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## OBJECTIVE:

My goal is pointed, and the trajectory of my aim is unwavering: I have always known that interpreting written words and converting them into moving pictures were the elements that defined for me: Art in its truest form. But it all starts with becoming a creative, screenplay writer and filmmaker. The driving force that keeps the embers in me glowing at full blast is the platform I have teaching these acquired skills to Texas Southern University students plying in the same arena.

## EDUCATION:

MPA in Public Administration, Texas Southern University. 1983  
BA: Political Science, Texas Southern University. 1979

## EXPERIENCE:

Adjunct Professor (TSU) 2014 to present. Since 1984, I have written over fifty feature length screenplays...some of them as a hired gun...meaning that I have been contracted to write screenplays for independent filmmakers over a period of two decades. Some of my screenplays have been adapted into full-fledged 400 hundred-page scorches like the books titled, BLUE MARTINI, and BARGERSVILLE, THE 4<sup>TH</sup> GATE. It is in the same vein that some of screenplays have been made into feature length films...ten motion pictures and counting. A couple of those films have notable Hollywood faces like the late, **Thomas Mikhail Ford** of the famous Martin Show, **Kool Mo Dee**, the famous rap musician, to behemoths **Eric Roberts** of Dark Knights, and The Specialist fame; and **Anthony Ray Parker** of the Matrix fame. In each of these films with the notables, I was the writer and Director of these films. **Lonestar Deception**, the film that featured Eric Roberts and Anthony Ray Parker won Houston's World fest film festival for Best Film.

In 1986, I served as a production Assistant in a television series shot in Houston...**the Red. Duke's story**. That awakened the docile, dormant beast of art

resident in me. Since then, I have never looked back. With that one experience, coupled with the unavoidable stints of watching bad movies in the days of yore, I launched into that foray of writing screenplays. In all, I was registered in more than a dozen, weekend screenplay seminars back in the eighties as a way of sharpening my skills.

It paid off: In 1994, I wrote and Directed my first feature length film titled **Material Witness**, which Dr. Chris Ulasi produced.

The very next year, 1995, Dr. Chris Ulasi and I followed that up with **The Kangaroo**, featuring some of Hollywood greats, like **Thomas Mikhail Ford**, and **Charnele Brown** of the A Different World fame.

Come 1996, we were good to go on another production...a political action drama, titled **The Stalk Exchange (419)** This one film was tailored to appease the taste buds of most African film consumers. It was our first incursion into a territory that would later become the world's second-best consumers of films from the diaspora.

The experiences in writing and making motion pictures never slowed; my production company followed these successes up with a slew of other noteworthy films, written and directed by me; **Return of The Exile; Ricochet; Blood and Destiny; Gem of The Rainforest;** and the award winner monster, **Pound of Flesh**.

It did not take long; offers were coming in to write for fledgling production companies. They saw, in real time, my expedition into the cold lands of Canada to receive a film award. I was called in to make a pitch for a hired gun screenplay I had written titled, at the time, **The Candidate**. A year and a half later, the film The Candidate was in the can...with a new name, **Lonestar Deception**. This was the film that garnered incredible awards on the international scene. The film is also available...streaming on Hulu, Amazon Prime, and Vudu.

And then, **Jurica Road**, the movie of exquisite, but flaming diatribe on race happened. This scorching tale is as dark in her precepts as one would find in the rungs and crannies of Hell proper. This film is also available on Amazon Prime.

## **AWARDS:**

African Oscars (NAFCA) 2013, Best Screenplay; Page 36.

African Oscars (NAFCA) 2014, Best Director; Gem of the Rainforest.

African Oscars (NAFCA) 2015, Best Drama; Pound of Flesh.

Canada International Film Festival, 2015, Rising Star award; Pound of Flesh.

Houston International Film Festival, 2019, Best film; Lonestar Deception.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

(All books listed below are available in book stores, Amazon and on publisher's website)

**Blue Martini**; Political crime drama; 2004, Trafford publisher; 400+ pages.

**Bargersville, The 4<sup>th</sup> Gate**; Ghost story; 2006, luniverse publisher. 400+ pages.

**Yeshua, My Love**; The life of Jesus before his ministry; 2007, luniverse publisher. 300+ pages.

**Twelve Million Nights**; Ghost story; 2009, luniverse publisher; 293 pages.

**Sodom City**; Political action drama; 2010, luniverse publisher; 310 pages.

**Blood of Legends**; Vampire; 2015, luniverse publisher; 260 pages

**Mary, The Mother of God**; 2017, luniverse publisher; 169 pages.

**James Hadley Chase**; 2018, Trafford publisher, 243 pages.

**Yeshua, My Lord**; 400+ pages.

**They Never Really Left**; 400 pages.

## **AWAITING PUBLICATION:**

The Travelers. Due this December 2023

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## **SHORT FILMS: WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DON OKOLO**

Dead Presidents Society

The Contract

**One Good Sex Deserves a Murder: The Series**

1. Dinner at the Wole's

2. The Things Men Do
3. How does this Concern You?
4. What Are Friends For?
5. The Confessional
6. Play Funky For Me
7. One For The Road
8. It Takes Three To Mambo
9. Your Husband Is Cheating On Us
10. For Better or For Worse
11. The Taste Of The Pudding Is In The Eating
12. Gian Carlo De Jesus
13. Just A Drink Of Gin
14. Tennessee Whisky
15. Ronald And Juliet
16. What's Good For The Goose Is Good For The Gander
17. In Just The Last Half Hour
18. Breakfast, Lunch And Dinner
19. The Devil In Edward Jones
20. You Never Know With Women
21. Me Or Your Lying Eyes
22. Old Habits Die Hard
23. Under Your Nose

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## **SHORT SCREENPLAYS: ONE GOOD SEX DESERVE A MURDER (The Series)**

Bathroom Breaks  
It's not your money

Casting Couch  
An Adventure At The Full Monty Bar  
Just Couldn't Find My Way Home  
The Games Women Play  
The Cab Man Cometh

Throw Me A Lifeline  
Fuck Beethoven  
Quickies Are Forever  
Dead Men Dancing  
The Queen Of Dog City  
Have This Duel On Me  
How High Sweetie?  
Lap Dance 2.0  
A Bird At Hand  
A Handmaid's Tale

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#### **CHILDREN'S BOOKS EDITED:**

Zoe  
Alley-Gators: The Bullies of Poughkeepsie  
Odera.

#### **BOOKS EDITED**

Universal Donor: Ben Eze Amushie. 400 pages  
Evangelism and Discipleship: Elizabeth Ukeni Abamu. 235 pages  
Tribal Echoes; a collection of short stories: Nkem DenChukwu. 255 pages

#### **OTHER SKILLS:**

Script development and polish.  
Film budgeting and line item detailing.  
Dialogue scripting and polish.  
Storyboarding. Effects and Design concepts.  
Currently developing a visionary panoply in the genre of Black Panther, the movie, titled They Never Really Left. This year, 2023 is the starting phase of a spiritually based 12-part series, a rendition from a purely aesthetic interpretation of the Immaculate Conception, to the implied and inferred aspects of the times and life

of Jesus, The Galilean. (All from the books; Mary, The Mother of God; Yeshua, My Love and Yeshua, My Lord.)

**EMPLOYMENT:**

Texas Southern University. (Writing for the visual media; Introduction to film; Writing for film)

Writer and Director in Residence; Roadside Pictures.

**AFFILIATION:**

Contributing/Opinion writer for the Pilot News. (**West African News Pilot**)

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