

James T. Riley

University Professor — Filmmaker — Screenwriter
M.Litt | MFA

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PROFILE / OBJECTIVE

Dynamic educator and creative professional with two Master's degrees (including a terminal MFA in Screenwriting), extensive international experience in filmmaking and higher education, and a deep commitment to intercultural engagement. Seeking to continue to contribute to the Writers' Studio at Arizona State University through innovative curriculum design and teaching effectiveness, creative production, and academic excellence.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Nashville Film Institute — Nashville, TN | Dec 2023 – Present

- Lead instructor for all screenwriting courses.
- Mentoring a diverse student body through creative and technical screenwriting development.

Co-Founder & Producer

Caravaggio Films — Munich, Germany / U.S. | Jul 2022 – Present

- Co-founded an international film production company.
- Leading the development and production of US, European, and global cinematic content.
- In pre-production on feature-length film debut as writer / director.

Faculty Associate

Arizona State University — Online | Aug 2022 – Present

- Teaching in the Writers' Studio at one of the most diverse universities in the U.S.
- Specializing in inclusive curriculum design and support for authentic student voice.

Program Coordinator & Instructor

Nashville Film Institute — Nashville, TN | Jan 2022 – Jul 2022

- Managed faculty and curriculum in the Cinema Production Program.
- Taught courses including Screenwriting, Directing, Producing, Film Studies, and Marketing.

- Led the development of a General Education program and supported institutional accreditation and degree elevation.

Main Screenwriter & Creative Producer

Roll Call Pictures / Elektrashock Studios — Venice, CA / Munich, Germany | 2012 – Present

- Collaborating with Academy-Award-winning producers on multiple feature-length screenplays.
- Oversaw cross-cultural creative teams in both Hollywood and European productions.
- Held on-set roles including Production Manager, Assistant Director, Creative Producer.
- Press Producer and Music and Soundtrack credits on award-winning German feature-length film.

Professor Adjunct / Lecturer II – Multiple Institutions

Lipscomb University, Grand Canyon University, Columbia State Community College, O'More College of Design | 2017 – 2022

- Designed and taught courses in Screenwriting, Film, Conflict in Cinema, Composition, Writing, College Success, and more.
- Supported first-generation and underrepresented students in creative and academic development.
- Consistently earned high teaching evaluations.

Additional Teaching & Cultural Experience

- *Spanish World Language Facilitator*, Williamson County Schools (2016–2018)
- *Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Pepperdine University (2011–2014)
- *Director of Arts*, Southwest Christian School (2010–2011)
- *Cultural Ambassador*, Spanish Ministry of Education, Spain (2009–2010)

EDUCATION

Pepperdine University — *MFA, Writing for Screen & Television*
Malibu, CA | 2015 | GPA: 3.88

- Teaching Assistant for Hollywood director Joe Sargent.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Humanities.

University of St Andrews — *MLitt, International Security Studies*
Scotland, UK | 2008 | GPA: 3.85, with Distinction

- Poem published in *Spotlight Literary Journal*.

Abilene Christian University — *BA, Political Science (Hons.), Minor: Public Service*
Abilene, TX | 2007 | GPA: 3.82, Summa Cum Laude

- Multiple publications in *Shinnery Literary and Art Review*.
- Honors: Judge Jack Pope Fellow, Alpha Chi, Phi Eta Sigma, LYNAY Center for Building Community.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC STUDIES

- *St. Hugh's College*, Oxford University – Visiting Student
- *Forester Language Institute*, San José, Costa Rica – Language Studies

SKILLS AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- *Languages*: Fluent in English & Spanish
- *International Experience*: Lived and worked in 5 countries (over seven years in Europe); traveled to 20+
- *Creative Roles*: Screenwriter, Director, Producer, Assistant Director, Press Producer, Music and Soundtrack
- *Industry Experience*: Hollywood, European, and American independent film industries
- *Humanitarian Involvement*: Human Rights Research (Balkans); Volunteer with IRC; Humanitarian trips to Central America and the Navajo Reservations
- *Certifications*: TEFL (Madrid, Spain)

CURRENT PROJECTS

- *Pre-production on feature-length directorial debut.*
- *Ongoing development of U.S. and European feature films with Caravaggio Films.*
- *Collaborating with Academy Award-winning producer in Hollywood and Europe as lead screenwriter and creative producer.*

LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY EXPERIENCE

Policy Fellow & Assistant to Lt. Governor (Texas Capitol) – Austin, TX – 2009

- *Fellow, Senate Hispanic Research Council*
- *Assisted Lt. Governor during 81st Legislative Session on legislative and community initiatives*