

USC Cinematic Arts

Dimitri Tiomkin Endowed Fund for Student Assistantships 2018-2019

Miles Alva
Graduate, Film & Television Production
Second Year

About This Student



Born in Los Angeles, California, **Miles Alva** is a first-generation Latino college student. His mother was born in Hollywood to immigrant parents, a military father from Peru and a mother from Mexico. Miles attended grade school in Northeast Los Angeles. He continued his education at Pasadena City College studying Business and Film and became the first person in his family to attend college. His love of visual art and storytelling drew him to filmmaking. Miles then transferred to California State University, Northridge to finish his undergraduate degree and study television. He is proud to now pursue his graduate degree in film production at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Miles has had many successful endeavors in film festivals around the world. His work has been exhibited at venues

including the Hammer Museum at UCLA, the Writers Guild of America and the Vancouver Film Festival. Recently, he produced a short film dealing with sexual harassment in Hollywood that received attention from the BBC, amongst other organizations. Miles produces films that highlight marginalized groups in society, especially pertaining to the people of Los Angeles in less known communities. Miles' objective as a producer is to make films that frequently address race relations and groups who are statistically underrepresented in creative roles in the film industry.

On Gratitude

I am honored to receive your support and grateful for the opportunities it will provide me. As a kid growing up in Northeast Los Angeles, I always dreamed of going to USC and becoming a filmmaker. I've been at USC for just under two years now and am realizing my dream every day. I knew when I was admitted to USC that I would be getting a great education. But with the help of this scholarship, I will be able to further increase my chances of success. In fact, because of the reduced financial burden I carry thanks to your support, I have been able to cut down my out of school work hours and am in the process of researching and applying for a number of other opportunities this coming semester. Once again, I thank you for the vote of confidence and the tremendous support. I am committed to my education and to becoming a voice in the industry for underrepresented communities. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually give something back to others, both as filmmaker and as a contributor to the future of our community.



Miles Alva

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Joshua Scammell
Graduate, Film & Television Production
Third Year

About This Student



Joshua Scammell was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario. Throughout elementary school, he faked being sick about once a week so he could re-watch every *Star Wars* movie. In high school, when he was asked, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" he knew he wanted to make films. But without access to a camera, he decided he would begin his training by watching as many movies as he could get his eyes on, and earned both his B.A. and M.A. in Film Studies from Carleton University in Ottawa. Joshua is currently a MFA graduate student in the Film & Television Production program at USC School of Cinematic Arts (SCA). He wrote and directed numerous micro-budget shorts (experimental, narrative, and hybrid forms) before moving to California, where he gained experience working on fiction and non-fiction films of a much larger scale. Joshua has acquired skills working in camera, sound, writing, and directing, strengthening his versatility as a filmmaker. His goal is to make ethical, challenging, and idiosyncratic media that merges the spirit of the avant-garde with engaging narratives.

On Gratitude

This award makes all the difference. Coming from a somewhat underprivileged background with a single mother who was not receiving child support, it has often been difficult to make life work, let alone an expensive education. It is only because of generous scholarships like yours that so many of us are fortunate enough to pursue higher-level education. I am blessed, humbled, and full of gratitude that I am receiving this award, and I will continue my studies with a renewed intensity because of it. As I enter into my final year at USC, it is time for me to refine my focus. This year will be the culmination of all my studies up until now. Having the backing of a scholarship like this is not only financially helpful, but emotionally and mentally encouraging. Like some people, I have trouble receiving compliments and praise, and when I expressed this to my SCA teacher and friend Stephen Flick, he replied, "Just say thank you." So, from the bottom of my heart, *thank you!*



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joshua Scammell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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Jack Waltermann
Graduate, Film & Television Production
Second Year

About This Student



Jack Waltermann is a Minneapolis native who graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Arts: Acting/Directing from Saint Mary's University. During his undergraduate studies, he was able to study in London, as well as with the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin. He has worked as a director and speech coach in neighboring high schools in his hometown and as a teaching artist at the Guthrie Theater. He currently resides in Los Angeles, California to pursue an M.F.A. in Film & Television Production at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. His energy is focused on writing, directing, and producing stories about people who overcome personal fears and allow more love into their lives.

On Gratitude

I want to thank you for your generosity and kindness. As a graduate student, I am grateful to have the opportunity to live out my life dream in the film industry. Your contribution will allow me to further my studies and grow as a young artist. After only one year at the School of Cinematic Arts, I have learned so much about the industry, production essentials, and how my ideas and stories fit. I am now: in post-production for a short film I wrote and directed titled *Move-In Day*; in production for a thesis film I am producing titled *Father by Law*, and in pre-production for a 546 film, *Teddy Mate*, as first assistant director. All three stories are about acceptance and love in a world that can be difficult at times without the support of others. You have offered support in my own life story, and although making these films and living in Los Angeles can be expensive, I hope I will be able to do the same for other students in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Waltermann".