

# MIKE BENCIVENGA

*Writer/Director/Producer*

---

Phone: 917-797-7654

E-Mail: imshmenge@aol.com

DG Member: 98288

www.MikeBencivenga.com

## FILM WORK:

- **SPACE-CATION LAND** (2022) Wrote original sci-fi comedy feature.
- **HAUNTED HEART** (2021) Wrote original rom-com feature. 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 suspense screenplay produced by Mar Vista Films in Los Angeles. 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 producers in Los Angeles.
- **SINGLE BULLET THEORY** (2006) Wrote comedy screenplay adaptation based on his play.
- **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.

## THEATER WORK:

- **TALK OF THE TOWN** (2021) Wrote full-length comedy based on James Thurber's novel 'The Years With Ross' with permission from the Thurber estate.
- **COMPROMISED** (2019) Wrote full-length drama and directed two public readings.
- **WASTED DAYS** (2018) Wrote full-length drama. Read at The Blank Theater in LA.
- **MINUET ON THIRD** (2017) Wrote full-length comedy produced as a staged reading at The Best Medicine Rep in Gaithersburg, Maryland.
- **BAD HEARTS** (2015) - Wrote full-length drama. Read at The Blank Theater in LA.
- **SUMMER ON FIRE** (2016) Wrote full-length political comedy read at The Blank Theater in LA and produced at the Scorpion Theater in Calgary, Canada.
- **BILLY & RAY** (2014) Wrote full-length comedy produced at The Falcon in LA and The Vineyard Theater in NYC. Both productions directed by the legendary Garry Marshall.
- **COUPLETS** (2003) Wrote and directed full-length original play with music adapted from the sonnets of William Shakespeare. Produced in New York City.
- **SINGLE BULLET THEORY** (2002) Wrote full-length comedy. Produced by The Lightning Strikes Theater Company at the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Repertory Theatre in NYC.
- **THE CHAINSAW BOYS** (1997 – 2003) Co-produced and performed in a long running improvised comedy show. Featured in the NYC Fringe Festival in 2000.

**TELEVISION WORK:**

- **POKER FACE** (2021) Wrote pilot and bible for a half-hour comedy series.
- **CHASING THE DARK** (2018) Wrote pilot and bible for an hour-long dramatic series. In development at Branded Pictures Entertainment.
- **ENCINO, SCI** (2016) Wrote comedy web series. Re-worked as half-hour sitcom in 2018.
- **EYEWITNESS NEWS** (1983 to Present) Editor/Camera/Web writer and Producer at WABC-TV; the number one news station in New York City.
- **YOKO ONO: THEN AND NOW** (1984) Supervising Editor and Co-producer of a full-length documentary about Yoko Ono. Presented on HBO and PBS.
- **HBO FILMS** (1980) Wrote, directed and performed in short films presented on HBO.
- **SESAME STREET** – (1976 - 1978) Worked as animator and voice artist on the much-celebrated children's TV program on PBS.

**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** and **COVERFLY RED LIST** – **HAUNTED HEART** (2022). Among the 'best scripts' on The Black List and Top 1% of comedies on Coverfly.
- **AUDIENCE FAVORITE** – **TALK OF THE TOWN** (2021) Awarded by Dayton FutureFest.
- **BEST TV SCRIPT** – **CHASING THE DARK** (2021) Awarded by The Wiki Screenplay Contest.
- **BEST PLAY** – **COMPROMISED** (2020) Awarded by Playwrights First in NYC.
- **EUGENE O'NEILL PRIZE (Semi-finalist)** – **COMPROMISED** (2020) Awarded by NPC.
- **ROBERT J. PICKERING AWARD** – **MINUET ON THIRD** (2019) Awarded for playwriting excellence in Branch County, MI.
- **BEST HISTORICAL SCREENPLAY** – **BILLY & RAY** (2018) PAGE International Awards in LA.
- **STANLEY DRAMA AWARD** – **BAD HEARTS** (2016) Awarded by Wagner College in NYC.
- **CHRISTOPHER WOLK PRIZE** – **SUMMER ON FIRE** (2014) Awarded for excellence in playwriting by the Abingdon Theater in NYC.
- **W. KEITH HERRICK PRIZE** – **BILLY & RAY** (2013) Best Play award presented by HRC Showcase Theater in Hudson, New York.
- **BEST SCREENPLAY** – **RUNNING GUN** (2010) Awarded by the Vail Film Festival.
- **BEST SCREENPLAY- SINGLE BULLET THEORY** (2005) Awarded by VISIONFEST '05 in NYC.
- **BEST DIRECTOR** – **HAPPY HOUR** (2004) Awarded by the Desert Reel Festival in Texas.
- **BEST SCREENPLAY- HAPPY HOUR** (2004) Awarded by the Tiburon Film Festival in CA.
- **PRISM AWARD** – **HAPPY HOUR** (2004) Awarded for outstanding creative contribution in the accurate depiction of drug and alcohol abuse. Presented in LA.
- **BEST LOW BUDGET FEATURE** - **LOSERS IN LOVE** (1993) Awarded by the Houston International Film Festival in Texas.
- **THREE EMMYS** and **THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD** – (1993 and 2021) Awarded for work as Editor/Producer/Writer at WABC-TV in New York.