

USEFUL FICTION

Past Speakers At Useful Fiction Events Include:

Omar El Akkad is an author and journalist. His work earned a National Newspaper Award for Investigative Journalism and the Goff Penny Award for young journalists. His debut novel, *American War*, is an international bestseller, has been translated into thirteen languages, was listed as one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *GQ*, *NPR*, *Esquire* and was selected by the *BBC* as one of 100 novels that changed our world.

Dave Anthony is a video game producer most known for his work leading the design and production of games in the *Call of Duty* series, the best selling entertainment product in history.

Madeline Ashby is an acclaimed author and futurist specializing in scenario development and science fiction prototypes. Her books include *The First Machine Dynasty*, *Company Town*, and *How To Future: Leading and Sense-making in an Age of Hyperchange*. She is a member of the AI Policy Futures Group at the ASU Center for Science and the Imagination, and the XPRIZE Sci-Fi Advisory Council.

David Benioff is the co-creator, writer, and showrunner of *Game of Thrones*, which besides being a cultural phenomenon was the most awarded TV show in Emmy history.

Leo Blanken is an associate professor in the Defense Analysis Department at the Naval Postgraduate School, where he also serves as the deputy director of the Consortium for Robotics and Unmanned Systems Education and Research.

Debora Cahn is an Emmy-nominated writer and producer. She has worked on a wide variety of dramatic projects that ranged from *The West Wing* to *Grey's Anatomy* to serving as Executive Producer of *Homeland*.

August Cole is an author and futurist and co-founder of Useful Fiction LLC. A former *Wall Street Journal* and *Marketplace* reporter, he is the co-author of such noted books as *Ghost Fleet* and *Burn-In*.

Emma De Angelis is Director of Publications/Editor at *RUSI Journal*, one of the most historic and respected policy journals in the world, published since 1857.

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Keith Dear is Director of Artificial Intelligence Innovation at Fujitsu Defence and Security. Keith has served as an Expert Advisor to the Prime Minister on Defence Modernisation & the Integrated Review, leading also on UK space strategy in No 10, and advising on national strategies on emerging technology.

S.B. Divya is an electrical engineer in pattern recognition, machine intelligence, high speed communications, digital music, and medical devices, who then shifted to writing, becoming the Hugo and Nebula Award nominated author of such books as *Runtime*, *Machinehood*, and *Contingency Plans For the Apocalypse and Other Possible Situations*. Divya is also the co-editor of the weekly science fiction podcast *Escape Pod*.

Sir Lawrence David Freedman is a best-selling author of history and strategy and Emeritus Professor of War Studies at King's College London. He has been described as the "dean of British strategic studies."

Carrie Gillogly is Co-Head of Scripted Programming at the AMC TV Network, as well as helped create such movie projects as *Gran Torino* and *A Star Is Born*.

Jeremy Gold is a Hollywood Television Executive. He has worked at Blumhouse and Fox, where he helped develop series such as *American Dad*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, *The Loudest Voice*, *Sharp Objects*, *Good Lord Bird*, and *Arrested Development*.

Sam Hargrave is a Hollywood director, actor, stunt coordinator, and stuntman. He coordinated the acclaimed action sequences of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, from *Captain America: Civil War* to *Avengers Endgame*, as well as such movies as *Atomic Blonde* and *Deadpool 2*. He is also the director of *Extraction* and the upcoming *Extraction 2*, as well as on season two of *The Mandalorian*.

Brigadier General James Isenhower is the Commander of the US Army's Multi-Domain Task Force.

Nina Jacobsen is a Hollywood producer, who has been named by *Forbes* magazine as one of "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women." Her projects include *The Sixth Sense*, *Remember the Titans*, *Pearl Harbor*, *The Princess Diaries*, and the *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Since 2007, she's run her own production company Colorforce, where she has produced such hits as the *Hunger Games*, *Crazy Rich Asians*, and *American Crime Story*.

