

COREY PAJKA

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EDUCATION

WILKES UNIVERSITY, Wilkes-Barre, PA

BA in English, Writing Concentration, BA in Theatre Arts, May 2005

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

2013 DISTILLED THEATRE "PLAYOFFS" WINNER (**LONG DISTANCE DRUNK**)

EXIT 7 PLAYERS 2016 ONE ACT PLAY COMPETITION (FINALIST, "**FAHRENHEIT IS-51**")

EXIT 7 PLAYERS 2015 ONE ACT PLAY COMPETITION (FINALIST, "**GIVING UP THE GHOST LIGHT**")

SHAKESPEARE IN THE 'BURG 2014 ONE ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION (FINALIST, "**HOTEL STERLING**")

FREE SPIRIT THEATRE SPRING 2019 PLAY COMPETITION SHORTLIST (SEMI-FINALIST, "**LONG DISTANCE DRUNK**")

LAKESHORE PLAYERS' 2014 TEN MINUTE PLAYWRITING COMPETITION (SEMI-FINALIST, "**GIVING UP THE GHOST LIGHT**")

WARNER INTERNATIONAL 2013 PLAYWRIGHTS' FESTIVAL (FINALIST, "**NOWHERE, WYOMING**")

2013 LABUTE NEW THEATER FESTIVAL (SEMI-FINALIST, "**VISIBLE COSMIC ENTITIES**")

2013 LONG ISLAND CITY ONE-ACT FESTIVAL (SEMI-FINALIST, "**VISIBLE COSMIC ENTITIES**")

2020 AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL PLAYWRITING COMPETITION (SECOND ROUND, "**FLATLANDS, PA**")

PUBLISHED ARTICLES THROUGH *POINTS IN CASE* AND *FLEXX MAG* – MARCH THROUGH MAY, 2021

PUBLISHED PIECE THROUGH *MOLECULE - A TINY LIT MAGAZINE* ("**BACKGROUND**," ISSUE 3, FALL 2020)

PUBLISHED PLAY THROUGH THE DRAMA NOTEBOOK ("**THE HUMAN ROOM**")

PUBLISHED PLAY THROUGH PIPER THEATER PRODUCTIONS ("**THE QUEEN OF COCOA PUFFS AND THE CAP'N CRUNCH KING**")

PUBLISHED PLAY THROUGH LONG ISLAND CITY ONE-ACT FESTIVAL ("**VISIBLE COSMIC ENTITIES**")

PUBLISHED PLAY THROUGH GI60 FESTIVAL ("**OUTER SPACE BEATS HOLLYWOOD EVERY TIME**")

THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

LONG-DISTANCE DRUNK (full-length approx.. 120 minutes)

Cherry Lane Studio Theatre **New York, NY**

August 2016

Cameron and Meg are two young people who forge a college relationship around their mutual love of music, books, and beer. As time passes, and their addictions deepen, their bond shatters and they go their separate ways—keeping in touch through the occasional desperate phone call. When they confront their dependencies, they realize—even on opposite sides of the country—that the only thing they were ever addicted to was each other.

FAHRENHEIT IS-51 (ten-minute play)

Exit 7 Players

Ludlow, MA

February 2016

It's a standard day at IS-51. There are reports to be completed, quotas to be met, and the new guy just showed up completely engulfed in flames. The strange thing is that no one seems to notice. It's not until he finally points it out to them that an unsettling realization starts to set in. Work is hell.

THE NEXT STOP IS... (one-minute play)

Brooklyn College

Brooklyn, NY

June 2015

A sad woman on a subway train is comforted by a stranger. Sometimes it's best to forget the past and live in the present. Sometimes someone you don't know may be your best friend in the world. Even on a set track, you never know where you'll wind up next.

VALID I.D. (ten-minute play)

University of Houston

Houston, TX

April-May 2015

Two strangers cross paths in a Brooklyn bar late on a Saturday night. With nowhere to go and nothing in common, they strike up a conversation and discover that as strange as they are--they aren't as strange to one another as they initially thought.

A BLANK PAGE (monologue, approximately two minutes)

Hudson Warehouse Theatre Company **New York, NY**

February 2015

A happily married man observes an anniversary known to no one except him: The day he met the one who got away. As he sips his favorite brand of gourmet coffee, he recounts the day he nearly left his wife for another woman—but didn't—simply because she didn't show up to meet him. What would his life have been if she had? All he has is the memory, the "what if," and a deep appreciation for caramel macchiato.

GIVING UP THE GHOST LIGHT (ten-minute play)

Exit 7 Players

Ludlow, MA

February 2015

The long-closed Esprit Lumière Théâtre is meeting its end. Inside, an elderly actor makes a last stand against its imminent demolition. With a gun in his lap, and his mind slipping away, the actor relives his past and trudges toward an uncertain future. All the world is a stage, and its curtain is coming down for a final time.

OUTER SPACE BEATS HOLLYWOOD EVERY TIME (one-minute play)

Stage Left Theatre

Spokane, WA

January 2015

Brooklyn College

Brooklyn, NY

June 2014

While visiting his friends in Arizona, a young man from the city takes a time out from movie night to stop and watch something he's always wanted to see: the night sky. Sometimes the best show to watch is the one in your own backyard.

