

BENJAMIN JAMES

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Watch my TEDx Talk: [What Use is Horror?](#)

EDUCATION

University of Bristol 2005
M.A. Film and Television Production
Graduated with Distinction

University of Warwick 2002
B.A.H. in Theatre and Performance Studies

SCREENWRITING & FILM PRODUCTION

Wake
Short psychological horror film. Wrote and directed this original film (June, 2019).

Mink
Short screenplay adapted from Kim Barnes' short story *Spokane is a Coat*. Produced *Mink* with director Jace Wrigley (June, 2018). Premiered at North West Film Festival, Portland (November, 2018).

Captivity
Feature-length screenplay adapted from my parents' memoir. *Captivity* is the incredible true survival story of two British aid-workers who are kidnapped by a gang of unstable Chechen guerrillas. Materials requested by Cross Creek Pictures (*Black Swan*, *Black Mass*), RatPac (*The Revenant*), and The Cartel literary management among others.

The Trail
Feature-length original screenplay. Second round finalist in the Nicholl Fellowship Screenwriting Competition 2013. *The Trail* is a period horror set during the 1838 Cherokee removals.

Hamlet in Original Pronunciation 2011
Feature-length documentary and separate film of full stage performance by Breed Film. Written, produced, directed, and edited by Benjamin James: filmed in Reno, NV and London, England. Hamlet performed in "original pronunciation" at the University of Nevada, Reno, November 2011.

SAMPLE OF FILM INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Wake 2019
Wrote, produced, directed, and edited an original short psychological horror film working with SAG actors from Seattle, Portland, and the surrounding area.

Mink 2018

Adapted and independently produced short film *Mink* on a zero-budget in three weeks with filmmaker Jace Wrigley. Premiered at North West Film Festival, Portland (Nov).

Great American Pitch Fest – Los Angeles 2016 and 2017
Pitched to studio executives, producers, and literary agents and had materials requested by Cross Creek Pictures (*Black Swan*, *Black Mass*), RatPac (*The Revenant*), and The Cartel literary management among others. Established working relationship with Regina Corrado (Writer/Showrunner: *Deadwood*, *Gypsy*).

P.A. to Director, Simon Relph, Greenpoint Films Ltd. 2006 – 2007
Full administrative support to the director of the production company.

Facilitator/Researcher, Encounters Festival 2006
Research and co-ordination of events including the Encounters Festival Film School: Screenwriting with Al Clarke, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, and Lucy Scher (The Script Factory).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Acting and Directing for the Camera
Collaborating with Kelly Quinnet (Head of Acting, Theatre) to create a 3-credit course teaching students from film and theatre backgrounds to develop their craft in front of and behind the camera. We aim to roll out the course in fall 2020.

White Terror
A scholarly monograph, co-written with Russell Meeuf on popular horror cinema in the Obama years, exploring how horror cinema mediates the racial anxieties of US culture at large.

Motor City Gothic: Dangerous Homes & Threatened Futures in Contemporary Horror
Abstract accepted for *Dark Forces at Work: Essays on Social Dynamics and Cinematic Horror*. Co-written with Russel Meeuf, edited by Cynthia Miller and Bow Van Ripper. Forthcoming.

CURRENT POSITION

Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Idaho
I am the interim director of the interdisciplinary Film and Television Studies program. I teach Intro and Advanced Screenwriting, History of Cinema I and II, and the capstone class for the FTV program, Advanced Digital Production.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Faculty Lecturer, University of Idaho 2012-2016
Developed new interdisciplinary Film and TV Studies Major working with colleagues across various departments. Created and taught new classes including THE 541/441: Screenwriting and ISEM 101: Nightmares in Red, White, and Blue.

Guest Lecturer, University of Nevada, Reno 2010

Taught classes on the basics of film production and film genre for Dr. Maura Grady's ENG 425B course.

Facilitator, Bristol Screenwriters Group

2006

Produced screenwriting master classes with Billy Mackinnon (*The Piano*), and Frank Cottrell Boyce (*24 Hour Party People*) in association with Watershed Cinema, Bristol.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Idaho Commission on the Arts QuickFunds

I was awarded \$1081 to assist with post-production color correction on our film, "Wake".

2019-20 Marilyn Hendricks Fellowship

I was awarded the costs of film post-production hardware and software to complete the film project produced through the CLASS Interdisciplinary Fellowship.

CLASS Interdisciplinary Fellowship

I brought together a team of faculty across departments and at various levels of seniority including Prof Kelly Quinnet (Theatre, Head of Acting), Dr Russ Meeuf (JAMM), and Clinical Asst Prof Kyle Howerton (JAMM) to produce a short film employing students in major production roles on set.

Ambrose Storytelling Award

As the inaugural winner of the Ambrose Storytelling Award (2018–2020) I will run annual storytelling workshops for students with a panel of storytellers from a variety of disciplines.