**Professional Summary**

Award-winning filmmaker, theatre director, and cultural strategist with over 35 years of experience leading creative institutions, producing international content, and designing arts education programs across Africa, Europe, and the U.S. Proven success in building sustainable creative ecosystems through legislative advocacy, talent development, and strategic partnerships. Adept at aligning cultural policy with global best practices, facilitating stakeholder engagement, and empowering local creatives. Passionate about using storytelling and entertainment to drive economic growth, cultural diplomacy, and youth empowerment.

Currently seeking opportunities to foster bold and imaginative entertainment projects that leverage my extensive creative and management experience—on a full-time or freelance basis.

**Core Competencies**

* Film & Theatre Production (400+ credits)
* Cultural Policy & Legislative Advocacy
* International Arts Education & Capacity Building
* Creative Sector Strategy & Incentive Design
* Non-Profit Leadership & Institutional Development
* Workshop Facilitation & Stakeholder Engagement
* Intellectual Property & Digital Media Governance
* Cross-Cultural Collaboration & Diplomacy

**Professional Experience**

**Founder & President – Carey-On Creative, LLC**
Atlanta, GA | 2012 – Present

* Lead entertainment consultancy and boutique production house for film and theatre.
* Produced award-winning short films (*Come Walk With Me*, *Love Potion*, *Divorce During Pandemic*, *A Cost of Freedom*, *Fancy Meeting You Here*) and stage productions (*Coming to Zimbabwe*, *Mi Casa Su Casa*, *Come Together*, *The Bitch Is Back*).
* Films have been Official Selections at over 50+ international festivals, earning awards for directing, producing, and writing—including honors from WorldFest/Houston, Rome

Prisma, and Hollywood Gold Awards.

* Designed and delivered workshops for creatives across the U.S., Africa, and Europe.
* Created and managed *TripsWithJames.com*, a travel and entertainment blog with 2,300+ followers.
* Published *Three Days in Hamburg & Other Stories* (Amazon, 2024).

**Consultant – National Institute of Allied Arts (NIAA)**

Harare, Zimbabwe | 2012 – 2014

• Developed and launched the Rural Theatre Teacher Training Outreach Program.

• Coordinated national workshops and staff development initiatives.

• Adjudicated the Zimbabwe National Drama Festival, evaluating over 10,000 youth performances.

• Recruited American consultants to support long-term capacity-building.

• Conceived and directed an original play at Reps Theatre, Zimbabwe’s National Theatre, in collaboration with local artists and cultural institutions.

**Artistic Director – SkyPilot Theatre Company**
Los Angeles, CA | 2017 – 2021

* Directed and produced new works with a focus on social impact and cultural relevance.
* Oversaw artistic programming and hired creative teams.
* Fostered emerging talent and supported new play development.

**Co-Founder & Producing Artistic Director – Attic Theatre Conservatory, Inc.**
Los Angeles, CA | 1990 – 2012

* Established and led a non-profit theatre company with its own venue and conservatory.
* Created the Denise Ragan Wiesenmeyer One-Act Festival, running for over 20 years.
* Developed youth playwright programs for underserved communities.
* Produced Off-Broadway and international tours, including in Southern Africa.
* Served on the Board of Directors and led key creative and management hires.

**Instructor – Acting Program, New York Film Academy**
Los Angeles, CA | 2015 – 2018

* Taught MFA and BFA courses in Acting for Camera and Film Production.
* Mentored students in performance, directing, and production management.

**Education**

**Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Management (Magna Cum Laude)**
California State University, Long Beach

* Full Scholarship Recipient
* Production Manager, Cal Rep Professional Company (3 years)
* Teaching Assistant (3 years)

**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts**
Valdosta State University

* Teaching Assistant and Shop Supervisor (2 years)

**Publications & Creative Works**

* *Three Days in Hamburg & Other Stories* – Amazon, 2024
* *Three Day Trilogy* – Amazon, 2025
* 10 produced plays and screenplays
* 150+ published blogs on arts, travel, and cultural commentary
* Short films: *Come Walk With Me*, *Love Potion*, *Divorce During Pandemic*, *A Cost of Freedom*, *Fancy Meeting You Here*
* *Feature Films: MADLY (Co-Director), Alternative Endings (Co-Director)*

**International Engagements & Teaching**

• Zimbabwe: Delivered workshops over a two-year period, training educators nationwide and building institutional capacity in arts education.

• Malawi: Guest Artist/Teacher with MADSOC Theatre, facilitating performance workshops and youth engagement.

• Italy: Guest Lecturer at Istituto Teatrale Europeo in Rome, presenting on American theatre practices and cultural exchange.

* Southern Africa: Produced and directed a regional theatre tour across Zimbabwe, Malawi, and South Africa, collaborating with local artists and cultural institutions.

• Global: Examiner in Drama for the International Baccalaureate Organization (2016–2019), assessing student work across multiple countries.

**Awards & Honors**

* Founder & 1st President, Hollywood Theatre Row, Los Angeles
* LA Drama Critics Circle Award – Outstanding Achievement in Theatre
* Hollywood Arts Council “Charlie” Award
* StageSceneLA – Winner, Intimate Musical Theatre Producer
* Invited Member – Lincoln Center West Directing Lab
* Panel Member – Arts Council of Long Beach Grant Committee
* Board Member – Attic Theatre Conservatory
* Member – Fulbright Specialist Roster (active)