

TIFF PRESENTS

HIGHER[^]LEARNING

Master Class with Mimi Valdes
Biographies

Mimi Valdés is an alumna of New York University's journalism Program and is the former editor-in-chief of *VIBE* and *Latina* magazines. As an award-winning, multi-hyphenate, Mimi believes that storytelling should entertain, educate, and inspire, and has produced content with a lasting impact. She influenced the groundbreaking 24-hour-music video "Happy"; co-produced, *Dope* (2015), which played at both Cannes and Sundance Film Festival; and served as an Executive Producer on the Oscar-nominated film *Hidden Figures* (16). A passion to influence the next generation of storytellers is reflective in all that Mimi does. A native New Yorker, she resides in Brooklyn, NY with her husband.

Amanda Parris is an educator, actor, and playwright. She is the host of *Exhibitionists*, CBC Arts' weekly TV and online series, and CBC Radio 2's *Marvin's Room*. Her plays have been staged at numerous theatre festivals in Canada and internationally. She is the co-founder of the alternative education organization *Lost Lyrics*, and she created *The Ride or Die Project*, a multi-platform initiative that produces creative content inspired by women supporting loved ones who are incarcerated. She is also a weekly columnist for CBC Arts.