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Ken Liu is the author of multiple best-selling science fiction and fantasy books, a winner of the Nebula, Hugo, and World Fantasy awards the inventor of the “silkpunk” genre bringing together traditions of engineering and East Asia’s classical antiquity and aesthetics., as well as translator of the acclaimed *Three Body Problem* series.

Chloe Sophia Maxmin is an environmental activist currently serving as the Maine State Senator for District 13. Her surprising win in a rural district led her to be profiled in national media as a new model for politics and named a Green Hero by *Rolling Stone*.

Bruce Mehlman is a partner at Mehlman Castagnetti, one of Washington’s leading policy advisory firms. Bruce previously served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy under President George W. Bush. He also worked as a senior leadership aide in the House of Representatives, general counsel to a national political party committee and policy counsel to Cisco Systems.

Jeffrey Nachmanoff is a movie and TV director and writer. He has written such blockbuster movies as *Day After Tomorrow*, as well as directed for shows like *Detroit 187* (ABC), *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *Hostages* (CBS), *Homeland* (Showtime), *Lovecraft Country* (HBO), and *Chicago PD* (NBC)

Annalee Newitz is the science writer for the *New York Times*, monthly columnist in *New Scientist*, author of the books *Four Lost Cities: A Secret History of the Urban Age*, *The Future of Another Timeline*, and *Autonomous*, as well as co-host of the Hugo Award-winning podcast *Our Opinions Are Correct*.

John Orloff is a Hollywood screenwriter. He has written projects that range from the acclaimed World War II drama, HBO’s *Band of Brothers* to *A Mighty Heart*, the biography of Marianne Pearl and *Legends of the Guardians*, a 3D animated movie. He is presently completing *Masters of the Air*, a war drama miniseries based on the actions of the Eighth Air Force of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II.

Niloofer Razi Howe has been an investor, executive and entrepreneur in the tech industry for over 25 years. She has served as Chief Strategy Officer at RSA, a global cybersecurity company, a Sr. Operating Partner at Energy Impact Partners and is on the boards of Morgan Stanley Bank, NA, Recorded Future, Tenable and the National Security Agency.

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Admiral John M. Richardson is a retired United States Navy four-star Admiral, who served as the 31st Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) from 2015 until 2019.

Major General James Roddis is the Director of Strategy for the UK military's Strategic Command.

Major General Mick Ryan is a retired Australian Army officer, who commanded at the Troop, Squadron, Regiment, Task Force, and Brigade levels during his three-decade career. He served as Director General Training and Doctrine for the Australian Army and Commander of the Australian Defense College, where he founded the "Perry Group" project to foster a forward-thinking and creative mindset.

Mark Sable is the creator and writer of game-changing graphic novels exploring human (and supernatural) conflict such as *Graveyard of Empires*.

Matthew Sand is a Hollywood screenwriter. His projects include *Deepwater Horizon* and the upcoming sequel to the 2012 action film *Act of Valor*, *Captains Courageous*, and *The Man Who Robbed Al Qaeda*.

Hope Seck is an award-winning reporter and editor, who has been covering tech and military issues since 2009. The former managing editor for Military.com, she is also a member of the board of directors at the Military Reporters and Editors Association.

Peter W. Singer is a New York Times Bestselling author of both non-fiction and fiction, strategist at New America and co-founder of Useful Fiction. No author, living or dead, has more books on the military professional reading lists.

Tom Weis is a renowned industrial designer and faculty member at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

Dan Weiss is the co-creator, writer, and showrunner of HBO *Game of Thrones*, which besides being a cultural phenomenon was the most awarded TV show in Emmy history,

Daniel Wilson is a PHD Roboticist and New York Times Best Selling Author. Among his books are *Robopocalypse* and *The Andromeda Evolution*.

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Marci Wiseman is a Hollywood executive and producer. She served at Blumhouse Television and AMC, where she launched shows like *The Walking Dead*, *Halt and Catch Fire*, *The Loudest Voice*, *Sharp Objects*, and *Good Lord Bird*.