

# MIKE BENCIVENGA

## *Writer/Director/Producer*

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### FILM WORK:

- **HAUNTED HEART** (2021) Wrote original romantic comedy feature.
- **BILLY & RAY** (2018) Wrote screenplay based on his award winning play. Optioned for production by producer Robert Greenhut.
- **GREAT PLAINS** (2016) Co-wrote original suspense screenplay produced by Mar Vista Films in Los Angeles. Limited theatrical release and cable broadcast.
- **TALIESIN** (2014) Wrote original screenplay about the early, scandalous life of Frank Lloyd Wright. In development at Branded Pictures Entertainment.
- **RUNNING GUN** (2010) Wrote original western screenplay about the true story of legendary outlaw Billy the Kid. Optioned by producers in Los Angeles.
- **HAPPY HOUR** (2004) Co-wrote and directed feature film drama starring Anthony LaPaglia, Eric Stoltz & Robert Vaughn. Limited theatrical release.
- **LOSERS IN LOVE** (1993) Wrote, directed and produced independent feature comedy starring Nick Searcy. Limited theatrical release.

### TELEVISION WORK:

- **POKER FACE** (2021) Wrote pilot for a half-hour comedy series.
- **CHASING THE DARK** (2018) Wrote pilot and bible for an hour-long dramatic series. In development at Branded Pictures Entertainment.
- **ENCINO, SCI** (2016) Wrote seven-episode comedy web series. Named Semi-Finalist in 2019 ISA Table Read My Screenplay Competition.
- **EYEWITNESS NEWS** (1982 to Present) Editor, camera, web writer and producer of breaking news and entertainment content for hours of live programming at WABC; the number one news station in New York City.
- **YOKO ONO: THEN AND NOW** (1984) Supervising editor and co-producer of a full-length documentary about Yoko Ono. Presented on PBS and HBO.
- **HBO FILMS** (1980) Wrote, directed and performed in several animated and live action short comedy films that were presented on HBO.
- **SESAME STREET** (1976 - 1978) Worked as a voice artist and animator on several spots that aired on PBS stations.

### THEATER WORK:

- **TALK OF THE TOWN** (2021) Wrote full-length comedy based on James Thurber's novel "The Years With Ross" with the Thurber estate's permission.
- **COMPROMISED** (2019) Wrote full-length drama and directed two public readings in New York and Los Angeles.
- **WASTED DAYS** (2018) Wrote full-length drama produced as a staged reading at The Blank Theatre in Los Angeles.
- **MINUET ON THIRD** (2017) Wrote full-length comedy produced as a staged reading at The Best Medicine Rep in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

- ***SUMMER ON FIRE*** (2016) Wrote full-length play produced at the Scorpion Theater in Calgary, Canada.
- ***BILLY & RAY*** (2014) Wrote full-length comedy produced at The Vineyard Theater in New York City. Directed by Garry Marshall.
- ***BILLY & RAY*** (2013) Wrote full-length comedy produced at The Falcon Theater in Los Angeles. Directed by Garry Marshall.
- ***COUPLETS*** (2003) Wrote and directed full-length original play with music adapted from the sonnets of William Shakespeare. Produced in New York City.
- ***SINGLE BULLET THEORY*** (2002) Wrote full-length original comedy. Produced at the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Repertory Theatre in New York City.
- ***THE CHAINSAW BOYS*** (1997 – 2003) Produced and performed in a long running improvised comedy show featured in the NYC Fringe Festival (2000).

#### EDUCATION:

- ***NEW YORK UNIVERSITY*** (1978 – 1980) Tisch School of the Arts.
- ***ADELPHI UNIVERSITY*** (1974 –1976) Film, television and theater major. (Returned 2016 – 2017) Graduated with Bachelor of Arts - Summa Cum Laude.

#### AWARDS:

- **BEST PLAY – *COMPROMISED*** (2021) Awarded by Playwrights First in NYC.
- **EUGENE O'NEILL AWARD (Semi-finalist): *COMPROMISED*** (2020) Awarded by The National Playwrights Conference in Waterford, Connecticut.
- **ROBERT J. PICKERING AWARD: *MINUET ON THIRD*** (2019) Awarded for Playwriting Excellence in Branch County, Michigan.
- **BEST HISTORICAL SCREENPLAY: *BILLY & RAY*** (2018) Awarded at the PAGE International Screenwriting Competition in Los Angeles.
- **STANLEY DRAMA AWARD: *BAD HEARTS*** (2016) Best play honor awarded by Wagner College in Staten Island, New York.
- **CHRISTOPHER WOLK PRIZE: *SUMMER ON FIRE*** (2014) Top prize for excellence in playwriting awarded by the Abingdon Theater in New York City.
- **KEITH HERRICK PRIZE: *BILLY & RAY*** (2013) Best Play Prize presented by HRC Showcase Theater in Hudson, New York.
- **BEST SCREENPLAY: *RUNNING GUN*** (2010) Awarded at the Vail Film Festival in Vail, Colorado.
- **BEST DIRECTOR: *HAPPY HOUR*** (2004) Awarded at the Desert Reel Festival in Midland, Texas.
- **BEST SCREENPLAY: *HAPPY HOUR*** (2004) Awarded at the Tiburon Film Festival in Tiburon, California.
- **PRISM AWARD: *HAPPY HOUR*** (2004) Awarded for outstanding creative contribution in the accurate depiction of drug and alcohol abuse in Los Angeles.
- **BEST NARRATIVE FILM (AUDIENCE AWARD): *HAPPY HOUR*** (2004) Awarded at the Florida Film Festival in Maitland, Florida.
- **EMMY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PROGRAM: *EYEWITNESS TO THE CENTURY*** (1999) Awarded as producer of an hour-long millennium special for WABC-TV in New York City.
- **BEST LOW BUDGET FEATURE - *LOSERS IN LOVE*** (1993) Houston International Film Festival in Houston, Texas.