



**BROWN**  
Department of Modern  
Culture and Media

Class of 2020  
Contact Information

## MICHAEL BASS

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*San Francisco, CA*

I'm graduating from Brown in May with a degree in Modern Culture and Media -- during my time at Brown, I specialized in theories and production of Virtual and Augmented Reality. In particular, I wrote a thesis on immersive media's application for journalism. Moving out to San Francisco to explore working with VR/AR creative studios, news outlets, and technology companies.

## INTERESTS

- VR/AR
- Journalism
- Technology ethics
- Photography
- Filmmaking

## EXPERIENCE

I piloted an AR/VR team at the Brown Daily Herald this year as a piece of my senior thesis about immersive journalism.

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Research Associate at Future of Storytelling
- Oculus Launch Pad Fellow
- Immersive Intern at Two Goats

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## ROBERT CAPRON

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*Los Angeles, CA*

I have been in love with movies since I was eight years old - and in them since the same age. My childhood was admittedly an odd one: cast in the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" film trilogy at the age of ten, I was working as a successful actor in Hollywood years before I could drive a car. While acting has continuously brought me creative and personal happiness, I have gradually come to desire a joint career in the production side of the process.

Throughout my time within Modern Culture and Media at Brown, I hoped to not only develop, practice and hone my skills as a filmmaker, but to explore and uncover my particular voice as a storyteller on the

other side of the camera. I was soon surprised to discover that these two goals often complimented one another: that as I discovered unconventional methods of approaching storytelling, I was spurred to create stories that suited these newfound sensibilities. I read pages upon pages of social theory that sparked my imagination and fostered a desire to render such ideologies accessible outside of texts written by brilliant (but old, dead or strictly male) scholars. Classes such as Soundtracks and Sound Design, Text in Time-Based Art, and Expanded Storytelling deconstructed my understanding of how movies operated and introduced concepts that encouraged me to experiment with less traditional means of conveying information even within conventional narrative structures. That I would emerge from this entire process hoping to be a screenwriter is a testament to the odd but enlightening pathway in which MCM set me on.

As I prepare to graduate from Brown in May, I hope to now combine my Modern Culture and Media and History concentrations to tell stories that explore different means and methodologies of capturing personal subjectivity and articulate through narrative means historical and social ideologies that have yet to be properly considered or represented in the cultural mirror of film and television.

## INTERESTS

Though I plan to continue my acting career, my primary goal is to write for film and television. I hope to work my way up to a writer's assistant position and eventually become a staff writer/achieve the position of showrunner. Currently, I am interested in assistant positions - either for agencies or production companies - as a means of pursuing this position and intend to continue work upon numerous personal writing projects in the meantime.

## EXPERIENCE

I have been fortunate enough to act in a variety of professional film and television programs since the age of eight. My most notable roles thus far have included "Rowley" in the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" film trilogy; a recurring role on CBS' Elementary; and supporting roles in Tim Burton's "Frankenweenie" and Netflix's "The Polka King". Throughout my time at Brown, I have also directed and participated in various student productions and written various short screenplays alongside peers. I am currently about to finish development on a television pilot I intend to eventually pitch upon my arrival and transition to Los Angeles.

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

I spent the past summer as an intern at Color Force Productions: while there, I assessed literary content within a variety of genres, mediums and formats for its inherent quality and feasibility for visual adaptation; recorded, compiled and revised notes in the writer's room for projects in development; and researched emergent digital talent across numerous streaming and social media websites and presented findings to the company for collaborative consideration. I have also previously interned for Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, where I managed and provided assistance for world premieres, panels and forums, awards ceremonies, and independent film screenings. I have since joined the advisory board of the organization and continue to work at various events as both a visiting speaker and technical worker.

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**JULIAN CASTRONOVO**

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*New York City*

I'm graduating in May with degrees in Modern Culture and Media and Literary arts. During my time at Brown, I focused mostly on theoretical work concerning cinema and literature. Over the past months, I've worked on putting what I've learned into practice in the form of two honors projects: a feature-length screenplay and a short film. The former is about an Asian-American adoptee who is put at odds with her white parents and midwestern community when she begins developing vampiric tendencies. The short is about two high-schoolers who are assigned to record a video recounting a memory of their recently-deceased orchestra teacher.

