

AJA HOUSTON

PLAYS

HERE

Full-length Magical Realism Dramedy

Riva Thornton flees from her immense grief in the real world into the magical world of the Black Grimm Forest, a safe escape from racial trauma. Riva falls into magical slumber that lasts three years. When a mysterious woman awakens Riva, she is drawn unwillingly into an adventure through the fairytales into reality.

Rehearsed Reading **Antaeus Theatre Lab Results Play Festival 2022** (Los Angeles)

Rehearsed Reading **Ammunition Theatre Writers Lab Reading Festival 2022** (Los Angeles)

Developed in **Antaeus Theatre Playwrights Lab 2021/2022** (Los Angeles)

Developed in **Ammunition Theatre Writers Lab 2021/2022** (Los Angeles)

WAITING (4,380,000 HOURS AND COUNTING)

Full-length Magical Realism Drama

When a perfectionist teen is brutally sent into the afterlife, she finds herself a captive of “The Middle” – a place where Black souls killed for the sin of being “Spooks” are held until they earn their redemption.

Developed as a part of the **Inkwell Theatre Playwrights Lab 2022** (Los Angeles)

Recipient of **Inkwell Theatre Max K. Lerner Fellowship 2019, 2022**

New Works II Workshop Production **University of Southern California, School of Dramatic Arts, 2018** (Los Angeles)

LONG DIVISION

Full-length Romantic Dramedy

Long division is hard. In Jo’s world dividing up years of marital memories with her ex-husband is even harder. When he sends someone to be his stand-in, she is forced to sift through intimate moments with a stranger, who challenges her to solve the problem of moving on.

Developmental Workshop Reading **Inkwell Theatre Lab 2021** (Los Angeles)

Rehearsed Reading **B-Street Theatre Re-Imagine Series 2021** (Sacramento)

Recipient of **Inkwell Theatre Max K. Lerner Fellowship 2021**

LADYVILLE

Full-length Drama Thriller

Three headstrong sisters are all that remains in their once thriving town, after a sinister entity “The Caller,” has claimed the lives of everyone else. In constant terror as they fight for their lives, the mysterious return of a long-lost friend leaves their survival hanging in the balance.

Rehearsed Reading **Under Construction Zoom Series: The Full-lengths 2021** (Los Angeles)

Developed in **The Road Theatre's Under Construction Playwrights Group 2019-2020** (Los Angeles)

JOURNEY TO ALICE

Full-length Dramedy

While flying cross country with her mother to a wedding, recently divorced Lynè has encounters with the unexpected and inexplicable, namely her dead grandmother. These encounters threaten Lynè's struggle to hold her world together.

Eugene O'Neill Theatre Conference Semi-Finalist 2019

Developed as part of the **Inkwell Theatre Lab 2018** (Los Angeles)

Recipient of **Inkwell Theatre Max K. Lerner Fellowship 2018**

New Work Festival III Pasadena Playhouse Concert Reading (Los Angeles)

THE FLIGHT OF EMINA AND ZUBAIDA

Full-length Afro-Fantasy Drama

Inspired by *The Manuscript Found in Saragossa* by Jan Potocki. When two royal sisters are cursed by a powerful entity that wants to steal their queendom, they must fight for freedom without the help of the parade of hapless princes that come far and wide to be their savior.

Commissioned joint project of the **Adam Mickiewicz Institute** (Krakow), **Playwrights' Arena Theatre** (Los Angeles), and the **University of Southern California, School of Dramatic Arts** (Los Angeles)

Rehearsed Reading **Playwright's Arena Iron Tongues Festival 2017** (Los Angeles)

REMEMBRANCE

Short One Act Family Drama

A married couple's annual, ritualistic trip of mourning to Florida has taken a toll on their marriage, their sanity, and their happiness. This year threatens to break their marriage forever or save it.

Production **Open Fist Theatre First Look Play Festival, 2021** (Los Angeles)

Production **Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts, 2020** (Fort Myers, FL)

Production **DC Black Theatre Festival, 2014** (Washington, DC)

FILM

MISSING RHYTHMS

Short Psychological Thriller

In a mysterious insane asylum full of missing Black women from all over the country, a woman must use rhythm to remember her true identity and fight being lost forever behind the Blue Door.

Official Selection **Nevada Women's Film Festival 2025**

Nomination **Best Short Drama Nevada Women's Film Festival 2025**

Nomination **Best Female Protagonist Nevada Women's Film Festival 2025**

Official Selection **Bravemakers Film Festival 2025**

Official Selection **Sunflower Film Festival 2025**

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

Playwriting Teaching Artist

Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles, California

Geffen Playhouse, Los Angeles, California

2020-Present

EDUCATION

MFA in Dramatic Writing, School of Dramatic Arts at **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles

BA in Theatre Arts, **Pitzer College**, Claremont, CA

UNIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

Dramatist Guild Member, Antaeus Theatre Company Playwright's Lab Member, Ammunition Theatre Company Member