

## Biographies for UCLA/ ifs Cologne Collaboration

**Christopher Becker** started studying Macroeconomics at Bonn University in 2000, and worked as a production trainee at production companies, as well as produced corporate videos on a freelance basis. From 2002 to 2005, he studied Film Directing at ifs internationale filmschule köln, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and the film **Mittsommer**. In 2007, he founded the Pi film production company with the help of a grant from the AV Gründerzentrums Köln. In 2008, he completed advanced studies in "Mobile Animation Content" at ifs, as well as produced commercials, short films and documentaries. In 2010, he was invited as a lecturer at the University Duisburg-Essen. His films include: 2010 **JABHOOK.TV** (running since 2008) a web series in cooperation with sport1.de • 22 x 5 min, HD, produced by A-HOCH3 GmbH, working in the roles of screenwriter, director, consultant; **Ready when you are**, commercial for ifs, 2 x 60 sec, HD, produced by Pi film production, working in the roles of director, screenwriter, producer; **Rotes Kliff** – destruction commercial, 60 sec HD4K, produced by A-HOCH3 GmbH, working in the roles of director, and actor.

**Nina Frey** completed her training as "Digital Media Designer for Picture and Sound" before she began studying Cinematography at the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund. A selection of her credits include the short films **Kakao und Maroni**, **Tauchen lernen**, **Auf nach Takatukaland**, **Kreis**, **Schiffe versenken** and **Elli und Richard** as well as the feature film **Zarte Parasiten** as first camera assistant and **Chéri** as camera trainee for **Darius Khondji**. She also filmed the documentary **Loni von Friedl meets Bette Davis** and the feature film **100 Prozent**.

**Jens Nolte** began his professional life as a photographer for documentaries. In 2002, after traveling most of the world, he began studying Cinematography at the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund graduating with a Diploma in Cinematography in 2008. During this period, he worked for many directors as a DOP and as an assistant on several major national and international feature film productions.

As a Director of Photography, his main subjects are fictional shorts, commercials and documentaries. His graduation short **Absolution** ran in Cannes 2008 and won a handful of prizes at several festivals.

After completing his studies, he worked regularly over a period of 1½ years as a cinematographer for the Westdeutsche Rundfunk (WDR), the largest broadcast station in Germany. In 2009, he founded his own company, schaufenster: concept & content, with the help of a grant from the AV Gründerzentrum. He has been working as a freelance DOP since 2003. He is currently working on several of his own online video projects with interactive documentaries.

**Nancy Mac Granaky Quaye** studied Communication Science and Psychology in Essen.

From 1998 to 2004, she worked as a production design and extras assistant on several film productions in Mexico and Germany. In 2007, she completed her studies in Film Directing at ifs internationale filmschule köln (ifs). She has since worked as a freelance vtr-editor and editor, has written scripts for corporate image films as well as shot music videos. She is currently working on her first feature length fiction script “**Sarah X**”, which has been funded by Filmstiftung NRW. She has also developed a feature length documentary “**Mädchen-immortal**”, which has been optioned by “brave new work productions Hamburg”. Her short film **Beento** was screened at several festivals like Max Ophüls Preis 2008 and Zuma Film Festival Abuja Nigeria 2010, and won the student award at Short Cuts Cologne 2008. In 2006, her short film **Gehenlassen** won the same award. **Beento** is also part of the compilation **Am Ende kommt die Wende**, which screened in German cinemas in 2009/10.

Her feature length documentary **Real life: Deutschland** has recently been screened at the exhibition Homestory Deutschland 2010, Princeton University 2010, and Black History Month Berlin 2009. **Constanze** a short documentary and part of the compilation Reflection was screened at Berlinale Talent Campus 2007 and at several festivals and TV Planete in Poland.

**Paul Pieck** moved to Cologne in 2000 where he began his training as “Digital Media Designer for Picture and Sound”, working in a small TV studio. In 2002, after working in different positions that included assistant sound engineer, vtr-operator and finally cinematographer, he began his Film studies at the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund. During his studies, he worked on various film projects mainly as an electrician and key grip. Outside the university, in the 'real world', he worked as an assistant dolly grip and later on as a cinematographer for WDR Television in Cologne. When he met director Peter Hümmeler, a 2007 ifs graduate, they began working on several projects together including **Hans im Glück** 2008, **Franks Welt** 2009 and finally **Soltau** 2009. The documentary **Franks Welt** was also Paul Pieck's graduation project at Dortmund. He currently lives and works as a freelance cinematographer in Cologne.

**Johannes F. Sievert** earned a Master's degree in Film and Television studies, Theater studies and Political Science before he began working as a floor manager, assistant director, and car captain for various national and international film and TV production companies. He worked with several directors including Peter Bogdanovich, Robert Schwentke, Bob Rafelson, Max Färberböck and Dominik Graf. In 2002, he received a scholarship to study Film Directing at the ifs internationale filmschule köln, graduating with a BA degree in 2005.

