

Bret Scott

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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, Film and Television Production

University of Southern California, School of Cinematic Arts, December, 2008

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theater Arts, Acting / Directing

University of Arizona, Professional Conservatory Program, May 1993

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Communication, Tenured

August 2019 to Present

Assistant Professor of Communication

June 2012 to July 2019

Sul Ross State University

Alpine, TX

Video Editing for Gaming – 12 Students, 1 semester. Developed and piloted this class for a new interdisciplinary Computer Science Art Technology degree as a collaboration between the Fine Arts / Communication department and the Computer Science department. Storytelling through the moving image is common to both filmmaking and video gaming.

Audio Editing for Gaming – 10 Students, 1 Semesters – Also developed and piloted this class for the Computer Science Art Technology degree. Audio functions both as environment and cueing in video games, and is a storytelling element. Utilized Pro Tools 11, then Pro Tools 12 in later classes.

Motion Capture – 20 Students, 2 Semesters – Study of the basics of capturing 3D data for performance capture in computerized animation using the PhaseSpace 3D motion capture camera-and-suit system.

Fiction Production Workshop – developed and taught 9 students in a hands-on production of a 15-minute sync-sound fiction short. Shot on multiple locations with 6k RED Epic. Students raised \$4k USD to fund production. In second semester, students in the post-production class cut the footage they helped produce, effectively creating nine different versions of the same film.

Documentary Workshop – 7 students, 3 summer semesters. This was a class-based production of a short documentary centered on a group of local artists attempt to produce a 50x30-foot mural in a single weekend. Other versions of this class empower each student to produce his/her own 7-12 minute short doc on a topic developed in class.

Survey of Fine Arts – 60 students, 2 semesters. Freshman level survey class.

Broadcast Newsgathering – 5 students, seminar on techniques of newsgathering

Advanced Video Production – Avg. 7 students, 3 semesters. Focusing primarily on technical aspects of production, especially light and sound.

Studies in Film – Great Directors – 12 students, 1 semester. Film Criticism Class predicated on the idea that directing can be learned by reverse-engineering a film.

Wildlife Documentary I – Production – 7 students, 1 summer semester. Developed a documentary production class to support science communication for wildlife researchers in the College of Animal and Natural Resource Science.

Wildlife Documentary II – Postproduction – 7 students, 1 summer semester. This was the editing and sound component of the previous class.

Intro to Theater – 20 Students, 4 semesters. Freshman-level survey of Theater Arts.

Advanced Acting, Improvisation – 15 students, 4 semesters. Taught the basic skills and concepts of improvisational acting to BFA Acting students.

Advanced Acting, Advanced Improvisation – 7 students, 2 semesters. Continuing to build on improvisational acting skills, with attention to scenework and structural forms of long-form improvisation.

Basic Radio – 12 students, 4 semesters. Freshman-level survey of radio broadcasting and production.

Intro to Film Studies – 8-14 students, 4 semesters. Introducing the concepts and techniques of film criticism.

Intro to Speech Communication – 24 students, 9 semesters. Freshman-level survey class covering both communication as an academic area of study and basic public speaking.

Film Studies – Global Cinema – 14 students, 4 semesters. Senior-level film criticism class. The guiding rule: the films we examine must be award-winners, must define the culture from which they emerge, and must be in a language other than English.

Film Studies –Science Fiction – 14 students, 1 semesters. Upper-division film criticism class. The guiding rule: the films we examine must be award-winners, must define the culture from which they emerge, and must be in a language other than English.

Basic Video Production – 8 students, 6 semesters. Freshman-level class in filmmaking covering the basics of film-style production using a digital video workflow. Emphasis is on successful cinematic storytelling over perfect production technique.

Theater Workshop – Sweeney Todd – 30 students, 1 semester. Directed a production of Stephen Sondheim’s musical *Sweeney Todd*. Students were evaluated on craft, application of effort, and delivery of performance over the run of the show.

Theater Workshop – The 39 Steps – 20 students, 1 semester. Directed a production of *The 39 Steps*, a comedic stage adaptation of the film by Alfred Hitchcock. Students were evaluated on craft, application of effort, and delivery of performance over the run of the show.

Theater Workshop – Bleacher Bums – 20 students, 1 semester. Directed a production of Joe Mantegna’s baseball comedy *Bleacher Bums*. Students were evaluated on craft, application of effort, and delivery of performance over the run of the show.

Theater Workshop – Nunsense! – 10 students, 1 semester. Directed a production of the musical comedy *Nunsense!*. Students were evaluated on craft, application of effort, and delivery of performance over the run of the show.

