

# TRAI CARTWRIGHT, MFA

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## EDUCATION

### NEW YORK UNIVERSITY TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

New York, New York  
A.A. in Liberal Arts, Honors  
B.A. in Film & Television  
Production, Fall 1991.

### COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Fort Collins, Colorado.  
Attended MFA Creating  
Writing Fiction program  
Fall 2009 – Spring 2010.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE, MFA

Palm Desert, California.  
Conferred June 2012.  
Double major: Fiction,  
Screenwriting.  
Chair: Tod Goldberg.

## KEY SKILLS

Highly-rated university level  
teacher \* classroom & online  
\* screenwriting, fiction &  
nonfiction expertise \*  
diversity focused \* graduate  
& undergraduate \* team  
leader \* project manager \*  
committee leader \* marketing  
& business development \*  
media production \* arts &  
cultural entrepreneur

## SUMMARY

**TRAI CARTWRIGHT, MFA**, is a 30-year creative writing specialist of screenwriting, fiction, and nonfiction. While in Los Angeles, she was a screenwriter, independent film producer, story consultant, and development executive for Leonardo DiCaprio, HBO, Paramount Pictures, Universal Studios, New Lines Cinema, and 20th Century Fox. Trai currently teaches all genres of creative writing, film production, and creative entrepreneurship for University College of Denver's masters program, private classes, and writers conferences. She has taught at 8 college film departments, including two graduate departments, has built curriculum for both. Trai is also a one-on-one development editor and ghostwriter. She is the producer of several short form projects and four independent films, including a short film currently on the festival circuit.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Denver Professional Creative Writing MA Program, Denver, CO

Adjunct Professor, Winter 2018 - Present. Online  
Asynchronous, Live and Hybrid Courses: "Writing the  
Screenplay," "Writing the TV Pilot," "Adapting Literature to  
Film," "Arts and Cultural Entrepreneurship," "Marketing for  
Writers," "The Writing Life," "Social Media and Digital  
Marketing," Capstone Thesis advisor.  
Developed curriculum for 3 courses.

### Western State College, MFA Program, Gunnison, CO

Screen and Television writing faculty. Summer 2017 –  
Summer 2020. Courses include: "Screenwriting,"  
"Advanced Screenwriting," "Writing the TV Pilot,"  
Capstone Thesis Advisor.

### University of Colorado Denver, Film, Television & Media Department, Denver, CO

Adjunct Professor, Fall 2018 – Spring 2021. "Scriptwriting;"  
"Writing the Short Film: Non-Fiction," "Production  
Management," "Diversity in Film."

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE, con't.**

### **Colorado Film School, Denver, CO**

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2013 – Spring 2018. Courses:  
“Writing the Short Script;” “Short Script Analysis;” “English Composition;” “Writing the TV Pilot;” “Writing the Web Series;” “Development of Film Expression.”  
Developed curriculum for 3 courses.

### **University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO**

Adjunct Professor, Fall 2012 – Spring 2016. Courses:  
“Introduction to Film Studies;” “Creative Writing;” “Children, Adolescent, and Young Adult Literature”

### **OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute (via Colorado State University), Fort Collins, CO**

Professor, Fall 2012 - Spring 2014. Courses: “In the Director’s Seat,” a study of feature films for senior learners.

### **AIMS Community College, Greeley, CO**

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2013. Course: “Introduction to Film Art.”

### **Front Range Community College, Fort Collins, CO**

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2011 – Spring 2013. Courses: “Writing for Film;” “Screenwriting II.”

### **Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne, WY**

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2010 – Fall 2012. Courses: “Screenwriting;” “Screenwriting II.”

### **Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, Denver, CO**

Creative Writing Teacher, 2008 – Present. “Healthy Relationships with Writing;” “Creating Your New Media Self;” “Adapting for Film;” “Screenwriting;” “Advanced Screenwriting;” “Writing for TV;” “Build a Better Book;” “Top 10 Lessons Movies Can Teach Novelists;” etc.

### **Poudre River Libraries, Fort Collins, CO**

Creative Writing Teacher, Spring 2011 – 2018. Courses taught: “Screenwriting 101 for ScriptFrenzy;” “Creating Literary Worlds;” “Writing Scenes that Pop!” “Novel Know-How for NaNoWriMo;” “Character Creation;” “Voices in Your Head;” etc.

