



Niija Kuykendall Departs Netflix; Jason Young Promoted to VP of Film

Description

UPDATED November 13, 2:59 p.m., featuring exclusive insights: Niija Kuykendall, Vice President of Film at Netflix, is the most recent executive to exit the streaming giant as personnel reductions occur ahead of the holiday season.

Reports indicate that Kuykendall will conclude her tenure following a transition period extending through year-end. However, her future professional endeavors remain undisclosed.

Insiders suggest that her departure is part of the ongoing realignment of Netflix's innovative 'pod' system, which allocates executive oversight by genre. This restructuring followed Dan Lin's ascension to the top film role earlier this year, succeeding Scott Stuber.

In her nearly three-year tenure at Netflix, Kuykendall oversaw projects within the faith-based, young adult (YA), and holiday film categories. With her exit, the YA segment will transition to the comedies and romantic comedies pod under the leadership of Jason Young, who has recently been promoted to Vice President of Film. Meanwhile, the faith-based and holiday films will be reassigned to the drama/thrillers pod led by Kira Goldberg.

In a statement shared with Deadline, Doug Belgrad, VP Film at Netflix, lauded Kuykendall's impact, remarking, "Niija's creative collaborations with both established and emerging filmmakers, including Tyler Perry, Denzel Washington, Malcolm Washington, and David Yates, have profoundly shaped our film slate. I extend my gratitude for her numerous contributions, which include notable films such as *The Piano Lesson*, *The Deliverance*, *The Six Triple Eight*, *Pain Hustlers*, and *Mea Culpa*."

Prior to her role at Netflix, Kuykendall spent over 13 years as Executive Vice President of Film Production at Warner Bros. Pictures. Her impending departure coincides with several other notable exits, including Edith Mendoza Alva, who departed after a three-year tenure as Director of Comedy, Original Series. Additionally, two executives from the non-scripted division, Damla Dogan and Todd Hurvitz, have also left the company. A wave of layoffs in the publicity department occurred early last month.

Before his promotion, Young had an extensive five-and-a-half-year tenure at Netflix as Director of Original Film, following two roles at Twentieth Century Fox and a two-year stint in production at Zac Efron's company, Ninjas Runnin' Wild.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Executive** /ɪg'zɛk.jʊ.tɪv/ (noun): A person with senior managerial responsibility in a business or organization.
2. **Tenure** /'tɛn.jʊə/ (noun): The conditions under which land or buildings are held or occupied.



3. **Restructuring** /,ri:'strʌk.tʃə.rɪŋ/ (noun): The act of organizing a company or organization in a new way to improve its effectiveness.
4. **Transition** /træn'zɪʃ.ən/ (noun): The process of changing from one state or condition to another.
5. **Lauded** /lɔ:d/ (verb): Praised highly especially in a public context.
6. **Impact** /'ɪmpækt/ (noun): The strong effect or influence that something has on a situation or person.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the most recent executive to exit Netflix?
Option: Dan Lin
Option: Jason Young
Option: Niija Kuykendall
Option: Kira Goldberg
2. Who succeeded Scott Stuber in the top film role at Netflix?
Option: Jason Young
Option: Niija Kuykendall
Option: Dan Lin
Option: Kira Goldberg
3. Which genre will oversee the young adult (YA) film category following Kuykendall's exit?
Option: Drama/Thrillers
Option: Comedies/Romantic Comedies
Option: Action/Adventure
Option: Horror
4. Where did Niija Kuykendall previously work before joining Netflix?
Option: Disney
Option: Warner Bros. Pictures
Option: Universal Studios
Option: Sony Pictures
5. Who will now lead the drama/thrillers pod at Netflix?
Option: Doug Belgrad
Option: Jason Young



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- Option: Kira Goldberg
Option: Niija Kuykendall

6. Prior to his promotion, where did Jason Young work at Netflix?
Option: Original Films
Option: Publicity Department
Option: Non-Scripted Division
Option: Original Series

True-False

7. Niija Kuykendall was the Vice President of Film at Netflix.
8. Niija Kuykendall oversaw projects in animation and sci-fi film categories.
9. Doug Belgrad is the VP Film at Netflix.
10. Edith Mendoza Alva departed from Netflix after working in the Comedy, Original Series department.
11. Kira Goldberg will take over leadership of the comedy film segment at Netflix.
12. Jason Young had a long tenure at Disney before joining Netflix.

