**MICHELLE AMOR GILLIE**

Clinical Professor of Screenwriting

School of Film and Television (SFTV)

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**BIOGRAPHY**

Michelle Amor Gillie co-wrote *PLAYIN’ FOR LOVE*, directed by and starring Robert Townsend (*Five Heartbeats, Hollywood Shuffle*) and Jenifer Lewis (*Black-ish*), wrote *OF BOYS & MEN* starring Academy® Award-nominated actress Angela Bassett (*Black Panther*) and Robert Townsend, and co-produced and co-wrote the documentary film *TUPAC SHAKUR: BEFORE I WAKE*. She previously taught at UCLA, Chapman University, Cal State, Northridge, and AFI, and is serving her third elected term as co-chair of the WGAW Committee of Black Writers (CBW), whose mission is to create career and networking opportunities for Black writers in Hollywood. Michelle received her B.A. from Columbia College, Chicago, and her M.F.A. from UCLA. She has several film and TV projects in development. A proud native Chicagoan, she resides in Los Angeles with her family.

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

Feature Film Writing, Television Writing, Outlining, Structure, and Book Proposals.

**EDUCATION**

**MFA** – Theater, Film and Television, University of California, Los Angeles – 2014

**BA** – Arts, Entertainment & Media Management, Columbia College, Chicago – 1995

**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

* ***Playin’ For Love*** debuted on the UP Cable Network in July 2015, premiered on the Urban Movie channel in November 2015, was released on video and Amazon Prime in February 2016, played on Magic Johnson’s Aspire TV in November 2016 and aired on Bounce TV in January 2017.
* ***Of Boys & Men*** won “Best of the Fest” at the 2008 Chicago International Film Festival and was the 2008 Pan-African Film Festival’s “Centerpiece Selection.” It was released on Warner Bros Home Video in 2011.
* ***Tupac Shakur: Before I Wake*** sold 4 million copies worldwide.
* Semi-Finalist, 2018 Universal Feature Writers Program
* Second Round Finalist, 2017 Sundance Institute Episodic Story Lab
* Second Round Finalist, 2017 Austin Film Festival in both Feature and One-Hour Pilot
* Second Round Finalist, 2017 New York Television Festival
* Second Round Finalist, 2015 Sundance Institute Episodic Story Lab
* Second Round Finalist, 2015 Sundance Institute Screenwriters Lab
* Second Round Finalist, 2014 Nicholl’s Fellowship in Screenwriting
* UCLA Student Finalist, 2012 Humanitas Prize
* Fellowship Recipient, 2011-2013 Barbra Streisand/Sony Pictures Award

**IMDB LINK**

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1026907/>

**PROJECTS**

Michelle has developed stories, written scripts for, and has had original work optioned by veteran producer Todd Garner, Academy® Award-nominated director Lee Daniels, and international film company Atlas Entertainment, R&B singer Michel’le, and Academy® Award-winning producer Al Ruddy (*The Godfather* & *Million Dollar Baby*). She is currently developing a TV drama series with Ali LeRoi (*Everybody Hates Chris, Survivor’s Remorse*), shopping a TV drama series with NY Times Bestselling Author, Shaka Senghor (*Writing My Wrongs*) and Reggie Hudlin (*House Party, Django Unchained*), and is developing numerous film and TV projects.

**Online Publications**

In 2011, the UCLA Film & Television Archive illuminated the “L.A. Rebellion,” a group of Black students who entered the School of Theater, Film and Television in the 1960s. I studied their films as well as assisted in populating the blog: <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/blogs/la-rebellion>

My work is as follows:

* *A Moment In The Life Of Jamaa Fanaka, Or The One That Started It All*: <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/blogs/la-rebellion/2011/10/17/moment-life-jamaa-fanaka-or-one-startedit-all>
* *Killer Of Sheep: How Children Learn*: <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/blogs/larebellion/2011/11/16/killer-sheep-how-children-learn>
* *The Pocketbook And The Black Matriarch*: <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/blogs/larebellion/2011/11/14/pocketbook-and-black-matriarch>
* *Black Film Then…And The ‘Eternal Now’*: <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/blogs/larebellion/2011/12/05/black-film-then%E2%80%A6and-%E2%80%98eternal-now%E2%80%99>

**OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

A 1000 word essay titled ***My Image; My World***, was featured in the 2017 48th Annual NAACP Image Awards show booklet, which was passed out to every attendee of the show as well as was posted on the NAACP Hollywood website.

Interviewed Academy® Award-nominated director Raoul Peck for his documentary "I Am Not Your Negro" for LA Review of Books: <https://lareviewofbooks.org/contributor/michelle-amor/#!>

Events I have organized at the WGA in my role as co-chair of CBW include:

* *The 25th Anniversary Of The Five Heartbeats Screening*: <http://3blmedia.com/News/FoxCelebrates-Black-History-Month-25th-Anniversary-Screening-Five-Heartbeats>, <http://divagalsdaily.com/celebrating-25-years-of-the-five-heartbeats/>
* *CBW's 2nd Annual NAACP Nominated Writers Panel:* <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-et-st-wga-20160206-story.html>,
* *HOLIDAY SOUL* 2016 - Sponsored by UTA, NETFLIX, GOOGLE, HBO, CBS, OWN: <http://www.thewrap.com/hollywood-holidayparty-report-christoph-waltz-kat-graham-jane-lynch-get-spirited-with-santa-photos/18/>
* *HOLIDAY SOUL* 2017- Sponsored by UTA, NETFLIX, GOOGLE, HBO, CBS, OWN <https://variety.com/2017/scene/news/lena-waithe-inclusive-storytelling-diversity-the-chi-1202638910/amp/?__twitter_impression=true>
* *An Evening With TV’s Empire*: <http://variety.com/2015/scene/vpage/empire-writers-talk-celebrity-noshows-network-diversity-at-wgaw-panel-1201526136/>
* *40th Anniversary Of Cooley High*: <http://blogs.indiewire.com/shadowandact/cooley-high-writerand-cast-reflect-on-the-film-40-years-later-20150226>

**LMU Honors**

Co-Founder, LMU's School of Film and Television (SFTV) Students of Color Organization (SCO), whose mission to empower, increase visibility and create career opportunities for Students of Color. Won LMU’s 2019 New Outstanding Organization of the Year.