### **Northern Colorado Writers, Fort Collins, CO**

Creative Writing Teacher, 2008 – Present. Over a dozen workshops presented including: “Tools of the Screenwriting Trade;” “Sceneworks;” “Rules for World Building;” “What Movies Have to Teach Novelists;” “Speed Dating Your Ideas;” “Genres, Themes and Your Story.”

### **Writers Conferences**

Creative Writing Teacher, 2008 – Present. Over four dozen workshops presented including:  
Writer’s Day Online Conference, 2023  
Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers Colorado Gold Conference, 2010 - 2014, 2016, 2022-2023  
Pikes Peak Writers Conference, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2018.  
Northern Colorado Writers. 2007 – 2018.  
Castle Rock Writers Conference, 2010 – 2017.

Denver ComiCon, 2016-2018.  
Young Filmmakers Project, 2016.  
Arapahoe Library ComiCon, 2015.  
Fort Collins ComiCon 2015.  
Denver Screenwriters, 2014, 2015.  
AnomolyCon, 2014, 2017.  
Moondance International Film Festival, 2014.  
Imaginantes Youth Arts Festival, 2010.  
Manitou Springs Author Fest, 2010.  
Society of Children Book Writers and Illustrators, 2009, 2014.  
Colorado Romance Writers, 2009.  
Laramie County Youth Camp, 2009, Cheyenne, Wyoming.  
Southern California Writers Conference, 2008, San Diego, California.

## **RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE - COLORADO**

### **Craftwrite.com, 1998 - Present, Los Angeles, California & Fort Collins, CO**

Founder, Teacher, Editor, and Development Consultant

- Teach 6 and 8 week live and online classes: A sampling of courses: “Screenwriting,” “Writing for TV,” “Building the Better Book,” “Production Management.”
- Read and provide one-on-one comprehensive editorial notes writers across multiple formats.
- Assist in brand and platform development, marketing and submission in screenwriting, TV, fiction and nonfiction.
- Have assisted in the publication of over two dozen clients.
- Project and Sales Manager for several companies, performing significant Research & Development and Marketing planning and execution.

### **MixFits: Makeup Sizzle Reel, 2023, Loveland, CO**

- Co-Producer of marketing video for company owned by Heather Tribbet.
- Pre-production and productions duties include casting, securing locations and crews, and post-production supervision.

### **In Time, 2021, Denver, CO**

- Co-Producer of short film, written by Naomi Wantwadi.
- Extensive development of script and training of new director.
- Pre-production and productions duties include casting, securing locations and crews, on-set problem solving, post-production supervision.
- Devising Marketing campaign and film festival strategy.
- Currently has been accepted in 5 film festivals.

### **Sundown Road, 2019, Denver, CO**

- Co-Producer of short film, written by Mark Kjelgaard.
- Extensive development of script.
- Pre-production and productions duties include casting, securing locations and crews, on-set problem solving, post-production supervision.
- Devised Marketing campaign and film festival strategy.

**We Are WIFMCO, 2019, Denver, CO**

- Created production strategy for Women in Film & Media Colorado short documentary.
- Organized and collected over 50 B-roll materials, including clips, pictures, and credits.

**Hidden Tigers, 2017 – 2019, Denver, CO**

- Co-Producer of docu-series. Developed content of 8 episode TV show.
- Pre-production and production duties included securing locations and crews for pilot shoot, supervising contracts, overseeing interview content,
- Post-production duties include helping create marketing materials, overseeing pilot edit, and outreach for pitches.

**Ultimate Pitchfest, April 2016 – February 2017, Denver, CO**

Co-Founder with Link Miller Productions

- Created digital video chat pitch event, the first ever in Colorado.
- Marketed online and via extensive personal contacts, resulting in the sale of 150 pitches.
- Outreach to agents, securing 20 for the day.
- Coordinated pitch communications and pitch sessions the day of -- 80% request rate.

**Stadium Anthems, 2015, Denver, CO**

Feature Film Associate Producer

- Consulted in development of screenplay.
- Assisted in pre-production of feature film, including casting, location scouting, hiring of department heads, etc.

