

MEET THE PANELISTS



Ali Berman | Class of 2009
Partner & Head of Digital Talent
United Talent Agency

Ali Berman is a Partner and the Head of Digital Talent at leading global talent and entertainment company United Talent Agency (UTA), where she focuses on representing the Internet's brightest stars. Berman represents digital influencers and content creators, such as TikTok stars Charli and Dixie D'Amelio; the Internet's "It-Girl" Emma Chamberlain; hosts of the most-watched daily show on the Internet, Rhett & Link; Jimmy Tatro; #IMOMSOHARD; Andrew Bachelor aka "KingBach;" Jenn McAllister aka "JennxPenn;" and BuzzFeed content creator turned

YouTube phenomenon Safiya Nygaard.

Berman was featured in Variety's 2015 class of "Hollywood's New Leaders" and in Broadcasting & Cable's "18 Under 34" list. Berman joined UTA in 2011 after beginning her career in the agent trainee program at ICM. She received her B.A. in English from Tufts University.



Maya Blackstone | Class of 2017
Producer
CNN+

Maya Blackstone is a producer for CNN+ a new streaming service launching this year. A Tufts 2017 grad, Maya majored in Film and Media Studies and Drama. After graduation Maya got her start at New York 1 News where she covered crime and politics across the city. Maya is a 2019 graduate of Columbia Journalism School. After graduating, Maya coordinated live video coverage at the New York

Times and created news packages and clips aligned with breaking news events. Her reporting highlights include the run-up to the 2020 election and COVID-19 in New York.

When she's not covering the news, Maya enjoys nature where she can find it in the city, and she is on a continued quest to find the best pizza. She grew up in Chicago and is currently based in Brooklyn.



Akene Farmer-Michos | Class of 2016

Implementation Specialist, Freelance Camera Operator
Frame.io at Adobe

After graduating in 2016 with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Communication & Media Studies, Akene moved to Los Angeles to work for William Morris Endeavor (WME), the preeminent talent agency. During his time at WME, Akene worked in the Non-Scripted Television department and later worked as the Executive Assistant to the CEO, Ari Emanuel.

Pivoting to a career more focused on creative development, Akene transitioned to a role at Mass Appeal Productions. Here he collaborated on various projects such as NFL's "My Cause, My Cleats", Hulu's "Around the Way", and Showtime's Emmy-nominated mini-series "Wu-Tang Clan: Of Mics and Men".

Akene is a member of the IATSE Union as a Freelance Camera Operator, where his production credits range from scripted feature-length movies, documentaries, and scripted and non-scripted TV shows. As the pandemic brought many new challenges to the world of production, Akene sought a new opportunity at Frame.io, a tech media company acquired by Adobe.

In his current role, Akene utilizes his creative production background to assist a range of clients integrating media collaboration software into their workflows. While continuing to grow within his role at Frame.io x Adobe, Akene aspires to develop a pipeline for underrepresented creatives and increase accessibility to opportunities within the industry.



Amanda Giles | Class of 2019

Senior Business Analyst
Gupta Media

Amanda Giles (Tufts 2019) is a Senior Business Analyst at Gupta Media, a digital advertising agency located in Copley Square. She has been at the company since graduation and currently works with brands like Amazon Kindle Unlimited, Amazon Publishing, Fender Play, Country Music Hall of Fame, Academy of Country Music, and more.



Meredith Turits | Class of 2009

Editor

BBC Worklife

Meredith Turits is the editor of BBC Worklife, a features vertical of BBC.com. She is a founding editor of Bustle, where she served as senior culture editor, as well as a former editorial director at Time Inc. and associate digital editor at Glamour magazine. Her nonfiction and fiction has been published in Vanity Fair, ELLE, the New Republic, Rolling Stone, Electric Literature and more. She is a 2009 philosophy graduate of Tufts and has additional certifications in behavioral finance from Duke University

and women's entrepreneurship from Cornell University.