**Erik Schmudde**

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**Writer | Producer – Publishing and Entertainment (Film/Television)**

A passionate, empathetic, and quality-driven professional writer and development producer in the film arena, including experience in feature film screenwriting and creative writing, unleashing imagination and thoughts to deliver the best possible results. Possesses a strong track record and expertise in developing film ideas to the commission, building extensive projects from original conception, and managing through the final marketing campaign. Hold the ability to conjure up new and exciting ideas and convey them to the audience in an engaging way while employing imagination and discipline to meet deadlines. Quick and strategic with proven experience and thorough knowledge of the entire production lifecycle, including studio environments. Solid production studio knowledge and established a niche in visualizing and defining the film's style and structure, with the capability to act as both a storyteller and team leader and bring this vision to reality. Proficient in taking a concept, in the form of an outline or treatment of a project or series idea and creatively expand upon it, flushing out all aspects of what is needed to be on the page along with a deep understanding of promotional storytelling, documentary formats, and scripted stories.

***Accomplishments across the Tenure***

***~ Franchise Development & Brand Management on Disney films: “PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2-4,” “ALICE IN WONDERLAND,” “TRON LEGACY,” PRINCE OF PERSIA,” “THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN,” HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3,” and “HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE.”***

***~ Creative Executive/Development notes on Infinitum-Nihil (Johnny Depp’s Production Company) films: “LONE RANGER,” ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS,” and “PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES.”***

***~ Launched Imprint Division for Infinitum-Nihil in cohesion with HarperCollins releasing “HOUSE OF EARTH” and “SEE HEAR YOKO.”***

***~ Author of “DISNEY/PIXAR TOY STORY MOVIE THEATER,” and “THE RELIABLES.”***

***~*** ***Screenwriter of “INSECURITY GUARDS” and “THE TALL TALE OF MAD MEL MELVIN.”***

***~ Editor of “THE SWORD IN THE STONE (Disney Die-cut Series).”***

***~ Generated relationships with some of the biggest companies in Hollywood. Studios: Disney, Warner Bros, Universal, Fox. Talent Agencies: United Talent Agency (UTA) and Creative Artist Agency (CAA).***

***SKILL AREAS:*** *Film & Television Development ⬩ Screenwriting, Budgeting and Scheduling ⬩ Creative Writing ⬩ Franchise Development ⬩ Brand Development & Management ⬩ Presenting | Pitching ⬩ Script Development ⬩ Narrative Storytelling ⬩* *Pre-Production, Post Production ⬩ Marketing Campaign ⬩* *Project Management ⬩* *Product Development ⬩ Global Relationship Building & Management ⬩ Proofreading/Editing/Recreating ⬩* *Effective Communication ⬩* *Time Management ⬩* *Networking*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Producer | Creative Writer***(Self Employed)* ***–* Chicago, IL | 2017 – Present**

*Author multiple projects working with a wide variety of clients from Publishing Groups to Fortune-500 Companies*

* Developed stories for new brands while writing compelling manuscripts and screenplays for a variety of products in the publishing, film, and television worlds. Generated ideas and concepts, created engaging plots with a solid structure, wrote outlines, treatments, dialogue, and stage directions, and guided the overall creative vision. Worked on multiple projects at once while having the ability to accept constructive criticism and never compromising the level of creativity.
* Authored the children's book "DISNEY/PIXAR TOY STORY MOVIE THEATER," which was based on the Disney/Pixar billion-dollar franchise. Authored the Middle-grade novel "THE RELIABLES" (about 41,000 words) and edited the children's book "THE SWORD IN THE STONE," which is part of the Disney Die-cut Classic Series by Studio Fun International Publishing Group.
* Completed the feature-length screenplays "INSECURITY GUARDS," and "THE TALL TALE OF MAD MEL MELVIN," while writing an original Theme Park Show concept for Walt Disney Imagineering and the Disney California Adventure Theme Park, which averages over 9 million visitors annually.

