Besties*), **Joshua Eads-Brown and Karl Westerberg** (*RuPaul's Drag Race*), **Alexandra Park** (*The Royals*), **Cariba Heine** (*Home and Away*), **Christine Garver** (*Madam Secretary*), and **Deborah Baker Jr.** (*Stan Against Evil*), **Sam Gilroy** (*Imposters*, *Billions*), **Madeline Weinstein** (Netflix's upcoming *Alex Strangelove*), **Melanie Leishman** (Space's *Todd and the Book of Pure Evil*), **Emmanuel Kabongo** (*21 Thunder*), **Philip Burgers** (Netflix's *Characters*), **Miles Fisher** (*Man Seeking Woman*), **Bob Clendenin** (*Longmire*), **Michael Charles Roman** (*Grace and Frankie*), **Holly Walker** (*The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*), **Armando Riesco** (*The Chi*), **Drew Moerlein** (*South of Hell*), **Mary Catherine Garrison** (*Veep*), **Emma Fitzpatrick** (*Significant Mother*, *The Social Network*), **Jason Weiss** (*One Life to Live*), **Rachael Holmes** (Amazon's *Mad Dogs*), **Amy Hargreaves** (*Homeland*) and **Marlyne Barrett** (*Chicago Med*, *The Wire*).

The pilots selected for this year's IPC represent talented writers, producers, and actors from across the U.S., including: New York, Los Angeles, Austin, Salt Lake City, East Lansing, Houston, and Chicago, as well as international selections from the UK, Austria, Australia, and Canada.

COMEDY (32 Pilots)

12 Beers [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Mike Camerlengo - Brooklyn, NY

Once a year, longtime couple Danny and Sarah each drink 12 beers and decide if they're going to re-up their lease...and their relationship.

2some [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Kris Isacsen - Pound Ridge, NY

Two stay-at-home dads navigate life in suburbia.

Starring Joey Slotnick (*Nip/Tuck*, *Boston Public*) and Ed Herbstman (*The Big Sick*)

Alive in Denver

Created by Michael Levin - Los Angeles, CA

As an apocalyptic meteor hurtles toward Earth, five friends reveal their deepest darkest secrets to each other while they still have the chance.

Starring Nathan Kress (*iCarly*) and Danielle Campbell (*The Originals*, CW's upcoming *All American*)

Bothered [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Catherine McCafferty and Seth Daniel - Los Angeles, CA

A dark comedy following two twenty-whatever roommates as they poorly navigate life, relationships, and getting up in the morning.

Brooklyn Moving Company [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Ryan Harrington and Isaac Himmelman - Brooklyn, NY

The members of an unconventional moving company try in earnest to transform the lives of their Brooklyn clientele through song and dance.

Executive produced and directed by Krysia Plonka (*The Rosie O'Donnell Show*) and executive produced by Tracey Baird (*Those Who Can't*)

Brown Ops [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Nate Smith - Los Angeles, CA

CIA Black Ops agents are the smartest, deadliest spies in the world. The best of the best. Then there are BROWN OPS agents... look, not everybody can be the best.

Created by and starring Nate Smith (*Inside Amy Schumer*), starring Jim Santangeli (*Our Cartoon President*) and Ann Carr (*Red Oaks*), and executive produced by Electric Avenue's Will Arnett and Marc Forman, and Artists First's Peter Principato and Brian Steinberg

Carol's A Demon [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Amanda Holland - Los Angeles, CA

When Sofia and her friends accidentally summon an optimistic demon named Carol, Sofia has to figure out if she's willing to help the 3,000 year old demon get into heaven or try to send her back to hell.

Starring and Executive Produced by Ashly Perez (Buzzfeed Motion Pictures)

The Cocoa Fondue Show [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Andrew Wyatt Arnold and Will Robelo - Los Angeles, CA

It's a constant battle for the spotlight on and off stage when the LIPS Network decides to cast archrivals Cocoa Fondue and Catastrawberry as co-hosts for their new Drag-tastic variety show.

Starring Caldwell Tiducue, Joshua Eads-Brown, and Karl Westerberg (*RuPaul's Drag Race*)

Cross Stitch [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Cristi Rumpza and Emily Schmidt - Los Angeles, CA

When a woman from Mary Beth's past threatens to sabotage her chances in the Cranberry Festival Bake-Off, she goes to dangerous lengths to maintain her reputation in the quaint town of Stone Lake, WI.

