

Pose

Ryan Murphy

Co-Creator / Showrunner / Executive Producer / Writer / Director

Ryan Murphy is an Emmy®, Golden Globe® and Peabody® Award-winning screenwriter, producer and director. He created the groundbreaking television drama *Nip/Tuck*, which won the Golden Globe for Best Television Series in 2005 and ran for six seasons, he created the Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning series *Glee*, the Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning anthology series *American Horror Story*, *Scream Queens*, the Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning anthology series *American Crime Story*, and most recently, FX's Emmy-winning anthology series *FEUD: Bette and Joan*. Murphy wrote and directed the Golden Globe-nominated film *Running with Scissors*, starring Annette Bening and Gwyneth Paltrow, and the box office hit *Eat, Pray, Love*, starring Julia Roberts and Javier Bardem. In 2014, he directed the HBO movie *The Normal Heart*, which received Emmy and Golden Globe awards including the Emmy for Outstanding Television Movie.

Brad Falchuk

Co-Creator / Executive Producer / Writer

Brad Falchuk is the co-creator and executive producer of the critically-acclaimed FX limited series *American Horror Story*, as part of his overall deal with 20th Century Fox Television. He was also co-creator, executive producer and writer on FOX's *Scream Queens*, and an executive producer on the Emmy Award winning limited series *The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story*.

American Horror Story has received 81 Emmy® nominations including four for Outstanding Miniseries. This year *American Horror Story: Roanoke* received four Emmy nominations. The hit series has also garnered five Golden Globe® nominations including two for Best Television Series (Drama). Jessica Lange won the 2012 Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress in a Miniseries.

Previously, Falchuk served as executive producer on the critically-acclaimed cable series *Nip/Tuck* on which he also wrote and directed numerous episodes. Additionally, Falchuk was co-creator and executive producer on the hit FOX comedy series *Glee*. For his work on *Glee*, Falchuk earned an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series, three Writers Guild of America Award nominations, and two Producers Guild Award nominations for Outstanding Producer of Episodic Television. *Glee* won six of its 35 Emmy nominations. The show also garnered 10 Golden Globe nominations and won the 2010 and 2011 Best Television Series (Comedy or Musical) Award.

Falchuk is one of the founding members of The Young Storytellers Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop literacy through the art of storytelling. Serving more than 100 schools in Los Angeles, New York City and Denmark, The Young Storytellers Foundation facilitates self-expression in underprivileged fourth graders by mentoring them through the process of writing their own short screenplays and having those screenplays performed by famous actors. Falchuk currently sits on the National Advisory Board for the foundation.

Falchuk received his master's degree from the American Film Institute. He currently resides in Los Angeles. He would like to thank Bruce Springsteen and David Ortiz for making him into the man he is today.

Steven Canals

Co-Creator / Executive Producer / Writer

Hailing from The Bronx, Steven Canals is a 2015 graduate of UCLA's MFA Screenwriting program. He began his writing career as a Research Assistant at Hungry Jackal Productions for Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black. In 2016 Canals served as a Staff Writer on Freeform's *Dead of Summer*. Later that year his short film, *Afuera*, about an undocumented transgender woman, premiered at the LA Film Festival. FX's *Pose*, co-created with Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk, is his first original series and will premiere summer 2018.

Nina Jacobson

Executive Producer

Nina Jacobson has built an impressive career spanning over 25 years. Jacobson achieved enormous success as a senior film executive at three major motion picture studios before founding the independent company, Color Force in 2010. Her first film as producer and the first for Color Force was *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, which grossed over \$75 million worldwide and spawned three popular sequels. Jacobson also produced *The Hunger Games* franchise, based on Suzanne Collins' best-selling novel, which together have grossed \$2.9 billion worldwide.

Jacobson and her Color Force partner Brad Simpson won Emmy® and Golden Globe® Awards for Color Force's first foray into television, *The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story*, which they executive produced alongside Ryan Murphy. The show, the first in an anthology series, debuted on FX in February 2016 to critical acclaim and record ratings and went on to receive a remarkable 22 Emmy Award nominations and nine wins, including the Emmy for Best Limited Series.

Color Force is currently in production on several projects including *Pose*, in collaboration with Ryan Murphy and FX, as well as the highly anticipated second and third seasons of *American Crime Story* for FX. On the feature side, Color Force is producing the upcoming feature films *Crazy Rich Asians* based on Kevin Kwan's international best-seller for Warner Bros., slated for release in August 2018, and Richard Linklater's adaptation of Maria Semple's best-selling novel *Where'd You Go Bernadette?*, as well as *The Goldfinch*, based on the critically acclaimed novel by Donna Tartt.