## INTERESTS

- Film writing
- Film production
- Development or research in non-fiction film
- Music videos

## EXPERIENCE

- Film directing
- Screenwriting
- Photography
- Video editing
- Writing coverage
- Assistant for development executives

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Freelance photography
- Development intern for Stampede Ventures
- Documentary intern for Yoruba Richen
- Communications assistant for Brown's Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

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## ALEXANDRE JERARD (AJ) DAVIS

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*Los Angeles, CA*

Hello! I'm graduating from Brown in May with a double concentration in MCM Production and Literary Arts. During my time in college, I focused on making ambitious student films and honing my craft as a writer. What I've found most compelling about MCM was the infusion of theory into production. This allowed me to truly understand the impact of my work on an audience and compared to other films.

## INTERESTS

I am interested in all aspects of film production, whether that be creative or crew. I just want to learn.

## EXPERIENCE

- Writing fiction and screenplays

- Acting
- Directing
- Cinematography
- Editing
- Production Assistant
- Gripping

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Intern at Jax Media The Hamptons Film Festival, Motion Pictures Corporation of America
  - Signed writer at Sterling Lord Literistics
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## ZACK EVEN

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*Los Angeles, CA*

Hello! I'll be graduating with a degree in MCM Production and Computer Science. While at Brown, I've tried to get as much filmmaking experience as possible, filling basically every conceivable role on student productions at one point or another (PA, editor, director, boom op, DP, writer, etc). While I enjoy being involved in any capacity, I particularly like writing and would love to eventually work as a screenwriter.

If you know of any potential opportunities or if you have the time to grab a meal, please reach out!  
Thanks!

## INTERESTS

- Screenwriting or being a writer's assistant
- Freelance writing opportunities
- Production assistant work
- Post-production
- Collaborating with independent filmmakers
- Working in development
- Working in children's media
- Anything related to the creative side of film and TV

Less relevant, but I'm also interested in

- Baking and cooking
- Swimming in the ocean
- Trying new foods
- Film and TV criticism
- Bakeries
- Sourdough
- Animals
- Food writing

## EXPERIENCE

- Editing (Adobe Premiere & Final Cut)

- Screenwriting (written many short films, several of which have been made by myself or others, as well as a pilot and a feature)
- Computer animation (three semesters worth of computer animation courses at Brown, proficient with Maya)
- 2D & stop-motion animation (took Intro to 2D course at RISD, have made two claymation shorts)
- Coding (proficient in Java, Python, & C)
- Copy-editing (editor-in-chief of high school paper, frequently edit friends' writing)
- Shooting with DSLR
- Script supervising, PAing

### PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Managing director, Brown Motion Pictures (one of four MDs of Brown's largest filmmaking club; manage 30-person executive board, oversee the production of four short films each semester)
- Intern at Subtractive Inc (wrote coverage, assisted in planning shoots, and edited a music video at LA-based production company)
- Teacher's assistant, iPhone Moviemaking
- Media production assistant, Brown Media Services
- Baker's apprentice, Rebelle Artisan Bagels
- Video intern, Fidelity Investments

Please send your favorite affordable food spots in LA!

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## NORA GRAHAM

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*Los Angeles, CA*

This May, I will be graduating from Brown in Modern Culture and Media as well as Literary Arts. For my senior thesis, I completed a feature screenplay, for which I was awarded the 2020 Levin-Hokin Premium for Excellence in Screenwriting. I have also written a pilot script in my time in Brown's Advanced Screenwriting Workshop. What drew me to MCM was the chance to study the wider implications of narrative in film and television. Particularly, I am interested in how narrative has become increasingly disjointed and distributed across an array of platforms. My favorite courses in the department ranged from "Post-Cinema," a seminar centered on the perceived 'end of history' and digitization of film, to "TV/Not TV," a production workshop that required students to rethink the boundaries between 'traditional' and 'nontraditional' forms of our storytelling.

In this increasingly uncertain time, MCM has given me the tools to think critically not only about the media I produce but also about the media I consume. I hope to continue writing my own scripts, as well as build upon my previous experience in development and production of film and television. Thank you so much for your time!

