

# **Frank J. Avella**

## **Playwriting History**

**537 Harrison Avenue, Garfield, NJ 07026**

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**973-715-2356**

**2019 International Writers/Artists Residency at Arte Studio Ginestrelle, Assisi, Italy Recipient**

**2018 Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship Recipient (Lured)**

**2016 Helene Wurlitzer Foundation Residency Grant Recipient (Consent)**

**2015 Fellowship Award (Playwriting) from the NJ State Council on the Arts (Consent)**

### **COMPLETED FILM:**

**FIG JAM, 2021 (21-minute short) wrote and directed**

- Official Selection, International Shorts Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia, 2021
- Official Selection, World Premiere, Lonely Wolf: London International Film Festival, 2021  
Nominated for 7 Awards including: Best Picture, Best Film (Medium-Length), Best Screenplay, Outstanding Directorial Debut, Best Comedy, Best Pandemic Film, Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design. Finalist for Best Romantic Drama.

### **SCREENPLAYS:**

#### **CONSENT**

- WINNER, Best Screenplay, Madrid Art Film Festival, 2021
- WINNER, Best Feature Screenplay, Oz Indie Film Festival (Melbourne Australia), 2021
- WINNER, Best Narrative, San Francisco Film Festival, 2021
- WINNER, Best Feature Screenplay, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual ReelHeART International Film and Screenplay Festival, 2021
- WINNER, Indo American International Festival of World Cinema (Mumbai), 2021
- WINNER: Best LGBT Screenplay, New Renaissance Film Festival (Amsterdam), 2020
- WINNER, Best Screenplay, Selected, Austria International Film Festival, 2020
- WINNER, Best Drama Screenplay, Los Angeles Motion Picture Festival, 2020
- WINNER: Best Feature Script (Honorable Mention) Venice Film Awards (Venice, Italy), 2020
- Nominee, Best Screenplay, Independent Film Awards: London, 2021
- Nominee, Love Wins Film Festival, NYC. 2021
- Honorable Mention, Independent Film Association of Philadelphia Awards, 2021
- Finalist, Catalina Film Festival, 2021
- Finalist, Twister Alley Film Festival (OK), 2021
- Finalist, Page Turner Screenplays Genre Competition (LGBTQ, Second Place), 2020
- Finalist, Peachtree Village International Film Festival, 2020
- Finalist, Courage Film Festival (Berlin, Germany), 2020

- Finalist, Beyond the Curve Film Festival (Paris, France), 2020
- Finalist, Flight Deck Film Festival (NYC), 2020
- Finalist, Best Script Award, 2020
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Feature Script in the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Paris Play Film Festival, 2020
- Semi-finalist, Atlanta Film Festival Screenplay Competition, 2021
- Semi-finalist, Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, 2021
- Semi-finalist, Sedona International Film Festival Screenplay Competition, 2021
- Semi-finalist, Austin Revolution Film Festival, 2020.
- Semi-finalist, 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fade-In Awards (Drama), 2020
- Semi-finalist, Hollywood International Golden Age Festival, 2020
- Quarter-finalist, London International Screenwriting Competition, 2021
- Quarter-finalist, Screencraft Film Fund Competition, 2021
- Quarter-finalist, Page Turner Screenplay Competition, 2021
- Quarter-finalist, Inroads Screenwriting Fellowship, 2021
- Quarter-finalist, Filmmatic Drama Screenplay Awards, 2021
- Quarter-finalist, WriteMovies Fall 2020 Screenwriting Contest, 2020
- Quarter-finalist, Creative Screenwriting Screenplay Contest, 2019
- Honorable Mention in the Screenplay category of the 88th Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition, 2019
- Official Selection, Lonely Wolf: London International Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Macoproject Film Festival (Brooklyn, NY), 2021
- Official Selection, Orlando International Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Golden State Film Festival (Los Angeles, CA), 2021
- Official Selection, Catharsis International Film Festival (Belgium), 2021
- Official Selection, North Europe International Film Festival - London Edition, 2021
- Official Selection, Depth of Field International Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Northeast Mountain Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Cannes Film Awards (France), 2021
- Official Selection, Rome Independent Prisma Awards, 2020
- Official Selection, Long Story Shorts International Film Festival (Romania), 2020
- Official Selection, Marina Del Rey Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Queer Global Arts Fest, 2021

