

Andy Mayson / Altitude Film Entertainment / [@AltitudeFilms](#)

Andy Mayson is the Co-CEO of Altitude Film Entertainment and formed the Group with Will Clarke in 2012, producing *Big Game* (starring Samuel L. Jackson) and Executive Producing films such as *Whitney*, *Kill Your Friends*, *The Girl With All the Gifts*, *47 Meters Down*, *Ghost Stories* and *Maradona*. Altitude also has its own international sales company, having represented over 50 titles thus far, as well as its own UK distribution entity, releasing over 30 titles to date, including Oscar winners *20 Feet From Stardom*, *Amy* and *Moonlight*.

Brenda Romero / Romero Games / [@br](#)

Brenda Romero is a BAFTA award-winning game designer, artist and Fulbright recipient who entered the game industry in 1981. She has worked on over 50 games, including seminal titles in the *Wizardry*, *Ghost Recon* and *Dungeons & Dragons* franchises. Away from the machine, her analog series of games, *The Mechanic is the Message*, has drawn national and international acclaim. Most recently, in 2018, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award (the Bizkaia award) at the Fun and Serious Games Festival in Bilbao, Spain, and the inaugural Grace Hopper Award presented by Science Foundation Ireland at the Women in Tech conference.

Gavin Kelly / Piranha Bar / [@PiranhaBar](#)

Gavin Kelly is founding partner and creative director at Piranha Bar Dublin. He directs animation, visual effects and live action, frequently on the same project. He has 25 years of experience using cutting edge tools to create compelling characters, impressive worlds and stories. After a degree in Fine Art, Gavin went on to absorb the emerging fundamentals of computer graphics at post-production companies in Dublin as compositor, designer and animator. In 2002 he co-founded Piranha Bar, a new studio that used creativity to unleash the power of the latest technology in animation, VFX and editing. Through his creative leadership at Piranha Bar, Gavin has built a dream team of talent and expertise driven by a passion for great content and creative technology. The studio has grown into a celebrated and award winning commercials and content production company specialising in high-end animation and visually driven live action for global audiences. Gavin has directed commercials for global brands, winning a string of awards, including a coveted ICAD Silver and a Gold Shark (Kinsale International Advertising Festival) for the Carbon Monoxide awareness 'Tommy McAinery' animation campaign and numerous ICAD awards for his extensive work on the celebrated VHI campaigns. Gavin directed soccer legend Pelé in a pan European campaign for Snickers and was tapped by Kellogg's to lead a reboot of their animated 'Coco Pops' world for their latest global campaign. Gavin is regularly invited to share his work and views at industry conferences including Move Summit, Edinburgh, Future of Content, Dublin and a one hour main stage talk to two and a half thousand people at Offset in Dublin's docklands. Gavin is currently focusing on Piranha Bar's new content venture which sees the studio creating and developing original IP utilising a high tech pipeline for the realisation of characters through performance capture and real time rendering.

James Schamus / Screenwriter, Director & Producer / [@JamesSchamus](#)

An award-winning screenwriter (*The Ice Storm*), producer (*Brokeback Mountain*), and former CEO of Focus Features (*Dallas Buyers Club*, *Lost in Translation*, *Milk*, *The Pianist*), James Schamus made his feature directorial debut, with an adaptation of Philip Roth's *Indignation* which premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and the Berlin Film Festival. Schamus' New York-based production company, Symbolic Exchange, produced Kitty Green's acclaimed feature documentary *Casting JonBenet* which had its world premiere at Sundance, and Jean-Stéphane Sauvaire's *A Prayer Before Dawn* which premiered in Cannes 2017 and was released by A24. Recent projects include Rhys Ernst's

trans comedy *Adam, The Tomorrow Man*, starring John Lithgow and Blythe Danner. Andrew Ahn's sophomore feature *Driveways*. Schamus is also Professor of Professional Practice in Columbia University's School of the Arts, where he teaches film history and theory.

Mark O'Halloran / Screenwriter & Actor / [@markohalloran](#)

Mark's writing credits include the multi award winning films *Adam & Paul*, *Garage*, the television series *Prosperity* and *Viva* a Spanish language feature. He has also written *Citizen Lane* and the soon to be released, *Rialto*. For the stage he has written the plays *Trade* and most recently contributed text to the award-winning theatre production *Lippy*. He has also written a libretto for the award winner opera, *Mary Motorhead*. He has also co-written the upcoming *Beckett's Room*, with Dead Centre that premieres at this year's Dublin International Theatre Festival. Mark is also works as an actor, most recently appearing in Shane Meadow's Channel 4 drama *The Virtues*. He also played in *Adam & Paul*, *Dublin Oldschool*, the forthcoming Sky TV series, *The Devils*, *Cellar Door* and *History's Future*. Mark also works as a script editor and teacher.

Mason Speta / NEON / [@neonrated](#)

Mason Speta joined NEON's acquisitions team in July 2018. In her time at NEON thus far, she has most enjoyed screening hidden gems at festivals and working on the releases for *Parasite* and *Border*. In her spare time, she haunts NYC repertory theaters and brunches with other young women in film. Prior to joining the team at NEON, she spent a year at ICM Partners, becoming versed in independent feature casting and financing. Mason graduated from Columbia University in 2017, where she studied film and business, and helped lead the fencing team to two back-to-back NCAA championships. 2018 was a record-breaking year for NEON, with the release of Craig Gillespie's runaway hit *I, Tonya* starring Margot Robbie and the Academy Award winner for best supporting actress, Allison Janney, as well as Tim Wardle's *Three Identical Strangers*, winner of the Sundance Special Jury Award for Storytelling, which has surpassed \$13m at the box office. Three years after inception, the US distribution company continues to push the boundaries and take creative risks on bold content.

Michele Maheux / Toronto International Film Festival / [@TIFF_NET](#)

After 30 years at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Michele Maheux has branched out on her own. With nearly 40 years of operating experience in the motion picture industry, the past 23 as Executive Director/COO of TIFF, Maheux now provides coaching and consulting services to C-Suite individuals in the arts, culture, film, and various non-profit industries. In her decades working at TIFF, and previously in the Exhibition & Distribution industry, she has amassed considerable experience in assessing film projects for their potential to reach audiences and find successful avenues for dissemination.

Simon Perry / ACE Producers Network / [@ACE_Producers](#)

After 10 years as an independent producer (credits include Michael Radford's *Another Time, Another Place, Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *White Mischief*), Simon Perry was head of the UK's national film agency, British Screen Finance, 1991-2000. Notable successes included Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game*, Sally Potter's *Orlando*, Mike Leigh's *Naked*, Milcho Manchevski's *Before The Rain*, Marleen Gorris' *Antonia's Line*, Ken Loach's *Land And Freedom*, Peter Howitt's *Sliding Doors*, Danis Tanovic's *No Man's Land* and Gurinder Chadha's *Bend It Like Beckham*. He then ran the Irish Film Board, 2006-2010. Successes there included John Carney's *Once*, Lenny Abrahamson's *Garage*, Lance Daly's *Kisses* and John Michael McDonagh's *The Guard*. During 2015-2016, he was Head of International Production at Film i Väst in Sweden, the largest regional fund in Scandinavia. Films for which he was responsible there include Tomasz Wasilewski's *United States of Love* and Juho Kuosmanen's *The Happiest Day In The Life Of Olli Maki*. He was a founder and president of ACE Producers, the Amsterdam-based provider of advanced producer-training, and remains its senior consultant.

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