

Sabbatical: From Leading Lady to Leading the Pack Spring 2022 Sabbatical
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Report Clarification

This sabbatical project was proposed as a research and development project about women in cinema and television. At no time did it include a series of interviews to be completed as it would be impossible to research, produce, shoot and edit a series of this scope in one semester and without a full production team. Add to that COVID restructuring every shooting schedule along with production and interview protocols, and the use of production pods. Interviews were reduced to only the necessary awards season press-related interviews.

The video interview included here (Cinematographer Tami Reiker) is over and above what was promised in the sabbatical application.

As is typical in a sabbatical, the research alone on this project was much more than anticipated and grew large in scope. This project proposed an interview series that would be produced at a later time and with greater production support.

Specific Objectives Supporting Sabbatical Goals (As stated on page 2 of application):

1. Design a carefully curated list of women to be interviewed (for future series).
2. Research and compile information of agents, managers, and PR team for each woman.
3. Choose specific body of work and biography for each woman to integrate into the series and material.
4. Research clearance of photos and footage to be cleared if any footage or clips would be used at a later date. *If clips are used at a later date they would be captioned.
5. Craft interview questions with the integration of clips and other resources.
6. Organize subjects by geographic locations, scheduling availability and other timetable-related elements. This can be very complicated, and COVID has made it much more difficult.
7. Design soft production schedule.
8. Create biographical sketches and other relevant material for each woman, including facts of social and historical significance.
9. Compile into lectures, visuals and support materials for class essays, analyses and projects in Women in Film and Television and when applicable, American Cinema.

Record of Activities Completed in support of objective (from report, page 2, expanded descriptions where necessary):

1. List of curated women to be interviewed in the future is complete for this report, but is fluid based on availability.
2. Information and contacts of agents has been compiled.
3. Prospective guests, agents and managers have been contacted via email which is the industry standard.
4. Biographies and a body of work has been created for curated guests.
5. Clearance of photos and clips are up to each guest. A full-time clip clearance person is necessary unless shown in the classroom or Canvas (limited audience), then no issue there. PR companies and some agents are assisting with this. This process is dictated by the talent agency representing the guest.

6. Interview Questions: General project questions have been created for the overall project, while questions for each specific guest will be garnered per their bios and after the pre-production conversation I have with them. AN example of this are the questions I have included for Cinematographer Tami Reiker).
7. Scheduling availability for shooting disappeared due to COVID spike and the cancelation of Awards shows (see binder articles and soft project schedule).
8. Soft Project Schedule – How the project has progressed and the common thread between the work of these women based on continual research and conversations.
9. Development of social and historical significance within bios, including activism and biographies of agents and talent reps who have impacted the industry, but are known solely as talent agents (Nina Shaw- agent for Lupita Nyong'o).
10. Request/List of press materials and images to be used over interview for Tami Reiker, including B-roll downloads.
11. Post-production (editing) of Interview for presentation, version for classes, and longer full version.
12. Hyperlinks to Variety's webinar with Tami and ARRI's interview on the making of One Night in Miami and reflect industry credibility.
13. Downloading Tami Reiker footage and capturing for post-production.
14. **Interview with Tami Reiker (not required for this project, but an amazing addition).**

Project Timeline (Note: Sabbatical was revised to Fall to Spring):

Timeline as presented in application (strikeout due to shift from fall to spring):

~~August~~ **January 2022**- Contact list of agents, managers, etc., along with social media outreach. Phone calls, emails, etc. with subjects for possible interview timeline and type of interview. Confirm specific subjects and soft timeline of who is available when and schedule those throughout Spring. Securing of written releases from subjects.

~~September~~ **February 2022** – Written bios of potential and confirmed guests, including historical research and material gathered through heirs or biographical experts for those no longer living. Breakdown of potential photo and/or clip choices.

~~October~~ **March 2022**– Any travel or necessary meetings with professional representatives or the actresses themselves. Continued research and discussions with historians and other sources.

~~November~~ **April 2022**– Photo clearance if necessary and video clip clearance for a later date. This takes a tremendous amount of time. *If clips were to be included later, they would be captioned.

~~December~~ **June 2022**– All written materials organized, photos captioned and clearances confirmed.

Timeline as completed and shown in report:

January 2022 – Awards Season- The goal was to reach out to as many guests and agents as possible to possibly interview them during Awards season in LA, but Awards shows postponed until April. <https://variety.com/2020/film/news/oscars-2021-postponed-coronavirus-1234635457/>

February 2022 – Research and contact with agents for possible future shooting based on their client’s availability. Additional research compilation on the historical significance of women finally being nominated for Oscars as directors, screenwriters, and producers. Webinar attendance with industry professionals supporting the continued conversations about women’s work, ageism in the business, harassment, and more.

Updates on: Production Pods (while shooting content, no one is allowed interviews outside of the cast/crew), relocation of talent (many went abroad), and productions behind on shooting schedule rendering extra interviews impossible.

March 2022 – Additional outreach and follow-up to agents due to COVID impact and unknown schedules. Continued curated list of women and research on how their work informs equity and diversity. *New AMPAS (Academy Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) requirements on diversity and inclusion and research on how that affects the entire industry. This began in 2020, but will not impact Best Picture Oscar nominees until 2024.

April 2022 – Awards Show (Oscars) – Discussion with director Regina King and her work on One Night in Miami through agent Lorrie Barrie. *Personal tragedy prevents scheduling any interviews for now.

Continued research and development on female-driven production companies and collaboration, the labor force for women, and integration of California’s 2018 law regarding companies held in California, whether foreign or domestic, who must have at least one female director on their boards. This impacts the studios and streaming companies.

May 2022 – Written materials completed for biographies, project updates and how many of these women are intertwined together completed. Additional research on labor force statistics and how professional women have been impacted during COVID.

June 2022 – Confirmation of Cinematographer Tami Reiker shoot for July 22, 2022. Possible additional discussions with cinematographers through agent David Agell from Dispoto. New PR representative: Jeannine Jacobi. Have contacted her as well for press kits and footage.

July 2022 – Conversations and emails with Tami Reiker’s representative David Agell. Continued research on directors, producers, shooters, writers, etc. Additional research on how their work overlaps and intertwines (Margot Robbie, Emerald Fennell, and Carey Mulligan).

July 22nd – Hour and a half interview conducted via Zoom with Cinematographer Tami Reiker.

July/August 2022(ongoing) – Post-Production on Reiker’s Interview (footage and clearance requested).