

ADAC

ADRIATIC AMERICAN COLLEGE

VISUAL AND PERFORMATIVE STORYTELLING ACADEMY

“An Affordable American Liberal Arts Education in Italy”

About ADAC



You'll find our Main Campus in the fairytale Medieval town of Guglionesi, founded in 500 B.C.E. Living and studying in restored Renaissance convents and monasteries gives our students the unique experience of waking to chapel bells, wandering the ancient cobblestones, and exploring the churches and castles filled with priceless artwork.

We believe our students deserve the best education. We teach them compassionately and professionally. Low crime, cafe culture and the highest teaching standards combine to give our students the very best college life.

Being immersed in the daily life and rhythm of a small-town Italian community, interacting with Italian families and local craftsmen, and living among Italian young people ensures that our students are not tourists, but instead are participating in the "laboratory of life".



ADAC: Our Vision



- We prepare students to face the real future, after they finish their education with our entrepreneur-based education.
- We provide an affordable 4-year American education in Italy - the experience and value of study abroad should not be limited only to the economically-privileged student.
- We welcome and cater to students of every age group, every ability level and every race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, and political affiliation.
- We only require an acceptable level of fluency in English to be admitted. We do not require fluency in Italian, like many Italian institutions (TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 520 or higher (190 for computer-based test or 68 for internet-based test); IELTS 5.5 or the equivalent).
- We encourage our students to engage with the local language and culture and to attain a passable B1 score in the Italian Language when their studies are completed.
- We accept transfer students from 2-year community colleges.
- Students without a high school diploma will be accepted on a case-by-case, probationary basis through our supported Foundation Studies Program.

ADAC: Our Mission



- The centerpiece of our approach to learning is our foregrounding of the interplay between technology, the arts and the traditions of storytelling.
- We attempt to teach our students a balanced approach to life and learning – we do not privilege technology over the arts, artistic practice over audience engagement and commercial relevance, political systems over individual well-being, etc. “All things in a proportional and balanced perspective.”
- By bringing our students to Italy - one of the birthplaces of art and culture, we celebrate all of the accomplishments of human existence – demonstrated through mutual understanding, respect and tolerance, and we transmit these values to our student in lessons and by example.
- We invite our students to confront the mysteries of life, the ambiguities of being human, and to question authorities, and to carefully examine all standards of value - including dichotomies in culture and art, such as gendered or racial stereotypes, economic classes, and the “sacred and the profane”.
- We avoid teaching our students strict artistic rules – instead, through creativity and critical thinking, we seek to embody the values that as an institution we esteem: striving for excellence; kindness; generosity; fairness; honesty; open-mindedness; and the willingness to try something new.

Adriatic American College -- ADAC Core Values

“There is no such thing as educational value in the abstract. The notion that some subjects and methods and that acquaintance with certain facts and truths possess educational value in and of themselves is the reason why traditional education reduced the material of education so largely to a diet of predigested materials.”

— John Dewey, American Philosopher and Educator, in his essay, Experience and Education



*The values we hold to maintain
our quality education.*

- ❖ Compassionate
- ❖ Professional
- ❖ Discipline

Welcome to the Adriatic American College

We are honored to welcome you to our fabled Historic District campus -- Located in the Renaissance Art Era market town of Guglionesi, in the green-forested Central Italian Region of Molise, along the ancient Adriatic Sea Coast, in the Province of Campobasso.

Guglionesi, with a mild and pleasant Mediterranean Climate, is connected by provincial and national bus-lines, nearby train stations, high speed Autostrada and scenic mountain parkways - 3 hours due east of Rome, 3 hours from Naples, 1.5 hours from the Campitello Matese Ski Slopes, and 15 minutes from the warm, palm-lined and pristine white sandy beaches of the Adriatic Sea.





Classes begin October 2025
B.F.A. begins October 2025
M.F.A. begins October 2026
Ph.D. begins October 2027

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree

The Adriatic American College is comprised of four schools, authorized to award certificates, diplomas and degrees attained in English:



School of Business,
Liberal Arts & Sciences



School of Acting and
Digital Filmmaking



School of Fine Arts
and Musical Performance

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree

The Adriatic American College includes the Italian Foundation College - authorized to award certificates, diplomas and degrees attained in (combined) English and Italian:



