

**Michael Kras**

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### HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Wide-ranging professional experience as a writer, director, actor, teacher, magician, content creator, administrator
- Extensive and diverse history of widely successful creative work, individually and with collaborators
- Skills such as creative writing, editing, SEO-driven content creation, publicity, creative producing, teaching, directing, social media management, artistic direction

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### **Toronto Illusions & Magic Associate**

##### ***Harry Potter and the Cursed Child – Mirvish Productions (April 2022-July 2023)***

- As part of the directing team, teach and coach the principal cast, understudies, stage managers, and crew on nearly 100 magic effects designed for the play, from small sleight of hand tricks to complex large-scale illusions
- Continue to refine all illusions & magic through rehearsals and performances, troubleshooting issues that arise while upholding the high-level standards of this multi-award-winning smash hit production and intellectual property
- Assist with directing all magic sequences for the show, integrating magic technique with text work, voice work, movement, and storytelling while offering notes and adjustments on an ongoing basis
- Assume an active leadership role in the rehearsal and performance process, balancing precision and rigour with lightness and empathy

#### **Head Writer & Editor/Digital Media Manager**

##### ***Urbanicity Hamilton (September 2019-Current)***

- Write, research, and format at least 2 daily articles about Hamilton, Ontario arts & culture, entertainment, local and national news, food & drink, small businesses, pop culture, events & tourism
- Regularly write, edit, and publish original long-form features, top 10 lists, and interviews
- Manage a small team of writers creating daily written digital content, edit and publish articles on schedule
- Play a key role in building the brand's growing audience of over 95,000+ followers across platforms
- Assist in managing and curating all social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Threads)
- Co-hosted the Urbanicity Hamilton Podcast for discussions about local news and events
- Daily use of WordPress, Trello, Microsoft Word, Photoshop (basic), Dropbox, Zoom, Buffer, Monday.com

#### **Canada Council Artist-in-Residence**

##### ***Theatre Aquarius (September 2022-April 2023)***

- Writing a new original musical about TikTok and social media influencer culture in collaboration with composer Stephen Ingram with the support and resources of the Canada Council for the Arts
- Collaborating in-person and remotely with artists on a regular basis through writing sessions, private workshops, and creative consultations
- Work towards artistic goal of a new musical serving young adult audiences in Canada and beyond.

#### **OAC Playwright-in-Residence**

##### ***Essential Collective Theatre (January 2021-January 2022)***

- Writing a new play with the support and resources of Essential Collective Theatre and the Ontario Arts Council
- Meeting and collaborating regularly with artistic director of the theatre for developmental notes and rewrites
- Working towards artistic goal of a new play serving young audiences in the Hamilton/Niagara region

#### **OAC Playwright-in-Residence**

##### ***Roseneath Theatre (December 2019-December 2020)***

- Writing an entertaining, challenging, and educational new play for high school audiences with the support and resources of Roseneath Theatre and the Ontario Arts Council

- Meeting and collaborating regularly with artistic director of the theatre for developmental notes and rewrites
- Working toward artistic goals of creating a piece of socially conscious theatre for young high school audiences
- Play subsequently received full production with Roseneath Theatre, touring to schools and venues around Ontario in Fall 2022 to great acclaim.

#### **Grant Juror – Theatre Projects**

##### ***Ontario Arts Council (August 2018-November 2018)***

- Assess and score 160 project grant applications from across Ontario based on merit, viability, and impact
- Attend meetings with fellow jurors to discuss and consider each individual application for funding
- Carefully distribute specific awards of public funding to selected grant applicants
- Maintain confidentiality and upstanding representation of the Ontario Arts Council

#### **Tour Creator and Director/Festival Co-Producer**

##### ***Frost Bites Festival (June 2017-March 2018)***

- Create and write a framework for an annual winter arts festival in Hamilton
- Coordinate, hire, and train performers and volunteers for the festival
- Social media and publicity management, project management using Asana
- Data entry and management for festival audience development

#### **Box Office Administrator/Small Business Partnerships Coordinator**

##### ***Theatre Aquarius (2016-Current)***

- Patron services, database management, ticketing for a not-for-profit theatre
- Reception, mailings, filing, phone and email communication
- Copy editing and proofreading for marketing materials
- Strong experience with Microsoft Office Suite, Theatre Manager
- Maintain positive relationships with patrons, small businesses, sponsors, subscribers, donors
- Curate and coordinate a diverse selection of local businesses for partnerships

#### **Contributing Writer**

##### ***Intermission Magazine (2017)***

- Writing and editing of a research-based article about the theatre culture of Hamilton, Ontario
- Facilitated interviews with relevant subjects, integrating them into the piece
- Worked closely with editing staff on the piece over a two-month period to fit *Intermission's* image

#### **Artistic Director/Resident Artist/Creative Producer**

##### ***Broken Soil Theatre (2012-Current)***

- Fulfilling artistic mandate toward producing content to engage with emerging local audiences
- Writing and producing award-winning original new arts projects in the Hamilton area
- Building and maintaining relationships with local and regional media outlets
- Successfully schedule, manage, and lead rehearsals and meetings
- Creation and implementation of publicity and social media strategies for individual events
- Community outreach and engagement with local organizations

#### EDUCATION

Humber College - *Theatre Performance (Advanced Diploma, 2012-2015)*

#### PUBLICATIONS

The Team (published in *Fierce: Five Plays for High Schools*) – Scirocco Drama/J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing, October 2019

#### AWARDS AND HONOURS

- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Theatre Direct, 2023)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Tottering Biped Theatre, 2023)
- Canada Council for the Arts Explore & Create Grant (2022)

- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Suitcase in Point, 2022)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Talk is Free Theatre, 2022)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Carousel Players, 2021)
- Ontario Arts Council Theatre Project Grant (2022)
- Ontario Arts Council Theatre Project Grant (2021)
- Canada Council for the Arts Explore & Create Grant (2021)
- Ontario Arts Council Playwright-in-Residence Grant (2021)
- Ontario Arts Council Theatre Project Grant (2020)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Theatre Aquarius, 2020)
- Ontario Arts Council Playwright-in Residence Grant (2019)
- Ontario Arts Council Theatre Project Grant (2019)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Carousel Players, 2019)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Theatre Aquarius, 2018)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Essential Collective Theatre, 2018)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Theatre Aquarius, 2017)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Young People's Theatre, 2016)
- Ontario Arts Council Recommender Grant (Recommended by Roseneath Theatre, 2016)
- City of Hamilton Arts Award 2016, 2017, 2019 (Nominee, Emerging Playwright)
- Safe Words New Canadian Play Award (Finalist, 2017)
- Herman Voaden National Playwriting Prize (Queen's University, 2017/18)
- Playwrights Guild of Canada Tom Hendry Award (Nominee, 2018)