

CHRISS WILLIAMS

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Professional Summary

From age 12, spending hours in the recording studio watching my Uncle write and produce Gloria Gaynor's classic, "I Will Survive" and other hits of the disco era, to working directly with MacArthur Genius Award recipient and director of Broadway's, *THE LION KING*, Julie Taymor on the American Playhouse film, *HOPFROG*, and serving as Spike Lee's Assistant on his film, *CROOKLYN*, the life of the creative artist as teacher and mentor has been embedded, and passed on to me. Following the course of a mentor and Montclair State University Professor, after attending NYU's prestigious Graduate Film School, Higher Education and scholarly pursuits were in order. Award winning short films, screened at major film festivals, two award winning feature films, also screened at major film festivals, combined with over 20-years of full-time college teaching, scholarly writing in journals, conference presentations, and 5 years as a Vice President of the William Paterson University Faculty Union, along with Pro Bono legal work for a Domestic Violence non-profit rounds out my sensibilities, and defines my creative and academic philosophy.

Career Highlights

- Diverse educational background, including 2 terminal degrees (Fine Arts and Law)
- Diverse educational background: NJ public State College (BS Business/Marketing), private University NYU (MFA/Film), coupled with returning to school as a non-tradition evening student Rutgers (J.D.; Admitted to the NJ Bar 2005)
- Appointed to the Thomas Edison Media Consortium Board of Trustees.
- Judge for 3 International Script Competitions
- Judge for 3 International Film Festivals
- Scholarly writing published in the leading publications of film and media: the *Journal of Film and Video*, and the *Journal of Media Education*
- 10 Conference presentations
- First Feature film, ASBURY PARK, premiered at Lincoln Center, and won the Gordon Parks Award for Directing
- Second Feature film, BELLCLAIR TIMES, won the Newark Black Film Festival
- Short films have screened at major film festivals
- Feature length Scripts have been commissioned, sold, and recognized by international competitions

Education

JD. Rutgers-Newark University School of Law, Terminal Degree Awarded 5/05

- Admitted to the New Jersey Bar, 2005

MFA Film and Television. New York University, Terminal Degree Awarded 5/96

B.S. Marketing/Management. Montclair State University, Degree Awarded 5/90

Academic Employment History

Mixing state of the art, industry standard technical software and hardware, with both classic and current film theory, and screenwriting, I have the knowledge and experience to teach the broad sweep of the 100+ year art form of FILM.

- 9/2000 to present **WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY**
College of the Arts and Communication
Professor of Film
Courses Taught: Film Production (Introduction through Advanced; Film & Video), Visual Effects, Film Theory, Writing for TV and Screen; presenting:
- Demo and lectures on every element of the filmmaking process, including directing, producing, cinematography, sound, and business of film
 - Presented detailed lectures and written exercises encompassing the entire screenwriting process from idea generation to option agreements. Including issues concerning character, pacing, structure, writing methods and styles.
 - Lectures on Film Theory touching film history, and issues of representation, civic engagement, diversity & Justice as they relate to diverse communities
 - Specific lectures and demos on professional software: AVID, Final Cut Pro (7 and X), Premiere Pro, After Effects, Photoshop, and DaVinci Resolve.
 - Academic advisor
 - Faculty Advisor to the Student Film Association
 - Served as Vice-President for Grievances for the 1300 member faculty union, AFT Local 1796
- 2012 to 2016 **THOMAS A. EDISON MEDIA ARTS CONSORTIUM**
Board Of Trustees Member
- Provided direction to the Black Maria Film Festival, recognized as one of the top film festivals in the Country.
- 9/97 to 5/2000 **BOSTON UNIVERSITY**
College of Communication, Department of Film
Assistant Professor of Film (Graduate and Undergraduate)
Courses Taught: Screenwriting, Film Production, Directing and Film Editing
- Presented detailed demos and lectures on every aspect of film directing, from casting, script interpretation to cinematography and editing.
 - Supervised the production of 40 student films (each semester); 5-7 minutes long.
 - Advised students on all matters of film post-production
 - Coordinated the Student Film Festival.
 - Served as Chairman of the College of Communication Academic Affairs Committee.
- 9/99 to 5/2000 **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY - Undergraduate Film Department**
Adjunct Professor of Film (Undergraduate)
- Appointed to teach Advanced Production. This day-long class was the final course in the undergraduate film sequence in which students produce their final film. These films ranged from 20-30 minutes in length. Using lectures, guests and demos, this course covered every aspect of the filmmaking cycle.
- 8/96 to 6/97 **COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO - Film and Video Department**
Assistant Professor of Film (Graduate and Undergraduate)
Appointed to teach Screenwriting, Producing, and Directing classes for both Undergraduate and Graduate students.
- Presented detailed demos and exercises on every aspect of film directing.
 - Developed lectures and presentations on production management and the role of the producer, including budgeting, shooting schedules and creative decisions.
 - Served as faculty advisor to the student film festival, Film Club and newsletter.
 - Advised graduate thesis productions.