Diploma in Film
Production Technology



Diploma in the Business
of Arts & Entertainment



Diploma in Performance,
Film & Television Crafts

ADAC Extracurricular Activities



Swimming Club



Mountain Bike Club



Italian Cooking Classes



Chamber Music Club / Chorale



Jazz Music Club



Theatre Circle



Cross-Training Club



Museum & Travel Club



Asian Students Society



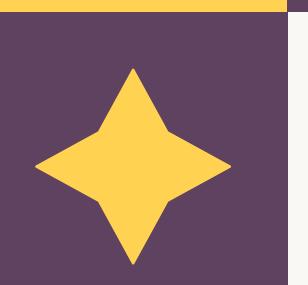
Men & Women's Soccer Club



Meditation, Yoga & Pilates



Cinema Club

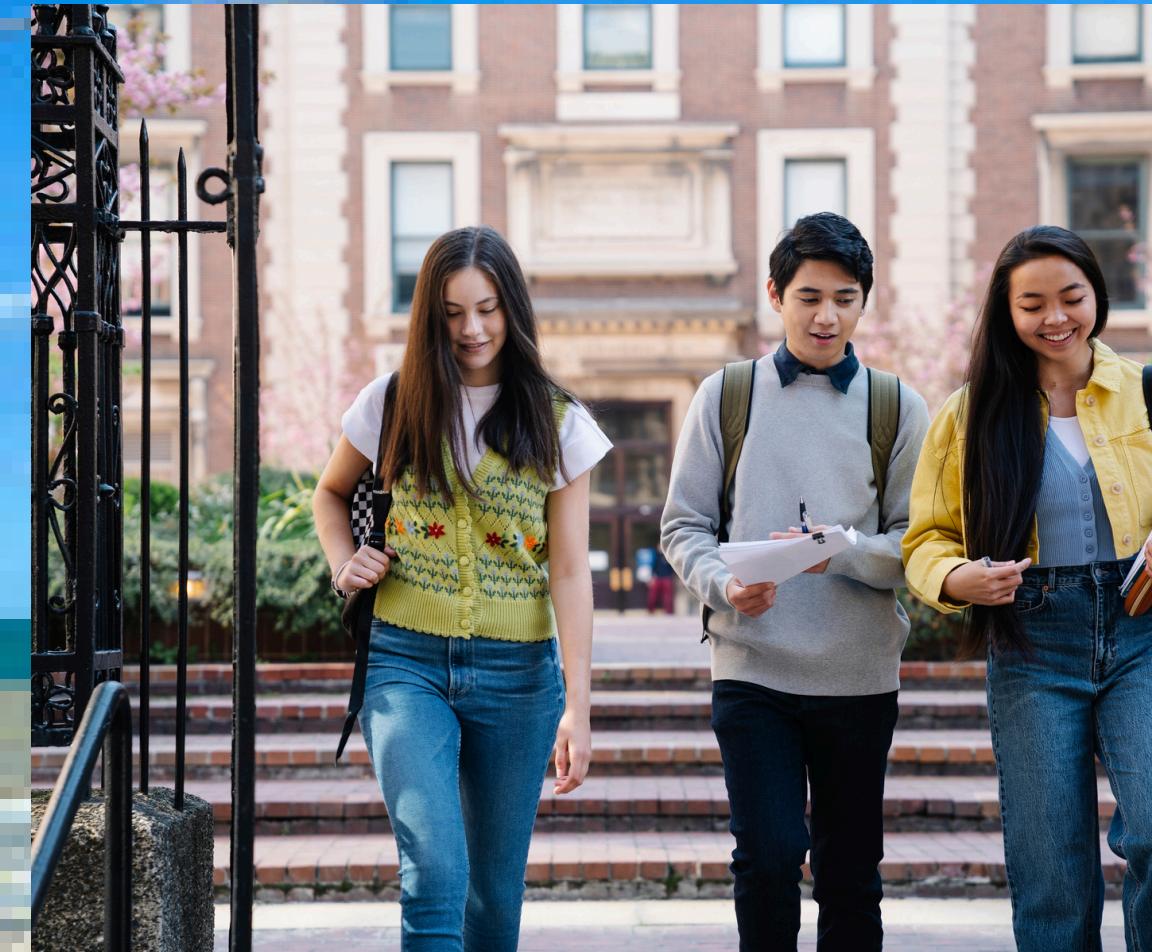


Guglionesi (Campobasso) Student Cost of Living Expenses among the Lowest in Italy



Reduced Student Expenses

Students are allowed to work 20 hours per week during the semester.



Reduced Student Expenses

Study in the Heart of Europe / Graduate with less student loan debts



ADAC

Adriatic American College Visual and Performative Storytelling Academy



Student Services / Medical Health and Counseling
Registrar's Office / Student Transfer Center
Scholarships & Financial Aid Center
Catering, Hospitality & Student housing
Office of Academic Advising
Faculty Support / Human Resources
Research Library / Information Services
Security & Safety Center
Alumni & Career Services

College Facilities



Castle Square “Place of Dreams”

Adriatic American College

Smalltown Student Life

A closer look at our college
-- knowing that you belong!





Open Admission

Get ready to send your personal information and college admission letter to our college.

Fall Admission Date:
September 15, 2025

Online Admission:
www.ADAC.com

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Contact Information

Via Roma, Guglionesi 86034 (CB) Italia

Online Admission:

www.ADAC.com

Presenting our esteemed faculty . . .



Dr. Mark L. Woods, CEO
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Executive Director / Presiding Dean



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Dr. Mark L. Woods,
B.A., Ph.D., LL.M., PgDL, PGCHE, TESOL, FHEA

Mark Leslie Woods is a Television & Film Studio Historian, lawyer and legal scholar, film tax credits / incentives and financial consultant. He and his family enjoy homes in Miami, Florida and Molise, Italy. He served for 27 years of academic service – the Faculty of New York Film Academy, the University of Glamorgan, Florida International University., and the Cardiff School of Creative Industries (USW), United Kingdom.

Dr. Woods also served on the Board of Directors of the Miami IFP / Independent Feature Project (Gotham), the Miami MIFF Outshine Film Festival, Welsh Retrospective Film Festival, Miami International Film Festival, Miami MEC Film Studio Contributor.