In 2007, he founded the Pi film production company together with two other ifs alumni. His credits include the short films **Nocturne**, **Singin' in the Blood**, **Grundrauschen**, **Feuern des**

**Tintenfischs**, **Inversion**, **Koma**, several **Making Of**s for RTL, ARTE and WDR, the feature length documentary **Junge Hunde** as well as the screenplay for the feature fiction movie **Zwischen Zwei Toden**, promoted by the Filmstiftung NRW. Recently he shot the episode **Sinan G** for the ZDF documentary **Zeche is nich...** and **Gangsta Fiction**, the making-of for the mini series **Im Angesicht des Verbrechens** directed by Dominik Graf. He is currently working with Dominik Graf on the hands-on book **Tür zur Wirklichkeit** about his current TV series as well as on the documentary **Tod im Morgengrauen [Dead At Dawn]**.

**Lucas Mireles** is a 2nd year director at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. In 2006, he earned a BA in Media Production from the University of Houston, but more significantly, found his passion for filmmaking. He has directed two films since entering the UCLA graduate production program in 2008: **The Devil's Work**, a 2-minute comedy about the life of a modern devil, and the 6-minute Spanish language drama **Hijo de mi Madre**, about a man's journey to find forgiveness for his estranged mother. By the time of the ifs collaboration, Lucas will also have a rough cut of his advanced film **Range Junkies**, a love story set within an indoor gun range. A native Texan, Lucas has yet to visit Europe and is honored to represent the UCLA film program internationally.

**Ryan Slattery** is a first year MFA student in the UCLA Producers Program, and is part of the television show runner track. He holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard University, where he concentrated in dramatic arts and film studies. Ryan recently produced, wrote, and directed **At Ease**, a film about the U.S. military's controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. A former child actor, Ryan has credits in major motion pictures and television programs including MGM's *Sleepover*, Disney's *The Jersey*, NBC's *American Dreams*, as well as *JAG* and *The District* for CBS, among others.

Ryan is active in his community, volunteering and speaking for various organizations dedicated to civil rights and childhood arts education. He also served as an intern for a U.S. Congressman in Washington, D.C., concentrating in advocacy. Currently, Ryan is working with Academy Award-winning writer/producer Bobby Moresco (*Crash*, *Million Dollar Baby*) in motion picture and television development.

**Iliana Sosa** was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. She is currently pursuing an MFA in directing and production at UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television. She received her Bachelor degree in Latin American Studies and French from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. Her filmography is highly influenced by social issues that affect the Latino community. Her most recent work includes a feature length screenplay on the Texas meatpacking industry and its devastating effects on Latino immigrants.

**Jeanne Tyson** is a third year MFA cinematography student at UCLA. During her studies, she has been the Director of Photography on over a dozen student films, including advanced films, undergraduate theses, and documentaries. In addition, she has worked in various capacities on other projects. Jeanne recently returned from Arkansas where she shot a film with director Jonathan Crawford. The film is titled **Foot Soldier**, and is about the religious journey of a bible salesman. Her past projects include **Queen of the Hammer**, directed by Esther Shubinski; **Mushroom Hunt**, directed by Milena Pastreich; **Grandfather**, directed by Hanjin Park; as well as many others. She has done work in 35mm, 16mm, and HD. Jeanne was raised in Mobile, AL where she became passionate about cinematography in her early teens. She received her degree at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee (a BA in Studio Art with a minor in Theater). At Rhodes, she developed her skills as an artist. Her focus was in experimental video art, and lighting design for theater. From Rhodes, Jeanne matriculated to the MFA program in Cinematography at UCLA. In her admissions statement she wrote, "I want to make a difference, and I want to do it with film." Through her film studies, she has been given that opportunity. At UCLA, Jeanne has studied under cinematographers William McDonald, Tom Denove, and Johnny Simmons, ASC; as well as Stephen H. Burum, ASC; Victor Kemper, ASC; and Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC. The next step in her career is to complete a thesis that will potentially become a standard in the industry, and thus set her on the path of making lifelong contributions to the filmmaking community.

**Leigh Underwood** is a 2nd year cinematography student who grew up in central New Jersey where he was inspired by the "beautiful ugliness" of superhighways and urban wasteland, and the melodies of classical and ragtime piano. He found his passion for filmmaking and cinematography in this setting, and has pursued it as a student through high school, college (earning a BA in Film Production from Northwestern University), and now as an MFA student at UCLA. As a Director of Photography, he has an equal love for shooting character-driven narratives, music videos, documentaries, and fast-paced action. He has embraced both the organic subtleties of film and the cutting-edge possibilities of digital technology, and is hungry for several more helpings of everything. In Cologne, he hopes to broaden his horizons with fresh new ways of moviemaking and with urban landscapes more beautiful than those in North America.