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**Trojan Vision Newsletter (1/18)**

1 message

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Reply-To: afurse@trojanvision.com

Tue, Jan 18, 2022 at 9:47 AM



Hey Visionaries!

Welcome back from winter break and to the start of a new semester! Although we're beginning our spring from within our Zoom squares, we're already looking forward to reuniting in the Trojan Vision Studios for a semester full of exciting content, brought to you by new live shows, new professors, and of course, our new Trojan Vision students!

### **Trojan Vision Spotlight in USC Provost News**

An article spotlighting Trojan Vision was recently posted on the USC Office of the Provost website! The article highlights the multi-cam production skills taught at Trojan Vision, as well as the practical life skills that students can apply to any industry they are a part of.

We are happy to share the positive experiences of our Trojan Vision team, and encourage students from all majors to come check us out! From cinema students to engineering, there truly is something for everyone at the Trojan Vision studio!

Check out the article here:



Trojan Vision Article

## Welcome Harrison Merkt, professor of new show Comedy Live!

Trojan Vision welcomes **Harrison Merkt** back to the studio to instruct our brand new show, [Comedy Live!](#)

As a Trojan Vision alum with abundant experience in improv, Harrison is the perfect professor to teach this new SNL-style sketch comedy show. 409 students enrolled in Comedy Live will collaborate with writing and directing students from SCA courses and actors from an SDA course. During the spring semester, they will produce, perform, and livestream three 1-hour sketch comedy shows before live audiences.

We can't wait to see what Harrison and the 409 students of Comedy Live will do this semester!



trojanvision Welcome back Trojans! To kick off the Spring 2022 semester, take a look into our NEW SHOW Comedy Live with Harrison Merkt! There is still time to register for this section of CTPR 409 and make your SNL dreams come true ✨

Stay tuned...more new Trojan Vision faculty profiles to come in our next newsletters!

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## TROJAN VISION IS CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Trojan Vision is looking for enthusiastic students to join our team of volunteers! Volunteers play an integral part in the production and promotion of Trojan Vision television shows and podcasts, Campus Vision, and campus and alumni events throughout the year.

Already took 409 but miss being involved in the studio? We want you back! Check out some of the volunteer opportunities below:

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- Campus Vision producers and editors
- Promotional marketing videographers
- Video editors (short docs, social media clips, post-show and finishing editors)
- Graphic designers
- Event planners
- Former 409 students interested in showrunning or senior producing



Students interested in volunteering should fill out the form linked below. Any questions can be directed to [info@trojanvision.com](mailto:info@trojanvision.com)!

[Become a Volunteer!](#)

CAMPUS  VISION

Hey Trojans! Campus Vision is up and running full steam ahead for the semester!

Don't miss our latest episodes, which feature interviews with USC's sketch comedy troupe, **The Suspenders**, and USC creative community, **ART/EMIS**. Our hosts sit down with special guests from both of these student groups to get the inside scoop on their organizations!



All Campus Vision episodes can be found on our **Facebook** page! Or access the episode of your choice below:

**EPISODE 4: The Suspenders**

**EPISODE 5: ART/EMIS**

**NEW EPISODES COMING SOON!** The first episode of Campus Vision's Spring 2022 season will be coming out on this Friday, January 22nd! Tune in for a new interview with USC's Asian Pacific Cinema Association to learn more about the creative and professional opportunities this organization provides to students.

## **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:**

OLIVIA BONIN



**Graduation Year:** 2012

**Major:** Cinema Critical Studies and Neuroscience

**Hometown:** Washington, D.C.

**Email**

**What roles/positions did you hold at Trojan Vision?**

Trojan Vision was a huge part of my college experience and a highlight of my time at USC. My most significant roles were as one of two Executive Producers of Platform (a live, nightly debate show) with my friend and colleague James Creech. And then later as the Promotions Manager.

