

MARNI R. ZELNICK

54 Mohawk Drive, Acton, MA 01720

(617) 504-6265 • marni.zelnick@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Award winning writer, director, and producer with experience developing projects from script to screen.
- Meticulous, detail-oriented organizer, who has managed project budgets up to \$5 million.
- Adept public speaker, equally fluent handling prepared remarks or unscripted Q&As.
- Skilled fundraiser and grant writer.
- Teacher and mentor, with experience at the elementary through graduate levels.
- Advocate for the representation of diverse voices in film.

AWARDS

\$100,000 Sloan Feature Film Production Grant • \$5,000 Sloan Writing Grant • \$10,000 Roger King Award • 2014 Jack London Spirit Award • 2010 Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Finalist • St. Louis International Film Festival New Filmmakers Forum Selectee • Winner of 11 Best Narrative Feature festival awards for DRUID PEAK

FILM

WRITER/ DIRECTOR	WOODLOCK (2023). Filmopoly, Nashville, TN. A young, married couple attending a friend's surprise wedding at a remote wooded resort, discover the groom is a psychopath and their lives are in danger. In development. Attached to direct.
WRITER/ DIRECTOR	UNTITLED FROHNMYER PROJECT (2022). A mother's relentless effort over four decades to save her three daughters, all afflicted with Franconi Anemia, forever changes both her family and the outcome for bone marrow transplant recipients worldwide. Based on the true story of Lynn Frohnmayer. In development. Independent project.
WRITER	HELP ME (2022). 513 Productions, Los Angeles, CA. A down-and-out millennial must fight for her life when she discovers the self-help seminar she's attending is actually a cult. Optioned.
CO-WRITER	VALENTINE (2019). THIS or THAT Films, Brooklyn, NY. A teenager fleeing sexual and gang violence in El Salvador is sheltered by a West Texas rancher on the cusp of bankruptcy. In development. Independent project.
WRITER	ROE V. WADE (2016). Page 1 Productions, Los Angeles, CA. Original screenplay. The true story of the landmark Supreme Court case, and the young women who won it. Write-for-hire. Sold. Owned by Mark Boal.
PRODUCER/ LINE PRODUCER	THE ADDERALL DIARIES (2016). Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles, CA. Starring: James Franco, Ed Harris, Amber Heard, Cynthia Nixon, Christian Slater. Writer and Adderall enthusiast Stephen Elliott reaches a low point when his estranged father resurfaces, claiming that Stephen has fabricated much of the dark childhood that fuels his writing. Released.
WRITER	ROXANA (2015). Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles. Adapted screenplay. A story of feminist awakening that explores one woman's willingness to live shamelessly outside the boundaries of an oppressively patriarchal society. Adapted from the novel <i>Roxana: The Fortunate Mistress</i> by Daniel Defoe. Sold. Owned by James Franco.
WRITER/ DIRECTOR	DRUID PEAK (2014). Producers: Julie Buck, Dana Morgan, Maureen Mayer. One Small Thing Productions, New York, NY. Starring: Spencer Treat Clark, Andrew Wilson, Rachel Korine. A coming-of-age story about a troubled teenage boy, who finds a home for himself tracking wolves in the wild lands of Wyoming. Released.

WRITER THE STRAIGHT (2012). Producers: Robert Profusek and Ryan Silbert. Toy Closet Films, New York, NY. The true story of the first armed student takeover in American history. Optioned. Independent project.

PRODUCER MALADIES (2013). Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles, CA. Starring James Franco, Catherine Keener, David Straithairn. A former soap opera star in the 1960s tries to restart his floundering creative career. **Released.**

PRODUCER/
LINE PRODUCER THE LETTER (2012). Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles, CA. Starring James Franco, Winona Ryder, Katherine Waterston, Josh Hamilton, Marin Ireland. A playwright suffering from paranoia and hallucinations attempts to stage a new production. **Released.**

PRODUCER HART CRANE: AN EXEGESIS (2011). Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles, CA. Featuring: James Franco, Langdon Hammer, Michael Shannon, Paul Mariani, Alan Williamson. A documentary feature exploring the work of the poet Hart Crane. **Released.**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER CAMP VICTORY, AFGHANISTAN (2010). Producer: Kusama Hinte and Dallas Brennan Rexer. Bolo Productions/ITVS, New York, NY. A documentary feature about the Afghan officers charged with building a new Afghan National Army, and the U.S. National Guardsmen sent to mentor them. **Released.**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHADOWS & LIES (2010). James Franco and Vince Jolivette. Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles, CA. Starring James Franco, Julianne Nicholson, Martin Donovan, Josh Lucas. After years in exile, a man returns to New York to find the girl he loves. **Released.**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR THE LOCKSMITH (2010). Producers: The Barnes Brothers. Spare Key Productions, New York, NY. Starring Anslem Richardson and Ana Reeder. A prisoner on work release tries to make it safely back to jail. **Released.**

SHORT FILMS

WRITER/DIRECTOR SO SHE FELL SILENT (2009), DOE (2007), JEREMY'S MUSIC (2005), TRUST ME (2005), SAVE THIS LIFE (2004), INFIDELITY (2001), JEVAN (2000), THE ENVELOPE (2000).