### **SCREW THE COW**

- WINNER, Best Comedy Screenplay, Los Angeles Motion Picture Festival, 2020
- Finalist, Plot Point International Screenwriting Awards (Italy), 2021
- Finalist, Chicago Comedy Film Festival, 2021
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Dark Comedy Screenplay, Austin After Dark Film Festival, 2021

- Finalist/Nominee, Best Dark Comedy Screenplay, Houston Comedy Film Festival, 2020
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Dark Comedy Screenplay, Austin Comedy Film Festival, 2020
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Dark Comedy Screenplay, Portland Comedy Film Festival, 2020
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Comedy Screenplay, Georgia Shorts Film Festival, 2020
- Finalist, European Cinematography Awards (ECA), 2020
- Semi-finalist, Page Turner Screenplays Genre Competition (Comedy, Top 15), 2020
- Quarter-Finalist, Hollywood International Golden Age Festival, 2020
- Official Selection, Sacramento International Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Lit Laughs International Comedy Festival (England), 2021
- Official Selection, Atlanta Comedy Festival, 2020
- Official Selection, SoCal Film Awards, 2020

### **LURED**

- WINNER, Gold Scriptwriting Award, LGBTQ Unbordered International Film Festival, 2021
- WINNER, Best Screenplay, CORE International Film Festival, 2021
- WINNER, Best Short Script, Lake Travis Film Festival, 2021
- WINNER, Indo American International Festival of World Cinema (Mumbai), 2021
- WINNER, Gold Scriptwriting Award, Depth of Field International Film Festival, 2020
- WINNER, Best LGBTQ Feature Screenplay, Silicon Beach Film Festival, 2020
- WINNER, Best Queer Feature Screenplay, Bridge Fest, 2020
- Finalist, Best LGBT Screenplay, New Renaissance Film Festival (Amsterdam), 2021
- Finalist and Special Mention, London International Screenwriting Competition, 2020
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Queer Screenplay, Lonely Wolf: London International Film Festival, 2020
- Finalist, Beyond the Curve Film Festival (Paris, France), 2020
- Finalist, QueerWrites, 2020
- Nominee, kalakari film fest (India), 2021
- Semi-finalist, 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fade-In Awards (Thriller), 2020
- Semi-finalist, Cyrus International Monthly Festival of Toronto, 2020
- Quarter-Finalist, Page Turner Screenplays Drama Competition, 2021
- Official Selection, Rome Independent Prisma Awards, 2020
- Official Selection, LA LIVE Film Festival, 2020
- Official Selection, Hollywood International Golden Age Festival, 2020
- Official Selection, Amsterdam World International Film Festival, 2020
- Official Selection, Golden Jury Film Festival, 2020
- Official Selection, Malta Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Rome Film Awards, 2021
- Official Selection, White Nights Film Festival (Russia), 2021

- Official Selection, Chicago Indie Film Awards, 2021
- Official Selection, British Independent Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Colorado International Activism Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Queer Global Arts Fest, 2021

#### **FIG JAM**

- WINNER, Best Romantic Comedy Short Screenplay, Austin Comedy Film Festival, 2021
- WINNER, Best Script, Marino Short Film Festival, 2020
- WINNER, Lit Laughs International Comedy Festival (England), 2020
- Nominee, Festigious Los Angeles Film Competition, 2021
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Romantic Comedy Short Screenplay, Portland Comedy Film Festival, 2021
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Romantic Comedy Short Screenplay, Houston Film Festival, 2021
- Finalist (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Sedona International Film Festival Screenplay Competition, 2021
- Finalist, Madras Independent Film Festival, 2020
- Finalist, Venice Film Awards, 2020
- Finalist, Hollywood Gold Awards, 2020
- Finalist, New York Movie Awards, 2020
- Finalist, Rome Independent Prisma Awards, 2020
- Honorable Mention, Script Category, 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition, 2021
- Semi-Finalist, Emerging Screenwriters Shoot Your Short Screenplay Competition, 2021
- Semi-finalist, Filmmatic Short Screenplay Awards (Los Angeles), 2020
- Semi-finalist, Phoenix International Short Film Festival, 2020
- Semi-finalist, Red Flight Pictures Screenplay Awards, 2020
- Semi-finalist, Hollywood Just4Shorts Film and Screenplay Competition, 2020
- Quarter-finalist, Creative World Awards, 2021
- Quarter-finalist, Inroads Screenwriting Fellowship, 2021
- Quarter-finalist, ScriptWrite Short Script Contest, 2021
- Quarter-finalist, Page Turner Screenplays Genre Competition (Short Comedy), 2020
- Official Selection, Sydney Indie Short Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Phoenix International Genre Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Oregon Short Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Cyrus Monthly Short Festival of Toronto, 2020

