

EXAL IRAHETA

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University

MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage

Thesis: *They Could Give No Name*

June 2019

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

BFA Film, Video, & New Media

Thesis: *This is Joy Division*

August 2009

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Victory Gardens Theater

Playwrights of Color Intensive w/ Playwright Kristiana Rae Colón

2019

Intensive Workshop w/ Playwright Marcus Gardley

2019

University of Notre Dame

Fornés Playwriting Workshop

2018

Annoyance Theatre

Improv Levels I-IV

2015

Intro to Sketch Writing

2015

IO Chicago Theatre

Writing the TV Pilot

2015

Scene Study Workshop w/ Maris Ross

2015

TEACHING & ADVISOR EXPERIENCE

DePaul University

First-Year Writing Instructor

Instructed WRD 104 Composition and Rhetoric II course.

Winter 2020 - Current

Northwestern University

CWMM Industry Mentor

Industry Mentor for the Creative Writing Media Module.

The module program at Northwestern is intended to give stronger contact to writing professionals and feedback on work for NU seniors interested in script writing.

Fall 2019 - Current

Graduate Instructor – “Foundations of Screenwriting”

Developed Syllabus and course structure regarding the fundamental building blocks of story structure, genre, dialogue, screenplay format, & theory. Also lead workshop discussions on student work.

Fall 2018/Winter 2019
Quarters

Teaching Assistant – “Writing the LGBTQIA Pilot, Play, & Webseries”

Facilitated discussions and workshop sessions with students; focused on enhancing LGBTQIA thematic elements.

Fall 2018 Quarter

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Staff Advisor – “Experimental Television (ExTV) & Free Radio SAIC”

Hired, trained, and advised student leaders in curation, project management, leadership, and video/radio production. Served as Director of Student Film/Video Festival “ExFest.”

Aug 2013 – Sept 2017

RELATED EXPERIENCE

DePaul University

Writing, Rhetoric, & Discourse Department Assistant

Assist Department Chair and faculty with department marketing initiatives, and daily operations.

October 2019 – Present
Chicago, IL

Victory Gardens Theatre

Reader – “2019 Ignition New Play Festival”

Read and created Script Reports for solicited play in consideration for new play festival.

March 2019 – May 2019
Chicago, IL

Literary Management Intern

Conducted dramaturgical research for plays in production, and supported dramaturg during rehearsal process. Also, provided administrative support with databases and correspondence.

June 2018 – August 2018
Chicago, IL

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Manager of Student Media & Training

- Developed training workshops on 15 types of advanced film/video production equipment.
- Recruited & trained a staff 10-15 student equipment trainers per semester.
- Developed a training strategy for students to document art projects for portfolio requirement per curriculum requirement.
- Advised Assoc. Director of Media & Instructional Resources on equipment acquisitions.

Aug 2013 – Sept 2017
Chicago, IL

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Production Assistant

Assisted in all areas of video production and post-production.

June 2013 – August 2013
Chicago, IL

LECTURES & PUBLIC TALKS

University of Notre Dame

Script Analysis - New Play Process, Instructor Anne Garcia-Romero

Guest Speaker

Fall 2019

Columbia College

Culture, Race & Media, Instructor Molly Schneider

Guest Lecturer

Fall 2019

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Intersectionality Critique Exchange - DIY MEDIA

Presenter

2015

High Concept Labs

THINGS THAT SHOULD NOT BE PICKED UP IN THE FIRST PLACE: TWO

Panelist

2015

SCREENWRITING & TV WRITING

Red Polka Dot (2018) – TV Pilot; Half-hour single-camera sitcom about a small-town theatre’s struggle with their conservative town.

*2019 – Quarter Finalist | Final Draft Big Break Screenwriting Contest

*2019 – Staged Reading at The Crew Theatre

*2018 – Runner Up | Northwestern University’s Advanced Sitcom Production Grant

Jarri (2019) – TV Pilot; It’s the year 2000, and eighth grader JARRI must deal with his outrageous Salvadorian family, and his first crush on a boy.

ÜFO (2015) – TV Pilot; A floundering Sci-Fi author and her impossible Catholic mother take in an enigmatic young man believed to be an undocumented immigrant.

*2015 – Staged Reading at IO Chicago Theatre

Horn! (2011) – Video Sketch; A man is cursed with a unicorn horn.

*2011 – Semi-Finalist | YouTube Creator Institute

This is Joy Division (2009) – Short Film; Twenty-four-year-old BOBBY sabotages his life to pursue his aspiration of becoming part of the band Joy Division.

*2009 – Screened at Gene Siskel Film Center as part of SAIC’s 2009 Time Arts Festival.

Dry Erase (2008) – Short Film; A Dry Erase board exploits a man’s desire for love.