### INTERESTS

- Screenwriting
- Employment in film/television development
- Working in an entertainment agency or casting office

- Being on as many film sets as I possibly can
- Continuing finding ways in which film can create meaningful spaces of connection and collaboration in creative communities, especially for women

## EXPERIENCE

- Script coverage
- Script supervisor/PA on film set
- Community outreach through arts
- Social media promotion
- Brand research
- Museum archival research
- Coordinating and running a film festival consisting of 119 members across 10 departments

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Director of Ivy Film Festival
- Production intern at Full Picture Productions
- Development intern at DIGA Studios
- Assistant to CEO of BooksGoSocial
- Educational programming intern at the National Cowgirl Museum
- Women's peer counselor and community assistant for Brown's Residential Life

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## OLIVIA KAN-SPERLING

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*New York, Los Angeles (or anywhere!)*

Hi! I double-majored in MCM (II) and Computer Science. My production practice has focused on multimedia/digitally mediated performance (playwriting, VR/AR, and other work that plays with text/video/audio and liveness). I wrote an honors theory thesis on computer programming as reading/critique. I've written and edited for several years at the College Hill Independent, Brown/RISD's weekly publication of long-form journalism, criticism, art, and creative writing, and am interested in continuing to work in literary book and magazine publishing. But I'd also love to get involved in filmmaking (esp. independent) in any capacity!! I'm particularly interested in combining my background in writing/journalism and audiovisual media by working on documentary films.

You can find some of my work here: <http://oliviaks.page>

## INTERESTS

- Editorial assistant, managing editorial assistant
- Production assistant, post-production assistant
- Advertising (copywriting)
- VR, AR, rhetorical software, and innovative UX

## EXPERIENCE

- Editing: sentence-level and structural edits, copyediting, fact checking
- Writing (cultural critique of digital technology, mostly)

- Sound, video, lighting, and costume design for theater
- Evaluating literary and nonfiction manuscript submissions
- Production assistant for theater, stage managing
- Office/administrative
- Marketing: content development, copywriting, market research, social media
- Video editing, VR, AR, front-end web development

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Editorial and digital marketing intern at Farrar, Straus, and Giroux (New York)
- Production assistant at Clubbed Thumb theater (New York)
- Research intern at the Tactical Technology Collective (Berlin)
- Editorial assistant at Cabinet magazine (Berlin)
- Managing editor, Science & Tech editor, staff writer for the College Hill Independent
- Lab assistant for MCM production: teaching Arduino and physical computing for art practice

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## PIA MILEAF-PATEL

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*New York City/Los Angeles*

Hi! I'm a current senior at Brown, graduating in May with a degree in Modern Culture and Media and Literary Arts. During my time at school, I've written and directed several short films (one produced by Brown Motion Pictures, and currently am in production for a web series that is my honors thesis for MCM). I have also studied screenwriting and fiction. I'm working on finishing a novel I began last semester. Outside of classes at Brown, I have studied illustration at RISD, and have been an illustrated satire contributor for The New Yorker's Daily Shouts column since 2017. I love the flexibility and engagement with an interdisciplinary education that the MCM department encourages in an education, and am excited to carry this through to my life and work after Brown! Last summer, I interned at Color Force and London Alley, alternating between learning about film and TV development and working more on the production side of music videos and advertisements. Thank you!

## INTERESTS

- Employment at a Production Company for Film and/or TV
- Employment at an Agency
- Storyboard Artistry

## EXPERIENCE

- In-office and On-set Production Assisting
- Administrative Assistance
- Event Planning and Coordination
- Client Relations
- Script Coverage and Other Development Tasks

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Film and TV development (Color Force)
- Production Assisting (London Alley, Milk Studios)

- Assisting a Fashion Designer (Sandy Liang)
  - Gallery Management and Art Dealing (Helena Anrather)
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## EVE O'SHEA

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*New York/Brooklyn*

Hello! I'm graduating from Brown in May with a double concentration in Modern Culture and Media and Visual Art.

Throughout my time in these two departments, I have studied the interactions of theory, philosophy and visual culture/literature, focusing on theories of perception, narrative and time. For my senior honors thesis in Visual Art, I made a series of paintings that use the medium to explore the perception and visuals of memory; aiming to show that fiction is central to this experience. I manipulated the images to look like they were in multiple dimensions at the same time and left some figures anonymous and others realistic. The work draws from both a training in the language of painting and of philosophy, especially influenced by the theories of Henri Bergson.

