

GEORGE ELLZEY JR

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EDUCATION

- 2023 **M.F.A. DePaul University, Chicago, IL**
School of Cinematic Arts – Digital Cinema
Directing Concentration
- 2013 **B. A. Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME**
Departments of English and Theater
Honors

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Screenwriting Teacher, Green Shirt Studio
- 2020 Screenwriting Mentor, DePaul/Cha Youth program
- 2014 – 2020 Youth Leader/ Teen Counselor, Apostolic Faith Church Chicago
- 2014 – 2015 Substitute English Teacher, Chicago Urban Prep Academy
- 2013 – 2014 Teacher Assistant, Young Women's Leadership Academy

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 Voice & Vision Award, Premiere Festival: Cottage Grove
Achievement in Short Film Writing, Premiere Festival: Cottage Grove
Audience Choice Award, Premiere Festival: Cottage Grove
- 2022 Finalist for BlueCat Screenplay competition: Cottage Grove
- 2022 Finalist for Camera Ambassador Community Builders Grant:
Cottage Grove
- 2021 Best Experimental Film & Best Editing, Premiere Festival: SWITCHIN'
- 2020 Best Experimental Film, DePaul Shorts Fall Screening: Role Model
- 2020 Semi-finalist for Shoot Your Short EmergingScreenwriters.com competition:
By Design

FILM FESTIVAL RECOGNITION AND SCREENING

- 2023 ***Bosom (director, screenwriter, producer)***
Brave Makers Film Festival (Redwood City, CA)
Chicago Seen, Volume 16, (Chicago, IL)
Madison Film Festival (Madison, WI)
Charlotte Film Festival (Charlotte, NC)
Sweet Void August showcase (Chicago, IL)
Idlewild International Film Festival (Detroit, MI)

- Gary International Black Film Festival (Gary, IN)
 Black Harvest Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
 Shortcut 100 Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
- 2023 **Cottage Grove (director, screenwriter, producer)**
 Premiere Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
 Tallgrass Film Festival (Wichita, KS)
 Driftless Film Festival (Mineral Point, WI)
- 2021 – 2022 **SWITCHIN' (director, producer)**
 Festival Au Cinema (Chicago, IL)
 D.E.F. Showcase (Chicago, IL)
 Athens International Film Festival (Athens, OH)
 Premiere Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
 Black Harvest Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
 London International Web & Shorts Film Festival (UK) (Semi-finalist)
- 2021 **RunRunBoy.Run (director, producer)**
 Lift-Off Filmmaker Sessions @ Pinewood Studios (Pinewood Studios, Buckinghamshire)
- 2020 **Role Model (director, producer)**
 DePaul Shorts (Chicago, IL)
 D.E.F. Showcase (Chicago, IL)
- 2019 – 2020 **Division (director, co-screenwriter, producer)**
 Miami Independent Film Festival
 Lift-Off Global Network Film Festival
- 2019 **Sore Loser (director, screenwriter, producer)**
 First Time Filmmaker Sessions
 (Pinewood Studios, Buckinghamshire)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

HollywoodChicago.com "Podtalk: George Ellzey Jr. on His 'Bosom' and 'Cottage Grove' Shorts" (online), September 9, 2023

<https://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/37681/podtalk-george-ellzey-jr-on-his-bosom-and-cottage-grove-shorts>

ChicagoFilmmakers.org "Chicago Seen Volume 16: A Program Review by J.S.) VOLUME 16: A PROGRAM REVIEW BY J.S." (online), August 12, 2023

<https://chicagofilmmakers.org/insight/chicagoseen16review>

ReelChicago.com, "Chicago filmmaker George Ellzey Jr talks inspiration behind Cottage Grove" (online), August 11, 2023

<https://reelchicago.com/article/chicago-filmmaker-george-ellzey-jr-talks-inspiration-behind-cottage-grove/?fbclid=IwAR0BYDkDx8lc9n-B--4gPBV1vu04DugavUi2Gkv9JO5OaA61IHCnSgZ5sZc>