**Colorado Smart Film Investment Coalition, 2015 – 2017, Denver, CO**

Co-Founder with Art Thomas, Producer and Advisor for film education organization

- Media incubator, in partnership with 12 local filmmakers.
- Development and creator of organization, including class scheduling.
- Taught classes to both producers and investors.
- Coordinated all PR materials and outreach.

**Explorati Teens, 2009-2019, Fort Collins & Denver, CO**

Executive Director and Teacher for non-profit teen literacy and arts program.

- Explorati Teen Writers Boot Camp, 2009 – Creation and presentation of one- to two-week programs including Fiction, Screenwriting for middle schoolers and high schoolers.
- Explorati Teens Film & Theater Camp, 2011, one week program.
- Camps have served over 225 Northern Colorado teens, and provided 75 scholarships to underserved and at risk teens.
- Top Budget: \$45,000, 2011.
- Total raised in-kind donations, grants and discounts: over \$73,000.

## RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE - LOS ANGELES

### ***Offshore*, 2007, Detroit, MI, Los Angeles, CA**

Feature Film Producer (uncredited)

- Consulted in development of screenplay and editing of feature film.
- Supervised the creation and coordination of all press materials, including EPKs, DVD content, Website and Filmmakers Interview; wrote all marketing materials.
- Responsible for domestic and international marketing strategy and outreach.
- Secured distribution with Entertainment 7.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, 2005-2007, Manager, Fox Mobile Studios, Los Angeles, CA**

- Developed mobile content campaigns to be sold on [www.jamster.com](http://www.jamster.com), ranging from applications to community-building and one-off concepts.
- Created PowerPoint and Excel presentations for research and campaign purposes.
- Spearheaded recruitment for Graphic Design Intern Lab, including out-reach to schools, evaluation of candidates and matriculation of interns.
- Managed interns, including scheduling, payroll and assisted in project management.

### **HBO Films, Original Programming, HIP, 1998-2005, Script Consultant, Los Angeles, CA**

Read and provide coverage for thousands of submissions of all formats and mediums.

### ***Trap*, 2002-2007, Detroit, MI, Los Angeles, CA**

Feature Film Associate Producer

- Consulted in development of screenplay and editing of feature film.
- Supervised the creation and coordination of all press materials, including EPKs, DVD content, Website and Filmmakers Interview; wrote all marketing materials.
- Responsible for marketing strategy, which resulted in placement in ten films festivals and the retention of producer's rep Ronna Wallace.
- Domestic Home Video Release: Early 2008.

### **explorati, inc., 2001, Los Angeles, CA**

Assistant Project Manager for massively multi-player role-playing game company

- Acted as liaison between Hollywood studios, writers and company.
- Developed and wrote game writer's protocol document.
- Assisted in creation of VC funding presentations.
- Assisted in all aspects of creative and business development for a start-up, including coordinating the work of a staff of 12, located in 7 different locations.

### **Leonardo DiCaprio International Short Online Film Festival, 1999-2000, Los Angeles, CA**

Assistant Director

- Created roadmap for Program, Website and Festival Expansion.
- Spearheaded acquisitions for Competition and Out of Competition.
- Project manager for website creation, including writing and editing text.
- Developed and implemented all operational systems.

**Dinner Rush, 1998, Chicago, IL, NYC, NY, Los Angeles, CA**

Feature Film Producer (uncredited).

- Consulted in development of screenplay.
- Packaged director and cast.
- Raised funds and secured International Distribution.
- Film was screened at six film festivals, winning two awards.
- International Release and Domestic Home Video Release: 2002.

**Prelude Pictures, 1996-1998, Los Angeles, CA**

Director of Development

- Participated in the development of multiple film and television projects by writing story notes, participating in writer's meetings and actively seeking out new material.
- Cultivated relationships with writers, directors, representation and production companies.
- Assisted Producer Peter Saphier (*Scarface*, *Deer Hunter*) during production of *Lost In Space* (co-produced with New Line Cinemas) and *Black Dog* (co-produced with Universal Pictures and Raffaella de Laurentiis).
- Oversaw Script Readers and Internship Program.

## WRITING EXPERIENCE & PUBLICATIONS

**Co-Writer, 2023, *The Dance: The Adventures of an American Businesswoman in 1990's China***

- Extensive research and development on novel memoir by Wendy Basey.
- Creation of proposal for memoir.
- Writer of initial chapters.