I am planning to move to New York in the fall, and am looking for entry-level positions that would engage my skills: writing, visual art, and research. I'm interested in curatorial work, assistantship, production & research in museums or galleries, artist assistantship/arts administration in organizations directly working with artists and editorial work in publishing or journalism/arts-related magazines.

Thank you!

## INTERESTS

- Working at an arts organization/for an artist: Studio Assistantship, Arts Administration working directly with Artists
- Museum/ Gallery work: Curatorial Assistant, Research, Production, Writing
- Publishing: Working at a press or publishing house as an editorial assistant or intern
- Journalism: Working at a magazine as an editorial assistant or intern

## EXPERIENCE

- Art: painting, drawing, printmaking, sewing, conceptual thinking, sculpture, photography
- Graphic design: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign
- Writing, editing/copyediting, research
- Office administration: Excel, Word, Microsoft applications, etc.

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Editorial Intern at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: Editorial and Publications Department
  - Studio Intern to Professor Karthik Pandian at Harvard University
  - Arts, Ephemera and Illustrations Editor at the College Hill Independent
  - Studio Assistant to RISD Graphic Design Professor Ernesto Aparicio
  - Studio Assistant to Coral Bourgeois, Providence-based Glass artist
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## CHAUTAUQUA ORDWAY

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Los Angeles, CA

Hi! I'm graduating in May from Brown's Modern Culture and Media Department with a focus on production. I'm a writer/filmmaker and I'm hoping to work in television in Los Angeles after graduation. At Brown, I've been heavily focused on comedy. I was a member of Out of Bounds Sketch Comedy, Chief Design Officer at WBRU, Director of Ivy Film Festival, and a Head of Production at Brown Motion Pictures. MCM has made me interested in experimental filmmaking and the blending of video art strategies into more traditional narratives. The freedom MCM gave me allowed me to pursue this interest in my thesis, a horror-comedy feature film I wrote, directed, and edited.

### INTERESTS

- Filmmaking
- Comedy
- Writing
- Editing
- Video art installations
- Becoming a TV writer (someday)

### EXPERIENCE

- Screenwriting, sketch writing, stand-up writing
- Editing video art films, short films, episodic video content, and my feature-length thesis (Adobe Creative Suite)
- Directing
- Acting
- Event planning
- Managing and coordinating travel, lodging, and transportation as the Industry Coordinator and Director of Ivy Film Festival
- Research on release strategies and box office trends during my time as an intern for NEON

### PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- NEON (Intern)
- WBRU (Music Director, Chief Design Officer)
- Brown University MCM Department (Teaching Assistant)
- BWell/Brown Health Services (Videographer)

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## JUSTIN SANTOS ORTIZ

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Middletown, NJ

I'm graduating from Brown University in May with a degree in Modern Culture and Media and Visual Arts. I have focused on film and music production. I have enjoyed the experimental nature of Brown University's MCM program and am very interested in exploring new media and creative techniques.

Throughout my time at Brown, I have produced albums and music videos, and produced several experimental films through the MCM and VISA programs. Thank you!

## INTERESTS

- Work at a creative production company (in the advertising or film industry)
- Work at a recording studio
- PAing or other work on film sets

## EXPERIENCE

- Post-Production (Premiere, After Effects)
- Sound design (Logic Pro X, Ableton, Reaper, Max MSP)
- Film production
- Installation/Set Design

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

My work experience has largely been in the nonprofit/educational sphere and also have experience working on independent feature film sets. I am looking for work in a more creative environment. I have had jobs/internships at:

- Brown University Multimedia Labs (Creative Technical Assistant)
- The Providence Student Union (media producer/coordinator)
- Strive (2019), PA
- Building Relations Islam and Judaism (video producer/media coordinator)
- A Case of Blue (2020), PA

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## RANDI RICHARDSON

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*Flint, MI*

I'm a 2020 graduate of MCM who wants to pursue a career in journalism with the long-term goal of working for a major news outlet via writing for their .com and following up my reporting on-air. My current plan is to attend grad school at Columbia since my job offers dried up due to the pandemic.