Theater Workshop – Avenue Q – 20 students, 1 semester. Directed and taught puppetry for a production of the musical comedy *Avenue Q*. Students were evaluated on craft, application of effort, and delivery of performance over the rehearsal of the show. Covid-19 struck ten days before the show was scheduled to open, so performances were cancelled, but we hope to re-mount the show in Spring 2021

Theater Workshop – Attack of the Killer Super Bugs from Outer Space – 20 students, 1 semester. Wrote, directed, edited, and mixed an original script inspired by old-school radio shows and sci-fi movies of the 1950s. Students recorded performances remotely on their iPhones while taking direction via Zoom and emailed sound files to me for post-production. Show aired on KVLV AM 1250 on June 26-28, 2020. Students were evaluated on craft, application of effort, and delivery of performance over the rehearsal and recording of the show.

Theater Workshop – You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown – 10 students, 1 semester. Directed a production of the musical comedy *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Students were evaluated on craft, application of effort, and delivery of performance over the run of the show.

Stage Combat – 14 students, 4 semesters. Basic techniques, planning and execution of safe stage combat.

Advanced Stage Combat – 4 students, 1 semester. Advanced techniques (including broadsword and rapier-and-dagger), planning and execution of safe stage combat.

Mass Comm & Culture – 20 Students, 4 semesters. A lecture-and-discussion-based examination of the relationship between mass communication delivery methods and cultural effects of same, as well as the theories and research that support these conclusions.

Courses Developed:

Audio Editing for Gaming
Video Editing for Gaming
Advanced Audio Production
Broadcast Newsgathering
Motion Capture
Wildlife Documentary I and II
Fiction Production Workshop
Film Studies – Science Fiction
Advanced Improvisation

Lecturer, Directing and Screenwriting
Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts MFA Program
June 2011 to Feb 2013
Aqaba / Amman, Jordan

Intro to Directing – 24 Students, 2 Semesters – A hands-on introduction to script analysis, preproduction, directing actors, mise-en-scene, camera placement, coverage, and the director's role in postproduction

Advanced Directing – 10 Students, 4 Semesters – intensive study of the stylistic, thematic, and practical choices a director makes in production.

Production Workshop – 24 students, 4 Semesters – This year-long class is team-taught and I served as the directing instructor. Class culminates in ten 12-minute long fiction films, cleared for festival release.

Screenwriting – 7 students, 1 Semesters. This class serves both as a workshop in screenwriting techniques and as a creative output unit, with each student completing a feature-length script over the course of the year.

Lecturer, Acting
Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts
June 2011 to Feb 2013
Aqaba, Jordan

Intro to Acting – 20-40 students, 2 Semesters – Open to residents of City of Aqaba as well as RSICA students. Designed as a forum to develop talent for RSICA's student filmmakers and to foster a common vocabulary between student directors and local talent.

Graduate Teaching Assistant
Univ. of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts
August-December 2008
Los Angeles, CA

Documentary Prep – 10 Students, 1 semester – Class generates, explores, and refines pitches for ½ hour documentaries and culminates in public pitch session, complete with pitch tape, supporting documents, and Q&A.

Graduate Teaching Assistant
Univ. of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts
January 2007-May 2008
Los Angeles, CA

Production I – average of 18 Students per semester, 3 semesters. Production I is an intensive hands-on class in storytelling through filmmaking. Students produce five 8-minute digital non-dialogue films of increasing difficulty in one semester, using an HD workflow and gradually transitioning from a “one-man-band” to a five-person crew.

Instructor, Improvisation for Actors
Joel Asher Acting Studio

April-September 2007
Studio City, CA

Designed and delivered a class to get students “in the moment” and out of an intellectually-based (but emotionally false) performance process. Six-month weekly one-off program for a small group of long-term scene study students in need of “shaking up.”

Instructor, Master Class in Improvisation
Bang Improv Studio

February 2001-October 2003
Los Angeles, CA

Average of 16 students. Eight-week elective classes created to challenge conservatory graduates to continue artistic growth. Detailed study of long-form improvisational acting followed by six-weeks of weekly performance with a paying audience to hone skills developed in class.

Instructor, Harold Team Improvisation
IOWest theater

May 1999 – May 2000
Los Angeles, CA

Average of 8 students. Director / Instructor responsibility for the live performances of student actors in conservatory program. Guided students to focus on the thematic and collaborative aspects of the art form, as well as ongoing mastery of acting craft.