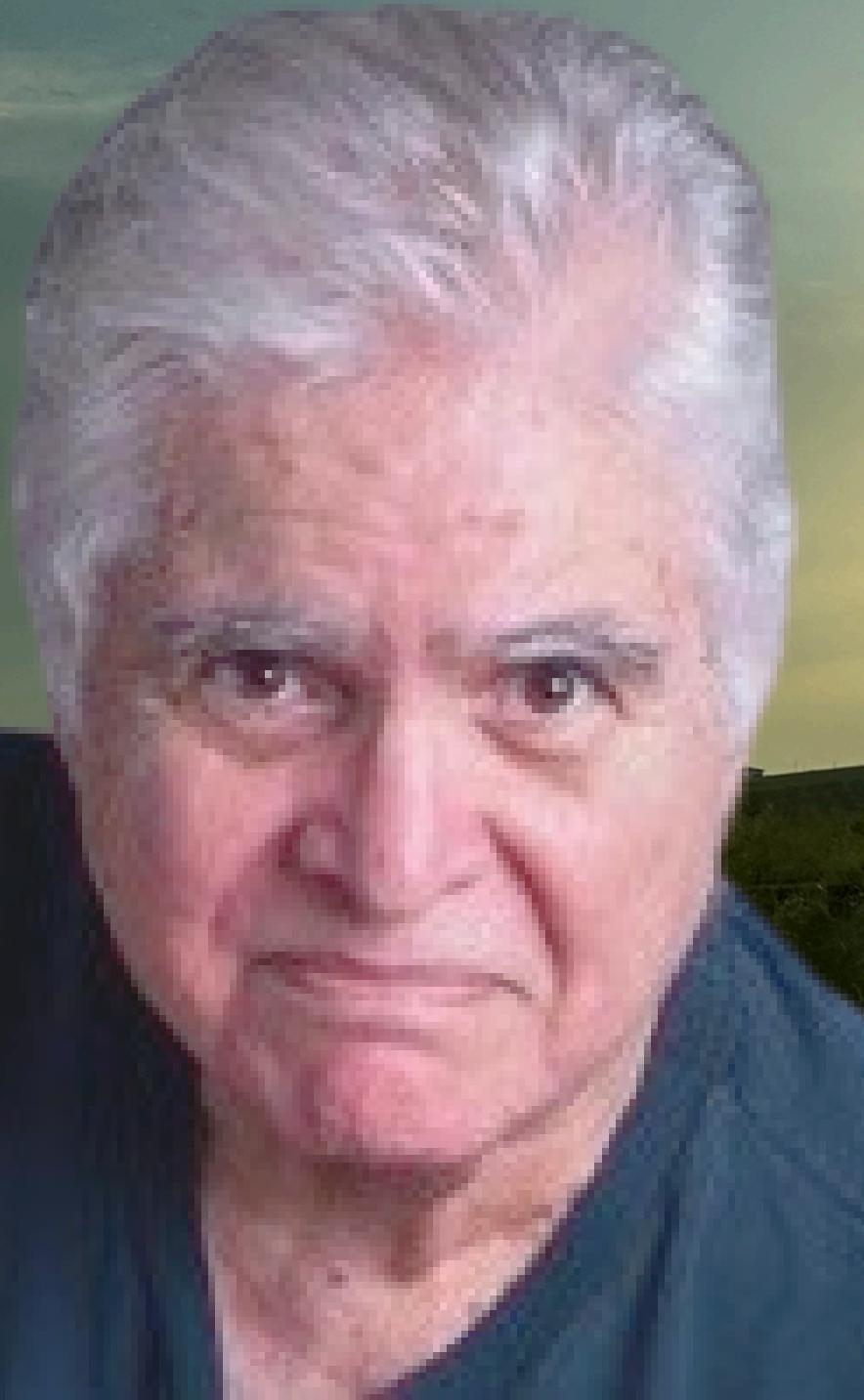
Dr. Woods is an accomplished International Film Finance Consultant, and was previously contracted as an International Sales Agent for BBC-Wales and S4C-TV International at Cannes, Berlin, London, Karlovy Vary, Rome MIA.

He is a former member of British Academy of Film and Television Arts, BAFTA-Cymru and the British Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association, MeCCSA. He is a specialist in New Media, Instructional Design, administration, curriculum and pedagogy and a Full Fellow of the British Academy of Higher Education.

MEET OUR TEAM

George Edward Fernandez

Executive Officer for Finance, Production and Creative Direction
Associate Professor, Film Production



Our Senior Team

George wrote, directed and produced his award-winning play / feature film titled, CEASE FIRE with Don Johnson, (MIAMI VICE) and Oscar winner, Lisa Blount. The Director of CEASE FIRE, Mr. David Nutter, Emmy Award-Winning Director (BAND OF BROTHERS, GAME OF THRONES).

George feature film credits include SHALLOW GRAVE, with Barry Waldman, Producer (BAD BOY'S II, ARMAGEDDON, PEARL HARBOR DOMINO, NATIONAL TREASURE). George then wrote, SPANISH ROSE starring Michael Pare, Barbara Carrera, and Michael Ironside.

Television credits: NIGHT SCREAMS, DINNER AT EIGHT, BEST LINE, LA CENA. Currently in production: Sunnyland, Horror / Suspense; Inquisition, TV Series. Film School Faculty: FSU and the School of Communication George taught Documentary Production, Tallahassee Community College, Film Production: New York Film Academy (Miami, Florida).

MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Peter Baloff

M.F.A. in Theatre/Directing, University of Florida
B.A. in English/Film Studies, University of Florida

Peter Baloff is a working filmmaker with a passion for teaching. He has a Master of Fine Arts degree, along with teaching experience at the university level. He taught Screenwriting at the UCLA Writers' Program and currently teach both undergraduate and graduate courses in Filmmaking and Acting at The New York Film Academy.

Peter Baloff has written and produced over two dozen movies and television shows for most of the major studios and networks. He also has extensive experience producing and directing national commercials, corporate films, news features, mini-documentaries, movie trailers, on-air promotions and roll-in segments for the studios, networks and Fortune 500 companies.

