



Josiah Thomas Turner

Writer / Musician / Theater-Maker

Contact

JosiahThomasTurner@gmail.com

Learn more about my work at JosiahThomasTurner.com

Education & Relevant Experience

- MFA Playwriting from the University of Texas at Austin (2019-2022)
 - Instructors: Annie Baker, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Kirk Lynn
- Playback Theater Milwaukee Improv Troupe (2014 - 2018)
- Composer-Librettist Studio with Nautilus Theater with Ben Krywosz (2025)
- Many Voices Fellowship at The Playwrights' Center (2023 - 2025)
- Provincetown Theater / Kennedy Center Residency (2023)

Current Projects (Selected)

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Jim*
2026 Creative Capital Grant Awardee. Developing in partnership with the Playwrights' Center.
- *The Uncanny Valley (Pilot)*
In development adult animated series in partnership with Hairy Emperor and Branden Jacobs-Jenkins.
- *Margaret's Garden (Pilot)*
In development TV-YA Animated series.

Other Skill

- Playback Theater (Community based improvisation)
- Multi-Instrumentalist
- Music Composition
- Advanced Swimmer
- Final Draft / Microsoft Suite
- Freelance Dramaturgy

Work Experience

The Guthrie Theater

Artistic Department Assistant & Summer Camp Coordinator

2025 – Present

- Assists the Casting, Production, Literary, Education and Engagement departments in the general and specialized programming at the institution including but not limited to:
 - Auditions, Play Submissions, General Dramaturgy, Script Proofing / Formatting. Script assistance for in-the-room playwrights.
 - Building and Maintaining Education programs records, rosters, and materials, check reimbursements and budget assistance.
 - Native Advisory Council, Student Matinees, Small Group/Large Group instruction for adults and youths.

The Playwrights' Center

Fellow / Instructor / Reader

2023 - 2025

- Small group, one-on-one instruction / dramaturgy. Front of house, script club, member open play, lecturer group moderator. Actor for workshops and readings. Created and taught class: *The Joy of Playwriting*

GALA Choruses and Choirs

Administrative Assistant / Digital Archivist

2022 - 2024

- Website archiving / organization, tagging, sorting and curation of materials from old website, assist transfer to new website / domain. Logging and organizing live performance.

The University of Texas at Austin

Assistant Instructor

2020 - 2022

- Large group / Small group Instruction, Playwriting, Creative Writing, Feedback and Dramaturgy, Festival Management, Workshop, Improvisation, Data Entry, Grading, One-on-one Tutoring

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Plays (Selected)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Jim

A Black American Epic set in the world of Mark Twain's literature.

- 2026 Creative Capital Grant Awardee
- Semi Finalist - National Playwrights Conference
- Semi Finalist - Bay Area Playwrights Festival

BECOMING!!, or, The Making of the Musical Sensation of 2279 and All that Followed

A musical within a play about Michelle Obama (it's not about Michelle Obama.)

- Workshop / Reading - Wild Winds Texas
- Workshop / Reading - The Playwrights Center
- Semi Finalist 2025 - 2027 Jerome Fellowship
- Semi Finalist - National Playwright Conference
- Semi Finalist - Ojai Playwrights Conference
- Semi Finalist - Scratch Pad Series
- Semi Finalist - Magic in Rough Spaces - Rorschacht Theater

Jinkies! or The (currently) Untitled Dog Play

A challenging TYA play about loss, legacy and coming of age.

- Production - The University of Texas at Austin: UT New Theater
- Production - The Vortex Theater
- Semi Finalist - Bay Area Play
- Semi Finalist - National Playwrights Conference

Uncle Tom's Nephews

A Family Cycle in Three Acts set in Steubenville, Ohio.

- Semi Finalist - Scratch Pad Series
- Official Selection - The Great Plains Theater Conference
- Reading - The Kennedy Center National Undergraduate Playwrights Conference

Eliza On The Ice

A two-handed thriller that explores sex trafficking in rural Wisconsin.

- Production (Zoom) - The Constructivists Theater

Awards and Recognitions

- National Undergraduate Playwriting Award - The Kennedy Center
- Winner - The Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship - The Kennedy Center
- Winner - The Planet Earth Prize - The Kennedy Center
- Winner - 2026 Creative Capital Grant Awardee - Creative Capital Foundation
- Fellowship - 2023 - 2025 Many Voices Fellowship - The Playwrights' Center
- Semi Finalist - 2025 - 2027 Jerome Fellowship - The Playwrights' Center

Freelance Dramaturg

- Dayton's - The History Theater - Dir. Rachel Ropella
- 5-Minutes on the Low Road - Nautilus Music Theater Workshop