



Trojan Vision Newsletter (3/21)

1 message

USC Trojan Vision <afurse@trojanvision.com>
Reply-To: afurse@trojanvision.com

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Hey Visionaries!

Welcome back from Spring Break! We hope that everyone had a relaxing and healthy week to themselves, and are feeling prepared to take on the last stretch of the school year. The team at Trojan Vision is coming back from break with wheels rolling, as show broadcasts, events, and panels are coming up quick on the horizon! Read below to see what's coming from Trojan Vision, and how you can be involved!

[Watch Trojan Vision](#)

You can tune in every week to watch live broadcasts from all four of our weekly Trojan Vision shows!



Trojan Vision is excited to announce a new panel discussion series "**Let's Talk TV!**" coming in the month of April! This upcoming speaker series will feature two separate webinars, one hosted by **J.D. Roth**, renowned television producer, host, and Game Show Production instructor at Trojan Vision, and the other hosted by **Steven Martinez**, ESPN producer and instructor of Trojan Vision's sports talk show, The Water Cooler. Each webinar will feature very **special surprise guests**, to be announced in the coming weeks!

We geared our "Let's Talk TV" series towards supporting students and their career goals, focusing on topics that will provide valuable advice as USC students enter the industry after graduation. Students will have the chance to learn from and speak to television experts during our Q&A sessions. Following last year's panel event, "**The Future of Television Industry Panel Discussion**," we've selected new themes for our Let's Talk TV events: Hosting and Directing Live TV!

Trojan Vision's Manager of Industry Relations, **Phoebe Lai**, has been hard at work organizing the Let's Talk TV event, and enjoying the opportunity to bring the expertise of professionals in the TV Industry to the students of USC.

"We've been working on coordinating this event since last semester, and are thrilled to have students watching in the near future," said Phoebe. "More than ever, we see students passionate about entering the world of television, and we want to help! We're ecstatic to have such experienced hosts on board, and can't wait for students to see what we've been planning - it'll definitely be a treat."



Phoebe Lai, Manager of Industry Relations

Panel dates and guest announcements will be released in the coming weeks, so make sure to follow our biweekly newsletters and social media posts on **Instagram** and **Facebook** to stay up to date on Let's Talk TV information. We can't wait for students to join us for these two very special events offering insights into the current world of television!



Comedy Live's second in-person sketch comedy show is happening next Friday, **April 1st!** Join us in the Robert Zemeckis Center for Digital Arts for the second out of three live shows this semester. The work of Trojan Vision, SCA, and SDA students will again come together on stage for a night full of laughs!

All guests must present a completed Trojan Check at the door in order to be eligible for admission.

VOLUNTEER AT COMEDY LIVE!

Want to have a hand in the live production of sketch comedy? Volunteer at our April 1st show! Volunteers will have the chance to work behind the scenes, assist actors backstage, handle cue cards, or help to run the studio floor! No previous experience is required. Volunteers must be able to pass Trojan Check in order to participate.

Interested volunteers should email simrankh@usc.edu to express their availability!



As in-person attendance is being held at limited capacity, tickets will be available in a limited supply. To make sure everyone is able to view this special show, Comedy Live will also be streaming live on Facebook at the link below! And if you can't make it to the show, there's still a chance to catch the third and final Comedy Live show of the semester, happening **April 22nd!**

[Stream Comedy Live!](#)



Campus Vision with CreSCendo

Don't miss our latest episode!

Remember to check out Campus Vision's episode on [CreSCendo](#), USC's only Mandarin speaking music club! This episode, featuring an interview with one of CreSCendo's founding members, Michelle Han, is available for viewing [here](#) on the Campus Vision Facebook page!

[Watch Campus Vision](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

CHRIS CHESHIRE



Graduation Year: 2020

Major: Journalism

Minor: Cinematic Arts

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

[LinkedIn](#)

[Website](#)

Fun Fact: I have the all-time record for highest tower built out of a single piece of 8.5x11 paper in my high school physics class. 180cm.

What roles/positions did you hold at Trojan Vision? Any favorite memories?

