

MAKENA METZ

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EDUCATION

2021 - 2023 **Dual Degree M.F.A Creative Writing & M.A. English**

Winner of the James L. Doti Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Chapman University

2013 - 2017 **BFA Theatre Directing & Minor in Playwriting**

Columbia College Chicago

REPRESENTATION

LITERARY – Fonda Snyder, Alchemy Ink, Fonda.Snyder@gmail.com

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Mentorship Program – The Society of Composers and Lyricists, Los Angeles, CA, 2024-2025
- The Johnny Mercer Foundation Songwriting Intensive – Snow Pond Center for the Arts, Sidney, ME, 2024
- Finalist for the Dramatists Guild Foundation National Fellowship (top 25 out of 700) – 2023
- NEXT Masterclass Fellowship – Literary Track, The Braid Theatre Company, Santa Monica, CA 2023-2024
- First Time Composer’s Program – MTV & Paramount, 2023-2024
- Entertainment Lab, TV Writer Track – Disability Belongs, 2023

PUBLICATIONS

Fiction

- Short Story *The Flowering of Nightmares and Dreams* – The Kismet Magazine, Online Exclusive, 2026
- Reprinted Flash Fiction *The Itch* – Dark Moon Rising, “Nature’s Triumphs” Issue, 2024
- Flash Fiction *The Itch* – Broken Antler Magazine, Issue 4, 2024
- Short Story *Bloom* – MockingOwl Roost, 2024
- Short Story *The Parrot and the Pirate* – MockingOwl Roost, 2024
- Short Story *The Tea Shop* – Havik Magazine, Spring Issue, 2023
- Short story *The Tea Shop* – For Page & Screen Magazine, Issue 2, 2022

Poetry

- Debut Chapbook “Through My Marrow” – Published with Bottlecap Press, 2026

- *Avian Timekeeping* and *Explaining my Chronic Illness* – Published with The Blunt Space, Defiance and Dialogue Issue 3, “Redefining Mentality,” 2026
- *Death* - Published with Flare Magazine, Special Issue 2: Health Scares, 2025
- *Vampire* - Published with Magnets and Ladders, Fall/Winter Issue, 2025
- *Meet Our Contributor Highlight* - Published with the Philly Chapbook Review, 2025
- *Charlatan, Electricity and Ice, and Language* - Published with the Philly Chapbook Review, Featured Poet, Summer Issue, 2025
- *Third Degree* – Reprinted in Boudin, Retro Summer Issue, 2025
- *Third Degree* – HNDL Magazine, Summerween Issue, 2025
- *Electricity and Ice, Language, Charlatan* – Philly Poetry Chapbook Review, Issue 9, Summer, 2025
- *What I Think When You Ask Me How I’m Doing* - Breath & Shadow, Spring - Vol. 22, Issue 2, 2025
- *Tattoo, On the Edge, 19* – The Blunt Space, Defiance & Dialogue Issue 2: Bodily Autonomous, 2025
- Reprint of *Surgery* – t’ART Mag: Issue 10, 2025
- *Surgery* – The Mid-Atlantic Review, Amplifying Disabled Voices, 2025
- *Normal* – Boudin, Blooms in Dusk Issue, 2025
- *When the Queen Orders Your Death* and *Grey* – SpecPoVerse: An International Journal of Speculative Poetry, Issue 1, 2025
- *Tinder Match* – Bare Back Magazine, Valentine’s Issue, 2025
- *Chaos, Organized* and *412 Cherry Lane* – HNDL Magazine, Issue 2: Horror, 2024
- *Save the Humans* and *I’m Not Strong, I’m Resilient* – Dark Moon Rising, “Nature’s Triumphs” Issue, 2024
- *Trigger Point* – The Bitchin’ Kitsch, Fall Issue, 2024
- *When Did I Become the Girl* and *RX* – HNDL Magazine, Issue: HNDL BAR: Bold And Reflective Volume 2, 2024
- *Stairs* – HNDL Magazine, Issue: Dream, 2024

Film & Television

- Half hour pilot *Host Family* – Placed in Semifinals, Emerging Screenwriters Comedy Screenplay Competition, 2025
- Half hour pilot *Showstopper* – Placed in Quarterfinals, Emerging Screenwriters Comedy Screenplay Competition, 2025
- Short Screenplay *The Telescope* – Reunion: The Dallas Review, 2024
- Short Screenplay *Eclipse* – For Page and Screen, Issue 3, 2023
- Short Screenplay *Grow* – The Clockhouse Review, 2022
- Animated short *Weather or Not* – 4th Place Winner, Creators Society, 2024
- Feature *The Yearbook Committee* – Placed in Quarterfinals, Emerging Screenwriters Comedy Competition, 2024

- Half hour animated pilot *The Age of Dragons* –Placed in Quarterfinals, Filmmatic Sci-fi Fantasy Awards, 2023

Musical Theatre & Songwriting

- Debut musical comedy EP “Songs for My Therapist,” releasing on all platforms, 2025-26
- Workshop Reading of *Chronic*, Book, Music, & Lyrics, New Musicals Inc. 2024
- Concert Reading of *Food for Thought*, Book & Lyrics, New Musicals Inc., 2023
- Song “Let’s See What You Got” (co-written with Angela Parrish and Dan Povenmire) released on Disney+ and Disney Channel’s *Hamster & Gretel* – Episode 20: “Let’s Sea What You Got!” Disney Television Animation, 2023
- Concert Reading of *Home for the Holidays*, Book, Music, & Lyrics, New Musicals Inc., 2022
- Sections of *Home for the Holidays*, Book, Music, & Lyrics, workshopped through the Alliance for Jewish Theatre Machers Lab and presented in the AJT Theatre Macher Showcase, 2022
- Song “You Do You” performed in Salon show “Uncovered,” The Braid Theatre, 2022
- Song “Race Against Time” (co-written with Angela Parrish and Dan Povenmire) premiered on Disney+ and Disney Channel’s *Hamster & Gretel* – Episode 2: “Math Punch!” Disney Television Animation, 2022