Prior to forming Color Force, Jacobson was president of the Walt Disney Motion Picture Group, where she oversaw script development and film production for Walt Disney Pictures, Touchstone Pictures and Hollywood Pictures. During her tenure, 15 of Jacobson's projects grossed over \$100 million domestically, including *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *The Princess Diaries*. *The Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise became the highest grossing film in Disney's history, generating almost three billion dollars in worldwide box office.

Before joining the Walt Disney Motion Picture Group, Jacobson was a senior film executive at DreamWorks SKG, where she developed *What Lies Beneath* and originated the idea of DreamWorks' first animated feature, *Antz*. She also held positions at Universal, Parkes/MacDonald Productions, Silver Pictures, and began her career at Disney Sunday Movie.

Jacobson is a graduate of Brown University and currently lives in Santa Monica with her partner Jennifer, their three children, two dogs, and a cat.

Brad Simpson

Executive Producer

Brad Simpson is partners with Nina Jacobson in Color Force. In 2016, Simpson was awarded an Emmy®, Golden Globe®, and a BAFTA for the television series *The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story*. Simpson is currently in production on *Pose*, his next collaboration with Ryan Murphy and FX. On the feature side, Color Force is in post-production on *Crazy Rich Asians* starring Constance Wu for Warner Bros. and *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* starring Cate Blanchett, and is currently in production on *The Goldfinch* based on the critically acclaimed novel by Donna Tartt.

Along with Jacobson, Simpson also produced the hit films *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*. Prior to joining the Color Force, Simpson was a producer at legendary New York indie production company, Killer Films and president of Leonardo DiCaprio's Appian Way. Simpson was executive producer on *World War Z* starring Brad Pitt, which grossed over \$540 million worldwide. He also co-produced the multiple Academy Award® nominated film *Far From Heaven*, served as associate producer on the Academy Award winner *Boys Don't Cry*, produced *Party Monster*, served as co-producer on *Home at the End of the World* and associate producer on *Camp*.

As an executive, he was also involved with such classic independent films as *Velvet Goldmine*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Happiness* and *One Hour Photo*.

Originally from Little Rock, AR, Simpson graduated Magna Cum Laude from Brown University.

Janet Mock

Producer / Writer

Janet Mock is a writer, TV host and producer whose memoir, *Redefining Realness*, debuted on The New York Times bestsellers list in 2014. Her second book, *Surpassing Certainty*, a memoir about her twenties, was released this past summer with Atria Books. She is a sought-after speaker, an advocate for trans women's rights, and the founder of #GirlsLikeUs, a social media project that empowers trans women. This past year *Variety* named her one of its 2017 "Power of Women," she was featured on *Ebony's* Power 100 list, and the PEN Center USA honored her with an Award of Honor during their 27th annual Literary Awards Festival. Currently, Janet is making TV history as the first trans woman of color to write and produce for a series with Ryan Murphy's latest FX drama *Pose*, which has assembled the largest cast of trans actors in series regular roles ever for a scripted series.

Born in Hawaii, Janet began her career as an editor at People.com (People magazine's website) and has written for The New Yorker, The New York Times, Marie Claire, Interview and Allure. She has also worked as a correspondent for *Entertainment Tonight* and a host for MSNBC, where she helmed the groundbreaking series — *So POPular!*— interviewing Lena Dunham, Salma Hayek and Issa Rae. Mock also produced and conducted all interviews for the HBO documentary, *The Trans List*.

TIME called Janet one of "12 new faces of black leadership" and one of "the most influential people on the Internet" while Fast Company named her one of 2015's "most creative people in business." She's appeared on the covers of ELIXIR, Paper, Out and Riposte magazines, and she's been interviewed on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *Wendy Williams*, *Desus & Mero* and *Real Time with Bill Maher* (February 2015). Janet was also featured in Jay-Z's music video for "Family Feud," which also features Beyoncé, Mindy Kaling and Rosario Dawson. The Ms. Foundation, Planned Parenthood, Feminist Press, GLSEN, Shorty Awards and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project have all honored Janet for her work.

A native of Honolulu, Janet attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, earned her M.A. in journalism from New York University, and serves on the board of the Arcus Foundation. She lives in New York City with her husband, photographer and filmmaker Aaron Tredwell, and their cockapoo Cleo.

Evan Peters

“Stan”

Evan Peters is one of Hollywood's most versatile actors with critical acclaim in both television and film.

Peters recently finished production on *American Animals*, directed by Bart Layton. The film chronicles the story of four young men who mistake their lives for a movie and attempt one of the most audacious heists in U.S. history.