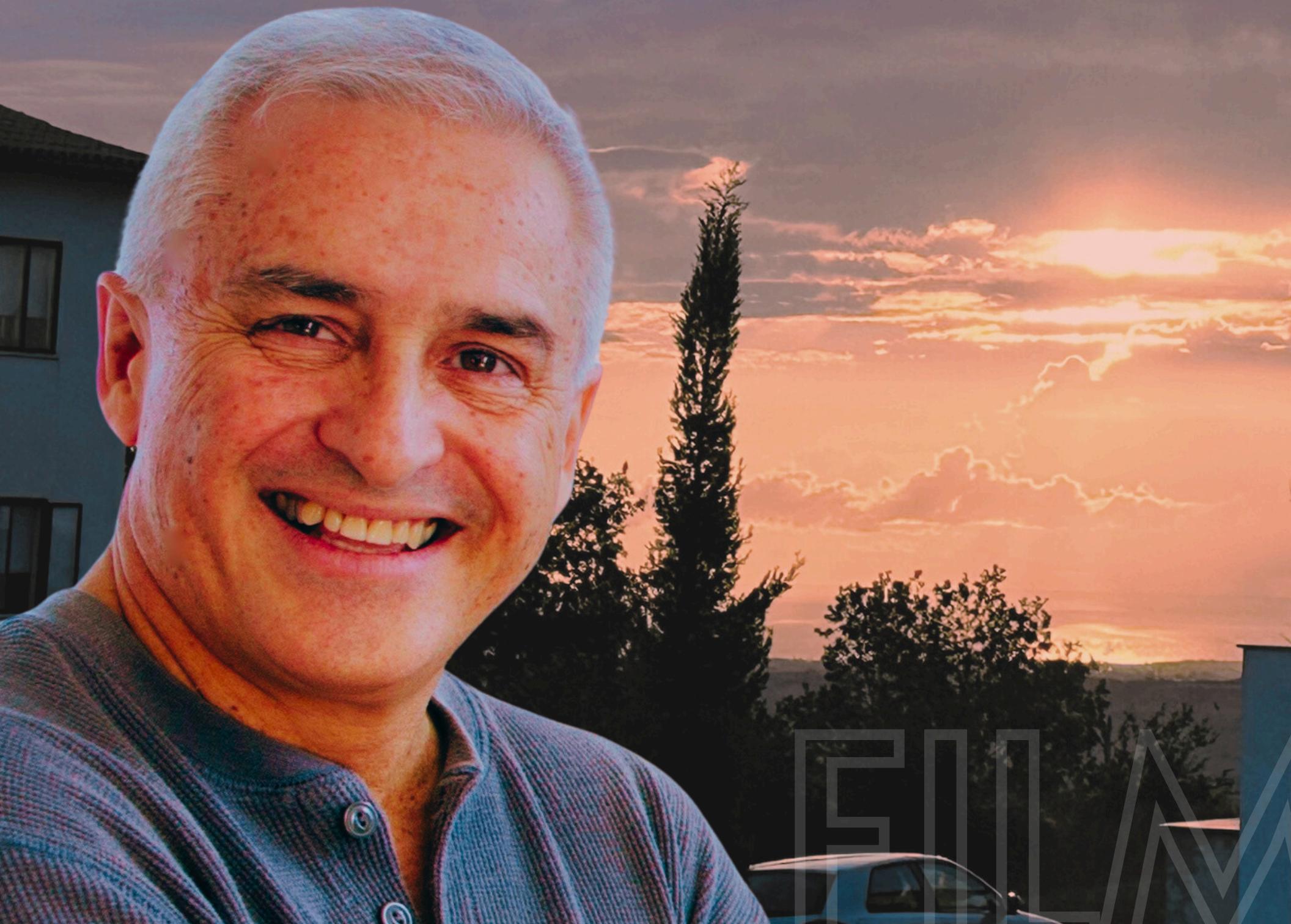
He is well versed in all facets of production, from script to screen, and bring a broad range of industry knowledge, experience, and connections. Peter has vast experience supervising production and post-production for films, television series and commercial production. In addition, he has participated as a panelist and guest artist for numerous film festivals and educational programs, conducting workshops in screenwriting, directing, producing and acting. Peter has also served as an adjudicator and guest artist for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, an outstanding program, which cultivates nurturing mentorships between entertainment professionals and college students all across the United States.



Peter Baloff

Visiting Professor of Filmmaking

Giovanni Fabietti
Associate Professor of Cinematography



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Cesare Giovanni Fabietti, MA

Master of Arts in Career Workforce Education, *Cum Laude*
Bachelor of Science in Technical Education and Industry Training,
Cum Laude

Giovanni Fabietti, as Agency Producer for McCann-Erickson Central America, directed mass media productions for major international and local clients. He then collaborated on film productions, 16mm processing, and Journalistic cinematography for ABC News Overseas Assignment Desk in El Salvador. As Cinematographer, Film Editor, and Post-Production Supervisor for Guede Films Central America, he led mass media film production and post-production across seven global office locations. At Cineworks Film Laboratory in Miami, Florida, Giovanni led the International Client Services. There he directed clients' productions, including Film Laboratory & Color Correction services.

Giovanni is widely in demand for his lectures on Film Production, Cinematography, Budgeting & Scheduling, Film Lighting, Audio for Film & TV, Directing Actors, and Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies; English and Spanish Associate Arts classes.

He has an extensive film school teaching career, including Nicholson School of Communication and Media, Center of Cinematography Arts and Television, Florida Film Institute / Summer Film Camp, and most recently at the New York Film Academy - South Beach (2016 - 2019) Taught: Motion Picture Film Cinematography 16/35mm, Digital Cinematography BFA and MFA classes.

Dr. Christopher K. Smith
Professor of Psychology



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Dr. Christopher K. Smith

Ph.D. Psychology
CELTA / DELTA English as a Second Language
Cambridge, University, UK

Born in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, Dr. Christopher K Smith, has been an educator for over 30 years specialising in English as a Foreign Language. Before turning to teaching English he was a Professor of Psychology at Cambridge University where he had previously studied.

Dr. Smith couples his love for teaching with being a professional rugby union referee and has officiated at the highest level, including 2 Rugby World Cups.

After turning his attention to English teaching, Dr. Smith completed his CELTA and DELTA and has collaborated on several textbooks with the likes of Sue O'Connell and Jeremy Hamer. Whilst teaching he is one of the few Cambridge University ESOL examiners who can officiate and evaluate the Proficiency level and his speciality is In exam techniques and preparation.

Positions held within the field of teaching include Director of Studies for International House (both Campobasso and Naples), Inspector of Schools and Exam Centres (for Cambridge University, Churchill Schools, Embassy CES and International House) and also has been appointed Summer Dean at several University including Oxford, UCL, Brighton and Cardiff.

MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Professor Emeritus Raphael Aceto

Master of Business Administration

Maitre ès Arts, Translation

Bachelor of Music

Bachelor of Arts

Professor Emeritus Raphael Aceto is a graduate of McGill University, Concordia University and the Université de Montréal, and for 24 years lectured all'università degli studi del Molise, where he taught Business English, in the Faculty of Commerce and Administration. He is a native English, native French and native Italian speaker, with extensive scholarship in the editing and translation of academic texts for publication in English – straddling a breath-taking range of disciplines, including economics, linguistics, sociology, and science.