PRODUCER THE CLERK'S TALE (2010), ZOO ZOOS AND WHAM WHAMS (2012), THE KOOK (2011), ESQUINEROS (2008), IVAN THE HERO (2006), POTTERSFIELD (2005), MIGHTY G (2005), FUZZY & MIMI (2004), THE TRANSCENDENT FUNCTION (2004), MOVIEFONE (2004).

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SO OVER YOU (2012), GOOD INTENTIONS (2011), CUTS (2008), MAX ART (2005), DEADLINE (2005), SQUIGGLES (2005).

TELEVISION

WRITER CIVIL WARRIORS (2021). Producer: Jeff Hoffman. Above the Clouds Media Group, Washington, D.C. Limited series. The true story of Ness, Motley and the legal siege on Big Tobacco. Adapted from the book *Civil Warriors* by Dan Zegart. Write-for-hire. In development.

WRITER COUPLES (2016). Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles, CA. Series. A group of highly educated adults in the 1960s form an experimental society to explore the relationship between sex and marriage. Based on the novel *Couples* by John Updike. **Sold. Owned by James Franco.**

PRODUCER GOON SQUAD (2014). Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles, CA. Series. A punk rock coming-of-age story about a group of teens struggling to find their way through a dazzling but destructive world. Starring Ashley Benson, James Franco, Hank Azaria, and Nina Ljeti. Based on the novel *A Visit From the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan. **Pilot produced.**

WRITER THE ABANDONED SCRIPTURES (2013). Rabbit Bandini Productions, Los Angeles, Ca. Series. A dramatic exploration of the “lost” scriptures of the Bible. Write-for-hire. Owned by James Franco.

TEACHING

ASSOCIATE CHAIR Film & Television Department, Boston University, Boston, MA. Responsibilities include working in collaboration with the Chair to set department goals and oversee the daily functioning of all programs, including handling student and faculty issues, drafting budget and search memos, assisting with the Academic Program Review and implementation of External Review findings, overseeing curriculum and program changes, including the development of an MFA Program in Production, organizing and establishing new production safety guidelines and safety seminars, assisting with the annual Redstone Film Festival and Fleder-Rosenberg Screenplay Contest, writing course and eCAP proposals, hosting Open House events for prospective and incoming students, organizing academic conferences and events in collaboration with CILECT North American as well as the MPC, other administrative duties as needed. Currently serving on the Tenure & Promotions Task Force, and Chair & Associate Dean’s council. 2022-present.

ASSITANT PROFESSOR Boston University, Boston, MA. Currently teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in film and television producing, screenwriting, and production. Appointment includes faculty meetings for multiple programs, committee work, including hiring committees and graduate application review, student advising, and attendance at open houses. Coordinates and serves as a judge for the Fleder-Rosenberg Feature Screenplay Contest. Coordinates and serves as a host for Cinematheque guests. Developed a new three-part course path for MFA Screenwriting students: Writing the Social Purpose Short, Directing for Screenwriters, and Producing the Social Purpose Short. Fall 2020-Present. Currently serving on the DEI Committee, and the Center for Social Impact Communication Committee. Developing a new cross-college collaboration course with JO that will pair advanced journalism students with screenwriting students to write feature screenplays based on true stories. 2020-2022.

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Boston University, Boston, MA. Taught graduate and undergraduate courses in film and television writing and producing. Appointment included faculty meetings and committee work. Fall 2019-2020.

ADJUNCT Boston University, Boston, MA. Taught graduate and undergraduate screenwriting courses in both film and television. Classes included Screenwriting I, Screenwriting II, Screenwriting III, Episodic Drama, Script Analysis, and Creative Producing II. Fall 2017-2019.

GUEST LECTURER Moses Brown School, Providence, RI. Taught annual creative writing seminars for 7th and 8th grade students. Fall 2014-2020.

INSTRUCTOR New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts. Taught a class for graduating students called Final Reel that guided degree candidates from script to screen to their first reel piece. Wrote evaluations, issued grades. Spring Semesters 2009, 2010, 2011.

1st GRADE TEACHER Alain Lock Charter School, Chicago, IL. Full-time 1st Grade Lead Teacher. Performed all duties associate with a classroom teacher, including preparing lesson plans, administering standardized tests, issuing report cards, and conducting parent-teacher conferences. 2003-2004 School Year.

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANT *Ending the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* by Robert Zelnick (The Hoover Institution, October 2007). Conducted first-hand interviews with political leaders, diplomats, intelligence sources, legislators and academicians on the state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the threat of a nuclear Iran. Field work included travel to Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Wrote sections of text and edited final submission.