#### **FIG DUDE**

- Finalist, New Wave International Short Festival (Munich, Germany), 2021
- Quarter-finalist, BLASTOFF Festival (L.A.), 2021
- Official Selection, Paris International Short Festival, 2021
- Official Selection, Voices Rising Film Festival, 2021

- Official Selection, Beyond the Curve Film Festival (Paris, France), 2020

### **MULTITASKING**

- WINNER, Best Unreleased Script, Festival de Largos y Cortos de Santiago, 2021
- Finalist/Nominee, Best Dark Drama Screenplay, Oregon Short Film Festival, 2021
- Semi-finalist, Nevada City Film Festival, 2020
- Official Selection, Santa Monica Shorts Festival, 2021

### **OTHER SCREENPLAYS**

Unhinging, 3 of 10.

### **PLAYS:**

#### **LURED**

- Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival, Dublin, Ireland, May 2021.
- OnStage! American Theater Festival, Rome, Italy, January 2019.
- World Premiere production, Theater for the New City, NYC, 3-week run. Nov., 2018.
- Awarded an Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation Grant, 2018.
- O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Semifinalist, 2018.
- Selected for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual William Inge Theater Festival PlayLab, April 2017.
- 2017 Cimientos IATI Theater Playwright semi-finalist.
- Selected for the Dream Up Festival at Theater for the New City, NYC. 6 performances. Sept., 2016.
- Two readings in 2016, in Taos and NYC.

#### **CONSENT**

- UP Theatre's Renewal Reading Series Semifinalist, 2020.
- O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Semifinalist, 2019.
- Staged reading at SUNY New Paltz in October 2018.
- 2018 Hidden River Playwriting Award semifinalist.
- Selected for 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Fullerton College Playwrights Festival, Jan. 2017 from over 500 submissions from all over the world. One week workshop culminating in audience attended staged reading.
- Recipient of 2016 Chesley/Bumbalo Foundation Playwright Award.
- Received Honorable Mention in the Stage Play category of the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition (2016).
- Semifinalist for the Road Theatre Company's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Playwrights Festival, 2016.
- Finalist for the 2015 New Works of Merit Playwriting Award.
- Six staged readings in NYC 2011-2015, including Urban Stages and Abingdon Theatre Company.
- Workshopped at the Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles in October 2012.
- O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Semifinalist, 2012

#### **VATICAN FALLS**

- Semifinalist: O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, 2021

- Writers Theatre of NJ Sounding Reading Series, January 2019.
- Chosen to participate in the 2017 Planet Connections Festivity, Summer.
  - Nominated for Outstanding Playwriting.
- PlayLab Staged Reading, May 2017.
- Theater for the New City SCRATCH Development Night, February 2017: 2 performances.
- Semifinalist: 2014 Newborn Festival.
- Selected in the Midtown International Theatre Festival “Destined for Greatness” Salon, 2014.
- Special Mention: 2013 O’Neill National Playwrights Conference.
- Staged reading, Theater for the New City, Dec. 2012 as part of their New Blood New Works Series.
- World premiere in Rome, Italy (Italian translation: IL VATICANO CADE) canceled the night before opening amidst controversy and claims of death threats, May, 2011.
- Six additional staged readings, two workshops in NYC & Cincy (2007-2012).
- Workshopped by Know Theatre in Cincinnati in Sept. 2007.

### **ORVILLE STATION**

- Virtual Presentation, Theater for the New City Live Facebook On Air, April 2020
- Published in London in 2015 by Lazy Bee Scripts.  
<http://www.lazybeescripts.co.uk/Scripts/script.aspx?iSS=2503>
- Finalist for the 2015 12 Years Theater New Play Podcast Series (Pittsburgh).
- One of 3 Finalists for the New Jersey Playwrights Contest 2014.
- Finalist (final round) for the Kitchen Dog Theatre’s 2014 New Works Festival.
- Staged Reading at Dramatists Guild Friday Night Footlight Series in February 2014.
- Selected for a Staged Reading at Echo Theater in Los Angeles in November 2013.