Professor Aceto has a vast knowledge of hand-on marketing and business analysis for business in Europe and North America – having translated essential business documents (technical, academic, business), as well as an acumen of successful marketing clients, on a spectrum from large corporate clients to smaller, boutique clients.

His MBA research dissertation explored a Business Research Project, with a review of the firm's management culture, considering marketing and strategic policies. His blend of perspectives contrasting business, marketing and the arts has informed his research and practice, as well as his ability to convey various theories and knowledge to his students and academic colleagues.

Professor Emeritus Raphael Aceto
Professor of Business



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Maria Elena Alonso-Sierra

Master of Arts in English Literature
Florida International University
Bachelor of Arts

Maria Elena Alonso-Sierra is an award-winning romantic suspense author with a unique point of view. Her award-winning suspense novels, *The Coin* and *The Book of Hours*, take place in locales across Europe and the United States, reflecting her international upbringing and extensive time as a global traveler. In them, her characters, Gabriela and Richard, walk the same paths as their creator, though her life was never in so much danger.

Her short story collection, *The Fish Tank: And Other Short Stories*, is a twice Silver Medal winner. This collection takes the reader on a ride across all genres, including tragic tales of survival from ordinary Cuban citizens in the 1960s (based on the author's own experience of exile).

She released her first detective novel, *Hanging Softly in the Night: A Detective Nick Larson Novel*, in November 2020, in all retailers with worldwide distribution. She also has a very creepy, horror short story, "Retribution Served", which is part of an Anthology of Short Stories. Readers can read it here under Other Writing on the Menu bar.

She holds a Masters in English literature. When not writing, she roams around to discover new places to set her novels.



Maria Elena Alonso-Sierra
Visiting Professor of Literature



Tiziano Albanese
Professor of Music



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Our Senior Team

Dott. Tiziano Albanese

Diploma vecchio ordinamento di PIANOFORTE

Diploma vecchio ordinamento COMPOSIZIONE

Biennio di secondo livello PIANOFORTE

Tiziano Albanese (1974), Italian pianist and composer, graduated with honors at the Conservatory in Piano and Composition. He began working with the CPM Music Institute in Milan, where he met Franco Mussida, PFM historical guitarist, with whom he carries out several projects.

He held numerous concerts in Italy, sharing the stage with artists such as Cecilia Gasdia, Mons. Marco Frisnia, Michele Placido, Sergio Rubini, Flavio Insinna and Cesare Bocci.

On television, he performed for RAIUNO and several Sky channels. His compositions have been performed on five continents, from the 2000 Jubilee in Saint Peter's Square in Rome, to the World Saxophone Congress in Canada, in many Italian and foreign radio stations, and in many RAI television programs.

He has published the works "L'invito della Follia" and "Francesco, History of Man" for the RAI Com Music Editions.

With this last work, he performed live in the National Celebrations of Assisi and received from the Vatican the appreciation and Apostolic Blessing of Pope Francis. Then, from 2015 in Russia he reached a record of plays with over two million streaming downloads on the portal YANDEX MUSIC, which has repeatedly included the song, "La giovinezza" in the official "Best 100 Classical Music" playlist.

Frank Orifici

Associate Professor of Psychology



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Frank Orifici, MS Ed, BS Psych

MS Ed in English Education

BS in Psychology

Member Psi Chi, Psychology National Honor Society

With his background in psychology, Frank served at the Kendall Campus of Miami Dade College as the Student Life Skills Coach and Coordinator. In this capacity, he Supervised more than 50 adjunct faculty teaching 112 sections this fall of Student Life Skills classes. Together with the Social Sciences chair, reviewed applications for part time faculty positions and interviewed the most promising candidates. Assigned adjunct faculty to their classes and maintained regular contact with them to make certain they were aware of pending deadlines. In the course of his tenure as department Coordinator, he mediated occasional disputes between students and faculty – and successfully ensured retention of the best faculty.

Frank's pastoral care and administrative talents allowed him to established a close relationship with Academic Advisement and Student Retention, beneficial to both departments and to the students – he thereby conducted adjunct Social Sciences faculty orientations, with special sessions for SLS instructors.

Previously Frank maintained a strenuous teaching load at Miami Dade College, while serving as Vocational Programs Coordinator. Not only did Frank supervise three full time vocational programs advisors, but he also stepped up to plan and implement strategies to increase enrollment by addressing issues of recruitment and by more adequately preparing students to pass the TABE Exams. Frank previously lectured as Adjunct Faculty at Florida International University.

Domenico Gigantiello

Communications & College Administration



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Domenico Gigantiello

Italian Ministry of the Interior

Retired from Public Service in September 2024.

Born in Naples, he graduated in 1975. After having carried out various activities both in the field of teaching in state primary schools and in the publishing field, in April 1985 he was hired by the Ministry of the Interior where he held various positions, the main one being that of IT officer involved in the management of hardware, software and communications between the various departments of the public administration.

Nato a Napoli si è diplomato nel 1975. Dopo aver svolto diverse attività sia nel campo dell'insegnamento nella scuola primaria statale che nel campo dell'editoria nell'aprile del 1985 è stato assunto nel Ministero dell'Interno dove ha svolto diversi incarichi il cui principale è stato quella di funzionario informatico impegnato nella gestione dell'hardware, software e delle comunicazioni tra i vari dipartimenti dell'amministrazione pubblica. In pensione dal settembre 2024.

Jonah Prince Smith
Director of Student Services
Adjunct Professor of Business



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Jonah Prince Smith

Master of Arts in Business Management
B.A. in Business Administration

Jonah has brought his Project Management and Administrative skills across three continents – Africa, Asia, and Europe! A native English scholar from Monrovia, Liberia, he became fluent in Chinese and successfully defended his Masters dissertation in Beijing, China. During these decades of scholarship and leadership, he held many executive and managerial positions, finally becoming fluent in Italian and settling in Molise, with his wife, who also speaks Chinese.