Camera Ambassador, "George Ellzey Jr. Transcends the Limits" (online), February 23, 2023

[George Ellzey Jr. Transcends the Limits – Camera Ambassador Rentals](#)

C.J. Prince, "Waiting for the Light to Change is a Strong, Precise Debut" (online), January 22, 2023

[Slamdance Review: Waiting for the Light to Change is a Strong, Precise Debut Exploring Anxieties of Young Adulthood \(thefilmstage.com\)](#)

Matt Kubinski, "CinemaJaw 566 – Jurassic World – Scenes that Bite" (online), June 13, 2022
<https://cinemajaw.com/wordpress/tag/jurassic-world-dominion/>

REEL Indie, "Camera Ambassador announces Community Builders Grant 2022 winner" (online), June 10, 2022

[Camera Ambassador announces Community Builders Grant 2022 winner Reel Chicago News](#)

Gordy "George Ellzey Jr. – 2022 Short Film Script Finalist" (online), May 17, 2022
[George Ellzey Jr. - 2022 Short Film Script Finalist \(bluecatscreenplay.com\)](#)

Christian Farr, "NBC Chicago 5 - Celebrating Black History: What to Know About Code Switching" (online and broadcast), FEBRUARY 10, 2022

[Celebrating Black History: What to Know About Code Switching – NBC Chicago](#)

Elaine Hegwood Bowen, M.S.J. "Chicago Director's 'SWITCHIN' part of 'Made in Chicago' slate at Black Harvest Film Festival" November 12, 2021

[Chicago Director's 'SWITCHIN' part of 'Made in Chicago' slate at Black Harvest Film Festival \(chicagocrusader.com\)](#)

Werner Andrews, "Courier 13 Podcast – George Ellzey Jr" (online), July 2, 2021

[George Ellzey Jr. | The Courier Thirteen Podcast | Podcasts on Audible | Audible.com](#)

PJ Walker "Rewine Podcast: Make Your Own feat. George Ellzey" (online), February 12, 2020
[Make Your Own\(Feat.George Ellzey Jr\) - The Rewine | Podcast on Spotify](#)

Bowdoin College, "AF/AM/50: Black Arts, A Canvas for Social Activism" (online and broadcast), November 09, 2019

[AF/AM/50: Black Arts, A Canvas for Social Activism | Bowdoin College](#)

Bowdoin College, "Alumni to discuss under-representation as Black artists" (online and print), November 8, 2019

[Alumni to discuss under-representation as Black artists – The Bowdoin Orient](#)

Cajetan Sorich, "DIVISION THE STREET AND DIVISION THE FILM: A CONVERSATION WITH CARA WINTER AND GEORGE ELLZEY JR." (online), October 23, 2018

[Privacy error \(scapimag.com\)](#)

Naomi Hoke, "Meet Cara Winter and George Ellzey Jr. of Ellzey Winter Productions" (online), AUGUST 14, 2018

[Chicago Director's 'SWITCHIN' part of 'Made in Chicago' slate at Black Harvest Film Festival \(chicagocrusader.com\)](#)

Matt Kubinski, "CinemaJaw 383 – Cara Winter & George Ellzey Jr – Interracial Movies" (online), July 30, 2018

Dan Patton, "Division 'collapses the distance of urban romance'" (online), June 25, 2018
["Division" collapses the distance of urban romance Reel Chicago News](#)

DISTRIBUTION

2023 **SWITCHIN' (director, producer)**
OTV - Open Television

BROADCAST

2022 **NBC Chicago 5**
Interview for Black History month discussing code-switching amongst people of color in the context of my experimental film, SWITCHIN'

RADIO

2018 **WVON 1609AM**
Interview on the show Talk of Chicago with Art "Chat Daddy" Sims to discuss crowdfunding and production of my short film, DIVISION.