UNDER YOUR PILLOW (one-act approx.. 20 minutes)

Phoenix Stage Company

Naugatuck CT

May 2014

A couple of days after losing his job, a young man named Drew goes to the dentist with an aching tooth. Just when he thought his week couldn't get more annoying, a strange woman who seems eerily familiar with him has come to the examining room and just won't leave him alone. Stranger still, no one but Drew seems to know she's there. What's worse than losing a job and a tooth in one week? Losing your mind.

LONG-DISTANCE DRUNK (full-length approx. 120 minutes)

The Secret Theater, Distilled Theatre Company Long Island City, NY November 2013

The Paradise Factory, Distilled Theatre Company Playoff Comp. (Winner) New York, NY Sept 2013

The Creek and The Cave, The Platform Group Long Island City, NY July 2012

Cameron and Meg are two young people who forge a college relationship around their mutual love of music, books, and beer. As time passes, and their addictions deepen, their bond shatters and they go their separate ways—keeping in touch through the occasional desperate phone call. When they confront their dependencies, they realize—even on opposite sides of the country—that the only thing they were ever addicted to was each other.

VISIBLE COSMIC ENTITIES (one-act, 15 minutes)

NuBox Theatre

New York, NY

September 2019

HartBeat Ensemble

Hartford, CT

February 2015

The Secret Theater

Long Island City, NY

April 2013

Carl is an amateur astronomer and an armchair philosopher. Since his accident, he's spent most of his time in the backyard stargazing with his drinking buddy Isaac and neglecting his concerned girlfriend Sally. When the truth about his stellar antics finally comes to light, Carl comes back down to face a harsh reality. Life in space is easy, but life on Earth may be more of a challenge than he can handle.

OLD MAN RIVER (one-act, 40 minutes)

Roy Arias Studios

New York, NY

February 2013

One is a young actor with the eyes of the world on him. The other is a young woman who's lost faith in the world. Both are alone. When they cross paths at a noisy bar, they discover they weren't as alone as they thought they were.

The Queen of Cocoa Puffs and The Cap'n Crunch King (ten-minute play)

Ghostlight Ensemble Theatre

Chicago, IL

February 2020

BAX Studios, Piper Productions

Brooklyn, NY

June 2012

A pair of sovereign siblings sit down to breakfast in the fair kingdom of New Brunswick. When a quarrel over who gets viewing privileges for the cereal box of choice breaks out, it threatens to shatter the peace of their fair land. There will be blood—and perhaps orange juice.

Variations on Losing Your Job (one-act, 25 minutes)

The Gallery Players

Brooklyn, NY

May/June 2012

A neurotic office drone is called into a meeting with his supervisor that he is sure will result in a pink slip. He quickly learns that his biggest problem is his over active imagination. The only thing coming his way is a hard reality check.

Jenga (one-act, 20 minutes)

The Gallery Players

Brooklyn, NY

May/June 2012

Katie and James hold a housewarming party for two of Katie's dearest friends from college. When a long-forgotten secret bubbles to the surface, she discovers her relationship, and her very future, is on a foundation as shaky as the game they all play.

Brief Encounters of The Third Kind (one-act, 35 minutes)

The Gallery Players

Brooklyn, NY

June 2011

Laura Jesson is a woman who wants for nothing. That is, until she meets a mysterious man who seems to come from a whole world apart from the one she knows. Between this and the pending alien invasion, she's going through a rough time. Will Laura find her place in the world before it falls down around her?

Karp's Last Text (one-act, 15 minutes)

Bedlam Ensemble Theater

New York, NY

March 2011

A recently broken-up couple hash out their differences, divided by a wall of texts, instant messages, anguished voicemails, and no real conversation. Who said technology enhanced communication?

Every Rose Has Its Thorg (monologue, 15 minutes)

Variations Theater Group

New York, NY

November 2010

An everyday guy who also happens to be a ten-foot tall mutant superhero named Thorg tries to reconcile with his girlfriend the morning after a disastrous dinner date. Even mutants need love.

Hot Fudge Sundae (one-act, 35 minutes)

The Gallery Players

Brooklyn, NY

June 2010

A struggling young writer enjoys his favorite dessert in a surreal ice cream parlor. He is visited by a strange little girl he is oddly familiar with. As his sundae melts, and the girl's life advances, he finally deduces the connection between them—with tragic results.

iLove, New York (one-act, 30 minutes)

The Gallery Players

Brooklyn, NY

June 2010

A young man escapes into his iPod on the subway en route to his tedious office job. Along the way, he encounters a host of dead writers, famous musicians, and scornful train passengers while working up the nerve to approach the girl of his dreams sitting across from him. It's all in his head—or is it?

