Aimee Gillette is a writer, director and editor whose work has been featured at the Cannes and Sundance film festivals and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. While working for NYC & Company, she served as videographer and editor for clients such as NAACP, the Dutch Embassy and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Gillette also worked in Los Angeles for Sega game systems, Rhino Records and PBS, and she animated sequences for various cable networks. Before coming to De Anza College, she taught at the Art Institute of New York City and was a full-time faculty member in Film Production at Howard Community College in Columbia, Maryland. Gillette has a B.F.A. in Cinema-Television Production from the University of Southern California and an M.F.A in Film Production from New York University.

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Barak Goldman worked as a Production Assistant for HBO’s The Chris Rock Show, then as a Production Coordinator and Associate Producer for a Buena Vista pilot. He has since written and produced television shows for Columbia-Tristar, Dish Network, The History Channel and USA Network, including a script for Susan Sarandon, Tommy Davidson and Kathy Griffin. Goldman ghost wrote two feature films for A-list talent and has had his own TV and film projects in studio development. He has also consulted privately on a number of scripts, some of which have sold or been optioned. Goldman earned an M.A in Media Studies from the New School for Social Research and an M.F.A. in Screenwriting from UCLA. He is the recipient of a Harmony Gold Award for Excellence in Screenwriting and was nominated for a 2007 United States Artists Grant.

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Milena Grozeva Levy has produced, written, directed and edited numerous films that have garnered awards at festivals around the world. Emily, her 56-minute narrative film, played at the Angelika Film Center in New York as part of the Independent Film Market. After working in the Cinematics Department at Microsoft, Grozeva Levy collaborated with renowned San Francisco Bay Area film director Rob Nilsson, editing and creating the visual effects for Presque Isle. She also produced, supervised the capture tech process and edited the trailer for Celik Kayalar’s Moonlight Sonata. Originally from Bulgaria, Grozeva Levy studied under filmmakers Robb Moss, Ross McElwee and Dusan Makavejev while receiving a B.A. from the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University. Mentored by Emmy-nominated cinematographer Nancy Schiesari and seasoned editor Nick Cominos, she earned an M.F.A. in Radio-Television-Film at The University of Texas at Austin.

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Zaki Lisha (Instructor Emeritus) is the former coordinator and founder of the Film/TV Department, the largest and most successful department of its kind in the California Community College system. Industry experience includes working as a producer and director of documentary and corporate film/video productions and serving as a founding member of the Mid-Peninsula Access Corporation, which provides community cable access to Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton and East Palo Alto. Lisha has judged the short film category of the Cinequest Film Festival, and he has been honored as a Fellow for the Faculty Seminar at the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and as a De Anza College Distinguished Educator. He received a B.A. in Cinema from the University of Southern California and an M.A. in Cinema at San Francisco State University.

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Martin McNamara has produced and/or directed dozens of animated television commercials, title sequences and educational films at Colossal Pictures or his own production company, Saga City Media. Clients include PBS, Disney, Nissan, HBO, Fairchild, McDonald’s, Alcatraz, Mitsubishi, Philips Electronics and the California Lottery. He co-produced the Nickelodeon pilot film for the animated series, Rocko’s Modern Life with De Anza alumnus Joe Murray. McNamara directed the San Francisco conference of the Society for Animation Studies, for which he has written extensively, and he served on the Executive Board of Directors of ASIFA (the international Animators’ association). Partnering with major animation studios, he was awarded multi-year grant projects by the National Science Foundation and California Economic and Workforce Development to train college animation faculty. He earned an M.A. in Cinema from San Francisco State University.

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Susan Tavernetti, chair of the Film/TV Department, reviews films for the Palo Alto Weekly and its sister publications serving the Mid-Peninsula, Marin County and the East Bay. She co-authored the textbook The Critical Eye: An Introduction to Looking at Movies and has contributed to American Indians and American Popular Culture, Hollywood’s Indian: The Portrayal of the Native American in Film, International Dictionary of Films and Filmmakers and the journal Film & History. Tavernetti has covered international festivals for Filmfestivals.com and has served on numerous film and screenwriting juries. She appeared in Ken Swartz’s documentary for KRON Channel 4, San Francisco in the Movies: The Silent Era. Tavernetti holds an M.A. in Cinema from the University of Southern California.

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Ed Breault, Chief Video Systems Engineer at De Anza College, is responsible for the planning, directing and coordinating of all the television service/support functions including studios, distance learning classrooms, cable channels, satellite uplink and downlink services, multimedia and computer graphics classrooms. His 25-plus years of broadcast systems engineering experience has included construction of television stations, post-production houses and 45-foot mobile production trailers. Breault holds a B.S. in Broadcast Engineering from Ferris State University.

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Tom Schott, Instructional Associate in the Creative Arts Division, supervises student film and television production and editing for the Film/TV Department. He assists faculty with the training of students in the use of the various cameras and editing systems used in the completion of student works. Schott has been a post-production consultant for documentary and animated television productions that have aired on PBS and Nickelodeon.

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