

Samson Ari Ziegelman

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EDUCATION

Columbia College Chicago

Master of Fine Arts, Cinema and Television Directing

Chicago, IL

September 2024-May 2026

- Relevant Coursework: Screenwriting II, Directing II, Constructing the Image, Line Producing, Documentary Projects, Writing and Directing the Series, Media Financing, The Business of Screenwriting

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, College of Media

Bachelor of Arts in Media and Cinema Studies, Minor in Critical Film Production

Champaign, IL

September 2020-May 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Samuel Goldwyn Films

Acquisitions Intern (Remote)

Culver City, CA

May-August 2025

- Responsible for reading scripts and watching film screeners (20+), reviewing pitch-decks to write coverage analyzing quality and marketability for an independently owned distribution and production company renowned for Oscar Winning Films *Another Round*, *The Best Years of Our Lives*, and *Guys and Dolls*
- Conducted research on emerging films across festivals, distribution channels, and streaming outlets providing insights and recommendations to the acquisition team in supporting strategic decision making

Barry Katz Entertainment

Assistant

Malibu, CA

April-August 2023

- Analyzing scripts, writing script coverages, and providing feedback on structure, character development, dialogue, and plot on current and future projects
- Promoted and advertised the Blueprint for Success Program on various social media platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn by editing videos on how to supercharge your comedy career
- Transcribed Late Night talk show monologues which consisted of reviewing stand-out jokes of each set, researching current and potential podcast guests such as Dwyane Wade, Jeff Ross, GaTa, Anthony Jeselnik, and Ali Wong for Top Billin' with Bill Bellamy and Industry Standard, writing questions and biographies, formatting/assisting scheduling, and filling out budget grids for upcoming specials and tours

iHeart Radio Podcast: Cannabis Talk 101

Digital Media Intern

Stanton, CA

June-July 2022

- Directed full length podcasts by operating switchboard using Blackmagic Extreme ISO and Blackmagic ATEM Control
- Responsible for editing podcasts using Adobe Premiere Pro during post-production
- Advertised the company on social media by creating YouTube thumbnails through Photoshop, updated company website and blog posting through Wordpress Website Design

Gilbert Films

Intern (Remote)

Los Angeles, CA

June-August 2021

- Composed weekly screenplay coverages for a Los Angeles-based production company dedicated to producing and financing both independent and studio films including: *La La Land*, *Garden State*, and *The Kids are All Right*
- Analyzed original scripts for plot, screenplay structure, and writing quality; summarized findings and pitched to management whether to invest in the film

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

A City Productions

Founder/Writer/Director

Chicago, IL

June 2020-Present

- Writer and director of 10 original short films under personal production company with genres ranging from Western, Crime, Thriller, Silent, Courtroom Drama, to Noir: <https://acityproductions.com/portfolio>
- **Best Short Documentary WINNER:** Cinestars Chicago Film Festival and Chicago FEEDBACK Film Festival for *The Second City – A Documentary*
- **Documentary Short Film OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Chicago Short Film Festival for *The Pizan of Chicago – A Short Documentary*

Just Tell 'Em Podcast

Founder/Host

Chicago, IL

October 2024-Present

- Research, schedule, and interview creatives across film, art, comedy, and journalism, crafting thoughtful 30-minute conversations that highlight their career paths, personal influences, and professional evolution

SZ YouTube Channel

Founder/Editor

Chicago, IL

November 2016-May 2025

- Created and run a YouTube channel with 6K+ subscribers, 150+ videos and most watched video has 3.5M+ views: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKbyeEoDpq2xFO8nLPuNo1A>
- Directed and edited an Award Winning 30-minute documentary on *The Second City*, interviewed writer and actor Bob Odenkirk and *The Second City* Vice President Kelly Leonard, which generated over 7.5K+ views on YouTube

WORKSHOPS

Second City Sketch Comedy Camp

Chicago, IL

July 2011-2016

- Developed original sketches using long-form improv
- Honed my acting skill set for quality performances
- Sharpened my personal style as a storyteller and focused on developing material, stage presence, timing, and delivery