

MIKE BENCIVENGA

MikeBencivenga.com

Writer/Director/Producer

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FILM WORK:

- **OUT OF NOWHERE** (2023) Wrote modern-day noir thriller feature.
- **SPACE-CATION LAND** (2022) Wrote original sci-fi comedy feature.
- **HAUNTED HEART** (2021) Wrote original rom-comedy feature. Attached to direct. Currently in development with producer Brady Kirchberg.
- **BILLY & RAY** (2018) Wrote comedy screenplay based on his award-winning play. Optioned by Academy Award Winning producer Robert Greenhut.
- **GREAT PLAINS** (2016) Co-wrote original screenplay for Mar Vista Films. Limited theatrical release and cable broadcast.
- **TALIESIN** (2014) Wrote original screenplay about the early, scandalous life of Frank Lloyd Wright. In development at Branded Pictures Entertainment.
- **RUNNING GUN** (2010) Wrote dramatic western screenplay telling the true story of legendary outlaw Billy the Kid. Optioned by PCH Films in LA.
- **HAPPY HOUR** (2004) Co-wrote and directed feature film drama starring Anthony LaPaglia, Eric Stoltz & Robert Vaughn. Limited theatrical release.
- **LOSERS IN LOVE** (1993) Wrote, directed and produced independent feature. comedy starring Nick Searcy and Alicia Brandt. Limited theatrical release.

TELEVISION WORK:

- **POKER FACE** (2021) Wrote pilot for a half-hour comedy series.
- **CHASING THE DARK** (2021) Wrote pilot and bible for an hour-long dramatic series. In development at Branded Pictures Entertainment in LA.
- **ENCINO, SCI** (2016) Wrote seven-episode comedy web series.
- **THE JONES** (2014) Wrote four episodes of a half hour comedy series.
- **EYEWITNESS NEWS** (1983 to Present) Editor/Camera/Web writer and Producer at WABC-TV; the number one news station in the USA.
- **YOKO ONO: THEN AND NOW** (1984) Supervising Editor and Associate Producer of a full-length documentary about Yoko Ono. Presented on PBS.
- **HBO FILMS** (1980) Wrote, directed and performed in short films for HBO.
- **SESAME STREET** – (1976 - 1980) Animator and Voice Artist for PBS series.

THEATER WORK:

- **TALK OF THE TOWN** (2021) Wrote full-length comedy based on James Thurber's novel 'The Years With Ross' with the Thurber estate's permission.
- **COMPROMISED** (2019) Wrote full-length drama. Public readings in NYC and LA.
- **WASTED DAYS** (2018) Wrote full-length drama. Read at The Blank in LA.

- **MINUET ON THIRD** (2017) Wrote full-length comedy for Purple Rose Theater.
- **BAD HEARTS** (2015) - Wrote full-length drama. Read at The Blank in LA.
- **SUMMER ON FIRE** (2016) Wrote full-length political comedy. Produced at the Scorpion Theater in Calgary, Canada.
- **BILLY & RAY** (2013 - 2014) Wrote full-length comedy produced at The Falcon Theater in LA and the Vineyard Theater in NYC. Directed by Garry Marshall.
- **COUPLETS** (2003) Wrote and directed full-length original play with music adapted from Shakespeare's. Produced at the Collective Unconscious in NYC.
- **SINGLE BULLET THEORY** (2002) Wrote full-length comedy. Produced at the 29th Street Repertory Theatre in NYC.
- **THE CHAINSAW BOYS** (1997 – 2003) Produced and performed in a long running improvised comedy show, featured in the NYC Fringe Festival (2000).

EDUCATION:

- **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY** (1978 – 1980) Tisch School of the Arts.
- **ADELPHI UNIVERSITY** (1974 –1976) Film, television and theater major. (Returned 2016 – 2017) Graduated with BA Degree - Summa Cum Laude.

AWARDS:

- **BLACK LIST/COVERFLY RED LIST:** *HAUNTED HEART* (2023). Among the 'best scripts' on The Black List and Top 1% of comedies on Coverfly.
- **SCREENCRAFT STAGE PLAY – Winner:** *TALK OF THE TOWN* (2023)
- **AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL – Best Stage Play:** *TALK OF THE TOWN* (2022)
- **DAYTON FUTUREFEST – Audience Favorite:** *TALK OF THE TOWN* (2021)
- **WIKI CONTEST – Best TV Script:** *CHASING THE DARK* (2021)
- **PLAYWRIGHTS FIRST – Best Play:** *COMPROMISED* (2020)
- **EUGENE O'NEILL AWARD – Semi-Finalist:** *COMPROMISED* (2020).
- **ROBERT J. PICKERING AWARD:** *MINUET ON THIRD* (2019).
- **PAGE AWARDS – Best Historical Screenplay:** *BILLY & RAY* (2018)
- **STANLEY DRAMA AWARD:** *BAD HEARTS* (2016)
- **CHRISTOPHER WOLK PRIZE:** *SUMMER ON FIRE* (2014).
- **W. KEITH HERRICK PRIZE:** *BILLY & RAY* (2013)
- **VAIL FILM FESTIVAL – Best Screenplay:** *RUNNING GUN* (2010)
- **VISIONFEST – Best Screenplay:** *SINGLE BULLET THEORY* (2005)
- **DESERT REEL FESTIVAL – Best Director:** *HAPPY HOUR* (2004)
- **TIBURON FILM FESTIVAL – Best Screenplay:** *HAPPY HOUR* (2004)
- **FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL – Audience Award:** *HAPPY HOUR* (2004)
- **PRISM AWARD:** *HAPPY HOUR* (2004) Awarded for outstanding creative contribution in the accurate depiction of drug and alcohol abuse in Los Angeles.
- **HOUSTON FILM FESTIVAL – Best Low Budget Feature:** *LOSERS IN LOVE* (1993)
- **THREE EMMYS and EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD:** (1993 to 2022) Awarded for work as Editor/Producer/Writer at WABC-TV in New York.