Filmmaker Bio Assignment – TFILM 201 – Intro to Film Studies

For this short assignment, you will investigate the work and life of each of the three filmmakers assigned to you. IMDB.com is a great place to start learning about these individuals, but you should consult additional sources to fill in gaps and find additional details. (List your sources at the end.) Questions you should ask (and find answers to) include: What type of work does/did this person do? What roles (writer, director, etc.) have they occupied? What significant films or other projects have they been a part of? Have they won any major awards or achieved any other unique accomplishments? Have they collaborated regularly with other filmmakers on the list? Are they known for a particular type/style of work? How might aspects of their identity (race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, etc.) inform their work and/or shape their status in the industry? Present the highlights of your findings in a short report (about 150-200 words for each filmmaker) posted in the Canvas discussion forum, and be prepared to share you findings orally in class. Find and include a photo of the filmmaker as part of your post. The provided sample bio can be used as a guide.

Filmmakers Students

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| Jamie Babbit  Tina Mabry  David O. Russell | Students A, B, C, and D |
| Todd Haynes  Christine Vachon  Wong Kar-Wai | Students E, F, G, and H |
| Spike Lee  Ernest Dickerson  Mathilde Bonnefoy | Etc. |
| Thelma Schoonmaker  Jon Chu  Guillermo Del Toro |  |
| Ryan Coogler  Rachel Morrison  Edgar Wright |  |
| Colin Higgins  Lana and Lilly Wachowski  Ang Lee |  |
| Walter Murch  Tom Tykwer  Desiree Akhavan |  |
| Lake Bell  Amy Heckerling  Alejandro Iñáritu |  |
| Alfonso Cuarón  Emmanuel Lubezki  Ava DuVernay |  |
| Dee Rees  Bradford Young  Kathryn Bigelow |  |

Sample filmmaker bio:

**Ruth Carter**

Ruth Carter is a costume designer who has worked with a number of famous directors and actors, including Steven Spielberg, John Singleton, Denzel Washington, and Jane Fonda. While Carter has had experience dressing characters for a range of time periods and genres, some of her best-known films include *Amistad* (1997) and the futuristic film *Black Panther* (2018). Carter has also collaborated extensively with Spike Lee including on *Do the Right Thing* (1989), *Malcom X* (1992), and more recent films such as *Chi-Raq* (2015). Having attended historically black Hampton University in Virginia and as a black woman in the industry, her identity has shaped many of the films on which she has chosen to work and set new precedents in the film community. In 2019, she became the first African American to win Best Costume Design at the Academy Awards for her work on *Black Panther*. She was also nominated for the Best Costume Design award in for *Malcom X* in 1993 and for *Amistad* in 1998. She received the American Black Film Festival Career Achievement Award in 2002 and was nominated or won various other awards since including a Primetime Emmy Award in 2016. (sources: IMDB.com and Hollywoodreporter.com)

A person posing for the camera

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