Everyone Is Doing Great

Created by James Lafferty and Stephen Colletti - Los Angeles, CA

Five years after their series *Eternal* has ended, actors Seth and Jeremy lean on each other as they struggle to reclaim their previous level of success and relevance, awkwardly navigating the perils of life and love amidst a humorously painful coming of age.

Created by and starring James Lafferty (*One Tree Hill*) and Stephen Colletti (*Laguna Beach*) and starring Alexandra Park (*The Royals*), Cariba Heine (*Home and Away*), Matthew Atkinson (*Jane by Design*), Christine Garver (*Madam Secretary*), and Deborah Baker Jr. (*Stan Against Evil*)

Framed [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Claire McFadden - Chicago, IL

This Chicago-set improvised series goes behind the counter of a custom frame shop, where a parade of customers reveal their troubles, aspirations, and drama in the process of framing their precious art.

The Gary Gold Story [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Greg Ash - Los Angeles, CA

A comedy series following the attempts of a once great English footballer to resurrect his career in Los Angeles.

Ghost Girl [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Samantha Evans - New York, NY

Quirky, crafty, and musical, *Ghost Girl* focuses on grief and the strength of a life-long friendship between two young women.

Ghost Squad [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Andy Kushnir and Carley Moseley - Chicago, IL

A mockumentary series which follows a ragtag group of paranormal investigators led by their staunchly optimistic leader Desperado Miller, who join forces to suss out ghouls and spirits from homes across the Chicago area.

Good Hombres [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Cesar Jaime, Damian Anaya, and Jose Molina - Chicago, IL

A sketch comedy show that celebrates and examines Latino culture from a brand new perspective.

Hammerhead [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Dean Imperial - New York, NY

An ambitious, driven and deceptively cunning young man with a deformed forehead, leaves his father's home after graduate school determined to climb the ladder of success in New York City and find a mate - against all odds.

Starring Sam Gilroy (*Imposters*, *Billions*) and executive produced by Tony Gilroy (*Rogue One*, *Michael Clayton*) and Kerry Orent (*The Tick*, *The Affair*)

Ian Owes U [World Festival Premiere]

Created by J.W. Crump, Tim Mele, and Chris Pappas - New York, NY

Lazy and hapless Ian uses a money app to earn rent from strangers, in exchange for doing any single favor they may ask for.

It Girl Gay Assistant [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Pat Regan and Bailey Edwards - New York, NY

The fiercely loyal gay assistant to a quintessential Manhattan "It-Girl" faces an unexpected and explosive career change mid-work week.

John Loos: Too Big For This World

Created by John Loos - Chicago, IL

A queer sketch comedy show for all the ex-football player drag queens out there.

Kappa Force [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Addison Heimann - Chicago, IL

Kappa Force tells the story of five sorority sisters fighting the patriarchy, one frat boy at a time.

Starring Madeline Weinstein (Netflix's upcoming *Alex Strangelove*)

Kristal Clear

Created by Amanda Fahey - Toronto, Canada

An internet celebrity and "selfie queen" reunites with her estranged identical twin after she wakes up to discover she's

invisible.

Starring Melanie Leishman (Space's *Todd and the Book of Pure Evil*) and Emmanuel Kabongo (*21 Thunder*)

The Mission [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Marie-Marguerite Sabongui and Benedict Moran - Toronto, Canada

An idealistic Canadian diplomat at the UN tries to make a difference, navigating the eccentric characters and impossible clusterf*ck that make up international diplomacy.

Starring Colin Mochrie (*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*)

Mr. Nice Girls [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Hope Carew and Allison O'Connor - Austin, TX

Two best friends run a fake ID business at their university in a desperate attempt to seem cool.

The Passage

Created by Philip Burgers and Kitao Sakurai - Los Angeles, CA

Phil, wide-eyed and mute, is forced to go on the run in order to keep one step ahead of a pagan cult. His childlike ineptitude keeps getting him into trouble, and agents who've been hired to recapture him are always one step behind.

Co-created and directed by Kitao Sakurai (*The Eric Andre Show*), executive produced by Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim (*Tim and Eric Awesome, Great Job!*), and co-created by and starring Philip Burgers (Netflix's *Characters*)

Playdates

Created by Giles Andrew, Alex Bourne, and Dan Marshall - Los Angeles, CA

A group of eclectic parents are forced into friendships through a variety of playdates.

Starring Paul Scheer (*The League*), Carla Gallo (*Bones*), Miles Fisher (*Man Seeking Woman*), and Bob Clendenin (*Longmire*)

Queers! [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Peter Kim and Eric Lewis-Baker - Chicago, IL

Queers! follows the everyday struggles of a gay odd couple stumbling through adulthood one embarrassment at a time.

