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FULL SPECTRUM FEATURES AND THE CHICAGO FILM OFFICE ANNOUNCE COHORT OF THE THIRD ANNUAL CHICAGO INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS LAB

Chicago, IL — Full Spectrum Features, the Chicago-based non-profit committed to driving equity into the film industry, announced the five producers selected for its third annual [Chicago Independent Producers Lab](#), a year-long project incubator designed to cultivate Chicago's vibrant independent film industry. In partnership with the Chicago Film Office's Independent Film Initiative, the Lab offers one-on-one customized mentorship from industry professionals along with hands-on project development delivered through immersive workshops.

The Chicago Independent Producers Lab (CIPL) launched in 2020 with the founding principle that producers are the creative entrepreneurs who make a thriving independent film industry possible. Seeing a gap in the number of feature film productions—particularly narrative film—being produced in Chicago, by Chicago-based crews, Full Spectrum Features designed the Lab to increase the number of independent producers working in the city, and to significantly deepen and broaden their professional networks and producing expertise with the goal of shepherding producer-driven projects to production viability.

Funded in part by a grant award from the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant award from Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the first CIPL two-day workshop is led by filmmaker and local mentor Kyle Henry (*Rogers Park*). Future sessions will feature representatives from Lawyers for the Creative Arts, as well producers, and other local and national mentors, Alex Lipschultz (*Minashe*), Mark Harris (*White People Money*), and Josh Penn (*Beasts of the Southern Wild, Wendy*).

The 2022 Chicago Independent Producers Lab participants and their in-development projects are:

Chantel Chavon is a creative entrepreneur and rising multi-hyphenate writer, director, producer, and actor who brings the wildly embarrassing, adventurous, provocative, haunting, other-worldly and heartwarming stories from her imagination to the screen—all while thrusting the full and nuanced lives of Black characters and other People of Color to the center of her stories. She is managed by OTV Studio and currently is in development with a slate of films and TV series to be produced by her production company, Nyte Lyte Productions™ throughout the Chicago-land area. Outside of her work in film, Chantel is committed to advocating for mental health awareness and fair access to mental health resources for anyone in need. Chantel's project, **Victorious Red**, follows when a whirlwind love affair between a



mysterious young artist haunted by a twisted past and a recently retired soldier battling PTSD becomes deadly.

Imani Davis is a Chicago-based film producer and writer. She has been the recipient of Reunion Chicago's Cultural Producer's Grant, the Awesome Foundation's Microgrant, the Arts & Culture Capital Lab's Art-trepreneur Grant, and Mezcla Media Collective's & Banner TV's Inaugural Film Microgrant. Through short films, web series, feature films, and television, she believes that diverse storytelling has the power to educate and engage the masses. Imani's project, ***Made in America***, follows a female fashion mogul, who finds her world rocked by a plagiarism scandal and sets off on a cross country road trip with her boyfriend in order to escape the mounting pressures from her job and the media. But chance encounters with a pair of alternative hitchhikers and a deranged serial killer force everyone to quickly decide how much the truth is really worth.

JC Farris is a Chicago-based filmmaker. She has been the producer, writer, and/or director of over 20 short films and produced the indie feature film *Ghostwriter*. She has worked at many arts organizations and festivals, participated in the Stowe Story Labs' Producers Lab, is a company member of Soft Cage Films, is a reader for screenplay competitions, and a screener for film festivals. Jcfarrisfilm.com. In JC's project, ***Her Eyes Were Dark and Grey***, after the death of the family matriarch, an estranged mother and daughter clash over her estate – and a house where haunting family secrets emerge.

Giuliana Rossi Foulkes is a non-binary lesbian filmmaker and producer from Chicago, Illinois. In their endeavors as a producer, their approach is guided by collaboration and mutual support. As queer and trans artists in a hostile and conservative art market, we only have each other. This network is imperative to the survival of radical art. They live in Chicago with their wife Charlotte and two cats. Giuliana's project, ***Tropical Rain, Death-Scented Kiss*** 素馨花, is a vision of Singapore slowly falling into a wilderness populated by spirits, where the ghost of a girl's best friend follows her home.

Miguel Silveira is a Brazilian-American Independent Filmmaker. From his award-winning short films "Namibia Brazil", "Rooftop Wars", and "Devil's Work"; to his recent features "American Thief" (2020) and "The Last Election and Other Love Stories" (2021); Silveira's work is designed to inspire discussions on topics that have no clear cut "right" answers. Silveira received an MFA in Film Directing from Columbia University School of the Arts. Miguel's project, ***I Don't Dream In Spanish Anymore***, follows a mother-to-be on a mission to undo the curse that has plagued her family for generations before it claims her baby's life.

FULL SPECTRUM FEATURES

Full Spectrum Features (FSF) is a Chicago-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to driving equity in the independent film industry by producing, exhibiting, and supporting the work of women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ filmmakers. FSF also aims to educate the public about important social and cultural issues, utilizing the power of cinema to foster understanding in our communities. FSF's vision is to transform the entire media landscape—from the actors on screen to the crew behind the camera, from executive leadership to the people in the audience. FSF's commitment to equity is embodied not only in its work, but its staff and board as well. FSF is an ALAANA (African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, Native American) organization founded and led by people of color, women, and LGBTQ community members.



Full Spectrum has produced films such as *Signature Move*, *Holy Trinity*, and *Freelancers Anonymous*. Learn more at www.fullspectrumfeatures.com.

CHICAGO FILM OFFICE

The Chicago Film Office, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), leads the city's efforts to attract and enhance the production of feature films, television series, commercials, documentaries, web series and all forms of media. For filmmakers, it is a one-stop liaison for all City of Chicago production needs including permits, city services, and logistical support. The Chicago Film Office also serves as an advocate for the local film and media industry. This includes the local community of filmmakers, advocacy organizations, film festivals, distributors and independent film and media venues. In addition to strengthening the local production infrastructure, the Chicago Film Office also works to cultivate local talent and independent filmmakers through professional development programming and convening opportunities. Learn more at www.chicagofilmoffice.us.

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