- RESEARCH ASSISTANT *Frost/Nixon: Behind the Scenes of the Nixon Interviews* by Sir David Frost (HarperCollins, October 2007). Conducted interviews. Prepared original transcripts for publication. Wrote and edited sections of text.
- RESEARCH ASSISTANT *Iraq: Last Chance* by Robert Zelnick (*Policy Review*, Issue No. 140, December 2006 & January 2007). Spent one month in Baghdad and northern Iraq conducting first-hand interviews with U.S. military, intelligence and diplomatic personnel, as well as Iraqi leaders, journalists, translators and contract workers. Wrote sections of text and edited final submission.
- RESEARCH ASSISTANT *Israel's Unilateralism: Beyond Gaza* by Robert Zelnick (Hoover Press, 2006). Conducted first-hand interviews in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Explored the disengagement process, the evolution of the policy behind it, and the possible long-term consequences of a unilateral approach. Wrote sections of text and edited final submission.
- PROGRAM FELLOW/
FIELD REP Refugees International, Washington, D.C. Generated needs assessment and advocacy plan for the endangered Mlabri people of Naan Province, Thailand. Conducted extensive research on Kurdish-Arab relations in Northern Iraq, rape as a weapon of war, HIV/AIDS and famine. Researched and authored articles for RI's "Forgotten People" series. Handled media relations and outreach activities. 2002-2004.
- RESEARCH ASSISTANT *The Strong Man: John Mitchell, Nixon and Watergate* by James Rosen (Doubleday, 2008). Conducted historical research and fact-checking. Organized and edited text. 2001.

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
MFA, Film

NEW YORK, NY
2012

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
BA, English Literature & Creative Writing, Film & Television Studies

HANOVER, NH
summa cum laude, 2001

TECHNICAL SKILLS

EP/MovieMagic Budgeting & Scheduling • Final Cut Pro • Avid • Premiere • Final Draft • Excel • PowerPoint • Adobe Creative Cloud • SAG, AFTRA/ACTRA, AFM & Teamster Agreements • PADI Open Water & Deep Diver Certified

VOLUNTEER WORK

Marathon Fundraiser • Travis Manion Foundation • Hale Reservation • St. Jude Hospital • \$25,000+ raised

BOSTON UNIVERSITY – TEACHING & SERVICE

Courses Taught

FT 411 Screenwriting I
FT 412 Screenwriting II
FT 542 Advanced Screenwriting
FT 512 Writing Episodic Drama for Television (MFA)
FT 729 Script Analysis (MFA)
FT 582 Writing the Narrative Short (MFA)
FT 720 Writing the Social Purpose Short (MFA)
FT 420 Creative Producing II (undergraduate)
FT 525 Creative Producing II (MSTV)
FT 552 Special Topics: Directing for Screenwriters (MFA)
FT 552 Special Topics: Producing the Social Purpose Short (MFA & undergraduate production)
Department Intimacy Coordinator
MSTV Thesis Advising
Directed Studies

Course Path Developed

FT 720 Writing the Social Purpose Short (MFA)
FT 552 Special Topics: Directing for Screenwriters (MFA)
FT 552 Special Topics: Producing the Social Purpose Short (MFA & undergraduate)
<https://www.bu.edu/com/articles/film-for-thought/>

University Service

COM Curriculum Committee (2024-present)
FTV Search Committee Co-Chair (Screenwriting, 2024-present)
JO Search Committee Member, DEI Rep (Broadcast Journalism, 2024-present)
Center for Social Impact Communication (founding committee) (2022-present)
FTV Search Committee Member, DEI Rep (Producing/Management, 2023-2024)
JO Search Committee Member, DEI Rep (Newsroom Editor, 2023-2024)
FTV Curriculum Subcommittee, Co-Chair (2023-2024)
DEI Committee (2022-2024)
DEI Inclusion Subcommittee (2023-2024)
Tenure & Promotions Task Force (2023-2024)
Production Curriculum Refresh Subcommittee (2023-2024)
Faculty Council (2021-2022)
Cinematheque Host (Christina Voros, Sophie Goodheart, Kelly Reichardt, Meg Smaker)
FTV Search Committee Chair (Production, 2021-2022)
FTV Search Committee Member, DEI Rep (Production, two hires, 2022-2023)
CILECT North America “Ethics of Representation” Conference Organizer (2023)
CILECT North America Film Festival Jury (2020)
MPC Student Media Summit Pitch Fest Committee (annual)
MFA Screenwriting Admissions Committee (annual)
Fleder-Rosenberg Short Screenplay Contest Jury (annual)
Fleder Rosenberg Feature Screenplay Contest Chair & Jury (annual)
Redstone Film Festival Jury (annual)

Trainings

Consent Studio by IDC - Intimacy Coordinator Training Level 1
Inclusive Teaching Training
Implicit Bias and Microaggressions Training
BU Diversity & Inclusion Faculty Search Training
Clifton Strengths Leadership Training
COM Leadership Training (Ken Freeman, Questrom Dean Emeritus, BU Interim President)

Media Appearances

The Crux podcast (2023)
<https://www.thecruxpodcast.org/>