



Thelma & Louise. 1991. USA: MGM - Pathe Entertainment inc.

# TRAILBLAZING WOMEN ON AND OFF SCREEN

International Conference: Two days of Keynotes, Panels,  
Screenings & Masterclasses

A CELEBRATION OF THE ICONIC FILM THELMA & LOUISE AT 30

Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th July 2021

EVENT PROGRAMME



EST 1892  
**LSBU**

  
**Geena Davis Institute**  
on Gender in Media  
*If she can see it, she can be it.™*

# TRAILBLAZING WOMEN ON AND OFF SCREEN

Trailblazing Women On and Off Screen is an international events series hosted by Women in Screen and Research and Enterprise in the School of Arts and Creative Industries at London South Bank University.

This is our fourth year, and our first online and we are thrilled to be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the UK release of the iconic film *Thelma & Louise*, in association with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media.

As always we will be blending practice and theory to bring the film industry and the academy together through keynotes, panels, screenings and practical masterclasses. We are thrilled to be joined by speakers working at the forefront of their field to reflect on the legacy of *Thelma & Louise* and its cultural impact 30 years on, as well as the present landscape for women working in and around film. Speakers include: Madeline Di Nonno (President and CEO of the Geena Davies Institute on Gender in Media), Melanie Hoyes (BFI Industry Inclusion Executive), Prof. Marita Sturken (Dept. Media, Culture and Communication at NYU & Author of *Thelma & Louise* (2020)), Helen O'Hara (Film Journalist, Author of *Women vs Hollywood*), Dr. Shelley Cobb (Associate Prof. of Film at Southampton University), Louisa Phung (Director and Writer), Matilda Ibini (Playwright and Screenwriter), Lucy Brown (Head of Division for Film and Associate Prof. at LSBU), Funke Oyebanjo (Script Consultant, Lecturer and Script Writer) and Ulrike Kubatta, Filmmaker, Associate Prof. and Director of The DocHub@DMU.

All events will be online, free and open to the public. To book click [here](#).

**#Thelma&Louise30** to live tweet and keep the event conversation happening.

**Follow us on Twitter:**

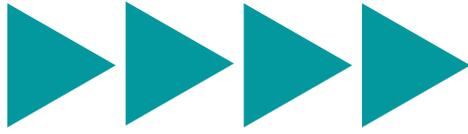
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Geena Davis Institute: <https://twitter.com/GDIGM> @**GDIGM**

London South Bank University: <https://twitter.com/LSBU> @**LSBU**

**To Book Click Here: <https://trailblazingwomenonandoffscreen.eventbritestudio.com/>**

# SCHEDULE



July 12th  
2-3:30pm

## THE LEGACY OF THELMA & LOUISE

**"I don't remember ever feelin' this awake. Everything looks different."**

Thelma & Louise, directed by Ridley Scott, written by Callie Khouri and starring Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon was a box office hit on its release thirty years ago and ignited an extraordinary debate about the representation of women, violence and feminism. In this talk the panel will consider the film's significance and contemporaneity in the age of #MeToo and #TimesUp.

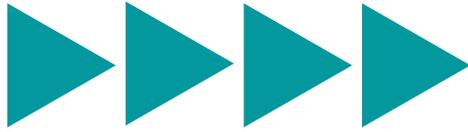
- Prof. Marita Sturken (NYU, Author of BFI Film Classics: Thelma & Louise)
- Dr Shelley Cobb (Assoc Prof Film U. Southampton, PI Calling the Shots)
- Funke Oyebanjo (Script Consultant, Lecturer and Script Writer)
- Lucy Brown (Assoc Prof Film/HOD LSBU, Filmmaker)

Film Screening: BFF Thelma & Louise: Tanya & Lucy Revisit 30 Years On

Q&A

PANELS

# SCHEDULE



July 12th  
4 - 5:30 pm

## WOMEN IN FILM: THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

**"Something's, like crossed over in me and I can't go back."**

Key Note from Madeline Di Nonno (President/CEO Genna Davis Institute on Gender in Media)

Academy Award Winning Actor Geena Davis said that starring in *Thelma & Louise* changed her life and made her aware of the lack of opportunities for women in film. It inspired her to set up the eponymous Genna Davis Institute on Gender in Media (GDIGM) in 2004 to promote gender balance in the media and entertainment industries. In this talk GDIGM President and CEO /Madeline Di Nonno will discuss the changing landscape for women in film through two of their recent studies. Their *Ageless Test* is the first global study to systematically analyze representations of older adults, with a specific focus on women ages 50+ in entertainment media and their *Black Women in Hollywood* study examines representations of Black women and girls in entertainment media. Much of the existing research on race and gender in entertainment media analyzes representations of women and Black people as two distinct groups, but far less is known about the intersectional depictions of Black girls and women in Hollywood. The panel will further this conversation to explore what has changed for women on screen and behind the camera since the release of *Thelma & Louise*, 30 years ago.