Peters recently starred in the seventh installment of FX's Emmy-nominated anthology *American Horror Story* and was nominated for a Critics' Choice Award for his performance as Kai Anderson. Co-created and produced by Ryan Murphy, the show has featured Peters in all of the previous six installments in a variety of roles including “Tate Langdon,” a murderous, psychotic teenager in the first installment *Murder House* and “Mr. March,” the man responsible for creating the sinister *Hotel* in the fifth installment.

This December, Peters will star in *Dabka*, directed by Bryan Buckley and alongside Al Pacino and Barkhad Abdi. *Dabka* chronicles the true story of rookie journalist Jay Bahadur (Peters) who in 2008, formed a plan to embed himself among the pirates of Somalia to make a name for himself. He ultimately succeeds in providing the first close-up look into who these men are, how they live, and the forces that drive them. The film is written by Bahadur and Buckley.

Peters has received critical praise for his role as “Quicksilver” in 20th Century Fox's *X-Men: Apocalypse* and will appear in the next installation, *X-Men: Dark Phoenix*, alongside Jennifer Lawrence, Sophie Turner, James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender, directed by Simon Kinberg, set for release on November 2, 2018. Peters also appeared in *X-Men: Days of Future Past* in 2014.

Last year, Peter's appeared in Liza Johnson's *Elvis and Nixon* alongside Kevin Spacey and Michael Shannon. Based on the true historic event, the political comedy tells the story of the 1970s meeting between President Nixon (Spacey) and Elvis Presley (Shannon). Peters portrayed Dwight Chapin, the White House aide who assists in organizing the meeting.

In 2015, Peters starred in *The Lazarus Effect*, alongside Olivia Wilde and Mark Duplass. From the producer of *The Purge* and *Paranormal Activity*, the thriller follows medical students as they develop a serum to bring the dead back to life. Relativity, Blumhouse Productions and Mosaic Media Group released the film.

In 2010, Peters starred in Lionsgate's and Matthew Vaughn's critically-acclaimed film, *Kick-Ass*, alongside Nicolas Cage, Chloe Grace Moretz and Aaron Taylor-Johnson.

Peters first gained recognition for his debut performance as “Adam Sheppard” in Michael Picchiotton's film *Clipping Adam*. Portraying the life of a troubled teenager earned Peters the award for Best Breakthrough Performance at the Phoenix Film Festival in 2004.

Peters' other film credits include *Safelight*, *Never Back Down (1 + 2)*, *Gardens Of The Night*, *Remarkable Power* and *An American Crime*. Peters starred in ABC's *Invasion* and made regular television appearances in CW's award-winning series *One Tree Hill*, and ABC's *The Days*.

Additional television credits include *Dirt*, *Parenthood*, *Criminal Minds*, *The Mentalist*, and *The Office*.

Peters currently resides in Los Angeles.

James Van Der Beek

“Matt”

James Van Der Beek launched his acting career on the New York stage at age 16 in original works by Edward Albee and Lanford Wilson, and made his big-screen debut in the movie *Angus*. He then went on to star as the title character in *Dawson's Creek*, which ran for six seasons and continues in syndication around the globe.

Most recently, Van Der Beek serves as a writer, showrunner and executive producer on Viceland's first original scripted comedy series, *What Would Diplo Do*, where he stars as a fictionalized version of Diplo – a.k.a. Wesley (Wes) Pentz a.k.a. the Biggest DJ / electronic music producer on the planet. The five-part half-hour comedy premiered in August 2017.

Some of Van Der Beek's recent television credits include HBO's new series *Room 104* created by Jay and Mark Duplass, *Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23*, *Friends With Better Lives*, *Criminal Minds*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, and *CSI: Cyber*.

He co-wrote and starred in the Power Rangers "de-boot", *Power/Rangers Unauthorized* produced by Adi Shankar and directed by Joseph Kahn. The dark, gritty short made its debut on YouTube and amassed 14 million views in less than 24 hours.

Van Der Beek has done a variety of work on the big screen, including *Varsity Blues*, the cult classic *The Rules of Attraction*, and the independent films *Backwards* and *Formosa Betrayed*, for which he won a Best Actor Award at the San Diego Film Festival in 2009. Van Der Beek played opposite Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin in the Jason Reitman's *Labor Day*, and can next be seen in Alexander Payne's *Downsizing* with Matt Damon.

He's had several hosting stints including the "New Now Next" Awards on Logo, *Saturday Night Live*, and has popped up in comedy skits on *The Daily Show* and *Tosh.0*. Van Der Beek took over Funny or Die for "Van Der Week" in a series of videos for the popular website with "Vandermemes," "DILF Khakis" and "Asshole for Hire". He later re-teamed with them for "Indiana Home Shopping Network", which skewered anti-LGBT laws then in place in Indiana. He is the voice of "Boris" on the hit Disney show "Vampirina" and he also appeared in Ke\$ha's music video "Blow," which has over 70 million views on YouTube.