Jonah is an expert at organizing and executing strategies to maintain high quality control and efficiency in a variety of business settings and academic institutions. His experience spans from Human Resources, accounting and payrolls, health insurance and employee on-boarding and general employment supervision.

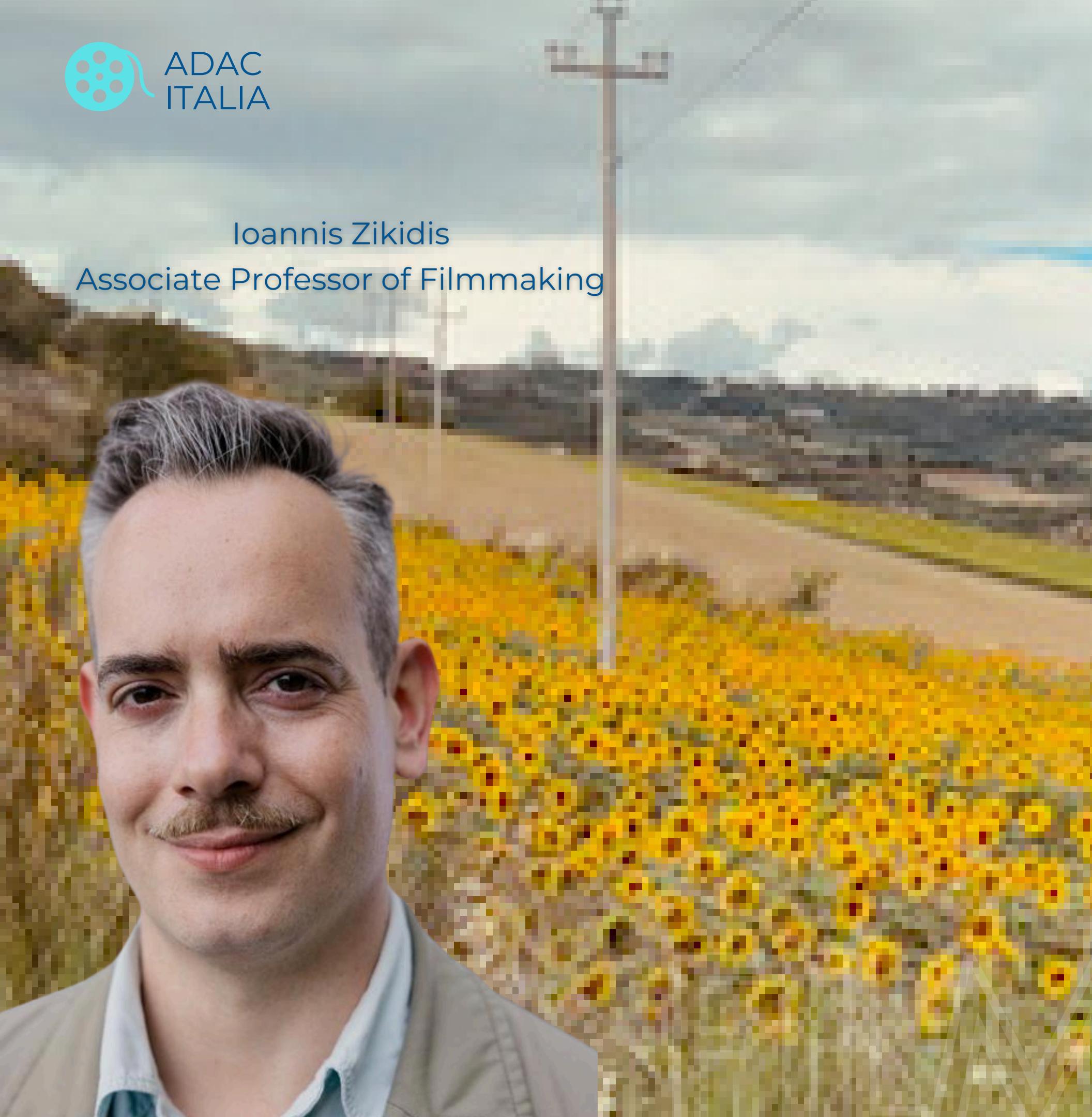
Jonah additionally is multi-talented and adept at government liaison assignments and facility management, including procuring, Health & Safety, executive and team management, and as the Quality Control Administrator for Privacy & Confidential Records.

While conducting his postgraduate research in Beijing, China, Jonah supported his studies by assuming leadership positions, which allowed him to become an international expert in cross-cultural business integration and multicultural systems design – this included events management, corporate planning and staff coaching.

MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Ioannis Zikidis
Associate Professor of Filmmaking



Ioannis “Yanni” Zikidis

Ph.D. Researcher – Visual, Performative and Media Arts
Alma Mater Studiorum l’Università di Bologna

Master of Arts Post-Production Editing
Bournemouth University, UK

Bachelor of Arts (Honors) Film Studies & Media Production
University of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Wales UK

Yanni’s research critically examines the integration of environmental sustainability within Italy’s audiovisual sector, assessing policy frameworks, industry practices, and the emergence of specialized sustainability roles shaping the transition toward greener production models.

Grounded in 70 in-depth interviews with 65 experts across 24 countries, this study benchmarks Italy’s approaches against global best practices, with a focus on eco-certifications, sustainable production incentives, and evolving roles such as Green Film Managers and Eco-Supervisors.

By bridging film and media studies, environmental humanities and policy, and cultural economics, this research provides actionable insights for policymakers, industry leaders, and sustainability advocates while informing the development of regulatory frameworks, certification standards, and funding strategies for sustainable media production. Furthermore, it highlights the growing role of sustainability professionals in reshaping production workflows, driving systemic change, and establishing new industry standards.

MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Tessa Quiñones

Master of Business Administration
USA University

Bachelor of Arts, Literature
University of Florida, USA

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Tessa Quiñones
Administration / Project Manager

MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Michele Lastella
Associate Professor of Acting



Michele Lastella

M.F.A. in Acting & Directing,
National Academy of Dramatic Art "Silvio d'Amico",
Rome, Italy 2004

B.F.A. in Acting,
Prima International Acting School of San Miniato,
Pisa, Italy 2005

Michele is the founder of an Acting & Filmmaking School called the Lastella Acting Studio – where he developed actor-centered curriculum, combining traditional European stage methods with on-camera tools. He is the Founder & Artistic Director of The Star Is You Academy - A global acting academy blending artistic training and real film participation; the first to guarantee 100% actor involvement in already-distributed film projects, streamed on 25+ platforms in 175+ countries.

He received the Best Actor Nomination for his performance in, The Trial Begins, at the 64th Venice International Film Festival, 2007.

Michele's Theatre & Stage Work includes Alan's Apple, Valeria Patera, Ego, Michele Lastella, Souls: Game Over, Michele Lastella; Eleven, The Musical, Michele Santeramo; Tosca, Nucci Ladogana; Abusivi, Marcello Colopi; The Merchant of Venice, Nucci Ladogana; The Player, Giuseppe Patroni Griffi; 9th Century's Scenarios, Lorenzo Salvetti; and No To Fascism, Mario Ferrero, Luca Manfredi; Un Posto al Sole, RAI-TV; Ho Sposato Uno Sbirro 2, Giorgio Capitani; and Lovers and Secrets, Gianni Lepre.

Michele's film and commercial work includes EX 2, Carlo Vanzina; The Trial Begins, Vincenzo Marra; Eccezionale Veramente 2, Carlo Vanzina; Tu Chiamala Musica, Michele Lastella; The Mask, Francesco De Lorenzo, and the TV Commercial entitled, LOST, Sky Italia.

MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

S. Thomas Dennis
Visiting Professor of Theater and Voice



S. Thomas Dennis

Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts
Teaching Research Certificate Special Education
Repertory Theater Company Member and Actor's Workshops

Thomas is a talented screenwriter and Production Consultant, and an experienced producer with specialties in production for IMAX Cinematic Exhibitions, with a long range of corporate clients, including IMAX Film productions, Ford Motor Corp, General Motors, Natural History Museums, The Motown Sound Exhibit, Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion House restoration experience, Technology in the 20th Century exhibit, Living Theater pieces for Thomas Edison, Dr. G. W. Carver, the Wright Brothers and Henry Ford Museum.

Thomas has multiformat and multiplatform experience at new modalities of storying telling as applied to film and video scripting and story consulting/editing, innovative interpretive and storytelling techniques and exhibit development from concept to completion.

He was the Writer and Producer of the La Brea Tar Pits Animated and Interactive Exhibit at the Page Museum in Los Angeles, California where he Co-wrote and produced all aspects of museum Education department videos and digital films including co-writing and executive producing TELLY award winning documentary, "Ice Age Fossils" for the digital theater. Co-curated and produced the Charles Knight Paleo-Art Exhibit with introduction Video featuring Ray Bradbury, Ray Harryhausen and DreamWorks animators.

Thomas has a long background in Dramatic Works for Stage and Musical Theater as Highly Skilled Actor/Singer, and a veteran performer, with leads in dozens of successful plays and musicals.

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Paul Natter
Director of the Art of Hair & Makeup



Paul Natter

Director of Hair & Makeup
For Film and Television
Miami, Florida USA

Studies toward the Bachelor of Arts
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Paul is an experienced and highly skilled makeup and hair artist, fully bilingual, with over 30 years of expertise across the beauty industry. A proven professional in customer service, education, and retail. He excels in delivering exceptional results in challenging on-set environments. His work ethic is unwavering, with a track record of collaborating directly with VIPs, photographers, art directors, producers, wardrobe stylists, and fashion designers. Hold relevant certifications and licenses, demonstrating full commitment to maintaining the highest standards in his field. Passionate about sharing my extensive experience, demonstrating to be a team player and excel in cross-managing departments optimizing outcomes and logistics.

Paul's strengths lie in conducting thorough consultations to understand client needs, ultimately enhancing, and transforming their beauty experiences. He specializes in airbrush makeup, minimal special effects makeup, formal styling, men's grooming, and working with diverse hair types, extensions, wigs, and hairpieces. He is bilingual, providing me with the ability to connect and communicate effectively with a wide range of clients. His dedication to my craft, professionalism, and commitment to delivering outstanding results make me a valuable asset in the makeup and hair industry."

Michele Lastella
Associate Professor of Acting



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Gian Bocchi

M.F.A. in Acting & Directing,
National Academy of Dramatic Art "Silvio d'Amico",
Rome, Italy 2004

B.F.A. in Acting,
Prima International Acting School of San Miniato,
Pisa, Italy 2005

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MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Elizabeth Burbano

Master of Fine Arts in Film Production
New York Film Academy

Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies
Nova Southeastern University (NSU)

While attaining her Master of Fine Arts in Filmmaking from New York Film Academy, Lizzie cultivated a vast skillset working in a production atmosphere and providing meaningful insight into real-life projects. Film is a vehicle for the imagination. Whether creating a fantastical world or a hard-hitting documentary, film opens audiences' minds to new perspectives and feelings, allowing for a deeper understanding of the world. To Lizzie, filmmaking is creating a work of art from an idea and bringing it to life.

Lizzie's skill set includes budgeting, scheduling, location scouting, editing video and audio, color correction, equipment handling, and location scouting, ensuring well-coordinated and successful projects. Through her work with Herflix, Half Yard Production, and New York Women in Film and Television, Lizzie developed extensive skills for filmmaking that also translate well into other industries, and vice versa, her experience in finance fields.



Elizabeth Burbano
Visiting Professor of Film



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team



Cristina Fabietti

MDC Continuing Studies / Broward College / FIU Miami-Orlando, FL
New York School of Interior Design New York, NY
Virginia Intermont College Bristol, Va.

