

James A. Burkhalter

DOB: 1/19/1987 || Resides in Baltimore, Maryland



ARTIST STATEMENT

Growing up Black, Queer, and just plain ol' weird in the suburbs of Pasadena, MD, I didn't see any reflections of myself in real-life, so I had no choice but to look for them in movies and on television. That's why I feature Queer actors and/or characters (especially ones of color) in all of my projects.

In one of my recent short films, *Dreams Of My Father*, I explore the repressed rage of the disenfranchised and offer a cathartic release. The film follows a black transgender woman (authentically played by a trans actress) on a cross-country road trip to give her estranged abusive father a very special gift: a bullet to the brain. This is, by far, the darkest subject matter I've ever tackled, but it employs dark tongue-in-cheek humor. Even with the horrors of everyday life, I always try to highlight the futility of taking life too seriously and encourage viewers to appreciate its grotesque beauty.

EDUCATION

Maryland Institute College Of Art, Baltimore, MD - MFA (Filmmaking)

AUGUST 2019 - MAY 2021 || GPA: 3.86

- **Leslie King Hammond Fellowship** (2019-2021) [Academic excellence; Promoting inclusivity in art]

Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA - Dual BA (Documentary Film Studies & English)

AUGUST 2005 - MAY 2009 || GPA 3.11

- **Sigma Gamma Rho Black Rose Award for Academic Excellence** (2006) [BIPOC student with highest GPA]
- **Presidential Award for Academic Excellence** (2001-2009)

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

TYPING SPEED: 92 WPM

SOFTWARE: Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects, Final Cut Pro, Motion, DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Encore, Photoshop, Lightroom, Google Docs/Sheets/Forms, Microsoft Office Suite, NewOps (Logistics Suite), ADP, iMovieHD, Audacity, Keynote

CERTIFICATIONS: College Teaching of Art (5/2021), Safe Sets: Covid Level A (7/2021), English As A Second Language (ESL) Tutor (1/2006)

TRAINING: First Choice/Lean Management (5/2012), Team Leadership (2/2015), AVID Media Composer (4/2021), Pro Tools (2/2022)

JOB EXPERIENCE (Full History Available Upon Request)

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD - Graduate Professor

MAY 2022 - PRESENT

- Teaching Filmmaking Graduate Studio I (3 credits), II (3 credits), III (6 credits), and IV (6 credits), 100% in-person. Also teaching three lab practicals (camera, sound, and lighting) for Moving Image I and II.
- With 1st Year MFA students, educate them on all aspects of film pre-production planning, train them to use software (Final Draft, Movie Magic, Celtx, Studio Binder), and help them assemble their Thesis Proposal packets for review in April.
- With the 2nd Year MFA students, support them through all three phases of their thesis film production, evaluate and offer constructive criticism in response to each edit (assembly, rough, fine, picture lock), facilitate collaboration with graphic designers, illustrators, and Peabody composers through our annual Film Branding mixer. Hold students accountable for submitting all Deliverables on-time.
- Research & book guest speakers and visiting filmmakers. Introduce community screenings at the Parkway Theater. Give prospective students tours of the JHU-MICA's Film Centre's classrooms & facilities, and answer questions about the 2-year Filmmaking MFA program. Assess applicant portfolios and interview potential students.
- Recruit local community members for test audience screenings. Screen and hire collaborative media consultants from local community organizations such as Wide Angle Media Apprentices and the Media Rhythm Institute. Regularly attend faculty meetings and serve on the college's Retirement and Benefits (CRAB) committee.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Designed and implemented Corrective Action Form to document incidents and hold students & professors accountable.

Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Essex, MD - Adjunct Professor

AUGUST 2021 - AUGUST 2022

- Taught Media Literacy & Visual Communication (DIGM 111), focused on how creators use media strategically to manipulate consumers.
- Taught Fundamentals of Media Production (DIGM 112), focused on story structure, storyboarding, cinematography, audio recording, lighting, and video editing.
- Taught Digital Filmmaking (DIGM 152), focused on advanced video production, post-production documentation, marketing, and distribution.

HIGHLIGHT:

- Appeared as a Guest Speaker to discuss the importance of pre-production planning and the average daily routine on a film set.

Stuntman Jim Studios, Baltimore, MD - *Owner, Filmmaker*

SEPTEMBER 2010 - PRESENT

- Screenwriting and video production, regularly operate BMPCC, Sony FS5, or Canon C300.
- Edit in Premiere, export projects to social media. Create subtitles from video transcriptions.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Collaborated with the Full Circle Dance Company by directing, shooting, and editing their short film, entitled "The Healing Project."
- Honored at numerous film festivals including: Sundance Film Festival, Baltimore International Black Film Festival, and the LGBTQ Unbordered International Film Festival, among others.