Run For Your Life

Created by Martha Williams - New York, NY

A comedy web series about internet dates that make you literally...RUN FOR YOUR LIFE.

Smüchr [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Niccolo Aeed and Marina Tempelsman - New York, NY

Emily, a customer support representative for an online dating company, will make all the lonely people in America couple up like penguins – or she'll die trying.

susaneLand

Created by Susane Lee and Andrew Olsen - Los Angeles, CA

A dark comedic anthology series revolving around the awkward and surreal misfortunes of a young Asian-American woman.

Created by and starring Susane Lee (*Gilmore Girls*)

Urban Press [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Brittany Scott Smith and Arjay Smith - Los Angeles, CA

A group of misfit co-workers at an urban magazine company prove that a nobody can be an anybody.

Created by Brittany Scott Smith (*The Rundown with Robin Thede*, *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*), created by and starring Arjay Smith (*Sons of Anarchy*, *Perception*), and starring Robin Thede (*The Rundown with Robin Thede*), Michael Charles Roman (*Grace and Frankie*), and Holly Walker (*The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*)

The Water Cooler [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Teresa Decher and Jason Nguyen - Los Angeles, CA

Two impossibly awkward office employees try to make friends at the water cooler.

Work Buds [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Brett Maline and Damian Gomez - Los Angeles, CA

A recently dumped, pushover bookkeeper lets his clueless, overbearing boss take him out to cheer him up, and one drink leads to the longest night of their lives.

DRAMA/DRAMEDY (16 Pilots)

The Applicant [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Paul Connor and Josh Chesler - Los Angeles, CA

Justice and redemption collide in a high-tech world of questionable actions and immense power where nothing is exactly what it seems.

Avant-Guardians

Created by Alesia Etinoff - Los Angeles, CA

When the woke-ish Guardian Angel to the future 3rd Black President goes a little off her rocker, she's mandated by God to visit a no-nonsense Therapist Angel.

Created by and starring Alesia Etinoff (*The Mayor*), and starring Zainab Johnson (*Last Comic Standing*)

Avenues [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Frank J. Monteleone and Nicole DiMattei - New York, NY

This strange little series follows five friends through the seven stages of grief as they all, in their own ways, learn to say goodbye to a wife, a sister, and a friend.

Starring Armando Riesco (*The Chi*), Michael Cyril Creighton (*High Maintenance*, *Spotlight*), Drew Moerlein (*South of Hell*), and Mary Catherine Garrison (*Veep*)

Confused [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Louie Salto, Jesse Salto, and Lise Gardo - Los Angeles

Four thirty-something best friends, 3 guys and a girl, deal with the complicated and confusing gender expectations in relationships as they search for love in modern day L.A.

Starring Emma Fitzpatrick (*Significant Mother*, *The Social Network*)

Cuff [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Kesav Wable - New York, NY

A talented young rapper, who is considering giving it all up for a safer path, is confronted by a freshly-paroled gang banger he helped put away, forcing him and his dominatrix girlfriend into choices they can never undo.

Devil's Got My Back [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Vanessa Winter - Salt Lake City, UT

In the near future, a government agency dedicated to researching the paranormal interrogates a woman with a strange connection to a powerful demonic presence.

Dirt [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Hannah Warling - Orange, CA

Set on a Paiute Native American reservation, a girl named Nina struggles to find her missing sister, forced to navigate jurisdictional issues, corruption, and even resistance within her own family.

The Fourth Kind [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Samtubia Edwards and Rasheed Young - New York, NY

Trapped on the streets of NYC, a group of strangers, drawn together by paranormal activities, will answer an invitation from other-world life forms that can either save – or destroy – humanity.

The Gentrifiers [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Jared Goodman - Brooklyn, NY

Set against a lower class neighborhood in the midst of a dramatic upheaval as urban sprawl extends to its borders, six characters intersect as hopes and dreams are fulfilled or crushed on opposite sides of the same street.

Hummingbird

Created by Yohan R.M. and Faustine Kooijmann - Los Angeles, CA

Another young girl has vanished into thin air. While the authorities go to extreme lengths to conceal the real story, a young

French blogger sets out to uncover the alarming truth.
Starring Jason Weiss (*One Life to Live*)

Midnights [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Alvaro Donado and Mark Tenn - Paterson, NJ

In the aftermath of a violent midnight street crime, a female trainee police officer suspects a collateral victim is missing and stumbles into an illicit world that does not want to be exposed.

