

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 4 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."

More sites upon request.

PRODUCTION - COLORADO

Light in the Fog, 2024, www.lightinthefog.com

- Co-Producer & Co-Host of weekly podcast with Jenny Mueller.
- Oversees all production, from scheduling, episode prep, supervising editing process, creation of marketing materials, and managing distribution.

Another Number, 2024-2025, Denver, CO

- Production consultant for documentary directed by Darren Barzegeer.
- Development of fundraising and distribution plans.

Fantastic Farewells, 2024-2025, Kansas City

- Development and Production lead for docu-series, co-created with ML Bass.
- Extensive research and show build, including pitch materials and financing resources.

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 productions duties included securing locations and crews for pilot shoot, supervising contracts, overseeing interview content,
- Post-production duties include helping creating marketing materials, overseeing pilot edit, and outreach for pitches.

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.

PRODUCTION - 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.

20th Century Fox, 2005-2007, Manager, Fox Mobile Studios, Los Angeles, CA

- Developed mobile content campaigns to be sold on 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.

SCREENWRITING EXPERIENCE

Screenwriter, 2024 - 2025

- *Sugarcoated*, feature film musical for award-winning producer Zainab Ali.
- *Rita Mars*, adaptation to TV series of book series by Valerie Webster.

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.

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.