# Mikal K. Odom Creator & Educator

# **Professional Profile**

Multi-faceted creative professional with over 20 years of practice in film/video and theatre making. An expert in developing and creating content from conception to completion. Acclaimed screen and stage producer, director, and writer who has worked with various types, and skill levels, of talent. Experienced performer with multiple stage and screen credits. Creative teacher with track record in building lesson plans, tracking student academic and personal success, and managing classrooms.

# Education

Villanova University	M.A. in Theatre	2020
American University	M.A. in Producing Film, Television & Video	2010
Temple University	B.A. in Film & Media Arts	2004

# Certification & Membership

- NJ-State Theatre Teacher Certification
- Actor's Equity Association Member

# **Awards & Accomplishments**

- "LUV Don't Live Here" nationally distributed by Breaking Glass Pictures; Available to view and/or purchase on streamers and retailers worldwide
- "LUV Don't Live Here" winner of 2015 qFLIX Philadelphia Film Festival Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature Film
- "LUV Don't Live Here" nominee of 2016 Africa Movie Academy Award for Best Diaspora Feature Film
- 2-time Philadelphia Independent Film & Video Association (PIFVA) Finishing Fund Grant recipient
- 2002 Derek Freese Foundation Screenwriting Grant winner

# Core Skills

- Content Development and Creation
- Videography
- Video Editing (*Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere Pro & After Effects*)
- Graphic Design (Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator)
- Screenwriting
- Music Editing & Composition (GarageBand)
- Performance Coaching and Directing
- Microsoft Office
- Research
- Event Planning
- Public Speaking

2022 — Present Gesu School Philadelphia, PA
Substitute ELA Teacher

## Overview 1

Currently in a long-term substitute teaching position as an 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts Support teacher for students who are specifically challenged in reading and writing.

## Responsibilities

 Provides small group and one-on-one support to students to ensure full understanding and comprehension of class readings and assignments

## Key Achievements

Students gain stronger ability at reading comprehension, grammar, and writing

2021 — 2022 BelovED Community Charter School Jersey City, NJ
Content Creation Teacher

## **Overview**

Instructor and creator of new, innovative arts and media course for middle school students, which is designed to engage, encourage, and uplift student voices while teaching foundational techniques in film and theatre. The goal of the course was twofold: for students to gain practice with techniques that they have otherwise become familiar with on social media; and to build an understanding of what it means to be a socially responsive content creator.

## Responsibilities

- Taught, created, and managed curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Assisted with school-wide duties, such as student arrivals, dismissals, and transitions between classes

## Key Achievements

- Students became familiar with media development techniques not familiar with prior to taking course, such as scripting, planning, casting, and directing
- Students gained experience in collaborating creatively with others
- Student gained practice in presenting and performing in front of groups

2019 — 2021 Uncommon Schools Newark, NJ
Performing Arts Teacher

#### **Overview**

Taught 3rd and 4th grade performing arts classes; staged and directed all 3rd and 4th grade performances.

## Responsibilities

- Developed and implemented new method of teaching and performing virtually during the pandemic by introducing camera and staging techniques into the curriculum
- Created lesson plans, instructional videos, and audio clips
- Edited and devised virtual performances and showcase short films

# Key Achievements/Projects

Students gained formative communication skills, such as voice and body articulation; and telling stories using these skills

# **Theatre**

## As Director:

Aida Wilimington Drama League
Choir Boy Wilimington Drama League

#### As Actor:

Songs for a New World "King of the World" Singer Villanova Theatre / Kara Scaramazza Ensemble A Christmas Carol McCarter Theatre / Adam Immerwahr Walnut Street Theatre / Frank Ferrante A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum Extra To Kill A Mockingbird Tom Robinson Ritz Theatre Company / Matthew Weil Promises, Promises Ritz Theatre Company / Ed Fuchs Kirkeby Phil Iron Crow Theatre | Sean Elias The Wild Party

JamaicaEnsembleFreedom Theatre / Rajendra Ramoon MaharajMemphisWailin' Joe/EnsembleWilmington Drama League / Dominic Santos

The Threepenny Opera Street Singer Villanova Theatre / Valerie Joyce
Everyman Five Wits Villanova Theatre / David Cregan

## Film

## As Director/Writer/Producer:

"LUV" Don't Live Here"

2nd Shift

Perfect Angel Films/ Breaking Glass Pictures short film

Dreamsong short film

# Other Work

2022 — Present Rutgers University-Camden Camden, NJ
Theatre/Gallery/Event Worker

## Responsibilities

Assists Rutgers Camden's School of the Arts stage management team with production and events duties, which includes, but
is not limited to, running audio, lighting and stage set-up and breakdowns, box office, and house management