- Melanie Hoyes (BFI Industry Inclusion Exec)
- Matilda Ibini (Playwright and Screenwriter)
- Louisa Phung (Director and Writer)
- Helen O' Hara (Film Journalist, Author of *Women vs Hollywood*)

Q&A

To Book Click [Here: https://trailblazingwomenonandoffscreen.eventbritestudio.com/](https://trailblazingwomenonandoffscreen.eventbritestudio.com/)

PANELS

# SCHEDULE



## MASTERCLASSES

**July 12th**  
**11:30-1 pm**

### **SCENE AND UNHEARD: SCREENWRITING**

A writing workshop that explores developing compelling characters whose stories are often excluded or ignored.

Led by Matilda Ibini

**July 13th**  
**2 - 3:30pm**

### **DOCUMENTARY DIRECTING**

This masterclass explores the creative challenges for the female documentary director as narrator and authorial voice in personal documentary filmmaking.

Led by Ulrike Kubatta

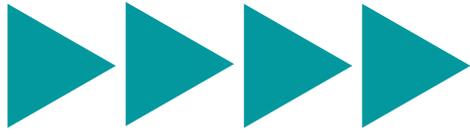
**July 13th**  
**5-7pm**

### **HOW TO BE AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN HOLLYWOOD**

In this masterclass, you will discover what an AD does, how they schedule your shoot to maximise the time you have, and what role they play in getting your film in the can.

Led by Louisa Phung

# PANELLISTS



## MADELINE DI NONNO

Di Nonno serves as President and CEO, of the Institute, the leading research based non-profit working to achieve cultural equity and inclusion in family media and entertainment. Di Nonno leads the Institute's strategic direction, advocacy, programs, research, financial and operational activities. Di Nonno brings a track record of successful executive leadership in the entertainment, non-profit, digital and consumer packaged goods industries. Di Nonno is an Executive Producer on the People's Choice and Gracie award winning children's show Mission Unstoppable on CBS and the award winning feature film documentary This Changes Everything.

Previously, Di Nonno has served in Executive leadership positions for Anchor Bay Entertainment/Starz Media, Nielsen Entertainment, Hallmark Channel, Universal Studios Home Entertainment and ABC Television Network.

Di Nonno has been featured in major media outlets including, AdWeek, Media Week, The Guardian, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Fast Company, Glamour, Variety, and The Hollywood Reporter.



Having completed postgraduate studies and teaching film and TV at undergraduate level, the BFI has given Mel the opportunity to use these skills in a contemporary industry context. She completed a BFI research project to historically map ethnic diversity in onscreen representation in UK film for the Black Star season at the BFI Southbank in 2016, ground-breaking research and data methodology which she continues to speak about to a variety of audiences. The research was also written up in a piece and Sight & Sound Magazine and an academic collection of essays called Black Film, British Cinema II. In her role as Industry Inclusion Executive, Mel advocates for increased access and equity in the UK film sector as well as consulting and partnering with global partners to embed diversity and inclusion into policy and practice. In particular, Mel champions the BFI's Diversity Standards and seeks to establish data and research as a baseline for meaningful change. She is also the Europe Council Lead for the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media.

## MELANIE HOYES

# PANELLISTS



## MARITA STURKEN

Marita Sturken is Professor in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University, where she teaches courses in visual culture, cultural memory, and consumerism. Her BFI Classics monograph *Thelma & Louise* (2000) was reissued in 2020. She is the author of *Tangled Memories: The Vietnam War, the AIDS Epidemic, and the Politics of Remembering* (1997), *Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture* (with Lisa Cartwright, third edition 2018), and *Tourists of History: Memory, Kitsch, and Consumerism From Oklahoma City to Ground Zero* (2007). Her forthcoming book on memory in the post-9/11 era, *Terrorism in American Memory: Memorials, Museums, and Architecture in the Post-9/11 Era* will be published in Fall 2021.