Gap-Fill

13. Niija Kuykendall was in charge of projects within the faith-based, YA, and holiday film categories during her nearly _____ tenure at Netflix.
14. Jason Young was promoted to Vice President of Film after serving as Director of Original Film for five and a half _____.
15. Niija Kuykendall previously worked at Warner Bros. Pictures as the Executive Vice President of Film Production for over _____ years.
16. Edith Mendoza Alva left Netflix after a three-year tenure as Director of _____.
17. Two executives, Damla Dogan and Todd Hurvitz, departed from the _____ division at



Netflix.

18. A wave of layoffs in the _____ department occurred at Netflix early last month.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Nijja Kuykendall 2. Dan Lin 3. Comedies/Romantic Comedies 4. Warner Bros. Pictures
5. Kira Goldberg 6. Original Films

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. True 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. three-year 14. years 15. 13 16. Comedy, Original Series 17. non-scripted 18. publicity

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which word means the act of eagerly looking forward to something?

Option: Anticipation

Option: Adaptation

Option: Eagerly

Option: Captivating

2. Which word means to include or combine something into something else?

Option: Glimpse

Option: Incorporate

Option: Fashion

Option: Expansive

3. Which word describes something that evokes positive emotions such as love and happiness?

Option: Cherish

Option: Heartwarming

Option: Navigate

Option: Stalwarts

4. Which word typically refers to a person in a high-level managerial position within a company?

Option: Anticipated

Option: Executive

Option: Lauded

Option: Orchestrated



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5. Which word means belonging or relating separately to each of the things already mentioned?
Option: Cinematic
Option: Respective
Option: Trajectory
Option: Transition
6. Which word refers to the period during which someone holds a particular position?
Option: Anticipation
Option: Tenure
Option: Restructuring
Option: Impact
7. Which word means to reveal or make known something previously hidden or secret?
Option: Unveiled
Option: Transition
Option: Lauded
Option: Impact
8. Which word means to carefully arrange or organize a situation or event?
Option: Anticipated
Option: Fashion
Option: Tragically
Option: Orchestrated
9. Which word means a sudden feeling of unhappiness or disappointment?
Option: Cherish
Option: Ensemble
Option: Dismay
Option: Anticipation
10. Which word refers to the effect or influence that an event situation etc. has on someone or something?
Option: Anticipation
Option: Impact
Option: Executive
Option: Transition

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The _____ of the industry have been leading the way for years.
12. The most _____ movie release of the year is finally here.



13. The company _____ its new product line with great fanfare.
14. It is important to _____ the time spent with loved ones.
15. The company is undergoing a major _____ to improve efficiency.
16. The team is in the process of _____ to a new project management system.
17. The company's stock has been on a positive _____ recently.
18. The fans are _____ awaiting the release of the new album.
19. The new policy had a significant _____ on employee morale.
20. She sat quietly _____ her next move.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The feeling of excitement and eagerness filled the room as they awaited the announcement.
22. The director's use of lighting and angles added a quality to the film.
23. She caught a _____ of the stunning sunset through the trees.
24. The designer's latest collection was a perfect blend of classic elegance and modern _____.
25. She had to _____ through the maze of corridors to find the meeting room.
26. The hotel lobby was grand and _____ with high ceilings and marble floors.
27. The scale of the natural disaster was _____ in the region's history.
28. The book aims to _____ the history of the ancient civilization.
29. The company is in the process of _____ to a more sustainable business model.
30. The team met to discuss the strategic _____ direction of the company.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Anticipation 2. Incorporate 3. Heartwarming 4. Executive 5. Respective 6. Tenure
7. Unveiled



8. Orchestrated 9. Dismay 10. Impact

Gap-Fill: 11. Stalwarts 12. Anticipated 13. Launched 14. Cherish 15. Restructuring 16. Transition 17. Trajectory 18. Eagerly 19. Impact 20. Contemplating

Matching sentence: 1. Anticipation 2. Cinematic 3. Glimpse 4. Fashion 5. Navigate 6. Expansive 7. Unprecedented 8. Chronicle 9. Transition 10. Executive

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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