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Media Release

Reelworld partners with Meridian Artists to create more racially diverse talent agents

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Reelworld Screen Institute is proud to announce a new mentorship program in partnership with Meridian Artists to create more racial diversity in literary and talent representation. This initiative will create a hands-on opportunity for aspiring Canadian Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour agents to learn all the aspects of what agents do and how to become an agent.

The Meridian Artists Apprenticeship Program offers the recipient a 4-week paid mentorship, in which they will see first-hand how a service agency functions. Through a combination of virtual assignments, shadowing of client and business interactions, and one-on-one meetings with senior-level Meridian Artists team members, including President and Literary Agent Glenn Cockburn, Literary Agent and Head of Development Kerry Ball, Talent Agent Tovah Small, Key Creative Agent Courtenay Bainbridge, Book Agent Amy Moore Benson, and Conrad Sun, who represents Meridian clients out of their LA office. The program will provide the apprentice with the experience of what it is like to be a talent agent.

“There is a stark lack of racially diverse representation in the field of Talent Agents. This program is a positive step in changing that,” says Tonya Williams, Founder and Executive Director of Reelworld Screen Institute. “I am excited to have this partnership with Meridian Artists, who is committed to finding more ways of creating inclusion and accessibility for our community.”

Meridian Artists, founded in 2005, offers premier full-service entertainment industry representation with principal offices in Toronto and Los Angeles. Meridian Artists is an established leader in the representation and management of Actors, Screenwriters, Directors, Authors, and Key Creatives.

“We are honoured and excited to work with the Reelworld Screen Institute team on this new apprenticeship program,” says Glenn Cockburn, President of Meridian Artists. “Meridian is committed to creating new opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour individuals who want to learn about how the business and creative aspects of media intersect. Our hope with this apprenticeship program is to start making the talent agency field more inclusive and diverse.”

Application to the Meridian Artists Apprenticeship Program is open now and closes on January 5th, 2021. Applicants can apply online at www.reelworld.ca/meridian-mentorship

Founded in 2000 by Tonya Williams, Reelworld Film Festival and Reelworld Screen Institute are the largest national platforms dedicated to supporting Canadian filmmakers and artists from the Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern/North African, and Latin American communities. Since its inception, Reelworld has been at the forefront of creating access and inclusion for racially diverse Canadian talent.

For more information on Reelworld Film Festival and Reelworld Screen Institute, visit <https://www.reelworld.ca>.

For media inquiries,

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