

KURTIS ESTES

Fearlessly Creative | Constantly Driven | Often Funny |

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OBJECTIVE

A seasoned editorial professional looking to broaden my experience in a creative environment where my talents and drive can be utilized to the fullest.

WORK EXPERIENCE



Editor, Universal Publishing

2017 – Present

- Ideate publishing concepts for Universal properties and edit books from manuscript to print.
- Editorially support blue chip partners including Random House, Scholastic, Simon & Schuster, Dark Horse and IDW, giving direction on character and franchise cannon, as well as general guidelines and brand parameters.
- Lead editor on publishing efforts for Jurassic World, Fast & Furious, E.T., Jaws, Back to the Future, She-Ra, Despicable Me, Minions, The Grinch, and The Secret Life of Pets.
- Lead editor on first Jurassic novel since Michael Crichton's, *The Lost World*.
- Created a three year Jurassic World graphic novel strategy to align with future film releases, digital content and various brand initiatives.
- Support licensees in understanding available assets and work with internal stakeholders to insure timely delivery.
- Gather feedback and relevant approval from all internal stakeholders (franchise, filmmakers, executives).
- Work across all product development teams to align with trends and marketing initiatives.
- Review, manage and provide written feedback for day-to-day publishing submissions including children's books, young adult novels, comics, graphic novels, art-of books and magazines.
- Work alongside creative team in developing cover art, illustrations and overall creative direction of publishing product.
- Give licensee editorial support and approval on marketing submissions for social media, B2B sales materials, Amazon listings, trade publications and television commercials.

Writer, Self Employed

2007 – Present

- Writing first ever *Fast & Furious* graphic novel for Dark Horse Comics.
- Executed a rewrite for an original screenplay sold to Sony Pictures International.
- Wrote comedy speech for Oscar winning screenwriter, Dustin Lance Black.
- Pitched film and television concepts to producers and studio executives at Sony, Fox, Universal and Warner Bros.
- Wrote and directed voice talent for an original animated short for Comedy Central's, *Trip Tank*.
- Created sizzle reels, drafted treatments and wrote pitch documents for both personal projects as well as projects brought to me by producers and studio executives.



Manager, Operations

**Rehired to more senior role after finishing Masters.*

2013 – 2017

- Wrote copy for artist biographies, artwork descriptions, sales incentive programs, and new product launches.
- Worked in conjunction with sales director, company president and department heads to strategize release schedule.
- Developed ad campaigns for new product launches, gallery events and trade magazines.
- Coordinated with artists and Disney Consumer Products to obtain approval on original concepts.
- Curated the first ever Muppets Art Show and strategized a grass roots #StayGreenAustin marketing campaign featured throughout social channels as well as on local print media.
- Worked with galleries to develop exclusive print editions based on their specific gallery brand.
- Traveled with artists for gallery appearances and events held at Disneyland and Walt Disney World.
- Strategized and implemented company's overall social media initiatives.
- Managed house accounts: Disney Cruise Lines, Disneyland Paris and other key domestic and international galleries.



Production Assistant, Television

2011 – 2012

- Read incoming material (novels, screenplays, short stories) and drafted notes for scripts in development.
- Edited sizzle reels and created pitch documents for presentations to actors, writers and studio execs.
- Helped prepare materials for and participated in weekly meetings with the president of the company.
- Compiled industry research, writer lists and potential material for development.



MFA Candidate / Student Teacher

2010 – 2012

- Created a ten-week lesson plan for an undergraduate class of twenty students.
- Presented weekly lectures on screenwriting fundamentals.
- Developed, assigned and graded weekly assignments which were used to structure classroom discussions.
- Aided in the development of student screenplays one on one during office hours.
- Recipient of the Janet Lehay Comedy Fellowship.
- Winner of the Screenwriter's Showcase, a competition for MFA candidates that is judged by industry professionals.
- Auditioned for and was accepted into the Showrunner Program.



Coordinator, Product Development

**Left to pursue MFA*

2008 – 2010

- Created and maintained organizational systems to track artwork from conception to release.
- Updated department heads on approval status of artwork in development.
- Uploaded copy and art release images through company's website portal.
- Maintained product catalogue on-site at Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure.
- Calculated profit margins based on framing costs, production costs and artist royalties.
- Created a system for tracking contractually obligated print allocation for artists and Disney Consumer Products.



Sales Assistant

2006 – 2008

- Met with and presented films to buyers at the American Film Market and NATPE.
- Wrote copy and coordinated with graphic designers in the creation of marketing materials for over forty films.
- Coordinated logistics for the AFM, European Film Market, Hong Kong Film Market, Cannes and NATPE.

EDUCATION



University of California, Los Angeles
Master of Fine Arts, Screenwriting

2012



University of California, Los Angeles
Master of Fine Arts, Screenwriting

2006