ADAPTATION AND READINGS

Everyone Is An Astronaut (full length play workshop, staged reading w/ accompanying podcast, approx. 120 minutes)

The Parsnip Ship

Brooklyn, NY

March 2017

Random Access Theatre

New York, NY

February 2016

*In early 1986, a young man's world crumbles. His mother has died, his brother is a recluse, his sister is embittered, and his father is a wayward drifter, haunting the children in their memories. When a space shuttle in Florida explodes moments after takeoff, he takes it as a sign that his best laid plans are doomed to failure. He presses on in the hope that he can have a family again. The universe is indifferent, but maybe the order is in the chaos. **Parsnip Ship reading from March 2017 is available for free podcast download through iTunes.***

Animaloopidy (Book Writer, Children's Theater Musical, approx. 50 minutes)

Weathervane Theater

Whitefield, NH

August 2012

It's night time at the Animaloopidy Zoo. When the lights go out and the guests go home, that's when the fun really begins. It's the night of the Annual Animal Antic, and the audience is along for the ride. Based on music, lyrics, and original concept by T.O. Sterrett.

Collected Stories (excerpt from full-length, 20 minutes)

The Richmond Shepard Theater

New York, NY

January 2010

A lovelorn writer puts the pieces of his broken relationship back together in dramatic fashion.

OTHER WRITINGS

Various Publications (*Points In Case* and *Flexx Mag*) (Contributing Writer, March 2021 – present)

Online

Wrote several satirical articles inspired by classic literature, history, mythology, and current events. Examples include "Notes From The Underworld: Sisyphus' Performance Review," "Smurf Rights Activists Distance Themselves From 'Blue Lives Matter' Movement," and "Minneapolis Police Department Training Will now Include 'Is This A Gun' Flashcards."

350 Brooklyn Media Committee (Newsletter Editor, Social Media Contributor, Spring 2020 - present)

Brooklyn, NY

Principal editor for the bi-weekly newsletter of 350 Brooklyn—a climate change action organization. Researched and posted articles related to the climate crisis for the group's Facebook page. Also wrote copy for site visitors and summaries of posted content.

BACKGROUND (SHORT STORY)

PUBLISHED IN *MOLECULE – A TINY LIT MAGAZINE*, ISSUE 3, FALL 2020

A man becomes an unwitting participant in someone else's web series—with possibly profound existential implications. The things we consider when we let our minds wander...

THE SEPARATION (radio play, approx. 30 minutes)

Distilled Theatre Company Radio, available for download/streaming, February 2019

Five years from now, the west coast of the United States votes to secede. The absence they leave is apparent. Democracy is suspended, a police state is enacted, and no one knows it more than one of the architects of the movement behind it all. As he sits in a holding cell, enduring torture through a smartphone app from an unknown woman, he ruminates on everything that brought him here, and drove away the ones he loved the most.

MEDDLING KIDS (radio play, approx. 10 minutes)

Apparitions Theatre Podcast, available for download/streaming, April 2018

Professor Dwayne has come up with his grandest scheme to date. The only thing standing in the way between him and his brilliant revenge is the presence, and the insightful questions, of his niece and nephew. Before long the scenario starts to feel strangely familiar. It's a mystery that only some intrepid young people, and perhaps a talking dog, can get to the bottom of.

THE STAND IN (radio play, approx. 30 minutes)

Distilled Theatre Company Radio, available for download/streaming November 2017

Jacob is an actor on the verge of hitting it big, but no one knows who he is. To the public, he's an emerging talent named Troy Maxim. When Jacob has a very public outburst on a late-night talk show, his agent advises him to head home before his next movie starts shooting to find himself. He does just that when Troy Maxim manifests there as a whole other person. It's the role of a lifetime for Jacob, but he might be getting lost in the part.

My Violet Brooklyn (radio play, approx. 30 minutes)

Distilled Theatre Company Radio, available for download/streaming, January 2017

Violet Shaw has so many questions. Why did her cat run away? Why did her boss lay her off? Will she ever get anywhere as a working artist? Who is this mysterious masked man leaving purple stencil paintings in random locations in Brooklyn? How did she wind up on a billboard overlooking the BQE? Is this real life? Is this just fantasy? Listen to My Violet Brooklyn and find out. Maybe...

The (Drunk) Call of Cthulhu (radio play, approx.. 14 minutes)

Apparitions Theatre Podcast, available for download/streaming, October 2016

With a beer in his hand, and a B movie on the television, a young man is spending Halloween in the best possible way. It isn't until the phone rings and an old acquaintance from his family's past rears his ugly, tentacle-covered head that the real nightmare begins.

May The Fourth Be With You (radio play, approx. 20 minutes)

Distilled Theatre Company Radio, available for download/streaming, May 2014

It's the Friday before Star Wars Day, and no one at Empire Electronics is more excited about it than a young office drone named Mark. This is probably because no one else is excited about it except Mark. Before his weekend rendezvous with nerd nirvana, Mark must pull a weekly sales report and live up to the expectations of his tyrannical boss. Can Mark make his deadline and his date with deep space? Listen and see, er rather, hear!

RealCity NY (February 2011-September 2013)

New York, NY

Frequent contributor to the website RealCity NY. Contributed essays on life experiences and navigating the pit falls of city life. Helmed regular column entitled "The Wandering Brooklynite" which details New York's more off-beat cultural attractions. May 2011 article "21 Reasons Why the World Will Not End on May 21st" commanded all-time high in web traffic for the site.
