

# Dylan Southard

dylansouthard@gmail.com • 510.541.8686  
www.dylansouthard.com

*A dramaturg, writer, producer, and teacher  
with over 15 years of experience*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### The California State University

2020—

**Lecturer, Department of Theatre and New Dance, Cal Poly Pomona** (2022)

**Guest Artist, CSU Summer Arts** (2021)

**Lecturer, Department of Theatre Arts, CSU Long Beach** (2020)

- Teach undergraduate courses in text analysis, film history and interactive VR storytelling.
  - Prepare and deliver lectures; develop, assign and evaluate coursework; implement assessments.
  - Adapted syllabus for remote learning and learned online teaching tools following pandemic.
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**VR Playhouse** *a start-up creative agency and production studio specializing in 360° video and XR media*

2014—2018

#### Senior Writer/Producer

- **Creative Leadership:** Wrote and edited scripts, briefs, and decks; identified talent and sourced material; responded to RFPs and led editorial briefings and ideation for branded campaigns; designed visual assets; organized reference material; oversaw casting and voiceover recording sessions, delivered pitch presentations.
  - **Project Management:** Hired and managed cross-functional teams during pre-production, production and distribution on over twenty experiential projects; served as primary liaison for internal stakeholders and clients, including AT&T, Time Warner and Red Bull; prepared and maintained project-planning documentation, including timelines, scopes and budgets; tracked progress on deliverables and oversaw milestone reviews.
  - **Public Relations & Market Development:** Created content for social media and website; wrote marketing copy; represented company and served as brand evangelist at industry events; utilized data analytics to formulate strategic solutions, build engagement and drive innovation.
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**Needtheater** *an award-winning non-profit theater company dedicated to new play development*

2008—2014

**Artistic Director** (2011—2014)

**Literary Manager** (2008—2011)

- **Creative Development & Production:** Read and assessed submitted scripts; produced and directed world premiere productions; coordinated ongoing development of new work, including interactive and immersive projects; built and maintained talent lists.
  - **Brand Identity:** Conceived, developed and designed company's identity through season programming strategies as well as outreach events, website design, traditional and social media, marketing copy, blog posts, and all consumer-facing content.
  - **Financial & Business Management:** Led all organizational planning; grew and maintained relationships with stakeholders; managed the company's donor database; executed fundraising events; oversaw budgets.
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**The Robey Theatre Company** *dedicated to plays written about the Global Black Experience*

2006—2020

#### Writing Instructor

- Led company's Playwrights Lab, meeting weekly to provide editorial and creative support for emerging writers; designed lab's curriculum, including writing exercises, discussion topics and guided feedback.
  - Oversaw continued script development, including workshops and full productions.
  - Managed online publication of select plays, including contract negotiations, formatting and design.
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**Center Theatre Group · The Geffen Playhouse · Boston Court Pasadena · Sundance Institute**

2005—

#### Script Analyst

- Read submitted scripts and write detailed evaluation reports.
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**Script Consultant** *working with theater companies and artists to provide creative and editorial analysis*

2005—

- **New Work Development:** Evaluate scripts, lead workshops, and produce notes for writers and directors.
- **Text Analysis:** Facilitate public and internal discussions, including post-show talkbacks; write program notes.
- **Research Coordination:** Conduct research and analyze material related to production themes, context and intentions; organize and present material to production team in a clear and concise manner.

*credits on over fifty productions and developmental workshops*

**Dramaturgy Fellow**

- Coordinated the theater's First Look reading series devoted to emerging playwrights.
- Assisted Artistic Director and Literary Manager with season planning process, including attending artistic meetings, reading submitted scripts, writing reports and responding to inquiries.

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**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Speaking Engagements:** 2017 Youtube VR Creators Lab; Digital Hollywood, "VR: The Director's Cut," 2017; Open Innovations Forum, "AR/VR Tech: Fantasies Become Real," Moscow, 2016; USC Marshall School of Business, "Storytelling, World-building & the Business Of Fun: Gaming & Interactive Entertainment," 2016
- **Critical Writing:** Work featured in *American Theatre* magazine and online at *Howlround* and *VR Scout*.

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**EDUCATION**

- **Wesleyan University** *Bachelor of Arts*, 2003
- **Internships:** Jersey Films (2002), Tollin Robbins Productions (2005-2006)
- Experienced with Macs and PCs, WordPress, Keynote, Final Draft, Slack, Jira, G Suite, Adobe creative suite
- Fluent in Italian, proficient in Spanish.

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**SELECT VIRTUAL REALITY PRODUCTION CREDITS****Producer - Original Content**

*We Live Here*, a 360° documentary made in collaboration with Oculus VR For Good, dir: Rose Troche, 2019  
[Girl, an immersive short film premiering at the Tribeca Film Institute, dir: Lauren Ludwig, 2017](#)  
*The Surrogate*, an interactive narrative combining 360° video with an explorable CGI environment, dir: Peter Flaherty, 2016, nominated: 2016 SXSW Innovation Award

**Producer - 360° Music Video**

["Not Above That" Dawn Richard, 2016](#)

**Producer - Branded Content**

"The Game of Life" Qualcomm, 2018  
"Coach 1941 - 360° Runway Show" Coach Fashion, 2017  
["Welcome to Jack St. Malo" Chevron, 2017](#)  
["Enter The Mind of Jack" Jack In The Box, 2016](#)  
"Dew X NBA: Tip-Off 360" Pepsi, 2016  
"Unlimited World 360" Boost Mobile, 2016  
"Redesigned, CA Style" Toyota, 2016  
"Circuitry of Life" Red Bull, 2015

**Writer**

*Rebound*, an original, episodic VR series; developed with Turner Entertainment, 2019  
*Mr. Mercedes: Lair Escape*, a VR escape room produced with AT&T, premiering at Comic-Con 2018  
[Defying The Nazis VR, dir: Elijah Allan-Blitz, co-produced with Time Life, PBS and Ken Burns, 2016](#)  
nominated: Best VR Documentary, 2017 Lumiere and Cine Golden Eagle Awards

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**SELECT THEATRE CREDITS**

\* = world premiere production

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**Production Dramaturg**

[Native Son, by Nambi E. Kelley, Antaeus Theatre, 2018](#)

winner: Best Adaptation, 2018 Stage Raw Awards

*The Kaidan Project*, by Chelsea Sutton & Lisa Dring, Rogue Artists Ensemble, 2017 \*

winner of 5 Ovation Awards, 2019; 8 nominations in total

*Fatboy*, by Tom Clancy, Needtheater, 2008

winner: Best Director-Comedy, Best Ensemble-Comedy 2009, LA Weekly Theater Awards