

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: April 11, 2018
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9000 Overland Ave. - Culver City, CA 90230

WESTTalks Returns to WLAC

Speakers Include: Blizzard Video Game Developer, Amazon Studios Rep, Reality TV Personality, and Culver City Vice Mayor
SATURDAY, APRIL 21 | CULVER CITY

Speakers from award-winning studios Amazon and Framestore; Blizzard Entertainment; VH1's Love & Hip Hop; and others from the business, performance and academic sides of the creative world will comprise the lineup of innovative speakers at **The 2nd Annual WESTTalks - at West Los Angeles College on Saturday, April 21**. The conference will be held in the Fine Arts Theater from 8:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Culver City, a creativity powerhouse, will also be represented by Vice Mayor Thomas Small and Cultural Affairs Commission Chair Len Dickter who will serve on the Creative Economy Panel.



WESTTalks strives to bring professionals in the creative industries together to celebrate creative thought and redefine what it means across different disciplines.

This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$10 and include parking and a light lunch. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.WLAC.edu/Creativity. Admission is free for West students, faculty and staff, but RSVP is required.

WESTTalks featured speakers include:

CHACKO SONNY, Video Game Developer: Sonny is currently working as the Production Developer for Blizzard Entertainment's smash hit game "Overwatch." Before joining Blizzard, Sonny worked on successful titles such as "God of War: Ascension" and "Call of Duty."

AD DIGGS, Reality Television Personality: Diggs was part of the popular VH1 series Love & Hip Hop Hollywood and aspired to use the opportunity to empower others, particularly in the LGBTQ community. Prior to joining the show, she created her own sneaker and clothing line known as DiggTheKicks.

MARC RESTEGHINI, Amazon Studios Senior Development & Programming Executive **and BRITTANY WALKER**, Framestore Business Development Manager will serve on the Creative Economy Panel. Emmy-award winning Amazon Studios will be relocating to Culver City soon, taking over the historic Culver Studios. Framestore is an Oscar-winning creative studio best known for its work on films such as "Gravity," "Harry Potter" and "Avatar." Thomas Small, Culver City's Vice Mayor; Len Dickter, Cultural Affairs Commission Chair and Dr. James Limbaugh, WLAC President will also serve on the panel.

-more-

Women from traditionally male-dominated industries will share their insights and experiences. Speakers include:

HOLLY MANDEL, comedian, TV writer and business and life coach returns to address connecting gender expectations and their inhibiting “shoulds” to their limiting effects on the creative process, the ability to lead and how we perceive and value one another and ourselves.

ELIZABETH RICKARD SHAH, Green Dot Holdings co-founder will discuss what it takes to be a creative force as a fashion designer and entrepreneur.

Thought provoking and motivational presentations will include:

VIVIAN GEFFEN, is the CreativityMuse founder. Her presentation, “The Five Regrets of the Dying” will examine common deathbed regrets and how it illuminates how creative thinking can foster greater fulfillment and possibilities in everyday lives.

DEBRA ROGERS, author of the award-winning book “He Did You a Favor” and Huffington Post contributor, will discuss how to flip failure.

KATHERINE BOUTRY, TV Writer and Professor of English at WLAC will address “The Toa of Maybe,” letting go of our attachment to outcomes and why we should.

KEVIN COFFEE, Adjunct Professor of Communications at WLAC is an award-winning Toastmasters public speaker. He will discuss on how to better perform leadership through communication.

DILLION EISMAN is the **founder of Sew Swag**, a nonprofit that upscales clothes from thrift stores and donates them to charity.

To view a complete list of speakers and presentation times, visit www.WLAC.edu/Creativity.

West Los Angeles College is located at 9000 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230. The college is a ACCJC-accredited community college providing full-time, part-time and online paths to university transfer and career preparation.