MJ Rodriguez

“Blanca”

Actress/Singer Mj Rodriguez is best known for her TV roles on *Nurse Jackie* and *Luke Cage*, as well as her leading role in the feature film *Saturday Church* for which she received a nomination for Best Actress. Born in New Jersey, Rodriguez started her career in Musical Theater. She is thrilled to be a part of the FX Family, *Pose* cast & ream, and extends her love to all.

Dominique Jackson

“Elektra”

Model/Actress/Author /Advocate/Activist, Dominique Jackson was born on the smaller island of the twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and moved to the USA at the age of 15 to escape traumatic situations. She graduated from Owings Mills High School in Owings Mills, MD in the top 10 percentile of her class and moved on to attend Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, N.C. and then Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD. Hardships and prejudice endured and her education was halted which resulted in her moving to New York City, where she became a member of The Underground House/Ball Community, the NYC LGBT Entertainment Circle and The Pageantry System. She won six crowns /titles while competing locally and nationally.

Jackson was awarded the Jon Michael Harrington Humanitarian Award in 2003 and The Pepper Labelija Image Award in 2007, by the House of Latex Project through G.M.H.C., Our Youth 2007 Community Activist of the Year presented by the Our Youth Organization NJ, The Leadership in Arts and Entertainment Award presented by People of Color in Crisis, the B/HAP Ayanna Elliott Excellence Award 2014 – 2015, The House/Ball KiKi Coalition “You Make A Difference” Award April 2015, The Inaugural Circle of Life Celebration Award in June 2015, the Bronx Pride Committee “Brenda Howard Community Spirit of Pride Award” in 2015, and both the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.’s Citation of Merit and the New York State Senate Proclamation of Honor on July 14 2015. She was inducted into the House and Ballroom Hall of Fame and deemed Iconic on February 27, 2016 at the NYC Ball Awards.

She has worked as a fashion model from 2000 to present, starting at Brooklyn Fashion week then moving on to Mercedes Benz fashion Week. In April of 2011 she took on the lead role as Mistress of Ceremonies in Solomon Harris’ take on the ballroom scene “Newark Is Burning” at NJPAC in Newark, NJ. In March of 2014 she released her autobiographical memoir *The Transsexual from Tobago (Revised)*. In October of 2014 she starred as the lead actress in Carla Pridgen’s *Incongruence* produced by Ivy Theatre. She is currently signed to Slay Model Management and is one of the resident models to Adrian Alicea Couture, Manuel Pelferes Couture and Angel Ayala Couture. 2016 Fall/Winter Fashion Week she added Gypsy Sport by Rio Uribe and Stevie Boi to her runway accomplishments. In 2016 she became a cast member on the reality docu-series *Strut* which aired on Oxygen Network and was executively produced by Whoopi Goldberg and Tom Leonardis. In February 2016 she was a part of the lead cast in the short film by Gabriel Torres ‘T Times’ She currently works for the trans founded and trans led non-profit organization Destination Tomorrow as the Director of Programs.

She has been photographed by well-known photographers such as Trang Nhiem, Genesis Ilada and Brawlio Elias to name a few. She has been featured in [Paper Magazine](#) October 2012, [Get Out Magazine](#), [Pop Impresska Journal](#), [Ellements Magazine](#), [Playbill](#) and has been featured in online articles from the [Daily UK](#), [The New York Times](#) and [Vogue](#) with many Getty Images on Google.

Ryan Jamaal Swain

“Damon”

Ryan Jamaal Swain grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and honed his craft in local dance and theater companies such as Alabama Dance Academy, Alabama Ballet, Red Mountain Theatre Company, Birmingham Children's Theatre, and Virginia Samford Theatre.

In 2014, Swain wrote and starred in *A Negro Writer*, a one-man show about Langston Hughes and his life. Most recently, he finished a World Premiere Off Broadway production of the critically acclaimed *Kill Move Paradise* (National Black Theatre, New York) and *13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey* (American Theatre of Actors, New York). Among his favorite credits are his roles in *Six Degrees of Separation* (“Paul,” Keegan Theatre, Washington D.C), *295N* (“Jasen,” Signature Theatre, Washington, D.C., World Premiere), *Thoughts of a Colored Man* (“Wisdom,” GALA Hispanic Theatre, Washington, D.C., World Premiere), and *Spring Awakening* (“Moritz,” City Equity Theater, Birmingham, AL).

Swain trained at the Howard University, British American Academy in Oxford U.K., and the CAP21 Conservatory in New York, NY.

He is represented by Abrams Artist Agency and Lynne Marks of PKM Management.