**What are your favorite memories or highlights from working at the station?**

My favorite memories all revolve around the station's sense of community and spirit of experimentation. I remember talking with my friends about what we thought would be cool to see on TV... and then making it! Whether it was about politics or pop culture, it was amazing to have the freedom and resources to explore our own creativity and opinions and to just try things. Even when they didn't work. My TV8 coworkers were some of my closest friends-- and still are.

**How was the process of transitioning out of USC and into the workplace?**

I have Trojan Vision to thank for my first job out of school. James Creech (who I worked with there) had a job at a cool digital media advertising startup and recommended me for a position. It was a great

experience, but I eventually realized I wanted to pursue the creative side of TV and got a job working as a CBS Page (where there were also some familiar faces from Trojan Vision!).

I feel very lucky and have loved almost every job I've had. But one of the things that I think can be tricky to navigate in those early years is realizing that suddenly you're at the bottom of the ladder in a huge industry. To me, the key was to make sure I always found a way to learn from every experience. I was soaking up information, picking the brains of the people I worked for, and developing my own opinions and creative skills so I was ready to show what I was capable of when the right moment came.

### **What has your journey and experience in the industry been like?**

After the Page program, I worked as an executive assistant at a production company and then as the assistant to an Unscripted showrunner. I've now worked for him for five and half years after being promoted to an Associate Producer, Producer, and now his VP. I've had a lot of adventures in the world of production. I've worked on shows on FOX, ABC, NBC, and now Netflix. They've included a singing competition (The Four: Battle for Stardom) a live cooking show (The F Word with Gordon Ramsay), game shows (To Tell the Truth, Capital One College Bowl), a physical competition (Dwayne Johnson's The Titan Games), a comedy competition (Bring the Funny) and more.

### **What are you up to now?**

I'm currently the VP of Development for an Unscripted Showrunner / Executive Producer who has a deal with Netflix. He showruns projects for them and we develop unscripted show ideas to pitch them. My job is to come up with new ideas and to figure out how to build out existing concepts into full shows that could be produced. This ranges from testing the rules and mechanisms of a game show to helping with casting, coming up with challenge ideas, and more. Every day is different. I spend a LOT of time building pitch decks and materials. You've got to be able to sell your ideas, no matter how good they are!

### **Any advice to current students?**

I would never presume to have it all figured out. But some advice I've collected from others over the years that I've found useful would be...

- Treat everything you do as if it matters and every person you meet as if they're important. It's nice, but also good for your career. People see how well you do at small tasks and use it to decide on whether to trust you with increasingly more important ones. And the person who was driving your Uber could be deciding whether or not to pick up your show in a few years.
- Constantly consume content-- read books, watch shows (even bad ones), see movies, browse TikTok. Figure out what you thought worked and what didn't in each. Continue to learn and grow from what other people are doing and develop your own taste. How would you do it if you were in charge?

Please reach out to our Industry Relations Manager, Phoebe Lai ([pelai@usc.edu](mailto:pelai@usc.edu)) to get in touch with our Notable Alumni or be featured in our next newsletter!

### **Kicking off another great semester!**

That's all for the very first Trojan Vision newsletter of 2022! We can't wait to get to work on creating new and exciting content in the coming semester. Continue reading our newsletters for all updates on Trojan Vision classes, events, and other news!

Questions? Have something you'd like to learn more about? Let us know how we're doing, and how we can improve! Feedback can be emailed to [info@trojanvision.com](mailto:info@trojanvision.com) or filled out on our [contact page](#).



**Look out for our next newsletter on January 31, 2022!**

We're growing! Please help us share our [newsletter](#) with Trojan Vision friends, and join our [Facebook](#) community, open to all alumni and students.

Volunteer with Trojan Vision! Our volunteers work in areas of management, production, outreach, marketing, and alumni relations. For more information please contact [info@trojanvision.com](mailto:info@trojanvision.com).

**Connect with us on social media or our [website](#) to stay up to date.**



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