Cristina has worked professionally in the fields of art and interior design, equipping her with valuable skills that can enhance a faculty team. Her proven abilities in architectural design and back-office educational support have provided her with insight into fostering a friendly work environment.

Her talents span across a broad range of expertise, having led teams in Interior Design, Film And Television Set Design, and set dressing, properties management, as well.

Cristina is an accomplished instructor of Modern Dance, and includes in her teaching repertoire the "Luigi" Dance Technique. She has experience with Special Needs Student Management and The Advocacy Network on Disabilities: Promoting Inclusion.

Cristina Fabietti

Visiting Professor of Design



MEET OUR TEAM

Our Senior Team

Santiago de Zafra

Visiting Professor of Film and Storytelling



Santiago de Zafra

B.F.A., WGF Fellow, Director – Film & Storytelling

Santiago de Zafra is an award-winning writer, director, and creative producer, recognized for his innovative work in narrative filmmaking and branded content. With over a decade of experience in both independent and commercial production, he has earned recognition from the Raindance Film Festival (Best Director) and the Writers Guild Foundation Fellowship program. He began his career as a U.S. Army Media & Documentation Specialist, producing high-quality training films and archival content in high-pressure environments. Following his military service, he founded Safra Marketing, where he led a team in creating branded campaigns for a range of digital platforms.

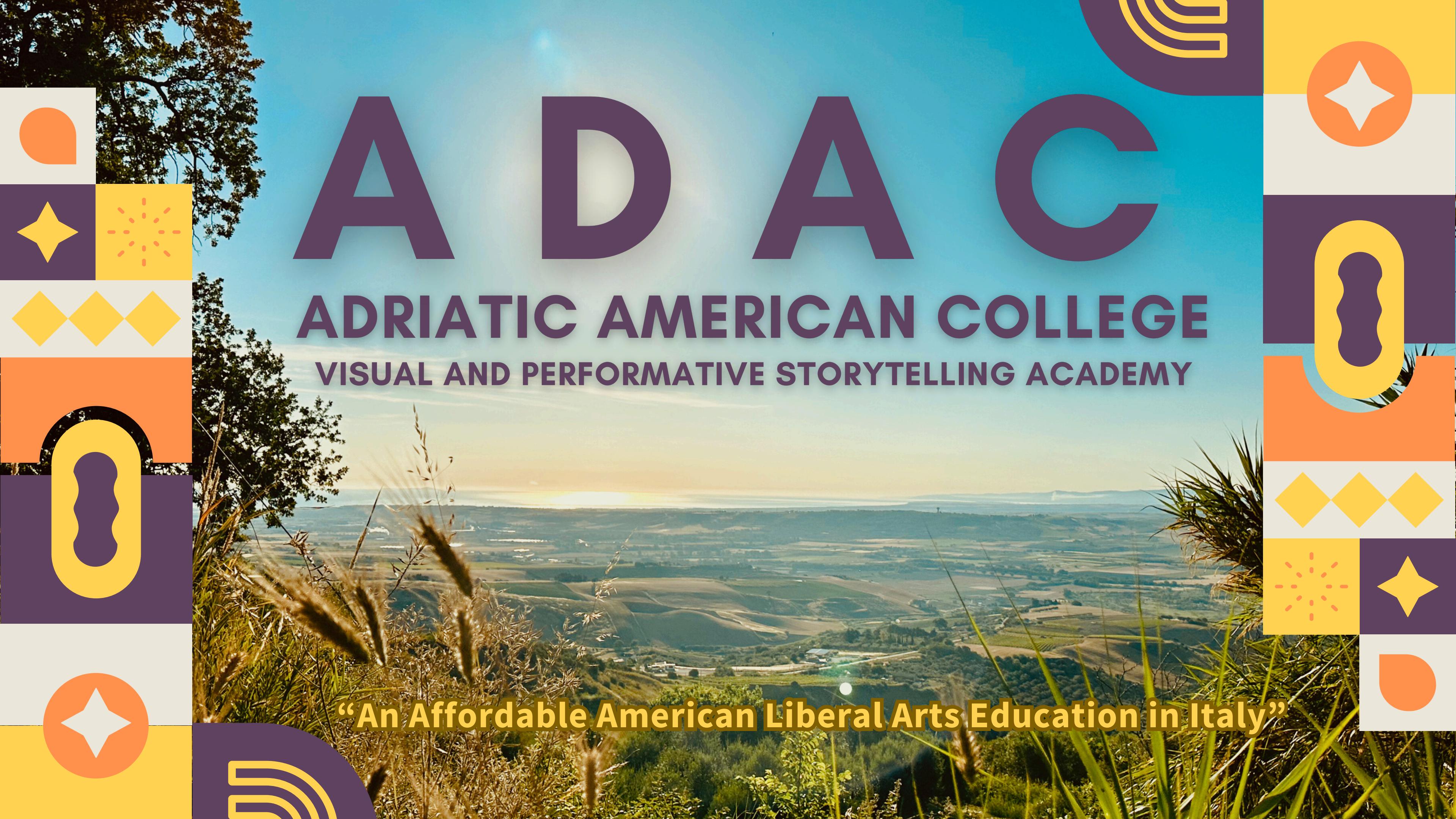
Santiago later established TIMELINE, an independent creative studio through which he continues to collaborate with brands, studios, and emerging filmmakers to develop emotionally resonant visual storytelling. His portfolio includes short films, commercial spots, and creative content for digital platforms, directing both celebrity talent and rising actors. He has mentored writers and directors at various stages of their careers, providing one-on-one guidance on story development, directing performance, and production strategy. He has also led workshops and labs on screenwriting and directing, with a focus on clarity of voice and creative impact.

Santiago holds a B.F.A. in Filmmaking from the New York Film Academy and has completed advanced coursework in Prompt Engineering at Vanderbilt University. He is fluent in English and Spanish, and is passionate about supporting international arts education and mentorship initiatives. He currently resides in Los Angeles, California, and would be joining ADAC as Visiting Lecturer in Film & Storytelling at the Adriatic American College in Italy.

Contact Information

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