**Infinitum Nihil – Los Angeles, CA | 2012 – 2017**

*Infinitum Nihil is a Johnny Depp’s Production Company, developing material for Film, Television, and Publishing*

***Creative Executive, Film and Television | 2013 – 2017***

* Liable for the development of high-profile films. Guided and supervised all creative aspects, collaborating with writers, directors, studios, agents, and third-party producers to shape film and television stories from concept through final presentation and script. Effectively generated and managed working relationships with some of the biggest companies in Hollywood. Studios: Disney, Warner Bros, Universal, Fox. Talent Agencies: United Talent Agency (UTA) and the Creative Artist Agency (CAA).
* Responsible for script development including, but are not limited to providing creative support (notes, lists, research, etc.) on projects through all stages of development, production and post; developing projects with senior executives as well as develop own long form projects to sell to networks; reading, formally assessing scripts in writing for senior executives; writing pitches; generating new concepts; and pitching projects to networks.
* Stayed current on network mandates. Networked and maintained relationships with writers, agents, managers and network executives to drive new business. Developed and maintained strong relationships with creators, writers, studios, directors, and talent representatives.
* Tracked and scouted emerging talent including studios, writers, directors, animators, developers, and creative ideates. Tracked potential talent through: novels, comics, animation, films, television shows, plays, podcasts, etc. Made recommendations for talent targets for upcoming projects, including studios, writers, and directors.
* Built studio, writer, developer, director and animator lists for current and potential projects, and maintained lists for: internal tracking and development, talent, competitor information, and research, etc.

***Key Accomplishments:***

* Accomplished developing an original film idea, hiring a screenwriter and managing from concept through story pitch, resulting in secured financing from The Walt Disney Studios. The film is currently In Development.
* Succeeded in managing and building strong working relationships with writers, agents, and industry executives, as well as other creative communities, to scout emerging and diverse writing talent.
* Built a well-organized writer database covering samples, credits, representation, and additional relevant information.

***Senior Project Manager, Film and Television | 2012 – 2013***

* Implemented a structured workflow, streamlined operations, and managed budgets and schedules to ensure maximum productivity during the film and television development process, reporting directly to the President.
* Responsible for the successful bidding, production, and management of production projects as well as identifying and developing new business opportunities within projects. Managed and tracked cost efficiency of individual projects.
* Managed and allocated resources for projects, including liaising with global studios. Managed P&L on individual projects and delivered pre-approved profit margins. Achieved set annual revenue targets also involved in financial forecasting for revenues for future film and television production projects.
* Effectively handled and approved all studio marketing materials (movie trailers, campaign art, publicity), consumer products (toys, games, publishing), and Theme Park submissions on behalf of Johnny Depp.
* Delivered clear reporting of film and television project status by establishing a new internal online system and creating executive dashboards that include: timelines, milestone tracking, budget status, book options, and coverage.
* Responsible for writing notes on drafts, identifying key talent, and working with production partners to identify talent for shows in development. Identified new writers and creative talent. Formed strong relationships within the creative community (including writers, producers, directors, agents, managers, etc.) and with creative partners.
* Selected, organized, and presented all development deliverables to the President: Reviewed work to ensure everything is on-brand and provided the development team with feedback and guidance whenever necessary.
* Conducted research and prepared briefing materials, agendas, and decks for all executive-level meetings.
* Provided feedback to Creative Executives on their projects by reading screenplays and developing notes.

**THE WALT DISNEY STUDIOS – Burbank, CA | 2008 – 2011**

***Project Manager, Global Franchise & Brand Development***

* Directed cross-company brand strategies for all live-action film properties (including Jerry Bruckheimer Productions and Tim Burton Productions). Evaluated all live-action films in early development for revenue opportunities and researched to inform global brand strategy and product development.
* Served as a strategic partner with Fashion/Home, Toys, and Disney Store businesses to guide and shape the product development process. Work directly with a cross-functional team, ensuring that work is completed on time and that final products meet the expectations of clients. Identified, secured, and globally distributed film assets on time.
* Key talent contact for product plans, asset needs, marketing and line reviews. Ensured creative and strategic alignment across all company divisions (Marketing, Consumer Products, Digital Media, Music, Parks, & Resorts).
* Collaborated with Global Creative Leads and managed the development of style and branding guides, along with global creative presentations. Succeeded in collaborating with Business Affairs and Legal to ensure all necessary rights were obtained to use creative assets for product development.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Bachelor of Arts**: **Film/Writing |** Columbia College of Chicago – Chicago, IL | 2005

***Trainings & Seminars:***

* The Walt Disney Company: Facilitative Leadership Program
* The Walt Disney Company: Creative Retreat Seminar

***Technical Skills:*** Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) | Final Draft | Adobe Photoshop | Keynote

***Affiliations:*** Columbia College of Chicago Alumni Chapter