Lecturer, Crisis Management
Motorola University via Second City Communications

April 1997 – December 1998
Schaumburg, IL

Average of 8 students. Monthly class for Motorola managers and human resources executives, exploring crisis management and interpersonal dynamics for employees who are disturbed, emotionally unbalanced, or persons under the influence of illegal substances. Extensive role-playing and class discussion/debriefing. Additional classes at Motorola locations in London, England and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Instructor, Level B Improvisation
The Second City Training Center

February – April 1998
Chicago, IL

14 students. Two-month class in a year-long course of study preparing non-actors to enter the Second City Conservatory. Majority of Level B students have no acting or improvisation experience, and most are working professionals looking for help with public speaking and “thinking on their feet” in a supportive environment. Class designed and delivered with this in mind.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Writer/Director/Editor

City of Alpine Tourism social media shorts and 0m30s television commercial

Christopher Ruggia, producer

May. 2018 – August 2018, Alpine, TX

Wrote, directed, shot, edited, and scored nine 20-30s social media shorts and one 30s commercial for televised release.

1st Assistant Director

Widen/Kennedy for Bud Light

Drew Antzis and Tamara Bick, Directors

May 2018, San Antonio, TX

1st AD for five days of commercial production on location in San Antonio, TX.

Freelance Editor

The Lost Boys of Anthem Farm

Christine Hagenberger, Director/Producer

Nov. 2013 – July 2014, Alpine, TX

Editor, 30-minute documentary for festival release.

Freelance Editor / Post Supervisor

Pauly Shore's Vegas is my Oyster

Showtime Cable Networks / Landing Patch Productions

Jan. 2011 – July 2011, Hollywood, CA

Editor, 90-minute, five-camera HD comedy special, including scenic interstitial elements and bumpers. Responsible for post schedule and delivery deadlines, and adherence to network technical specs.

Freelance Editor

Mother of The Bride

Citizen Skull Productions

April 2010 - Sept 2010

Reality pilot for BBC America.

Director

Make A Move

Less Is More Entertainment, Ltd,

March 2010 – May 2010, Hollywood, CA

Director for a reality/documentary-based TV pilot about choreographers.

Freelance Editor / Multiple Crew Positions

Bick/Antzis Productions

June 2009 – Ongoing, Hollywood, CA

Production coordinator

1st AD – six productions ranging from \$10k to \$300k budgets

Edited numerous pieces for web distribution

Freelance Editor / Multiple Crew Positions

FunnyOrDie.com

January 2007 – January 2011, Hollywood, CA

Shot and edited various pieces for FunnyOrDie exclusives at FoD in-house production facility. Edited FunnyOrDie co-produced promos for Paramount and Universal new releases. Jack-of-all-trades production support, from AD to Camera Operator to G&E to Set Construction to HD monitor and P2 card / digital media management

Freelance Editor

Makin' Music with John Mayer

Apatow Productions via FunnyOrDie.com

February 2008 – May 2008, Culver City, CA

Edited *Makin' Music with John Mayer* for FunnyOrDie.com – over 1,000,000 views – a “Chosen One” rating

(Complete list of editing assignments available upon request)

Director / Creator

Ka-Blam! Improv Samurai (Improvised Stage Play)

Bang. Improv Studio

July 2003 — October 2003, Hollywood, CA

Created, directed, and staged a long-form improvised play with an ensemble of 14. Initial run was two months; show was extended eleven times and became Bang's marquee showpiece -- a two-year run.

Director

Square One (stage play)

Orphans Theater Company

January 2005 — May 2005, Hollywood, CA

Directed and staged full-length play with a cast of three. Micro-budget production extended run twice. Closed with a profit for producers.

Director

Three Acts of Denial (stage play)

Orphans Theater Company

August 2003 — November 2003, Hollywood, CA

Directed and staged one of three short plays in a new works series for the L.A. Fringe Theater Festival

Director / Editor

Ampersand Solutions, LLC

October 1999 — December 2003, North Hollywood, CA

Wrote, directed and produced live events, training seminars, and videos for corporate clients. Edited digital video productions for wide range of corporations, pioneering the use of Final Cut Pro just days after introduction to market.