## INTERESTS

- Political and sports journalism
- News

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

I've interned at NBC, Politico and Uninterrupted

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## RICARDO RICO

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*Gallup/Albuquerque, NM*

I'm graduating from Brown in May with a double concentration in Modern Culture and Media and Cognitive Science. While studying in the MCM department, I've been able to feed my interest for both film theory and film production and have always tried to find a way to integrate the theoretical into the practical aspects of the film's I've worked on at Brown. I'd like to take what I've learned in the department and use it to help tell the stories of the people of my home state of New Mexico. I want to tell the stories of the lives of indigenous communities, immigrant communities and low-income communities, the communities I've grown up in.

## INTERESTS

- Narrative and documentary film and television production and development
- Screenwriting
- Production Assistant or other entry-level positions.

## EXPERIENCE

- Screenwriting and some pre-production (shot-listing, coordinating crew and call-sheets).
- Video Production (Some experience with lighting, sound recording and cinematography.)
- Post-Production (Adobe Premier Pro)

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Modern Culture and Media Production Course Teaching Assistant

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## ELISABETH SCHIFRIN

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*New York (or anywhere else)*

Hello MCM alums! My name is Elisabeth Schifrin, and I am a graduating senior with a double concentration in MCM (production track) and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. These two areas of focus converge in my honors thesis film, a self-critiquing documentary I filmed in the Peruvian Amazon, where I had a videography internship in 2018.

I've worked on various types of film from the surreal and experimental to scripted narratives to documentaries. Besides video production courses, I've explored screenwriting, acting and directing, dance and performance art, digital/AI art, and animation (at RISD). I've been drawn to unconventional, multimedia storytelling and cultural production that can effect socio-political change.

MCM has challenged me to communicate creatively through a range of media, and exposed me to avant-garde thinkers and works, which inspire me to leverage the strong influence of culture over society towards positive ideological change. One way I've done this is by DP-ing Brown Motion Pictures's first bilingual film, in Spanish and English. I'd love to take part in bringing new narrative forms to the screen, innovation in visual and audio aesthetics, and lifting the voices of under-represented people. I am open to hearing about any job openings!

## INTERESTS

- Production/Post-production

- Any internship or entry-level job in film, TV, or art
- Experimental, comedy, drama, documentary, indie, and other genres
- Meeting other individuals working with video and art in a corporate or freelance capacity

Other interests of mine include foreign languages/linguistics, social justice, education, creative writing, fashion, and singing.

## EXPERIENCE

- Production Assistant
- Cinematographer/Director of Photography
- Editing (Adobe Premiere Pro, Da Vinci Resolve)
- Music Production (Ableton, FL Studio)
- Animation
- Screenwriting
- Digital storytelling (Twine, Interactive Videos)
- Social Media

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- Thom Powers (DOCNYC, TIFF, Pure Nonfiction Podcast)
- El Museo Del Barrio (curatorial)
- Franklin Street Works (English-Spanish translation, Spanish tour guide)
- Zero Point Zero Productions (PA on Comedy Central test pilot)
- Alianza Arkana (videographer of NGO)
- Forth Wanderers (Asst. Camera of Sub Pop Records music video)

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## CASS ZEGURA

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*Irvine, California*

I am graduating from Brown in May as a Track II Modern Culture and Media concentrator. Despite the practical focus of this track, my undergraduate career has been dedicated to theoretical and creative work in equal parts. I have focused on digital media generally and queer games studies specifically, with particular interest in platform studies, game engines, and using queer theory to analyze the software on top of which games are built. This fall, I am going to be attending the UC Irvine master program in Informatics in order to broaden my understanding of how users interact with these software and with the intention of eventually pursuing a PhD. I'm always looking for summer research opportunities, as well as the chance to meet new people with diverse intellectual interests!

## INTERESTS

- Digital media
- Games studies
- Game engines
- Queer theory
- Queer games studies

## EXPERIENCE

- Unity
- Twine
- Programming (Java, C++, C#)
- Games research & writing including my undergraduate thesis 'Gay Engines: Imagining a Queer Development Platform for Videogames'

## PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS & JOBS

- TA for MCM 0230: Digital Media & CSCI 0170: Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
- HTA for CSCI 1971: Independent Study in 2D Game Engines
- Researcher for North Carolina State University's Socially Relevant Computing and Analytics REU in 2018