

ALEX SMITH
PROFESSIONAL VITA

Screenwriting:

Alex Smith (and twin brother Andrew) recently sold a one-hour dramatic series, **Great Falls**, to the F/X Network. They are currently writing the Pilot episode. They have also just been hired to adapt the comic book **Grendel** into screenplay form for John Wells Productions and Warner Independent Productions. They have co-written **Son of the Gun**, an adaptation of the graphic novel written by Alejandro Jodorowsky, for Fox Searchlight; **The Faithful**, a Civil War ghost story, for Disney Pictures; **The Garden**, for Ed Solomon and Konrad Pictures at Columbia Studios; **The Radioactive Boy Scout** for HBO/Warner Brothers and **Youngbloods** for ESPN Films. They plan to shoot the feature they wrote **Out of the Woods**, adapted from short stories by Chris Offutt in the spring 2008. Upcoming projects include a film/music anthology, an animated version of a children's book, and an adaptation of the novel **The Brief History of the Dead**.

In 1997, the Smith Brothers received a grant from the Montana Cultural Trust to write **The Wide Open**, a revisionist western set in the Jazz Age. They also worked on the script of Lars Von Trier's **Dancer In The Dark**.

In 1996, Alex Smith wrote **Out of Love**, an adaptation of a Chekhov novella, for Terrance Malick and Ed Pressman Productions.

Filmmaking:

2000-2002: Co-wrote and co-directed, with Andrew, the critically acclaimed feature film **The Slaughter Rule** was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature, and was released in theaters nationally by Cowboy Pictures. Starring David Morse, Ryan Gosling, Clea Duvall and Kelly Lynch, **The Slaughter Rule** premiered in the Dramatic Competition at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

One of only three American films to play at MoMA's 2002 New Directors/New Films series in NYC, the film screened at numerous other national festivals-- winning Best Independent Feature at the Santa Fe Film Festival, and Best Feature at the Great Plains Film Festival. It also was selected by over a dozen international festivals, including Athens, Copenhagen, Auckland, Sydney, London, as well as the Stockholm Film Festival, where it won the International Critic's Prize. It is currently playing on cable television and in various foreign markets. For more info: www.theslaughterrule.com .

Developed at the 1998 Sundance Institute Writing and Filmmaking Labs, **The Slaughter Rule** had its cable premiere on the Sundance Channel, and is distributed in North America on video and DVD by Sundance Channel Home Entertainment.

1999: The Smith brothers also co-wrote and co-directed the short film, **the keening**, "an eco-rotic chainsaw opera' and "a mythic, horrific tale sending up mankind's presumed mastery over nature," for FXM Shorts, which aired on FXM in 1999, and screened at numerous film festivals, including the 2000 Sundance Film Festival.

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Teaching:

University of Texas at Austin; 2003-2007. Taught Screenwriting and Directing at both graduate and undergraduate level for the past three and a half years. He has taught eight completely different courses over the past seven semesters.

In 2005, he was appointed **Creative Director of The University of Texas Film Institute (UTFI)**, where he created, facilitated and directed a year long practicum in Feature Filmmaking that incorporated faculty and students (graduate/undergraduate) from the School of Film, the School of Music, the School of Theatre & Dance, the School of Architecture, the School of Business and the Law School. For more info on UTFI, go to: <http://utfi.utexas.edu/>

Recently, the **UTFI Feature Film Lab** has expanded into a non-profit two-year/five-semester course cycle wherein student filmmakers will write, develop, make, cut and market completely student-generated feature films. Alex has spear-headed the expansion of this program, and recently cemented collaboration from the Michener Center of Writers.

Two-Week Intensive Treatment Writing Seminar, at the Creative Dramaturgy and Screenwriting Diplomado at the Centro EAC, Artes de la Comunicacion, **Universidad Jesuita Alberto Hurtado**, in Santiago de Chile, August, 2006.

The Writers Guild Foundation Screenwriting Program, The IFP Mentor Program, The Heart Of Los Angeles Tutor Program: Worked with young writers from the inner city in workshops and one-on-one mentoring sessions, introducing them to the basics of screenwriting, and encouraging them to develop their own stories, characters, scenes.

University of Oklahoma; University of Montana; University of California at Santa Barbara; University of California at Los Angeles Extension; University of Auckland: 2002 – 2003. Taught one-week screenwriting seminars/craft lectures for graduate students and upper-level under-graduates.

Missoula, Montana High Schools: 1995-97. Taught one-week screenwriting seminars to high school students.

Film Production:

Camera Assistant:

A River Runs Through It, , Montana, 1991, **Robert Redford**, Director.

Little Man Tate, Orion, Cincinnati, Ohio, Fall 1990, **Jodie Foster**, Director.

Raising Cain, Steller Jay, Menlo Park, CA, Winter 1991, **Brian DePalma**, Director.

This Family Notion, Tenderloin Productions, San Francisco, CA, Fall 1992.

Set Dresser/Carpenter/Grip/Electric/Sound Recordist/Production Coordinator/P.A.:
Several dozen commercials (*Toyota, Sizzler, etc.*), industrials (*Apple, Kenwood, etc.*), and music videos, San Francisco, 1991-93.

Under The Dark Of The Night, Blue Moon Inc., Jim Thorpe, PA, 1990. Origins, Marquette, MI, 1989.

Crew Chief/Assistant Director/Camera Assistant/Gaffer

Sundance Institute Feature Film Program (June Laboratory), 1987-90; 1992.

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Publishing/Writing:

Fiction: Short Stories for national journals and magazines, including *Ploughshares, Story, Nimrod, New Millennium, etc.* Winner River City Fiction Contest, Playboy College Fiction Contest, Katherine Anne Porter Fiction Prize, two *Story* Contests.

Journalism: Articles in *GQ, Surface Magazine, Filmmaker, Big Sky Journal, etc.*

Other: Recipient, Squaw Valley Community of Writers Scholarship, 1995.
Wrote Headnotes for the **Viking Portable Western Reader**, William Kittredge, editor, Fall 1997.

Film / Arts Programming:

Sundance Institute, 2003-05. Selection Committee, 2004 Feature Film Program.

Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema: 1998-2000. Associate Programmer.

Sundance Film Festival: 1987-1996. Box Office Manager, Programming Assistant.

San Francisco Film Festival: 1990-92. Box Office Manager, Programming Assistant.

Other Employment:

Carpenter, Bartender, Disc Jockey, Editor, Copy-Editor, Logger, Ranch Hand.

Education:

BA in English/Film from **University of California at Berkeley, CA, 1989.**

Education Abroad Program, **University of Stirling, Scotland, 1988.**

Michener Fellowship/Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting & Fiction at

University of Texas at Austin. (May 1996)

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Films, Scripts and Articles/Clippings/Reviews available upon request.

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References:

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