



KANDACE JAMES

DRAMATIC WRITER, POET

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615 First Ave., Pittsburgh, PA

PROFILE

Creative and self-motivated playwright, screenwriter, and television writer who uses poetry and lyricism to tell magical realistic stories. Driven by the belief that there are many ways to exist in this world.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 *Crane* (Short Screenplay)
EX/POST MAGAZINE
- 2020 *An Awkward Greeting* (Poetry)
Aunt Chloe: A Journal of Artful Candor
- 2020 *The Flying Man* (Poetry)
Aunt Chloe: A Journal of Artful Candor
- 2020 *I Yell Back, Yes!* (Poetry)
Aunt Chloe: A Journal of Artful Candor
- 2020 *We Don't Pray Before We Eat* (Poetry)
Aunt Chloe: A Journal of Artful Candor
- 2020 *We Lock Ourselves in Her Room* (Poetry)
Aunt Chloe: A Journal of Artful Candor

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing
Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama

Master of Arts in Professional Writing

Kennesaw State University

Concentration: Creative Writing

Second Concentration: Applied Writing

Capstone: Home, Feature-Length

Screenplay Capstone Advisors: Gabrielle Fulton Ponder, MFA, and Mitch Olson, MFA

Bachelor of Arts in English

Kennesaw State University

Minor: Film Studies

Senior Capstone: *Evolution of Black Women's Rhetoric*

Synopsis: Explores the question of how Black women rhetors create new rhetorical appeals to tackle the issue of exclusion in oppressive movements such as the white feminist and Black liberation movements.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022 Undergraduate Instructor - "Writing from Joy" at CMU [Fall '22]
- 2023 Undergraduate Instructor - "Creating the Choreopoem" at CMU [Spring '23]
- 2023 Eberly Center Future Faculty Program

FILM AND PLAYWRITING WORK

- 2023 *Heaven Is Something To Keep You Warm* (Full-Length Play)
Synopsis: This play will follow Haddie as she flashes through lifetimes of Blackness, finding her way to speak, finding her way to freedom.
- 2023 *Where The Big Sky Meets The Big Desert* (Feature-length Screenplay)
Synopsis: A lonely geologist embarks upon a sacred quest to the Oregon Basalt to excavate the mysteries of its beating heart - Sunstone. She must unearth her passion, community and herself one stone at a time.
- 2023 *And On And On* (Television Script)
Synopsis: After losing their Momma, two enslaved sisters must time-travel out of 1850 to find the Black Utopia, but danger has a different face in every era.
- 2022 *Stellar Collision* (Full-Length Play)
Synopsis: A grieving astrophobe plagued by the loss of her father wants to find love where her deepest fear and chance for redemption collide. Can she overcome fear and embrace the constellations that have been igniting her path all along?
- 2022 *Bub-ble-Gum, Bub-ble-Gum* (10-Minute Play)
Synopsis: A mythical drama about a young girl who just found out that God sees all. She wants to play hide and seek with God, but how can she hide from God, and when it's God's turn to hide, how does she search for Them?
- 2021 *This Is How You Capture The Light* (One-Act Play)
Synopsis: Two young girls guided by the family matriarch, experiencing their childhood wonder, encounter the weight of reality larger than their youthful imagination.
- 2021 *Little Black Kids Don't Go Outside* (10-Minute Play/Short Screenplay)
Synopsis: A curious boy who has lived inside his house for most of his life decides to go against his mother's only rule: Little Black Kids Don't Go Outside.
- 2020 *No Heartbeat* (Short Film)
Assorted
Synopsis: In a near future when Roe V Wade is overturned and women no longer have the right to choose, we meet a teenage girl who is forced to determine what is best for her - going against her family's beliefs and breaking the law or giving up on her future
- 2020 *Home* (Feature-length Screenplay)
Synopsis: After her mother kicks her out of the house, an anxious teen is forced to live in her hoopy. She's in love with the free-spirited dog walker, but she's the one who got her kicked out in the first place.
- 2020 *Crane* (Short Screenplay)
Synopsis: A grieving teen who recently lost his parents decides to skip school after his uncle does the unthinkable.
- 2018 *Cutting Teeth* (Short Screenplay)
Synopsis: A self-conscious tween burdened with black teeth and the memories of her mother, strategizes to replace her teeth with white ones—she discovers just how much she will pull until all that is left are holes!

AWARDS

- 2023 Nomination for the Sloan Student Prizes (Grand Jury and Discovery)
- 2023 Core Apprentice Program Finalist
Playwright Center
- 2022 \$25,000 First Place Award
Alfred P. Sloan Script Competition
- 2022 The John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play
KCACTF National Festival

AWARDS CONTD.

- 2022 The Hip Hop Theatre Creator Award, One-Act
KCACTF National Festival
- 2022 The Rosa Parks Playwriting Award, One-Act
KCACTF National Festival
- 2022 The Darrell Ayers National Playwriting Award, One-Act
KCACTF National Festival
- 2022 Official Selection San Francisco Black Film Festival
- 2022 One-Act Play Official Selection National
Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival
- 2021 10-Minute Play Official Selection Regional
Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival
- 2021 Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Outstanding Student for MAPW
Kennesaw State University
- 2021 MAPW Exceptional Achievement awardee
Kennesaw State University Publications and Art Awards and
Honors
- 2021 Make Your Mark BIPOC Arts Scholarship Awardee
Grind Arts Company
- 2021 Overall Winner
WIFM KC Screenwriting Contest
- 2021 Official Selection Venice Shorts Crane
- 2020 Best Drama Screenplay Short, Laurel Award
Georgia Shorts Film Festival
- 2020 Quarterfinalists, Official Selection
Scriptapalooza Screenplay Competition & SHORTS
competition
- 2020 Official Selection
Short. Sweet. Film Fest.
- 2020 Conversations in Black: Redefining the Black Body Musings
From the Lighthouse
I joined, Karla Felecia Scaife, the founder of Musings From the
Lighthouse in a conversation focusing on black bodies within ones
writing and artwork.
- 2019 Best Screenplay Laurel Award
LA Live Film Festival

PUBLIC READINGS AND EVENTS

- 2023 **Playwright**
Carnegie Mellon University Creative Expo
Reading of *Heaven in Something to Keep You Warm*.
Playwright talk-back to discuss creative process.
- 2020 **Featured Writer**
Movie Lovers Unite
Podcast Focus on *No Heartbeat*. Writing process, post-
production, and current issues, including Roe v. Wadell
- 2020 **Featured Writer**
Six-Page Scripts Podcast
Focus on *Crane*. Read, workshopped, and reviewed
- 2019 **Poetry Showcase**
Decatur Book Festival
Reading of *Woman Next Door Won't Let Me Play with
Her Daughter, To Say Goodbye to a Coffin, We Sit in
Silence, She Never Said it Back*