Drama

- Plays *A Wink of Sleep* and *An Inspirational Story* - written and performed for the 14/48 Hollywood Theatre Festival, Hollywood CA, 2025
- Monologue *Hide and Seek* – Performance, Lit Fest 4, Winters Theatre Co, Sacramento, CA, 2024
- Monologue *Hide and Seek* – Staged Reading, The Braid Theatre Company, Candlelight Storytelling, Los Angeles, CA 2024
- 10-minute play *Work/Life Balance* – Festival Production, Short Play Festival, Appalachian State University Theatre and Dance Department, IG Green Studio Theatre, 2024
- Play *Blurrred: A Modern Fairy Tale* – Festival Production, Giant Wolf Theatre Company, Dublin, Ireland, 2024
- Play *The Escape* – Staged Reading, Benson Theatre and Queens Theatre Disability Plays Readings, Omaha NE, 2024
- Plays *Double Date* and *Monkey Business* written and performed for the 14/48 Hollywood Theatre Festival, Hollywood CA, 2023
- Play *Falling Apart While Learning to Cook (A Recipe for an Empty Nest)* chosen as a Semi-Finalist (30 chosen out of 411) in the Morgan-Wixson New Works Festival, 2023

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

2025 – **Contract Editor – Storyteller Publishing**

Present

- Developmentally, line, and copy edited a slate of manuscripts including a comedy memoir, artist memoir, epic fantasy novel, and literary fiction novel under NDA for Storyteller Publishing, an imprint of Macmillan. Gave notes on clarity, voice, style, flow of ideas, grammar, punctuation, etc. incorporating publisher and author notes
- Liaised with authors, editors, and publishers to edit manuscripts from draft to ready for marketing, galleys, and advanced reader copies on schedule for publication. Tracked and organized database of projects, kept tight schedule to meet publisher deadlines, updated editor on progress and timeline

2024 **Freelance Editor – Bootstrap Publications**

- Copy edited an 85,000 word fiction manuscript for indie press Bootstrap Publications. Gave notes on grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, passive voice, and flow of ideas

2024-2025 **Freelance Editor**

Technical Book on Improvisation

- Line and copy edited a 20,000 word manuscript on the art of theatrical improvisation. Gave notes on narration, tone, language, spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.

Devotional

- Beta read and copy edited on a 45,000 word non-fiction devotional. Gave notes on grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors and gave feedback on structure of book.

Memoir

- Gave developmental, line, and copy edits on two versions of a 50,000 word non-fiction memoir. Worked with the author to ensure vision, clarify structure, and fix grammatical errors. Discussed overall notes and formatted book to standard prose manuscript layout.

Fiction Manuscript

- Gave developmental, line, and copy edits on the first version of a 60,000 word literary fiction novel. Worked with the author to ensure vision, clarify structure, and fix grammatical errors online and in person.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024 – **Circle Leader – Women in Animation**

- Present
- Designed and led two mentorship circles for ten early career post-college graduates and served various career tracks including board artists, editors, composers, writers, and directors to illuminate the animation pipeline and have mentees build relationships and learn by working in various roles through multiple projects and taking risks

2024 **Instructor – Sylvan Learning**

- Taught students reading comprehension and writing, evaluated and document student progress, communicated student needs to the center director, met all Sylvan Learning and LAUSD guidelines while inspiring and educating remedial students

2023 – 2022 **Instructor – English Rhetoric and Composition, Chapman University**

- Designed and taught Fantasy Rhetorics and the Rhetorics of Belief to two first year composition English classes, meeting all university, program, and course learning outcomes.
- Designed online course management site in Canvas and taught asynchronous and synchronous modules.

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

2022 – 2021 **Research Assistant to the MFA Creative Writing Program**

- Coordinated and managed program social media platforms, compiled and researched publication opportunities for the program's monthly newsletter, submitted student accomplishments to the appropriate databases, and provided administrative support for special projects and events sponsored by the program.

2022 – 2021 **Writing Tutor for the Writing Center**

- Reviewed and offered feedback on student written coursework, created resource materials for students and tutors, and conducted writing workshops with student groups.

RESEARCH AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 **Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Austin, TX**
- Presented “Learning in a Disability-Forward Classroom” on the panel “Beyond Accessibility: Disability-Forward”
- 2023 **The College English Association, San Antonio, TX**
- Presented “More than Accessibility: The Effect of Student Learning in a Disability-Forward Classroom” on the panel “Learning Strategies in a Post-COVID World”
- 2023 – 2022 **IRB Approved Study**
- Ran an IRB approved study on how the effects of accessibility decrease anxiety in student writing on my first year composition English 103 “Rhetoric of Belief” class

PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIPS

- 2025 Mentor with AWP’s Writer 2 Writer Program
- 2021-2025 Mentor and Regional Moderator with Maestra Music, Virtual
- 2019-2021 Mentor with WriteGirl, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 Mentor with Young Storytellers, Los Angeles, CA

SKILLS

SAP, Canvas, Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Box, Shotgun, Campaign Monitor, FileMaker Pro Advanced, Skype, Bluejeans, Video Conferencing, Photoshop, Canva, Wordpress, Wix, Storyboard Pro, Garageband, Scrivner, FinalDraft, & MovieMagic6