**Ghostwriter, 2020 – Present, Mark Graham Company, Denver, CO**

- *The Pinnacle*, adaptation to screenplay of memoir by Betty Twigg.
- *Big Little Giants*, adaptation to screenplay of memoir by Dr. Bob Smith.

**Screenwriter, *Secret Ellington*, 2019, Denver, CO**

- Co-Production with Art Thomas, Main Man Films.
- Placed Top10% of Nicholl Fellowship; semifinals of Big Break Contest.

**“How to Impress the Development Executive.”** PERFORM: Succeeding as a Creative Professional: *Writing for the Screen*. Edited by Anna Weinstein, Focal Press, 2016.

**“Think like a Script Agent or Producer: Get Your Script Read.”** *Guide to Literary Agents*. Edited by Chuck Sambuchino, Writer's Digest Books, 2011.

***Screenwriter's & Playwright's Market*, Writer's Digest Books. Edited by Chuck Sambuchino.**

- “Best in Show: Advice From Judges on Winning Screenwriting Contests;” “Taking Away the No's: Think Like a Producer and Sell Your Script,” 2010.
- “A Judge's Perspective,” 2009.

### **Future Workplace, 2009-2010, Fort Collins, CO**

Researcher, Ghostwriter. Corporate Education Writer for Executive-Level Professional Development Consultants.

- “Developing the Defense Intelligence Agency Workplace of the Future.” Ghostwrote white pages, Edited by Rick Von Feldt, 2010.
- “Accelerating Time-to-Value Performance: Bridging the Gap Between Expertise and T2V,” presentation paper, Future Workplace’s Professional Development Conference for Fortune 500 company Chief Learning Officers, 2009.
- “Leadership in the 2020 Workplace,” Ghostwrote articles for *Leadership Excellence* magazine and CareerBuilder.com, 2009.

### **Screenwriter, *Balsawood*, 2008, Los Angeles, CA**

- Semifinalist of Nicholls Screenwriting Fellowship, Scriptapalooza, ScriptShark Competition.
- Quarterfinalist of the Screenwriters Expo.
- Represented by Preferred Artists.

### **Screenwriter, *Burning Sky*, 2004, Los Angeles, CA**

- Screenplay optioned by producers Peter Saphier & Olivier Sarda.
- Semi-Finalist of Nicholls Screenwriting Fellowship.
- Represented by CAA.

### **Screenwriter, *Girlfriend*, 2000, Los Angeles, CA**

- Screenplay optioned by Producer / Manager Agatha Dominik.

### **Screenwriter, *Little Man Travels*, 1998, Los Angeles, CA**

- Screenplay optioned by Prelude Pictures.
- Represented by CAA.

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

### **Denver Screenwriters Meetup, Organizer and Teacher, 2020 – Present**

<http://meetup.com/Denver-ScreenWriters>

- Provided monthly online classes for both burgeoning and advanced screenwriters, from screenwriting basics to submitting and contracts, plus tables reads and story brainstorming.

### **Women in Film & Media Colorado, Founding Board Member & President, 2016 - 2019**

[www.wifmco.org](http://www.wifmco.org)

- President, 2018-2020. Extensive support service for all committees; oversee development of organization.
- Development Chair, 2016 - 2017. Responsible for program development and fund raising to support scholarships, grants, finishing funds, contest prizes.
- Organized and Executes Screenplay Contest, November 2016 - Present.

### **Colorado Script Exchange, 2014 – 2018, Denver, CO**

Founder, Director of database connecting Colorado writers and media-makers

- Coordinated production of service, and all PR materials and outreach, plus web design.
- Successfully orchestrated an IndieGoGo campaign to fund the site.

**Screenplay Competition Judge, Los Angeles, CA**

- Scriptapalooza, 2001-2004; 2011; 2013
- Bluecat Screenwriting Competition, 2007.
- Scriptwriter's Network Carl Sauter Competition, 1997-1998.

**Scriptwriter's Network High School Screenwriting Fellowship, 2001-2009, Los Angeles, CA**

- Screenwriting Mentor to a dozen teens yearly.

## REFERENCES

**Joseph Hutchison**

Academic Director and Associate Professor, University College of Denver  
Joseph.Hutchison@du.edu  
303-871-6471

**JS Mayank**

Professional Screenwriter, Former MFA Director – Western State University  
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**Christopher Beeson**

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