Night Call

Created by Amanda Renee Knox - Los Angeles, CA

When a cop living in and patrolling Inglewood gets called to a disturbance, she is forced to make an unprecedented decision that will alter her career and her life.

Starring Marlyne Barrett (*Chicago Med*, *The Wire*) and Rachael Holmes (Amazon's *Mad Dogs*)

Paint

Created by Michael Walker - New York, NY

Three young artists live in Brooklyn, struggling to make it not only in the art world but in life.

Starring Amy Hargreaves (*Homeland*)

Seeds [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Deja Harrell and C.J. Thomas - Chicago, IL

A socially conscious web series following the misadventures of four young black women.

Tenure

Created by Timothy Busfield - East Lansing, MI

Dr. Tilly Masters is stepping outside her comfort zone to start a new chapter as Provost at Midwest Central University. Her new role changes the dynamics with everyone in her life: can you be a friend and lover and still be the boss?

Written by, directed by, and starring Timothy Busfield (*Thirtysomething*, *The West Wing*), also starring Melissa Gilbert (*Little House on the Prairie*), Dylan Baker (*Homeland*, *The Good Wife*), and Marin Mazzie (Tony-nominee *Kiss Me Kate*, *Ragtime*)

Zett [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Maria Hrivatakis, Paul Harather, Daniel Lager, Enes Kas, Christopher Brenner, Leonie Fischer, and Florian Niederstetter - Vienna, Austria

A realistic and authentic window into the secret lives, anxieties, and desires of generation "Z."

ANIMATION (7 Pilots)

Mixed [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Manolo Moreno - New York, NY

An Asian-American woman in a mixed-race relationship struggles between being a young, urban hipster and a good mother (to an obnoxious musical prodigy).

The North Pole Gang! [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Charlie Laud - Los Angeles, CA

When Santa's away, you better watch out! Enduring the unforgiving ever-winter of the Arctic is a lot easier with The North Pole Gang at your side.

Omega House [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Marc Sloboda - Chicago, IL

After surviving the nuclear apocalypse, four mutated frat brothers set out on a journey across the wasteland to figure out what the heck happened.

Robits [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Chris Parks - Los Angeles, CA

A group of Robots work a nine to five in corporate America.

Rock Bottom

Created by Nick Baker and Tristan Klein - Sydney, Australia
Welcome to Rock Bottom – a filthy underground bar, full of filthy underground bugs.

Slug Seeks Shell [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Amanda DeSimone - Los Angeles, CA
A lonely slug searches the seashore for a shell (her ticket to popularity), only to find the shell of her dreams half-buried under a sassy beached whale.

Tommy Wants His Mommy [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Tom McDonald - Brooklyn, NY
An absurdly banal series following a 28-year-old slacker that moves back in with his suburban Mom, who begins mentoring him in the family business: life coaching.

UNSCRIPTED & FORMATS (4 Pilots)

Control [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Robin Pagnanelli and Webster Mugavazi - London, England
An urban-adventure game show where a team of three contestants compete against Control in a race against time.

Rooftop Kings [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Carmine Famiglietti and Peter Fragliossi - Queens, NY
An inside look at a subculture hiding in plain sight on the rooftops of New York City. This is *Goodfellas*, with pigeons.

Show Us Your Goods [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Anna Boyter, Richard Knight, and Carrie Jean Knight - Houston, TX
With a 'table to farm' twist, British Chef Richard Knight and his wife Carrie visit farmers and food industry leaders passionate about sustainable farming, animal welfare, cooking, and culture.

True Puppet Theater [World Festival Premiere]

Created by Victor Varnado - New York, NY
This comedic series puts an unexpected spin on true-crime formats, with hilarious retellings of startling stories with paper puppets.

About the NYTVF

Established in 2005, the NYTVF constructs new and innovative paths of development and talent identification, while simultaneously complementing the traditional television development model. By partnering directly with networks, studios, production companies, digital platforms and brands, the NYTVF provides its Industry Partners with a streamlined development model, leveraging its vast creative community of over 18,000 independent producers and production companies, to create content with specific partners in mind. During the annual New York Television Festival – held each year in New York City – the NYTVF brings together its top artists and industry decision-makers for a series of events designed to foster networking, collaboration and education. The Festival also marks the culmination of the organization's yearly development efforts and features screenings of top independent content, educational panels, fan events, red carpet premieres, and more. For more information on the NYTVF and the annual Festival, visit www.nytvf.com, and to learn about opportunities to submit for its year-round competitions, visit <http://www.nytvf.com/submit.html>.

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