

Gena Ellis

Screenwriter, Author, Producer, Background Actor

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Professional Film Experience

Gena In General/Brown Dot Productions Chicago – West Virginia

Optioned and produced Screenwriter. Producer. Author. Multi-media platform of Gena In General, LLC, formed in 2020. Emphasis in screenwriting, writing the adaptation and original scripts. Background actor. Experience in pre-production and production. University of Oklahoma/Marshall University alum.

Filmography & Awards

Screenwriter, Producer, Author Credits:

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD. 2021. Location Manager. 20th Digital Studio. HULU's Bite Size Halloween series, season 2, ep 7. Ursula Ellis, writer-director. Also uncredited pre-production and production work.

SHE'S HALFWAY THERE. Short. 2020. Writer, director, producer, actor, DOP, editor. Vimeo. Stuck At Home 48 Hour Global Film Challenge. Filmed on Samsung Note 9. April.

FOR GEORGE ON HIS 30TH BIRTHDAY. Short. 2018. Co-Producer. MFA Columbia University Second Year Film. Ursula Ellis, writer-director. Michael Esper and Allie Gallerani. 2018 Denver International Film Fest.

CRICK IN THE HOLLER. 2017. Short. Co-Producer. Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Short Production Grant. Columbia University MFA Thesis Film. Ursula Ellis, writer-director. 2018 March On Washington Film Festival, 2018 Tupelo Film Festival (WINNER, Best Student Short), Green Mountain Film Festival, Beloit International Film Festival, 2017 Columbia University Film Festival, (WINNER: IFP Audience Choice Award & Faculty Jury Honors), Woodstock Film Festival, Citizen Jane Film Festival, Cucalorus Film Festival, Lone Star Film Festival (WINNER: Best Student Film).

ANGELA'S DECISION. One-hour drama. 2007. Screenwriter, Adaptation Author and Co-Producer. Amazon Prime. Mat King, director-producer. Starring Rhiannon Owen, Xavier Samuel. Filmed in South Australia.

Film Festivals, Awards and Screenings

Best Adaptation, Houston International Film Festival, TX, 2009.

Ron Tibbett BEST OF SHOW Award, Tupelo Film Festival, MS. 2007.

Second Place, Full-Length Narrative, George Lindsey UNA Film Festival, AL, 2007.

Best of World Cinema, Phoenix Film Festival, AZ. 2007.

Finalist, Best Film Music, Garden State Film Festival, Asbury Park, NJ. 2007.

Special Premiere, NICHE Music and Film Festival, Portland, OR. 2007.

Gold ACS Award, Best Cinematography, Short Drama: Australian Cinematographers Society Awards, Adelaide, South Australia. Nov. 2006.

World Premiere, Karma Cup Series, Mercury Theatre, Adelaide, South Australia. Aug. 2006.

Oklahoma University Film Series, Meacham Auditorium, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK. 2007.

Top 25 Winner (Screenplay), FilmMakers' magazine American Gem Screenplay Competition.

Angela's Decision: A Journey of Adaptation. Published 2016. Author. Film companion book. Amazon. Hybrid of fiction and non-fiction book, contains the short story, entire adapted screenplay, adapted television pilot pages, and the journey of the writer- plus two additional short stories. 150 pgs.

FAY IN THE LIFE OF DAVE. Short. 2006. Co-Writer, Co-Producer. 48 Hour Film Project-Nashville. Starring Danny Vinson and Tricia Cast. Third Place, Best Script; Second Place, Best Road Film. Belcourt Theater.

Film and TV credits (Actor, publicity, production support)

CHRISTMAS AT THE GREENBRIER (FOX). 2022. Hotel Guest. Feature film.

NASHVILLE (ABC). 2016. Concert goer, bar patron. Season 4.

BAD JOHNSON. 2014. Aunt Judy, featured. Director, Huck Botko. Independent film.

SHAMELESS (Showtime). 2014. Commuter. Episode: "Strangers on a Train," February.

DHOOM. 2013. Business Woman, Circus Patron. A Yash Raj Film. highest-grossing Bollywood film in North America and U.S.

WAR IS KIND. 2012. Diner patron/pedestrian, Thank You. Short. In Association with Brown Dot Productions/Studio 22. Northwestern University Senior Directing Project. Ursula Ellis, writer-director. Northwestern Women's Filmmaker Alliance Grant 2012. Screened at Studio 22, Chicago.

CHICAGO FIRE (NBC). "Under the Knife." Neighborhood Bar Patron. 2013. "Merry Christmas, Etc." Bystander. 2012. "Two Families" Driver, Crash Victim. 2012. "Professional Courtesy" Pedestrian. 2012.

BOSS (Starz). 2013. Neighbor, Protester. Episodes: "Clinch" and "Backflash."

'*WAKING UP*' (Adidas for Chicago Bulls) 2013. Sports Fan. Superbowl commercial 2013.