Helen O'Hara is a film journalist and author, and Editor-at-Large at *Empire* magazine, the world's largest film magazine. Born in Northern Ireland, Helen has been writing about films for two decades, initially on staff at *Empire* and more recently as a freelance writing who has also written for *Time Out*, *The Guardian*, *Grazia*, *The Telegraph* and *The i* paper. Her latest book, *Women Vs Hollywood: The Fall And Rise Of Women In Film*, was published in 2021 by Robinson, and follows two other books on superhero movies and the 1980s in film. She can be found co-hosting the *Empire* podcast each week, hosting her own Christmas movies podcast *Bah Humbug* every winter, and on Twitter @HelenLOHara.

## HELEN O'HARA

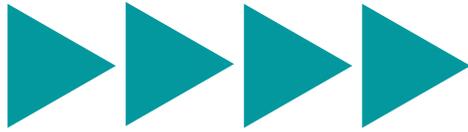
## LOUISA PHUNG

Louisa Phung is based in Vancouver, BC, and has worked as an Assistant Director for over 15 years on shows such as *Battlestar Galactica*, *Supernatural*, Netflix's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, Apple TV's *See*, and most recently Amblin Entertainment's upcoming comedy *Easter Sunday*, starring stand-up comedian, Jo Koy. Louisa is an award-winning director and writer with two short films currently in the film festival circuit. Recently, she has been accepted as one of three playwrights for the Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre's MSG Lab to develop her stage play, "Embers of the Past." Louisa's production company, *Clever Bird Entertainment Inc*, focuses on stories of diversity, elevating the voices of womxn of colour both on stage/screen and backstage/behind the camera.

[www.cleverbirdent.com](http://www.cleverbirdent.com)



# PANELLISTS



## MATILDA IBINI

Matilda Feyişayọ Ibini is an award-winning, bionic playwright and screenwriter from London. Matilda was awarded a scholarship from BAFTA and Warner Brothers to study a Masters in Playwriting & Screenwriting which she completed in 2018. Matilda was selected as a Star of Tomorrow 2020 by Screen Daily Magazine, a feature film screenplay she co-wrote with Gabriel-Bisset Smith was selected as part of The Brit List 2020 and she is an Arts Foundation Futures Award 2021 Finalist.

As a playwright Matilda has had residencies with Sphinx Theatre, English Touring Theatre, Soho Theatre, BBC Writersroom, Graeae Theatre and the National Theatre Studio. Her debut play 'Muscovado' was produced by BurntOut Theatre, premiered in October 2014 and subsequently co-won the Alfred Fagon Audience Award. Her audio drama 'The Grape that Rolled Under the Fridge' was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in 2019.



Her next play 'Little Miss Burden' was produced by Harts Theatre Company and the Bunker Theatre; it premiered at the Bunker Theatre in 2019, was a finalist for an OffWestEnd Award for Best New Play, won a Popcorn Finalist Award 2020 and was published by Concord Theatricals. Screen credits include: BAFTA TV-Nominated 'CripTales' for BBC America & BBC4. 'Unprecedented' Series, Headlong & Century Films for BBC4, 'Head Over Wheels' a short film produced by Open Sky Theatre & Wrapt Films. Her work has been staged at the Old Vic Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe, Royal Court Theatre, Soho Theatre, Arcola Theatre, Bunker Theatre and Vaults Festival. She has screen projects in development with BBC Films, Home Team, BBC Studios and RAW TV.

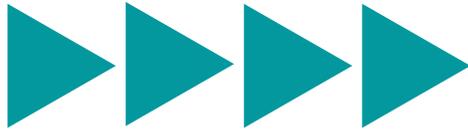


Shelley Cobb is associate professor of Film at the University of Southampton and Principal Investigator of Calling the Shots: Women and Contemporary Film Culture in the UK. She is the author of *Adaptation, Authorship and Cotemporary Women Filmmakers* (Palgrave 2015) and co-editor of *First Comes Love: Power Couples, Celebrity Kinship and Cultural Politics* (Bloomsbury 2015). She has written widely on women's films, celebrity culture and adaptation and most recently published research on gender, diversity and data in the film industry.

