

DISNEY ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION UNVEILS 2025-2026 DIRECTING PROGRAM AND 2026 WRITING PROGRAM COHORTS



Top row, from left: Ryan Richmond, Noelle Liljedahl, Kiki Malone, Maya Florin

Middle row, from left: Sagiv Karpel, Kat Vladimirova, Monica Lucas, Cassidy Lee, Aaron Outlen, Claire Gostin, Nieman Outlen

Bottom row, from left: Jenna Park, Mariam Girgis, Jamala Gaither

Not pictured: Vanessa Beletic, Sammi Cannold, Gayle Galvez, Alejandra Lopez

Photo Credit: Disney/Michael Kirchoff/[caption] Disney Entertainment Television (DET) today announced the newest participants selected for its 2025-2026 Directing Program and 2026 Writing Program. Designed to champion emerging creative talent, the initiatives provide access to episodic television opportunities through mentorship, hands-on experience and direct engagement with the creative process spanning DET's scripted and unscripted slate. "This year's cohorts reflect the bold, original voices that will help shape the next era of television," said Tim McNeal, senior vice president, Creative Talent Development and Inclusion, Disney Television Studios. "Through the DET Directing and Writing Programs, we have the joy of helping rising writers and directors build real momentum in their careers — offering hands-on experience, meaningful mentorship and access to a strong creative community that continues to support them well beyond the program." **2025-2026 DET Directing Program** The DET Directing Program is a yearlong initiative that guarantees each participant the opportunity to direct on a Disney series. Participants receive guidance from industry professionals, build their practical skills through shadowing and directing experiences, and connect with Disney creative executives through tailored learning and networking. This year, the program will add "Celebrity Family Feud," "Coven Academy," "Grey's Anatomy" and "Reasonable Doubt" to its impressive roster of scripted and unscripted directing opportunities. Other participating shows include "The Bachelorette," "Dancing with the Stars," "General Hospital" and "Project Runway." The 2025-2026 directing cohort includes scripted directors Vanessa Beletic ("Coven Academy"), Sammi Cannold ("Grey's Anatomy"), Alejandra Lopez ("General Hospital") and Ryan Richmond ("Reasonable Doubt"); and unscripted directors Jamala Gaither ("Project Runway"), Gayle Galvez ("Celebrity Family Feud"), Claire Gostin, Sagiv Karpel ("Dancing with the Stars") and Kiki Malone ("The Bachelorette"). Since its founding in 2001, the DET Directing Program has nurtured the careers of notable alumni including Jennifer Arnold ("Emily in Paris"), Tessa Blake ("9-1-1" franchise), Pete Chatmon ("High Potential"), Ryan Coogler ("Black Panther" franchise, "Sinners"), Zetna Fuentes ("Pluribus"), Amin Kaderali ("Grey's Anatomy"), Maggie Kiley ("9-1-1"), Regina King ("One Night in Miami..."), Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour Jr. ("Sh?gun"), Nzingha Stewart ("Daisy Jones & the Six") and Jude Weng ("Only Murders in the Building"). **2026 DET Writing Program** Nearing its fourth decade, the DET Writing Program continues to be a launchpad for emerging television writers, offering advanced career development and industry access. The program supports participants as they strengthen their samples, sharpen their voices, and build relationships with executives, showrunners, producers and alumni across the Disney Entertainment Television ecosystem. Over the course of the program, writers take part in intensive workshops and professional development sessions, and are integrated into the creative community through meetings and mentorship. Participants are employed by Disney for one year with salary and benefits; if a writer staffs during that period, compensation transitions to WGA scale. The program has maintained a near-100% annual staffing rate for more than a decade, with last year's cohort staffing on "9-1-1: Nashville," "Adults,"

“Deli Boys,” “Far Cry,” “Shifting Gears,” “The Rookie” and “Tracker.” “These programs represent the best of what we can do as a creative community — identify exceptional voices and back them with real opportunities,” said Jane Francis, executive vice president, Series, 20th Television. “My team is proud to champion this burgeoning talent by connecting them to series where they can develop their craft and kickstart their careers.” The 2026 Writing Program cohort includes Maya Florin, Mariam Girgis, Cassidy Lee, Noelle Liljedahl, Monica Lucas, Neiman & Aaron Outlen, Jenna Park and Kat Vladimirova. Notable program alumni include Jewel Coronel (“The Chi”), Claudia Forestieri (“Gordita Chronicles”), Raamla Mohamed (“Reasonable Doubt”), Sierra Ornelas (“St. Denis Medical”), Sabir Pirzada (“Ms. Marvel”), Luvh Rakhe (“Chad Powers”) and Peter Saji (“Unprisoned”).

About Disney Entertainment Television Disney Entertainment Television is a collection of renowned content brands at The Walt Disney Company creating original entertainment and news programming for the Company’s streaming platforms Disney+, Hulu and Star, and its broadcast and cable networks. Its extensive portfolio is comprised of ABC Entertainment, ABC News, ABC Owned Television Stations, Disney Branded Television, Freeform, FX, Hulu Originals, National Geographic Content and Onyx Collective, in addition to Disney Television Studios, which include 20th Television, 20th Television Animation and Walt Disney Television Alternative. Responsible for over 4,500 hours of programming a year across more than 300 programs of all genres, Disney Entertainment Television’s creative brands are at the forefront of groundbreaking storytelling, captivating audiences and generating critical acclaim. In 2025, Disney Entertainment Television’s programming excellence earned 333 Emmy® nominations across daytime, primetime, news & documentary, sports, and children’s & family categories.