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SELECT FILM DIRECTING & PRODUCING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"(Can't) RECALL"

2014 (10 mins) (Director/Producer)

- 2015 Gold Metal Award, Cindy Awards
- In-Consideration Montclair International Film Festival

"ONE STEP"

2013 (3 mins.) (Director/Producer)

- 2015 Gold Metal Award, Cindy Awards

"SAHARA,"

10 mins. (producer)

- 1st Place, NJ Young Filmmaker Festival 2014

"CONSIDER ME GONE"

8 mins. (producer)

- 2nd Place, NJ Young Filmmakers Festival 2015

"THE DYNAMITE GANG"

10 minute short

- Selected for the 2010 San Francisco Black Film Festival
- Opening Night Film, 2012 Hackensack African American Civic Association's Black History Month Arts & Film Festival

"BELLCLAIR TIMES"

90 minute Feature Film

- WINNER 2006 Newark Black Film Festival
- WINNER 2006 Garden State Film Festival "Home Grown" Award

"ASBURY PARK"

90 minute Feature Film. Premiere screening at Lincoln Center's "Independent's Night" series.

- WINNER of the 1997 Gordon Parks Award for Directing.
- Selected for the 1998 Palm Springs Film Festival
- Selected for the 1999 Atlanta Film Festival
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"BLOODS ON THE MOON"

22 minute short. Winner:

- 1993 Time Warner/ Warner Bros. Fellowship
- Selected for the 1998 Palm Springs Film Festival
- Selected for the 1994 American Film Institute's International Film Festival in Los Angeles.

"SUCKIN' LEMONS"

5 minute short. Winner:

- 1989 New Jersey Young Film & Videomakers Festival

SCREENWRITING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAYS

“UNDERGROUND”

- 2013 UFVA Juried Script Competition 3rd Place.
- 2010 Semi-Finalist (out of 3,500) for Final Draft’s Big Break Screenplay Competition

“BELLCLAIR TIMES” A feature length script.

- Finalist for the 1997 Gordon Parks Award for screenwriting,
- 1997 semi-finalist for the Nicholl's Fellowship in Screenwriting,
- 1996 semi-finalist for the Sundance Institute's Screenwriting Lab.

HIRED SCREENWRITER

“DOPE BOY”

- 2018 Hired to write an original screenplay based on the life story of a Disco era, NYC male sex worker.

“PHILADELPHIA’S CHILD”

- 2000 Hired to write a screenplay based on the 1985 City of Philadelphia bombing of MOVE.

COMPETITION JUDGE

- **2011-present. CineStory Screenwriting Competition.** International. With over 700 submissions, its winners have written such films as the internationally acclaimed “*The Children Of Men*,” and worldwide hit, “*Iron Man*.”
- **2019-present, CineStory, TV Fellowship Contest.**
- **2013-present. Black Maria Film Festival.** International. With over 500 submissions, this Festival travels to locations presenting the best short and experimental films.
- **2012/2014 Newark Black Film Festival.** International. The longest running Black Film Festival in the United States.
- **2013, 2015, 2019, 2020 Carole Felder Student Grant Award.** University Film & Video Association
 - Evaluated Graduate Film proposals in a nationwide competition sponsored by the leading Film and Video Academic Association.

WPU STUDENT JOURNAL

- ***Film Bureau.*** Created and edited the first Student Film Journal at William Paterson University

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- ***“How To Shoot Video That Doesn't Suck,”*** by Steven Stockman, Workman Publishing. *published* in the Journal of Film and Video, book review. Fall 2014.
- ***“Just In Time Instruction: A New Model for Film Pedagogy,”*** *published in* The Journal of Media Education, January 2014.
- ***“Appetites and Anxieties Food, Film, and the Politics of Representation,”*** by Cynthia Baron, Diane Carson, Mark Bernard. Wayne State University Press, 2014. Journal of Film and Video, book review. (Issue information pending; contract attached.)

CONFERENCE PAPERS/PANELS/RESPONDENT

- ***“Your Film Is Too Long,”*** Panel Title: *Frameworks for Training the Next Generation of Filmmakers*, 2015 University Film & Video Association Conference
- ***“How We Teach Directing,”*** Panel Title: *Acting Like a Director: The Benefits of Student Directors Studying Acting*, 2015 University Film & Video Association Conference
- ***“Screenwriting for Tablets & Devices,”*** Moderated a Panel titled, *Traditional Formulas and Shifting Contexts: From Scriptwriting to Gaming*, at the 2014 University Film & Video Association Conference
- ***“Just In Time Instruction: A New Model of Film Pedagogy,”*** Panel Title: *Pedagogy & Collaboration: Creating Teachable Moments & New Models For Pedagogy*, 2013 University Film & Video Association Conference
- ***“Whitney Houston Saved My Life,”*** *Juried Script Presentation*, 2014 University Film & Video Conference
- ***“Underground,”*** *Juried Script Presentation*, 2013 University Film & Video Conference, 3rd Place In Competition. *Note: revised version of the 2011 script
- ***“Underground,”*** *Juried Script Presentation*, 2011 University Film & Video Conference
- ***Juried Script Respondent*** 2014 University Film & Video Association Conference
 - 1st Respondent, script titled “Rim of the World”
 - 2nd Respondent, script titled “My Man Harold”
- ***Juried Script Respondent*** 2013 University Film & Video Association Conference
 - 1st Respondent, script titled “Clowns and Heroes”
 - 2nd Respondent, script titled “Great Bones”
- ***Juried Script Respondent*** 2011 University Film & Video Association Conference
 - 1st Respondent, script titled “Croakers”
 - 2nd Respondent, script titled “Waiting for Sandoval”