Shelley has been teaching *Thelma and Louise* for 10 years and will be discussing the ways it has been and continues to be relevant to UG students, but also how students' responses have shifted over time alongside feminism's changing relationship with the wider political and cultural context.

## SHELLEY COBB

# PANELLISTS



## FUNKE OYEBANJO

Funke OyeBANJO is a script consultant, lecturer and scriptwriter. After receiving her Masters in Screenwriting from the London College of printing, she became one of the Founder members of the Talawa theatre writers' group and had her first play reading at Soho theatre. Apart from having various shorts produced, her television script The Window was produced for Channel Four's Coming up season. She also has three screen feature projects in development with a London film-based company. One of her projects The Land, was selected by the German based script development company, Script house for development at the Berlin film festival's talent campus.

As a lecturer and script reader she has worked extensively at the University of the Arts, London, Queen Mary University of London, Arts University Bournemouth, University of Greenwich, BBC writer's room, BBC World service, The UK Film council and Creative England.



She was selected as a juror for prestigious Skillset Creative and innovative award for Women in Television and film and the I will Tell film festival. Until recently was a Development consultant with the Arena Majicka in Norway. Funke is also a web fest programmer for the Raindance film festival and a PhD candidate at Middlesex University.



Lucy is an award-winning educator and practitioner. She is Head of Division for Film and an Associate Professor at London South Bank University. She has credits on multiple BAFTA and Royal Television Society programmes and has filmed around the world for the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Disney and Nickelodeon.

She has taught and presented research across five continents and is the winner of several Excellence in Education Awards. She is an Executive Board Member for the National Association for Higher Education in the Moving Image (NAHEMI), Lifetime Member of the International Journalism Centre and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Lucy is a passionate advocate for equality, diversity and inclusion. She

is Founder of Women in Screen and Chair of Trailblazing Women On and Off Screen and NAHEMI's Media Education Diversity Group and on the Editorial Board for Representology, The Journal of Media and Diversity. She is co-author of the bestselling textbook The TV Studio Production Handbook (Bloomsbury), a core part of the curriculum on many media production courses in the UK and internationally.

## LUCY BROWN

# MASTERCLASS

## ULRIKE KUBATTA

Ulrike Kubatta is an award-winning documentary producer/director and an Associate Professor in Research, Innovation & Professional Practice at DeMontfort University, Leicester (UK). Her feature documentary films have been screened at national and international film festival and independent cinemas. She is the founder and creative director of The DocHub@DMU, a centre that connects audiences and filmmakers with the contemporary practice of documentary and hosts public screening events that engage with the creative growth and socio-political impact of the genre.



# SCREENING

## BFF THELMA & LOUISE: Tanya & Lucy Revisit 30 Years On

In 1991 as a teenager in Telford, England the filmmaker and her best friend went to the cinema to watch *Thelma & Louise*. On the way home they were empowered and full of joy. But this feeling did not last as the reality of everyday sexual violence and harassment that *Thelma and Louise* faced in the film, penetrated their own lives. Through the lens of an iPhone SE smartphone the film explores intimate memories of friendship and reflects on the cultural relevance and legacy of *Thelma & Louise* (Ridley Scott, 1991). The documentary was shot during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 to mark the 30th anniversary of *Thelma & Louise* and was inspired by the *Once Upon a Screen* series of video essays produced in 2020 and the work of video essayist Kevin B. Lee.

**\*\*Content warning: some scenes explore themes of sexual violence and harassment\*\***



# TRAILBLAZING WOMEN ON AND OFF SCREEN

This year we are proud to present the 'Trailblazing Women Recognition Award' to Oscar winning Hollywood actor Geena Davis, for her tireless campaigning for gender equality on and off screen. Geena launched the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, a non-profit research organisation in 2004 to foster inclusion and reduce negative stereotyping in family entertainment media. We hope that this award will be a legacy and inspire other women to follow in her footsteps.

## **Organisers:**

- Lucy Brown (Head of Film, Associate Professor, London South Bank University, Founder and Director of 'Women In Screen' and 'Trailblazing Women On and Off Screen')
- Holly Atkinson (Creative Producer)
- Neil Hudson-Basing (Corporate Events Manager)

**#Thelma&Louise30** to live tweet and keep the event conversation happening.

## **Follow us on Twitter:**

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Geena Davis Institute: <https://twitter.com/GDIGM> @**GDIGM**

London South Bank University: <https://twitter.com/LSBU> @**LSBU**

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