FILMOGRAPHY

2023 **Cottage Grove**, Narrative Short, Director (14 minutes)
Bosom, Narrative Short, Director (11 minutes)
Magical Negro, Experimental Short, in post-production

2021 **Bubblin' Up**, Narrative Short, Director (6 minutes)
Changé, Narrative Short, Director (3 minutes)
Violet, Narrative Short, Director/Editor (2 minutes)
RunRunBoy, Run, Experimental Short, Director/Editor (30 secs)

2020 **SWITCHIN'**, Experimental Short, Director/Editor, (6 minutes)
Role Model, Experimental Short, Director/Editor, (2 minutes)
ILNWU, Experimental Short, Director/Editor, (1 minute)

2019 **Sore Loser**, Narrative Short, Director (6 minutes)
Becoming Him, Documentary Short (5 minutes)

- Frequency**, Narrative Short, Director (3 minutes)
- 2018 **Division**, Narrative Short, Director/Co-Writer (31 minutes)
- 2016 **Showcase**, Narrative Web Series, Co-Writer/Producer/Actor (12 minutes)

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAYS

- 2023 **All Good**, Narrative Feature (in development)
- 2022 **Cottage Grove**, Narrative Short, 13 pages
- Bosom**, Narrative Short, 12 pages
- 2021 **In Reality**, Narrative Feature, (2nd draft)
- Bubblin' Up**, Narrative Short, 5 pages
- 2019 **Frequency**, Narrative Short, 2 pages
- 2018 **Division**, Narrative Short, 20 pages

ADDITIONAL FILM WORK

- 2023 Executive Producer, *Shoot Your Shot*, Narrative Short, (pre-production)
- 2022 Casting Director, *Lost Boys Pizza*, Narrative Short, (in post-production)
- Producer/ 1st AD, *ESPERANZA Teaser*, Narrative Short, 3 minutes
- Producer, *A Mind of Its Own*, Narrative Short,
DC Black Festival (Washington, DC)
Winner: Best Student Film
- 1st AD, *Waiting for the Light to Change*, Narrative Feature, 89 minutes
29th Slamdance Film Festival (Park City, UT)
31st Heartland International Film Festival (Indianapolis, IA)
- Casting Director, *Red Ink*, Narrative Short, 11 minutes
- Casting Director, *H18*, Narrative Short, 11 minutes
- 2020 Producer, *Petites Fleurs*, Narrative Short, 5 minutes
- Production Designer, *The Single Line Theory*, Narrative Short, 11 minutes
Chicago Indie Film Awards (Chicago, IL)

Blue Whiskey Independent Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
Winnipeg Real to Reel Film Festival (Winnipeg, CA)
Chicago International REEL Shorts Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
Phoenix Film Festival and the International Sci-Fi Horror Film
Festival (Phoenix, AZ)
Romford Film Festival (Romford, UK)

Winner: Jury Prize

- 2020 Casting Director, *Late Night Run*, Narrative Short,
- 2019 Casting Director, *World 4 Level 2*, Narrative Short, 13 minutes
The International Black Film Festival (Nashville, TN)
Patrick Lives on Showcase (Chicago, IL)
Casting Director, *Shower Curtain*, Narrative Short, 10 minutes
- Producer, *Now & Not Yet*, Narrative Short, 5 minutes
Chicago Feedback Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
Winner: Best Film
Collected Voices Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
Chicago Social Change Film Festival (Chicago, IL)
- 2018 Producer, *Desperate Series*, Narrative TV Pilot, 49 minutes
Streaming on Amazon Prime Video
- Producer, *Venere*, Narrative Short, 15 minutes

ACTING (THEATER)

- 2018 Hellcab. Roles of Young Father & The Architect
Directed by Cordie Nelson at Ravens Theater
- 2017 Hellcab. Young Black Man & Shelita's Boyfriend
Directed by Sommer Austin at the Den Theatre
- Party On Chicago! Morgan (u/s)
Directed by Cara Winter at Gorilla Tango Theater
- One Minute Play Festival. Male
Directed by Jacob Watson at the Den Theatre
- 2012 This Is Our Youth. Warren
Directed by Davis Robinson at Pickard Theater at Bowdoin
- 2011 Lullaby. Male
Directed by Lily Bo at Pickard Theater at Bowdoin College