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD - *Film Producer-in-Residence*

MAY 2021 - MAY 2022

- Advise MFA graduate students on pre-production and production phases of filmmaking.
- Assist with scouting locations, casting, storyboarding, obtaining permits, equipment, etc.
- Evaluate graduate admission application essays and portfolios.
- Assist non-film students in adding video elements to their work.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Advised distinguished Inaugural Community Fellow Mama Rashida Foreman-Bey (MICA '22) on how to assemble and display an immersive multimedia exhibit, combining video projections, spoken word, music, paintings, and fabrics.
- Successfully planned and executed the Annual Film Branding Mixer, facilitating collaboration between MFA filmmakers, illustrators, graphic designers, and composers.

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD - *Graduate Teaching Intern*

JANUARY 2020 - MAY 2021

- Lead class discussion and instructional workshops on Adobe Premiere & After Effects.
- Facilitate video conferences in Zoom/BigBlueButton. Operate lighting panel and projector.
- Digitize analog materials (VHS, DVD). Design visual aids for lectures. General tech support.

DHL eCommerce, Elkridge, MD - *Operations Supervisor (Encoding & Receiving Dept's)*

OCTOBER 2010 - AUGUST 2019

- Supervise 50+ employees, proofread & ghostwrite emails, timekeeping, track employee productivity. Provide hands-on individual training, technical support, and customer service.
- Track attendance and employee hours via ADP Timekeeping and productivity using Excel.
- Complete and send reports to Corporate HQ every morning using Microsoft Access.
- Act as Liaison between the terminal, DHL's corporate clients, and customer service reps.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- When my boss fell ill for a month, I performed both of our jobs simultaneously and departmental productivity increased.

- As a result, I was the first employee ever to win Employee of the Month (merit bonus) multiple times in a one-year period at the Terminal Manager's request.
- My department (Encoding) was ranked #1 in the USA with an average monthly productivity rate of 108%.

Starr Productions, Beltsville, MD - Wedding Videographer

MAY 2006 - NOVEMBER 2008

- Recorded and edited wedding ceremony & reception videos. Worked with tight deadlines.
- Designed, burned, and distributed DVDs with customized interactive menus and sleeves.

ARTICLES OF RECOGNITION

Gettysburg College, Musselman Library's Special Collections. "Interview with James A. Burkhalter, Black LGBTQIA+ Lives at Gettysburg College," 17 February 2022, <https://gettysburg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16274coll2/id/3509/rec/1>

Dry, Jude. "Sundance 2022: 10 Must-See Short Films at This Year's Virtual Festival." *IndieWire*, 14 January 2022, <https://www.indiewire.com/2022/01/sundance-2022-short-films-1234690457/>

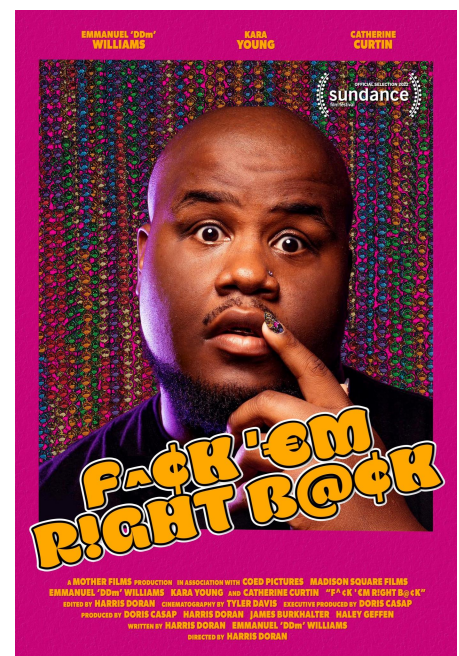
Baltimore Film Office. "Baltimore Screenwriters Competition 2021: Winners Announcement." 14 June 2021, http://baltimorefilm.com/index.cfm?page=screenwriting_competition

Kumar, Rishabh. "Film festival celebrates the city and people of Baltimore." *JHU Newsletter*, 8 October 2020, <https://www.jhunewsletter.com/article/2020/10/film-festival-celebrates-the-city-and-people-of-baltimore>

AWARDS / SELECT SCREENINGS

F^ck 'Em Right B@ck (Producer) (Comedy, LGBTQ, 13 minutes):

- Sundance Film Festival (2022) [Official Selection]
- Tribeca Film Festival (2022) [Official Selection]
- Aspen ShortsFest (2022) [Best Comedy Short]
- Over-the-Rhine Int'l Film Festival [Best Narrative Short]
- Florida Film Festival [Jury Award: Comedic Storytelling]
- deadCenter Film Festival (2022) [Best Pride Short]
- Maryland Film Festival (2022) [Official Selection]
- Santa Barbara Film Festival (2022) [Official Selection]
- OutFest Fusion QTBIPOC Film Festival (2022) [OS]
- RSF Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival [OS]





