

# ASHES TO FILMS



## The Ashes to Films Filmmakers

The Ashes to Films Filmmakers are storytellers whose lives were directly impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires.

Each filmmaker received a grant and creative support from ATF and our partners to help create, produce, and shoot their own short films.

Their short films — made in the aftermath of loss — embody resilience, perseverance, and the power of creative recovery.

All projects will premiere at the Ashes to Films Festival, January 9-11, 2026.



**Jennifer Kim**

### *Disaster Cats*

Jennifer Kim is an L.A.-based writer, producer, and journalist whose work spans film, television, radio, and print. She wrote and produced the award-winning short *Korean American Witches Society* (Dances With Films premiere, Mischeaux). A former teacher and journalist, she began her career at KCET-TV (PBS) and has contributed to *USA TODAY*, *NPR*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Jennifer's screenwriting has been recognized by the *CBS Writers Program*, *Austin Film Festival*, and the *ISA*, where she won Grand Prize and was named one of the *Top 25 Screenwriters to Watch*. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan and UCLA Film School (MFA, Screenwriting).

The daughter of disco-loving immigrants from North and South Korea who settled in Appalachian Ohio, Jennifer draws on her fish-out-of-water upbringing to blend comedy, tragedy, and whimsy. She is developing multiple projects, including a K-drama and is represented by IAG, *Intelex*, and *Amplified*.



**David Knott**

### *Disaster Cats*

David Knott is an Emmy-winning animation director, writer, and storyboard artist with over three decades of experience in television and feature animation. He began his career at Hanna-Barbera and went on to spend ten years at Disney TV Animation, where his credits include conceiving the main title sequence for *Recess* and designing the poster for *Recess: School's Out*. At Disney, he storyboarded iconic episodes of *Kim Possible*, including the Ron and Kim's first kiss. David later directed the pilot and first season of *The Emperor's New School* and launched *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse* as its pilot director. At Nickelodeon, he served as Supervising Director of *Penguins of Madagascar*, which earned both Daytime and Primetime Emmy Awards. His recent work includes Co-Executive Producer on *The Ghost and Molly McGee* and Retake Director on *The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder*. A longtime Altadena resident, David narrowly avoided having to leave his cat Cleo behind during the Eaton Fire evacuation — an experience that connects him personally to *Disaster Cats*.



**Carter Hudson**

### *Doula*

Carter Hudson is an actor best known for his lead role in FX's *Snowfall*, which ran for six seasons. Before that, he spent fifteen years performing Off-Broadway in New York City, appearing in numerous acclaimed productions including *Lucy Prebble's "The Effect"*, *"The Substance of Fire"* and *"Van Gogh's Ear"*. Most recently he appeared on Broadway in *"Good Night and Good Luck"* opposite George Clooney. His additional credits include *Dear Edward* on Apple+, *The Wilds* for Amazon Prime and *American Horror Story*.



**Eric A. Dyson**

### *Altadena the Heart, the Art, and the Soul*

A native Angeleño, Eric A. Dyson has built a dynamic career film and television, beginning with his training at Brooks Insti of Photography and early work with Steven Spielberg's Ambi Entertainment. A longtime member of the International Cinematographers Guild (Local 600), he has logged more than 40,000 hours on set, with credits including *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Snowfall*, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* and seasons 1 and 2 of *Man of the Inside*.

Transitioning into directing, Dyson's award-winning short film — most notably *Baby Steps*, inspired by his family's experience with addiction and generational trauma — have screened at the Pan African Film Festival and the American Black Film Festival. His work blends intimate storytelling with socially conscious themes centered on identity, resilience, and healing within the Black community. He is a Stowe Story Lab scholarship recipient and is developing his debut feature expanding the world of *Baby Steps*.



**Kristen O'Meara**

### *Eaton Alive*

Kristen O'Meara is an actor with a film and television career spanning over 30 years. She is also a content creator exploring her first independent film project through *Ashes to Film*. After losing much of her equipment during a difficult year, she was drawn to the fellowship as a chance to reconnect with her creative voice. Though new to producing her own work, she is channeling her energy into developing an original project that reignited her excitement for storytelling.

Her recent acting credits include *Hacks*, *Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *St. Denis Medical*, *Matlock* and *9-1-1*. Additional work can be found at [www.imdb.me/kristenomeara](http://www.imdb.me/kristenomeara) and [www.kristenomeara.com](http://www.kristenomeara.com)



**Kerry Ann Reid**

### *The Primal Scream Of The American Housewife*

Born in the SF Bay Area, Kerry Ann Reid spent her early "adulthood" slumming around the experimental theater of NYC's Lower East Side. She wrote, produced, and acted in theater and indie films. Meanwhile, Kerry Ann earned her writing degree, theater minor from Hunter College. Then she met a boy. A proposal, relocation, and pregnancy ensued. Although cheap Chardonnay at sunset T-ball is appealing, it would never be enough. Instead of surrendering to a life of negotiation with little people with poor impulse control, Kerry Ann found the UCLA Extension Program which led to the UCLA MFA Screenwriting Program, where she won the UCLA MFA Screenwriting Contest. Her scripts have placed top three in both Final Draft Big Break and Fresh Voices, as well as semifinalist placements in *Screencraft*, *Diverse Voices* and *WeScreenplay*. Kerry Ann has also co-produced three shorts and associate produced the upcoming feature *I've Got You*. When not writing, or sweeping the kid's poems for vapes, Kerry Ann writes YA and snarky comedies with a nod to the American social and political climate trying to reclaim our joy in this mess.