FILM/VIDEO PRODUCTION

Director

Hollow Frames – Pillage (ft. Mojdeh) Music Video **2013**

*2014 – Featured on chicagoist.com

The Debt Collector Video Sketch **2013**

*2015 – Screened at Young Camelot & Wretched Nobles Film & Video Series presents: DIVAS, QUEENS, AND SUPERSTARS!

Horn! Video Sketch **2011**

Captain Calamari Short Film **2009**

This is Joy Division Short Film **2009**

Dry Erase Short Film **2008**

Producer

Discontinuity Dir. Lori Felker Short Film **2016**

*Festival Screenings include: 2016 Slamdance, 2017 Ann Arbor Film Festival, 2017 Boston Underground Film Fest among others.

Assistant Director

Cinerama Dir. Link Wolf TV Pilot **2018**

Discontinuity Dir. Lori Felker Short Film **2016**

Mind Dance Dir. Kaleng Ko Short Film **2009**

Cinematographer & Editor

Birthday Wish Dir. Ben Verschoor Short Film **2017**

Dance With Me Carmen Dir. Lesley Spencer Music Video **2016**

Madrid Magic Dir. Lesley Spencer Music Video **2016**

Comfort Zone Crusher Dir. Till H. Groß Instructional Series **2015**

Buckle Up! Ill. Dept. of Transportation PSA **2009**

Start Hoofin’ Today Dir. Reggie McLaughlin Instructional Series **2009**

Organ Factory Dir. RedRum Short Film **2009**

Veracity: We All Shine On Dir. Kali Heitholt Short Film **2009**

Assistant Camera

Sundown Dir. Erik Gernand Short Film **2019**

PLAYWRITING

Full Length:

They Could Give No Name (2019) – Drama; Medical examiner, Nellie Ramirez, descends into near-madness when her fiancé, a border patrol agent, accidentally kills a young immigrant girl. In order to save her future family, Nellie must make a decision that threatens to tear her life apart

*2019 – Honorable Mention | 2019 Relentless Award

*2019 – Reading | Victory Gardens' Ignition Festival of New Plays | Chicago, IL

*2019 – Reading | Northwestern University's New Play Festival | Evanston, IL

Rules of a Closed Door (2019) – Drama; Hector returns home on a mission to air out hidden family secrets that forced him and his mother to be exiled from their community.

*2019 – Semi-Finalist | Activate: Midwest New Play Fest

*2018 – Excerpt Reading | 2018 Fornés Playwriting Workshop | The Goodman Theatre

Short Plays:

Open Venas (2019) – A comedic look at a Salvadorian's woman resistance to her dead mother's and grandmother's insistence that she have a baby.

*2019 – Production | Untold Collectiv | Broadgate Theatre | London EC2M 2PA, UK

*2019 – Production | Theater Masters Take Ten | Theater Row | New York City, NY

*2019 – Staged Reading | Theater Masters Take Ten | Aspen, CO

*2020 – Expected to be Published by Samuel French as part of Take Ten Anthology.

Kill Your Darlyngs (2019) – Diam accepts a ruthless talent company's proposal to make him the next trending influencer on the latest hot app "Darlyngs," but when he meets an influencer who's on his way out, Diam realizes he's in for more than he bargained for.

*2019 – Production | Random Acts Chicago | Otherworld Theater | Chicago, IL

Neighborhood Watch Group (2019) – Chicago neighborhood watch group goes a little too far to catch a serial killer.

*2019 – Production | Nothing Without a Company | Chicago, IL

I Don't Want Flowers (2015) – A comedic monologue by a Salvadorian grandmother relaying her final wishes to her reluctant son.

*2015 – Performance at Annoyance Theater as part of "Finger Guns" Showcase. | Chicago, IL

HONORS/AWARDS

Emerging Content Creator	NALIP	2019
Playwright	The Red Orchid Theater Emerging Playwright	2019
Selected Playwright	Theater Masters	2019
Selected Playwright	Fornés Playwriting Workshop	2018
Scholar (Semi-Finalist)	Hispanic Scholarship Fund	2017
Semi-Finalist	Bob Curry Fellowship; Second City Chicago	2016
Semi-Finalist	YouTube Creator Institute	2011
Excellence in Leadership	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	2007-09

MEMBERSHIPS

2019-2020 – The Dramatist Guild of America

VOLUNTEER

Center on Halsted's Youth Housing Initiative Fund Raiser Assistant	2017 Chicago, IL
Gerber/Hart Library & Archive (Largest Midwest LGBTQ specific archive) Media Specialist	2016-2017 Chicago, IL

Chicago Comedy Film Festival
Video Promotions Editor

2014
Chicago, IL

VidCon
Festival Assistant

2012
Los Angeles, CA

LANGUAGES

English – native language

Spanish – speak fluently, read and write with basic competence.