Creative Director / Writer / Actor

Second City Communications, a division of The Second City

February 1994 — December 2001, Chicago, IL

Eight years as team leader at the nation's premier improvisational and sketch comedy theatre. Over three hundred live and video productions all over the world for clients including IBM, Apple, Motorola, AT&T, and Sony. Experience with high-level talent, including Dana Carvey, Jim Belushi, Tim Kazurinsky, and Martin Short. Projects include live evening entertainment, trade shows, speaker support, industrial videos, television commercials, and team-creativity seminars (featured in the New York Times)

Actor

Annoyance Theater, ImprovOlympic, CrossCurrents, TurnAround Theater, Cabaret Voltaire, and The Playground, May 1993 – April 1999, Chicago, IL

Performed, wrote, co-created, and/or directed over 500 live performances, both scripted and improvised, at performance venues across Chicago.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- The Texas Intensive Houston, TX
Three-day intensive workshop in stage combat at the University of Houston
Multiple classes, including stage intimacy coordination, knife fighting, and
eight hours of intensive combat choreography for film production
- REDucation, Dec 2015 Burbank, CA
Three-day intensive training on RED digital cinema cameras
Hands-on camera workshop
- The Second City Training Center Chicago, IL
One-year professional conservatory program
Scholarship award - full scholarship
Graduated December 1994
- The Annoyance Theater Chicago, IL
Eight-month program in improvisational acting technique
Graduated February 1996
Became Annoyance Theater Company Member, August 1996
- IO (formerly ImprovOlympic) Chicago, IL
One-year program of study
Scholarship award – full scholarship
Graduated December 1995
On-going Master Class study with Del Close, 1995-1997

AWARDS AND HONORS

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, four of six semesters, USC
Departmental Scholarship Award, Postproduction Sound, Documentary Dept., USC
Departmental Scholarship Award, Theater Dept, Univ. of Arizona, 1991, 1992, 1993
Dean's List, Spring 1992, Univ. of Arizona
Dean's List With Honors, Fall 1992, Univ. of Arizona

CONSULTING AND OTHER INVITED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

West Texas Public Defenders Office

Communication and Teambuilding workshop
Role: Designer / Lead Facilitator
October 2019 to present/ongoing. Seven six-week sessions to date.

American College of Emergency Physicians

Communication and Teambuilding workshop
Role: Designer / Lead Facilitator
December 2016, Tucson, AZ

Emergency Medicine Residents' Association

Communication and Teambuilding workshop
Role: Designer / Lead Facilitator
October 2017, Washington, DC

Emergency Medicine Residents' Association

Communication and Teambuilding workshop
Role: Designer / Lead Facilitator
March 2019, Seattle, WA

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Finding Nina

Fiction web series set in West Texas. A single mother struggles with a ne'er-do-well brother and her daughter's journey from adolescence to adulthood.

Role: Director/Editor

Anticipated release: web and festivals, Summer 2023.

South Fence

Fiction feature set in West Texas. Rejected for a visa, newly-pregnant couple decides to take their chances crossing the Rio Grande for better opportunities in America. Budget is \$14k, currently in production.

Role: Co-Director/Cinematographer

Anticipated release for Spring 2023 Festival deadlines.

Stampeding the Herd

Marjie Gum, Producer, Pasadena, CA

Feature documentary exploring the adversarial relationship between the scientific community and the anti-vaccine movement. Budget estimated at \$68k. Currently in research/funding phase.

Role: Director

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Video Production – Texas State University System Board of Regents

Sul Ross State University, 2017 – Charged by the provost to produce a 12-minute documentary film recent alumni of Sul Ross State across the country for presentation to the Board of Regents at their annual meeting

Video Production – Texas State University System Board of Regents

Sul Ross State University, 2015 – Charged by the provost to produce a 15-minute documentary film highlighting the diverse programs at Sul Ross State for presentation to the Board of Regents at their annual meeting

Ad-hoc Presidential Advisory Committee for Gift Statue

Sul Ross State University, 2013. One of two faculty members named to advise university administration regarding an alumni gift of commissioned art.

Video Production – Texas State University System Board of Regents

Sul Ross State University, 2013 – Charged by the provost to produce a 15-minute documentary film highlighting the diverse programs at Sul Ross State for presentation to the Board of Regents at their annual meeting

Student Publications Committee

Sul Ross State University, 2014 - Ongoing. Serving as faculty oversight of university publications, including school newspaper and yearbook.

Admissions Committee – Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts

Evaluation of written applications and prospective student interviews

World Economic Forum – Dead Sea, October 2011

Guided and sponsored student presentation to WEF Media panel and regional executives of Yahoo!, Young & Rubicam, Jordan Video Gaming Commission, and local wireless telecom providers, resulting in funding for student produced driver-safety PSA series.

Cable ACE Awards, 1997

Preliminary Judge, comedy category

Beta Tester – Los Angeles, CA May, 2007- December, 2013

Final Draft screenwriting software, Final Draft, Inc.