

## VIWFF 2021: FROM OUR DARK SIDE PANEL—KEYNOTE BIO



### **Diana Williams**

Diana Williams has a wide range of experience in the entertainment industry. She develops IP and produces creative content for distribution across storytelling media. Throughout her career she has been at the forefront of working with emerging and established talent to ensure that all voices are included in an ever-evolving industry.

She is the founder of Kinetic Energy Entertainment, a multi-media production company. Currently Diana is developing the cross-platform storyworld of [The Gatecrashers](#), Nigerian magical girl/fantasy [Adorned by Chi](#), and recipe-memoir [Adventures in Starry Kitchen](#).

An award-winning producer, she produced the critically acclaimed feature film *Our Song*, which earned her a nomination for an Independent Spirit Award in the Producer category. Other credits include *Room 237*, the Emmy© award-winning *Sylvia Drew Ivie*, Student Academy Award©-nominated *Another First Step*, *Industrial Light & Magic: Creating the Impossible*, *Method to the Madness of Jerry Lewis*, and *Dear Mom Love Cher*.

In addition to producing, Williams has a wide range of experience in the entertainment industry. She was the Creative Development and Franchise Producer at Lucasfilm within the Story Group, the team responsible for developing and maintaining narrative cohesion and connectivity throughout the **Star Wars** universe. While at Lucasfilm, Williams developed film and tv (including *Star Wars Rebels*, *Rogue One*), mobile and console videogames (including 2015's *Battlefront*), publishing (Marvel's *Star Wars* comics and novel expansions), and was a member of the team that launched ILMxLAB, an immersive entertainment and mixed reality laboratory, with projects including *Vader Immortal* (written by **David Goyer**), *Star Wars: Secrets of the Empire* for The Void, and **Alejandro González Iñárritu's** Academy Award© winning experience *Carne y Arena*. She was also a production consultant for BET on *Let the Church Say Amen* (director: **Regina King**), *Gun Hill Road* (creator/director: **Reggie Rock Bythewood**), and *Untitled Kenya Barris Project* (creator: **Kenya Barris**). She also held the position of Executive Vice President of Content at MWM.

Williams began her career in production as an Assistant Director and is a current member of the Directors Guild of America (DGA) and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS). Williams is also a Sundance New

Frontier fellow and advisor, and is currently the Chairperson of the yet-to-be-announced new board for the Peabody Awards. She is on the strategic Planning Committee of The National Academy of Sciences' [Science and Entertainment Exchange](#); the advisory committee for the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#)/Digital development and [Future of Film](#); and the boards of [Diverso](#) (a non-profit organization by students for students, dedicated to empowering the underrepresented storytellers of the next generation), [The Overlook Film Festival](#), and [Here/No Proscenium Summit](#). She is also a member of the [Auntie Sewing Squad](#), a volunteer network of people across the U.S. that sew and distribute masks for free to First Nations, immigration organizations, and local communities in need.

Williams is a graduate of Georgetown University and currently resides in Los Angeles, CA.

**Recent speaking engagements:**

- [Carla 2020: "Risk, Financing, and Inclusion"](#)
- [Future of Film](#) – Rebels of Storytelling: "Worldbuilding, Franchises, and Authentic Storytelling" [video](#) and [audio on Soundcloud](#)