- Tampa Bay Intl Gay & Lesbian Film Festival [OS]
- Palm Springs Int'l Film Festival (2022) [OS]
- Inside Out Film Festival (2022) [OS]
- Calgary Underground Film Festival (2022) [OS]
- FrameLine (2022) [Official Selection]
- San Diego Int'l ShortsFest (2022) [OS]
- Bolton Film Festival (2022) [Official Selection]

Dreams Of My Father (Writer-Director-Producer-Editor)

(Horror, LGBTQ, 14 minutes):

- Baltimore International Black Film Festival (2021)
[Official Selection]
- LGBTQ Unbordered International Film Festival (2021)
[Award of Merit]

Last Call (Writer) (Science Fiction, LGBTQ, 6 pages):

- Baltimore Film Office Screenwriters Competition (2021)
[2nd Place-Shorts]



Little Latin Boy in Drag, Why Are You Crying? (Director-Editor) (Montage, LGBTQ, 5 minutes):

- We Are Everywhere: LGBTQ Art Showcase (2021) [Official Selection]



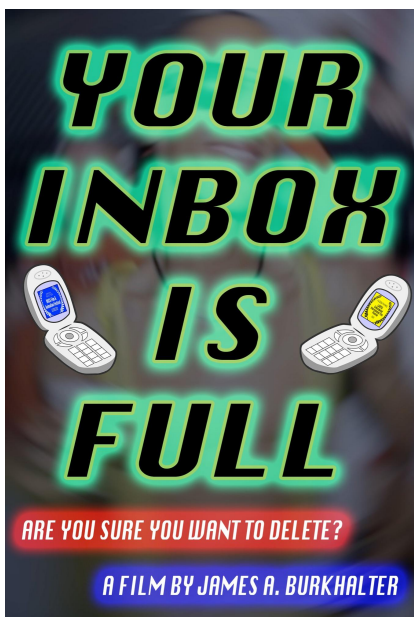
The Purgatory of Ghosts & Grief (Sound Mixer)

(Drama, 23 minutes):

- Austin's Capital City Black Film Festival (2021) [OS]
- Baltimore International Black Film Festival (2021) [Best Baltimore Short]
- Bill Johnson Black Film Festival (2021) [OS]
- San Diego Black Film Festival (2021) [OS]
- Katra Film Series (2022) [Official Selection]
- Florida Shorts (2022) [Semi-Finalist]

♥ **Love, Ava** ♥ (Director-Editor) (Experimental Documentary, LGBTQ, 5 minutes):

- Black Femme Supremacy Film Festival (2020) [Official Selection]
- WRPN Women's International Film Festival (2021) [Award of Merit]



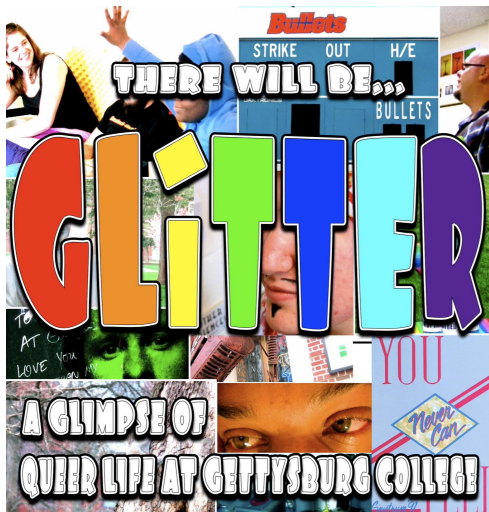
Your Inbox Is Full (Director-Editor)

(Experimental Documentary, LGBTQ, 5 minutes):

- MICA Film & Animation Festival (2020) [Official Selection]
- LGBTQ Unbordered International Film Festival (2020) [Kudos Award]

[Kween For A Day](#) (Director-Editor) (Documentary, LGBTQ, 5 minutes):

- L.A. Best Shorts Competition (2020) [Official Selection]
- We Are Everywhere: LGBTQ Art Showcase (2020) [OS]
- Made In Baltimore Short Film Festival (2020) [OS]



[There Will Be GLITTER: A Glimpse of Queer Life @ Gettysburg College](#) (Director-Editor) (Documentary, LGBTQ, 97 minutes):

- Remastered & Preserved in Musselman Library's Special Collections due to Cultural Significance
- Incorporated into the curriculum of a 300-level course in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department at Gettysburg College
- Central Pennsylvania Consortium's Annual "Women In Academia" Conference (2010) [Official Selection]