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WEST
creativity studies lab

PRESENTS *2nd Annual*
WESTTALKS

THE Creative EDGE

West Los Angeles College
9000 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230

Sat, April 21, 2018 | 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Fine Arts Theatre 100

a creativity conference

FEATURING



CHACKO SONNY

is a video game developer currently working as Production Developer for **Blizzard Entertainment's** smash hit "**Overwatch.**" The video game boasts over 35 million players worldwide and was awarded Game of the Year by The Game Awards, D.I.C.E. and the Game Developers Choice Awards. Before joining Blizzard, Sonny worked on several extremely successful titles including "**God of War: Ascension**" and "**Call of Duty.**" Sonny's technological expertise extends into his work at Sony Santa Monica Studio, showcasing the creativity and versatility of the PlayStation platform and his work with Activision-owned Beachhead Studios where he oversaw the building, launching, and support for Call of Duty ELITE online services.

THE CREATIVE ECONOMY PANEL



THOMAS SMALL
Culver City Vice Mayor



JAMES LIMBAUGH
West Los Angeles College President



AD DIGGS
VH1's Love & Hip-Hop: Hollywood personality and Creator of DiggTheKicks, a sneaker/clothing line



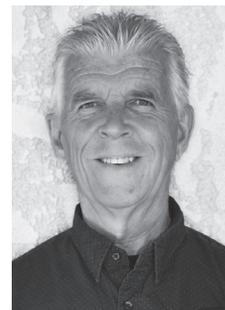
LEN DICKTER
Chairperson, Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission, and Creative Director/Co-Founder of A Very Good Agency



MARC RESTEGHINI
Amazon Studios Sr. Development & Programming Executive, TV Drama



BRITTANY WALKER
Framestore Business Development Manager



Moderated by
RICK MAYOCK
West Los Angeles College Philosophy Instructor

...and more to come!

OTHER PRESENTERS *(in alphabetical order)*

Host/Emcee



Akello Stone
Developer of TV series, web series, music videos, video blogs, instructional/training content, and more.



Matt Alonzo
Director and Youtube channel creator, Skee TV.



Kevin Coffee
Communications Studies Associate Adjunct Professor, West Los Angeles College and Award winning Toastmasters Public Speaker.

Can They Hear You Now?

The Four Pillars of Leadership Communication

A discussion of how leadership is performed through communication. And what we can do to better perform leadership through our communication.



Dillon Eisman
Founder of Sew Swag, a non-profit that upscales clothes from thrift stores and donates them to charity.



Robert Fofrich
West Los Angeles College Alumnus and UC Irvine PhD Student, conducting research at NASA/Caltech's Jet Propulsion Lab.

What Community College Can Do For You



Vivian Geffen
Adjunct Professor, Santa Barbara City College and Founder of CreativityMuse.

The Five Regrets of the Dying:

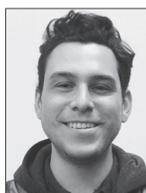
An examination of common deathbed regrets illuminates how creative thinking can foster greater fulfillment and possibility in our everyday lives.



Holly Mandel
Comedian, TV Writer, and Business/Life Coach.

Gender, Creativity, and Leadership: Freedom From Gives Freedom To

Connecting gender expectations and their inhibiting "shoulds" to their limiting effects on the creative process, the ability to lead, and how we perceive and value one another...and ourselves.



Eric Nunez
Student speaker, West Los Angeles College

Nature Clarified My Life



Elizabeth Rickard Shah
Designer, Entrepreneur, and Co-founder of Rickard Shah.

What if?

Discuss what it takes to be a creative force as both a fashion Designer and Entrepreneur. The risks, the rewards and keeping it all together.



Danielle Sheppard, MS, LPCC
College to Career Coordinator/Counselor, West Los Angeles College.

Diversabilities

Progress not perfection as we expand our awareness and open our minds to teaching and hiring students with neurodisabilities. A shift from under-employed to employABLE as our workforce continues to more accurately represent our communities.



Debra Rogers
Author of "He Did You a Favor," regular contributor to the Huffington Post and winner of the Independent Publisher Award.

The Gift of Failure?

How to flip failure in your favor and use it to create massive success.



Shelli Wright & Katherine Boutry

Shelli Wright is an Event Producer and writer. Dr. Katherine Boutry

is Director of the Creativity Studies Lab and English Professor, West Los Angeles College.

The Tao of Maybe

The Tao of Maybe discusses the practice of letting go of our attachment to outcomes and why we should.

QUESTIONS or to RSVP:

VISIT:
www.WLAC.edu/Creativity

CONTACT:
boutryk@wlaac.edu