

Jeff Watson
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Short Bio

Jeff Watson is an interdisciplinary media artist, screenwriter, filmmaker, and experience designer. His doctoral [research](#) focuses on exploring how an increasingly mobile, ubiquitous, and interoperable communications infrastructure enables new forms of storytelling, play, and mischief.

Work Experience

New Media Consulting

- **Los Angeles World Airports**
August 2008
Consulted on the role of mobile and ubiquitous technology in the development of interactive public art installations for the Tom Bradley International Terminal
- **Take Action Games**
May 2008
Provided strategic advice for cross-platform initiatives related to "serious games"
- **BiblioCommons**
May - September 2007
Assisted in development of user interface and media strategy for "library 2.0" social networking startup

Screenwriting and Story Editing

View samples of my writing work [here](#).

- **Blue Blouse Projects**
May - July 2007
Co-writer with [Liane Balaban](#) and Brett Stabler of feature screenplay, *Crystal Beach*
- **Industry Pictures**
March 2006 - January 2007
Co-writer with [Amnon Buchbinder](#) of feature screenplay, *The Pit*
- **Triptych Media**
June 2006 - July 2006
Development consultant for [Chris Abraham](#)'s adaptation of *A Scientific Romance*
- **January Films**
April 2005 - July 2007 (multiple contracts)
Story editor/script doctor for [Darren O'Donnell](#)'s adaptation of his play, *A Suicide Site Guide to the City*;
Translator and screenwriter for adaptation of [Marco Nicoletti](#)'s feature screenplay, *Revenant*; Screenwriter for original feature screenplay, *Make Believe* (recipient of Telefilm Canada project development financing, Winter, 2006)
- **Canadian Film Centre**
February 2005 - July 2006
Provided coverage and script analysis for the Canadian Film Centre's AAFRP application process
- **Universal Studios Short Film Project**
January 2005
Story edited *Saved*, a short film directed by Canadian Film Centre alum Sarah Bachinski
- **Bran Van 3000**
January 2003
Concept and direction for music video "[Shopping](#)" featuring Liane Balaban, Momus, and Eek-A-Mouse.

- **ON1BTO/Lab Productions**
January 2002
Concept, screenwriting and direction for *Black Mash*, the film component of [The Black Sea Tapes](#), an ongoing multiplatform transmedia storytelling project funded by a media arts grant from the Canada Council for the Arts
- **Sunrise Productions (UK)**
March 2000 - February 2001
Researched and developed feature film screenplay for *Canyonlands*. Traveled to Utah, Nevada and California on extensive research road trip. Conducted interviews and shot video. Paid under UK Writers Guild contract, with expenses. Film currently in preproduction under working title *Foundation*
- **New Screen Elite (UK)**
September 1998 - January 1999
Wrote synopsis, treatment, and shooting script for award-winning short film [Panic](#)

Web Design

- **Corporate/Institutional**
[USC Mobile and Environmental Media Lab](#), [USC Institute for Transformative Scholarship](#), [USC Institute for Multimedia Literacy](#), [USC Interdivisional Media Arts and Practice](#), [Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto](#)
- **Individual**
[Holly Willis](#), [Steve Anderson](#), [Kiki Benzon](#)

Educational Background

- University of Southern California PhD Media Arts and Practice 2012 (expected)
- Canadian Film Centre Alliance Atlantis Film Residency (screenwriting) 2005
- York University M.F.A. Film and Video 2002
- McGill University B.A. English 1997

Conferences & Talks

- Eighth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities
["Alternate Reality Scholarship: The Shadow Academy and the Future of Academic Publishing"](#)
- HASTAC Digital Storytelling Forum
["Digital Storytelling: Purpose, Practice, and Potential"](#)
- Annenberg Fellows Fall Reception
["Transmedia Storytelling and Alternate Reality Games"](#)
- USC SCA Interactive Media Seminar
["Locative Media and Responsive Environments"](#)
- Institute for Multimedia Literacy Graduate Student Workshop
["You, Online"](#)
- Annenberg Fellows Symposium
["Fundamentals of Transmedia Storytelling"](#)
- University of Lethbridge Guest Speaker Series
["Transmedia Storytelling and Alternate Reality Games: A Primer"](#)
- CINEGRID
["CityStory: An Experiment in Crowdsourced Cinema"](#)

Awards

- USC Annenberg Fellowship 2008-2012
- Telefilm Canada screenplay development award 2005
- Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent (VideoFACT) production grant 2002
- Canada Council for the Arts media arts grant 2002
- York University Graduate Department of Film and Video Scholarship 2000
- Montecantini International Short Film Festival best short film award 1999

Exhibitions

Festivals/Cinemas

- Edinburgh International Film Festival
- BBC British Short Film Festival, London
- Los Angeles International Short Film Festival
- Greenwich Film Festival, London
- Cinema Jove Festival - Valencia, Spain
- Montecantini International Short Film Festival
- Leeds International Film Festival
- Cinema Tout Ecran - Geneva, Switzerland
- Cinematheque Ontario
- Kinofilm Manchester
- Rotterdam International Film Festival
- McGill University Film Festival

Broadcast

- BBC Channel Four
- Film Four
- Muchmusic
- MusiquePlus
- MTV

Teaching

USC IML Workshops

- **COMM-450**
Fundamentals of visual communication; introduction to visual argumentation; image manipulation; sourcing materials online; nonlinear video editing with Adobe Premiere and iMovie
- **ARLT-100**
Introduction to video production techniques; documentary filmmaking; nonlinear video editing with Adobe Premiere
- **FREN-351**
Fundamentals of visual communication; introduction to visual argumentation; image manipulation; sourcing materials online; nonlinear video editing with Adobe Premiere and iMovie
- **"You, Online"**
Introduction to Wordpress; social media tools for scholars; creating an online presence

Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto

- **"Dramatic Choices"**
Fundamentals of narrative theory; constructing the short screenplay; planning the feature film; story editing; writing powerful scenes; building characters