### **LOCKDOWN 2021**

- Virtual Presentation, Theater for the New City Live Facebook On Air, October 2020
- Official Selection, Queer Global Arts Fest, 2021

### **GANYMEDE REVISITED**

- 3 Virtual Presentations via CyberTank, The Tank NYC YouTube, May 2020

### **IRIS**

- Dramatists Guild Friday Night Footlights Reading: 2018 version, March 2018
- Staged reading of updated version in NYC, September 2011.
  - World premiere production by the Know Theatre in Cincinnati in 2004-05 Season.

### **FOR MAMMA**

- Scratch Night, Theater for the New City, 2017.
- Selected for 2017 Healing Voices OnStage: Caregivers Stories presented by Writers Theatre of NJ
- Two readings in 2016, in Taos and NYC.

## **NEMESIS**

- Two staged readings in 2012-2013 at the Dramatists Guild Friday Night Footlight Series in NYC.

## **MAD**

- B Street Theatre New Comedies Festival, Semifinalist, 2019
- Dramatists Guild Friday Night Footlights Reading, October 2016
- Staged reading at Roy Arias Theatre in NYC in June 2011. Workshopped: summer 2013.

## **BLUEBIRDS IN MY BELFRY (book writer of musical)**

- Workshop production at Temple Theatre, Sanford, NC, January 2008.

## **GREENER**

- World premiere production at Bank Street Theatre, NYC, 2005-06.

## **THE BUBBLE**

- World premiere Equity Showcase production at Bank Street Theatre, NYC, September 2005.

## **TURBULENCE 2**

- More monologues and one-acts at Where Eagles Dare Theater, NYC, November 2004.

## **TURBULENCE**

- Anthology of monologues and one-acts at Where Eagles Dare Theater, NYC, June 2004.

## **ABOUT CHRISTINE**

- Workshop production at Ground Floor Theatre, NYC, December 2002-January 2003.

## **LEXY**

- World premiere production at Producers Club Theatre, NYC, February 2002.

## **MICHAEL'S #1 FAN**

- World premiere production at Producers Club Theatre, NYC, 2000.

## **3 CAINS**

- World premiere production at Hamlet of Bank Street Theatre, NYC, 1996.

## **UNHINGING**

- Staged reading of updated version, NYC, 2007, 2009, 2018
- World premiere Equity Showcase production at Judith Anderson Theatre, NYC, 1995.

## **CATAMITUS (short play)**

- Emerging Artists Theatre New Works Series, Tada, NYC 2018
- Five and Dime Drama Collective, Eureka Springs, AK, 2019, winner of 4 Awards including Best Play

## **THE DEAD BOY (short play)**

- Taboo! Festival, Actors Workout Studio, North Hollywood, CA, 2020

## **GODFORSAKEN (one act)**

- The Tank, NYC, Virtual Performance, June 2020
- EndTime Productions, 2012

## **FIG DUDE**

- The British Theatre Challenge Long List, June 2021

## **AUDIO PLAY**

### **FIG JAM**

- Commissioned original audio play via Fabler Files, Recorded in English and Italian, 2020

## **ONE-ACTS**

GODFORSAKEN PINK, JUST LIKE SISTERS, EVIL IN HIS MIND, RAGE, SPUMONI TO GO, BRAD'S STORY, BY THE WAY, MY NAME'S SHARON, ROMAN ORGY LOUNGE, FIG JAM, FIG JAM (DUDES), LOVE AND CORONA, GAIA and GANYMEDE.

## **MSC.**

Served on the Advisory Board and Festival Committee for In Scena!, the first, second and third annual Italian Theater Festival in NYC in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

2015 Theater Resources Unlimited Mentee.

Member of The Playground Experiment.

Member of the Italian American Writers Association

Awarded a residency term at Milkwood in the Czech Republic.

Dramatists Guild Member

## **Education**

Grad Work in Cinema Studies & Dramatic Writing at New York University, Tisch School of the Arts.

Undergrad B.A. in English, Minor in Communication, Concentration: Theatre & Journalism, Seton Hall University. Magna Cum Laude. (Full scholarship)

<https://newplayexchange.org/users/5582/frank-j-avella>

<https://filmfreeway.com/FrankAvella>

[Luredtheplay.com](http://Luredtheplay.com)

**FigJamFilm.com**