

RYAN BERNSTEN

ryanbernsten.com

815.914.7958

ryan.bernsten@gmail.com

Education

University of Oxford, *Master's in Creative Writing, Distinction*, 2019

Northwestern University, *Cum Laude*, 2014

Bachelor's in Theatre, Creative Writing for the Media (Screenwriting/Playwriting)

New York University, Writers in Paris Program, *Fiction*, 2013

Kenyon Playwrights Conference, 2015

Productions

- **Novel** (Playwright) Charlotte Street Foundation, KC: Scratch Series, reading, 2022
- **We Are Blood** (Playwright) Kansas City Public Theatre, reading, 2021
- **We Are Blood** (Playwright) Northwestern University, reading, 2020
- **The New Order** (Playwright) OUDS - Oxford Best New Play for Voices, Oxford, 2019
- **Bad Press** (Playwright) commissioned by Wide-Eyed Productions for the "First Amendment Project" at Cherry Lane Theatre, New York City, 2018
- **Atlantic** (Librettist, Lyricist) commissioned by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, American Musical Theatre Project; Edinburgh Fringe, 2017 (5 Stars, Glasgow Herald)
- **Dream Ticket** (Playwright) NY Fringe, The Player's Theatre, Excellence Award-Winner, Recommended by Huffington Post, TimeOutNY, Producer's Perspective, 2016
- **The New Order** (Playwright) Corkscrew Festival, reading, 2017
- **Going Dutch** (Assistant Writer) Holland-America Cruises, Welcome Performance, 2016
- **Vote! The Musical** (Lyricist, Librettist) staged reading, Stage 773, 2016
- **Double Feature at Hollywood and Vine; Flying Home** (Co-Chair, Head Writer) 82nd, 83rd Annual Waa-Mu Shows, Northwestern University, 2013-2014

Publications

- "50 States of Mind: A Journey to Rediscover American Democracy" Bite-Sized Books, 2023
- "The Kansas City Guide: The Best Places To Eat And Drink In Kansas City"
The Infatuation/Zagat (2021)
- "What Americans Could Learn from a Visit to All 50 states" *Oxford Political Review* (2019)
- "50 States of Mind" Podcast: Apple Podcasts, Spotify (2019)
- Deputy Editor for Oxymoron, Oxford's Satire Paper (2017-2019)
- GradeSaver Study Guides: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *All The President's Men*, *The Westing Game*, *Station Eleven*, available on Amazon (2017, 2018)
- Resolution for Gun Control from the Chicago City Council to U.S. Justice Department
- "The Lumberjack Breakfast" *Rockford Writer's Guild Anthology* (2010)

Professional Experience

- **The Trevor Project**, Sr. Managing Editor (2022 - present)
 - brainstormed and executed campaigns for Pride Month, created scripts for talent partners, and wrote social media copy and blogs for publication

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Professional Experience (cont'd)

- **T-Mobile**, *Senior Copywriter* (2020 - 2021)
 - spearheaded copy rebranding for all SMS and email correspondence for millions of Sprint/T-Mobile customers, developed scripts for national TV, radio, and digital commercials, increasing sales during the COVID crisis
- **Oxford University**, *Delegate/Panelist*, Society of Educational Studies (2018)
 - delegate and speaker at the Symposium of Academic Writers
- **Northwestern University, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**, *Guest Artist* (2017)
 - developed and workshopped new musical ATLANTIC with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the American Musical Theatre Project to premiere at the Edinburgh Fringe
- **Cold Justice, TNT, Magical Elves** *Associate Producer*, (2014-2015)
 - staff writer for scripting case file narratives; pitched to network, executive producers
- **The Onion News Network** *Writer's Assistant Intern*, (2012)
 - research and writing assistant to writing team; completed daily research assignments
- **CONAN Production/Talent Intern**, (2013)
 - daily assistant to director, green room coordination

Podcasts

- **50 States of Mind**, (*Oxford master's thesis, podcast*) 50statesofmind.org
 - A non-fiction account of one writer's trip driving through all 50 states to interview mayors, governors, community leaders, and voters on both sides of the aisle
- **Kingdom Hearts, Kingdom Hearts** (*podcast*)
 - Two friends rank every world from the video game series Kingdom Hearts

Awards/Honors

- Oxford University Distinction for *What Happened at Jimmy Carter's Funeral*
- Oxford University Distinction for *50 States of Mind*
- Kings Hall Grant Winner, 2019
- Finalist, *We Are Blood*, Rave Theatre Festival
- Semi-Finalist, *We Are Blood*, Ashland New Play Festival
- Best Play for New Voices - OUDS New Writing Festival, Oxford 2019
- Excellence Award for *Dream Ticket*, 2016, New York Fringe Festival
- Senior Playwriting Showcase 2014, Northwestern University
- Finalist, *The New Order*, Agnes Nixon Playwriting Festival 2014
- Marietta Painter Songwriting Award and Grant

Selected Reviews

"With comedy like *"Veep"*, drama like *"Scandal"* and Sorkin-esque wisdom and sensibility, *Dream Ticket* by Ryan Bernsten is an aptly timed political play." - ***Theatre in the Now***

"*Dream Ticket* brings satirical Republican politics through Ryan Bernsten's highly focused Democratic lens to shed light on our corrupt love of candidacy drama, instead of where the focus should really be—on the American people." - ***Theatre is Easy***