

# Amanda Burdine

## INT. Underwater Room - Night

Luna - 14, pale and slightly emaciated-looking girl with a surprisingly bouncy voice - is standing in the center of a strange dome-shaped room with glass panels covering almost all of the walls and ceiling. The room is dark and cold.

Just on the other side of the room's windows, it is mostly dark with a few orbs of light swaying and swirling slowly through the darkness giving the room an otherworldly feel.

The arched door with a detailed etching of a red harvest moon directly behind Luna slams shut. This exposes the carving of a firefly on the back of the door, complete with a glowing light. This startles Luna, causing her to look down into the room instead of up at the ceiling.

Phoebe - 14, a defiant kid of noticeably mixed heritage - comes out of thin air, feet firmly planted on the concrete floor of the room, standing about four feet before Luna.

Luna rushes to Phoebe, the two girls embrace tightly.

I didn't think you were coming.

PHOEBE

I know I'm late it's just -

The door handle starts to jiggle behind the girls. Luna grabs tightly onto Phoebe's arm.

LUNA

We don't have much time.

PHOEBE

What are you talking about?

LUNA

I wish I could explain, but

you're going to have to listen to me.

Phoebe looks at Luna's arm, digging into her own, seeing that her knuckles have gone white.

PHOEBE

What's going on?

LUNA

Everything is about to change.

PHOEBE

What? Why?

LUNA

This place isn't safe for you.

PHOEBE

Here? What are you talking about this is your -

LUNA

Many things will happen and you will feel lost, but you must listen to your gut.

PHOEBE

Luna, please, will you just knock this off?

Phoebe struggles to get out of Luna's grip, but is unsuccessful. Luna's eyes start to go cloudy with a smoky gray substance swirling on them.

PHOEBE

Luna!

LUNA

When the time comes, dive deep. Keep those you love closest to you. Nowhere is safe, Phoebe. Forgive me.

PHOEBE

Forgive you? For what? Luna tell me what's going -

Off screen we can hear the door behind the girls opening.

Our MFA program in Writing for Stage and Screen program focuses on developing each student's own creative process and the works that evolve from that process. It's structured to attract exceptionally talented writers from throughout the US and beyond who are seeking to immerse themselves in an intensive, challenging artistic experience. The Writing for Stage and Screen program guides students through (1) the creation of new work for both stage and screen, (2) the initial testing of that work with SAG and AEA actors and other industry professionals, and (3) the preparation to enter the professional playing field with the skills, know-how, and networking necessary to launch a meaningful writing career. The end result is for every graduating student to have created a substantial body of work that evidences a solid understanding of what it takes to write successful and producible scripts for the stage or screen as well as the means and methods to achieve that goal.

### **A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE**

- Transforming students as makers, thinkers and global citizens
- Non-prescriptive, individualized mentoring by emerging and established artists and writers
- Responsive, adaptive curriculum
- Cross-disciplinary focus where writers connect with and share work with other theatre and film artists in this highly collaborative field
- Curricular focus on sustainable practice, professional training and career planning



*"I chose NHIA's MFA program over all the others because of the flexibility it offered while I continue to work professionally as a screenwriter and a script consultant. I had already heard of Buzz's stellar reputation as an encourager from other industry friends, and he has proven himself to be one of the most delightful mentors I've ever encountered."*

**Vicki Peterson**  
Los Angeles, CA  
MFA Writing for Stage &  
Screen, 2015



## **SCHOLARSHIPS & TEACHING ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE**

### **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

To apply you will need to submit:

- Application
- \$75 Application fee
- Official undergraduate transcript
- Two writing samples of 10 – 20 pages each
- 3-5 page personal statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- Curriculum Vitae

### **APPLICATION DEADLINES**

Applications must be received a minimum of one month before the student's intended start date in either January or June. Consideration is given on a space available basis after the deadline. Visit [nhia.edu/mfa](http://nhia.edu/mfa) for upcoming semester dates and application instructions.

Our priority is to provide you with a personal experience. Please give us a call!

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