I directed The Water Cooler for 3 years and was an executive producer of The Breakdown during my junior year. The highlight closest to my heart is probably every Friday the crew of the Cooler spent at Study Hall after the show, and there are too many memories from the station to name, but I have a few. We had two of our hosts compete in a Flonkerton race down the studio hallway with apple boxes taped to their feet (there were some questionable no-calls on that one). Finalizing our script during late night punch up meetings the night before The Breakdown could get hysterical, in both senses of the word. And that one time Seth played a Nutella-addicted Keebler Elf comes to mind.

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

I graduated during peak-COVID, which was less than ideal from a motivational perspective. A lot of the challenge for me was getting in the right headspace to start thinking about the next stage of my life, and

not just thinking ‘What the hell happened now?’ when I woke up and checked the news. The other tough part was that I didn’t—and still don’t—have an endgame for how I want to spend the rest of my life. I cast a wide net when sending out job applications, and it seemed like most of them were just getting dropped into the ether. I was lucky enough to have a place to stay and do some freelance work from home to break it up, but that grind can take a toll. The other weird part about the job is that the first couple months were remote, and after that I only saw two or three other people a day when I was in the office. It’s a strange feeling to make a major life change and still be working out of the same bedroom.

Can you give us a brief summary of your experience in the industry before graduating? What led you to where you are today?

I’ve had a couple of internships—I worked at channel 4 in Los Angeles and The Tonight Show in New York, both as a production intern—but what I think has helped me the most (so far!) was the work I did in student media at USC. Along with Trojan Vision, I worked on the newscast at Annenberg for all four years, as a director, executive producer, and anchor. During my senior year, my friend Dan Toomey and I launched our own news-satire show called Night Class, for which we handled writing, production, distribution and promotion. That whole experience taught me a lot about the sheer volume of work that goes into running a production like that. That experience informs what I do at work and helps me understand aspects of that work that aren’t necessarily my job, but of which knowing the basics could help me avoid potential pitfalls. It also helped to have a broad portfolio I could point to when interviewing for potential jobs.

Can you tell us about your job at FOX Sports, and any other work you're excited about?

I’m a director on the digital side of things at FOX Sports, which means on a weekly basis I direct a lot of podcasts. (We just launched our video podcast network, and yes, podcasts have video now). In this season of the year, my focus is a college basketball show called Titus and Tate (which we’re doing live from the floor of Madison Square Garden for the Big East Tournament!) as well as Shannon Sharpe’s podcast Club Shay Shay and a couple of other shows we rotate though on a week-to-week basis. During the fall, I was on the road every week for the college football season, doing a live digital show (The Ultimate College Football Road Trip) from a local college bar every Friday before the game. It was exhausting but also an absolute blast. We’re a scrappy team, so the rest of technical operations and I also do some engineering and maintain our digital studio, which has some sweet LED walls that we installed in January of last year. I also just painted a basketball court on my set for March Madness, so I get some arts and crafts in too. Longer term, we’re also in prep mode for the World Cup in Qatar and baseball season, if that ever starts!

How has Trojan Vision helped/influenced your career?

What Trojan Vision gave me, most importantly, was a playground to explore what I wanted to do in the world of production. I learned I loved directing live shows and had the opportunity to hone that skill. Trojan Vision gave me relationships in this world that hold strong now—I still work with people I met at Trojan Vision at my job every day. I learned how to write comedy, organize productions, and work within a creative community—a community full of people with different

ideas who had to learn to compromise, build on each other's strengths, and ultimately unite around a common goal every week: put on a good show.

Any advice to current students who aspire to find themselves where you are, especially so early out of college?

Make as much stuff as you can. It doesn't matter what it is, whether it's films, YouTube shows, TikToks, an AR experience or a flipbook—the process is what's important. The best way I've found to learn (and hone) a skill, whether it be in production or anything else in life, is to get your hands dirty trying to make it work. Follow through that process to the end—it doesn't matter if five or five million people are watching it, it's important to learn when you can say “Yep. That's done.” Whatever you make, take some time to reflect on what you learned, what you did well, and what you could do better. Any project where you can't point to something you'd improve or something you've learned is a project wasted.

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

Final stretch to the end of the semester!

Lots of exciting things coming in the month of April! 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 or filled out on our [contact page](#).

APRIL 2022

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APR. 1 - Comedy Live! Show No. 2
APR. 4 - TV Newsletter No. 6
APR. 18 - TV Newsletter No. 7
APR. 22 - Comedy Live! Show No. 3

Look out for our next newsletter on April 4, 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.

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



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