ACTING (FILM)

- 2018 Showcase Webseries(Lead)
Dir. Eric Sconyers/ ROME Production Group

- 2017 Lucky Number 7 (Lead)
Dir. Rigo Ocegueda/Illinois Institute of Art
- 2017 Close Talker. (Supporting)
Dir. Joseph McGhee/ Columbia College
- 2016 Wait, I'm A Racist? (Supporting)
Dir. Daniel John Harris/ Rogue Shark Pictures
- 2015 Crime Stoppers Cases Files Series (Lead)
Dir. Andrew Smith/ My50Chicago
- Off the Rails (Lead)
Dir. Leonardo Falluca/ Artigianale Films
- 2013 In Bedrooms (V.O.)
Dir. Sara Siwak/ Bowdoin Film Society

FUNDING

- 2022 Cottage Grove, Narrative Short
Raised \$15,000 via IndieGoGo and private donations. Produced and directed a teaser trailer, and a social media campaign and garnered community partners.
- 2016 DIVISION, Narrative Short
Raised \$18,000 via IndieGoGo and private donations.
Produced a teaser trailer and behind-the-scenes videos and interviews.

INVITED PANELS

- 2023 Ten Years Out: Insights From the Class of 2013 (Brunswick, Me)
Invited to discuss my professional journey into film production post-undergrad at Bowdoin College
- 2022 DePaul SCA Graduate Panel (Chicago, IL)
Invited to share the experience as a third year in the directing program with the new cohorts.
- 2022 Screendance Symposium at UW Madison (Madison, WI)
Invited to participate in a panel for emerging voices in screen dance at the international convention.
- 2019 Bowdoin AFAM 50th Celebration (Brunswick, ME)
Invited for discussion on the subject of "Black Arts, A Canvas for Social Activism" with the singer-songwriter, Coretta King.
- 2014 Career Day at Dunbar High School (Chicago, IL)
Invited to share my experience as an actor and creative in the Chicago community with first year and sophomore classes.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2023 DePaul/CHA Summer Youth Program
Invited to discuss my creative and writing process for films specifically Cottage Grove with the inner city summer students.
- 2021 Free Fridays, Green Shirt Studio Chicago (Chicago, IL)
Invited to give artists' a presentation about creating their opportunities through creative producing.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – 2021 DePaul CDM Tour Guide
Provided prospective students with an hour-long overview of DePaul's College of Computing & Digital Media, and Cinespace stages.
- 2021 Production Office Assistant
Assisted student filmmakers with navigating filmmaking within the university and the city via contracts, casting, finding crew, and other logistics.
- 2020 Casting Intern, O'Connor Casting Company
Assisted senior casting directors with auditions & callbacks.
Arranged audition dailies and facilitated contracts with talent.
- 2016 Producing Intern, Full Spectrum Features
Managed film donations and assisted with location scouting for the feature, Signature Move.
- 2016 Marketing Assistant, Broadway in Chicago
Crafted marketing and community outreach proposals to engage minority communities for the pre-Broadway shows (*First Wives Club*, *Amazing Grace*)

GRANTS

- 2023 MFA Production Grant, DePaul University (Chicago, IL)
Awarded \$2,500 for post-production on COTTAGE GROVE.
- 2021 MFA Production Grant, DePaul University (Chicago, IL)
Awarded \$5,000 for production and promotion on BOSOM.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2020 VAS Editor
Edited footage for the Visiting Artist Series at DePaul University and monitored content for their YouTube channel.

COMMITTEES

2022 Personnel Committee for DePaul School of Cinematic Arts
Analyzed student evaluations and compiled surveys into a report. Presented findings to the committee regarding tenure candidate, Anna Hozian.

PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOLASTIC MEMBERSHIPS

2023 – present University Film and Video Association

2019 – present The Grove, DePaul Graduate Film Organization (Vice-President)

2018 – 2020 The Agency Theater Collective Member