'*FALLIN FOR YOU*' (Music Video). 2013. Pedestrian, diner patron, Thank You. Northwestern University's 2012 Niteskool Grant. Chicago International Movie and Music Festival 2013. Tupelo Film Festival.

TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON. 2011. Chicago Business Woman. Paramount.

BALLAD OF BARBARA ALLEN. 2011. (Student short). Thank you. Ursula Ellis, writer-director. NextFrame Film Festival 2012. Northwestern's Independent Study/Dean's Advisory Council Grant 2011.

JANIE AND GOLDIE. 2011. (Student short). Thank You, In Association With. Ursula Ellis, writer-director. White Sands Film Festival 2011, Northwestern's Studio 22 \$1,000 Grant, Fall 2010.

HONEYDRIPPER. 2008. Uncredited. Publicity director for Huntsville, AL Premiere. John Sayles, writer-director. Independently distributed film. Highest Friday night ticket sales during U.S. release. Publicity for Master Class for director John Sayles and producer Maggie Renzi.

Screenplay Awards

Rosa and the Black Tulip. Romantic drama, adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' The Black Tulip, 119 pages. ScreenCraft Fellowship, Quarterfinalist, 2019

Nice International Film Festival, Finalist, 2019

London International Filmmakers Festival, WINNER, Best Unproduced Screenplay, 2018

Rhode Island International Film Festival, Semi-finalist, 2017

Richmond International Film Festival, Semi-finalist, 2017

Female Eye Film Festival, Toronto, Second Place, 2016

Female Eye Film Festival, LIVE READ, Toronto, 2016

WILLiFEST, Williamsburg International Film Festival, NYC, Finalist, 2016

Scriptapalooza Quarterfinalist

Live Script Read, Alabama Film Co-op, Flying Monkey Arts Center, Huntsville, AL

Reclaimed. Pilot (55 pages). Thriller/drama. Quarterfinalist, ScreenCraft Pilot Launch 2018.

Out of Sight. Radio/podcast (55 pages). Dramedy.

26th BBC International Radio Playwriting Competition, 2016. Highly Commended, Top 14 of over 1,000.

Pieces of Christmas. Optioned once. Holiday romantic comedy, 89 pages. Scriptapalooza, Semi-finalist.

Adjunct Professor

Screenplay Analysis, Webster University, St. Louis, School of Communications, Screenwriting Dept. 2009. Analyzed seven films/scripts in class, wrote script pages and analysis, group presentations. Received outstanding student evals of 1.2 rating on 1-5 scale, with 1 the highest.

Education and Professional Training

Master of Liberal Studies, Screenwriting, University of Oklahoma.

Concentrated Studies: Screenwriting, film adaptation, military women portrayed in military films, short story. 4.0 GPA. Phi Kappa Phi. July 2003.

Reviving Holiday: Screenplays and Short Stories 176 pages. Creative thesis of one feature length screenplay, one short script/pilot and two short stories. Chair: Professor Andy Horton. 2003.

Roadmap Writers Virtual Conference 2022.

Roadmap Writers Incubator (twice) 2020.

Robert McKee Story 3-Day Seminar 2018, Nashville.

John Sayles' Master Class, Alabama Filmmakers' Co-op.

Screenwriting Conference in Santa Fe, Advanced Student.

B.A. English, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

Presentations

Writing the Literary Adaptation, Lewisburg Literary Festival. 2018.

How a Screenwriter Ended Up On Camera, Tupelo Film Festival. 2016.

Screenwriting and Writing the Adaptation, Itawamba Community College. 2016.

Writing the Adaptation, Tupelo Film Festival. 2015.

Film Festival Juror (Shorts, Animation, High School shorts), Tupelo Film Festival. 2012-2018.

Finalist Screenplay Judge, George Lindsey UNA Film Festival. 2010-2011.

Other Professional Experience

Freelance Journalist. Sample of publications. The Daily Oklahoman, Dayton Daily News, New Jersey Bride, Running Times, The Mining Journal. Numerous articles published.

Military Experience

Public Affairs Officer, Captain, U.S. Army Reserves. Soldiers magazine (1994-2000), the official U.S. Army publication, and Criminal Investigation Command Headquarters (1992-1994). Wrote and edited articles for publication. Conducted interviews and research. Provided co-ordination with multiple civilian organizations, incl media. Worked Oklahoma City bombing aftermath and Kosovo refugee missions.

Platoon Leader and Battalion Logistics Officer (S4), 141 Signal Battalion, 1st Armored Division. 1st and 2nd Lieutenant. Active Duty Army. Ansbach, Germany. Tactical communications platoon leader of 40 soldiers and battalion logistics officer (S4) for 550 soldiers. Supported division level operations with tactical communications for combat support units. Before, during and after the fall of the Wall and break-up of the Soviet Union. Airborne qualified.