

CRIS ELI BLAK

Playwright. Screenwriter. Wordaholic.

TELEVISION

***Power Book III: Raising Kanan* — Staff Writer**

Lionsgate/Starz (2024)

SELECTED FULL-LENGTH PLAYS

A Case For Killing Sambo

2025 Semi-Finalist - Eugene O'Neill Theater Center National Playwrights Conference

2025 Semi-Finalist - Princess Grace Award in Playwriting

2025 Second Rounder - Austin Film Festival Stage Play Competition

Reading: Liberation Theatre Company (2025)

Workshop: Eight Ball Theatre Company (2025)

Ain't No Fairytales in Section 8

2023 Semi-Finalist - Risk Theatre Modern Tragedy Playwriting Competition

2025 Semi-Finalist - Ojai Playwrights Conference

Reading: The Road Theatre (2023)

Anonymous Skin

2024 Semi-Finalist - Blue Ink Award for Playwriting

2024 Semi-Finalist - Premiere Play Festival at Kean University

2025 Finalist - Irons in the Fire - Fault Line Theatre

2025 Semi-Finalist - Seven Devils Playwrights Conference

2025 Finalist - Ashland New Play Festival

Workshop: Playwrights' Center (2024)

Reading: Loft Ensemble (2025)

Between Dog and Wolf

2024 Winner - Charles M. Getchell New Play Award

2021 Second Rounder - Austin Film Festival Stage Play Competition

Published by Ghost Light Publications

Workshop: Theatre of NOTE (2021)

Blood of Adam

Reading: The Sankofa Collective (2024)

Breakz

2022 Winner - Show Me The Monologue Playwriting Contest

Reading: Cincinnati LAB Theater (2021)

RESIDENCIES/FELLOWSHIPS

Fosters Theatrical Artists

Residency

(Playwright-in-Residence, 2021)

Paterson Performing Arts

Development Council

(Playwright-in-Residence, 2022)

Quick Silver Theatre

(Michael Bradford Residency, 2022)

The Scoundrel & Scamp Theatre

Company

(Emerging Playwrights Fellowship

2022-2023)

The State University of New York

- Oswego

(Artist-in-Residence, 2023)

Abingdon Theatre Company

(Carolyn Halpert

Artist-in-Residence, 2024)

Liberation Theatre Company

(Writing Residency Program,

2024-2025)

Playwrights Center

(Core Writers Program, 2024-2027)

Ojai Playwrights Conference

(Writer-in-Residence, 2024)

The Barrow Group

(Artist Performance Residency,

2025)

The Signpost Fellowship

(The Signpost

Fellowship/Dramatist Guild

Foundation, 2025)

ADDITIONAL

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

2020 Winner - L.B. Williams

Playwriting Contest

2021 Semi-Finalist - One-Eyed

Rabbit Black Screenwriters Grant

Brown Bodies on a Blue Earth

2022 Panel Favorite - Wayward Reads

2022 Semi-Finalist - Blue Ink Award for Playwriting

2022 Finalist - Bay Area Playwrights Festival

Production: The Underground Theater (2024; world premiere)

Challenging Brown

Reading: Renaissance City Repertory Theatre (2023)

Reading: Ensemble Theatre/MATCH Houston (2025)

Reading: New Views Theatre (2025)

Dominant Animals

Reading: The Barrow Group (2025)

Girl on a Hill

2024 Winner - Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights

2024 Second Place - Nectar New Works Playwriting Contest

2024 Second Rounder - Austin Film Festival Stage Play Competition

2024 First Place - Full Length - Roots of the Bluegrass New Play Festival

2025 Finalist - Texas State New American Play Festival

2025 Finalist - Utah Shakespeare Festival Words Cubed

Reading: Barter Theatre (2024)

Hard Candy & Misdemeanors

Production: Troy Foundry Theatre Company (2023; world premiere)

Her Beautiful Sound

2024 Winner - Laurie Award - The Growing Stage New Play Reading Festival

Reading: ThinkTank TYA Play Fest (2023)

Production: The Growing Stage - The Children's Theatre of New Jersey (2025; world premiere)

It Happened in Jefferson Square

Workshop: Ensemble Theatre (2022)

Keep Me Warm, I Know The World

Reading: The All-Stars Project (2025)

Mass Graves

Production: Loft Ensemble (2022; world premiere)

No Desire to Suffer Twice

Production: Loft Ensemble (2024; world premiere)

One Week From Paradise

2024 Third Place - Best Play - Downtown Urban Arts Festival

Reading: Derby City Playwrights/Louisville Fringe Festival (2022)

2022 Winner - Kentucky

Playwrights Workshop New Play Series Contest

2022 Winner - Patchwork Play Festival Panel's Choice Award

2022 Winner - JL Smith New Play Festival Audience Favorite Award

2022 Semi-Finalist - Austin Film Festival Fiction Podcast Script Competition

2024 Finalist - Meanwhile Park Playwrights Prize

2025 Finalist - Thrown Stone 'Persuasion' Commission

2025 Finalist - Armstrong Now Artist-in-Residence Program

2025 Semi-Finalist - Geffen Playhouse Writers' Room

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

8:46: Fresh Perspectives; A Collection of Monologues by Black Playwrights (New World Theatre; 2021)

When the Lights Are Bright Again (Applause Books; 2021)

The Best Women's Stage Monologues 2022 (Smith & Kraus, Inc.; 2022)

The Best Men's Stage Monologues 2022 (Smith & Kraus, Inc.; 2022)

The Covid Monologues: 54 Writers Respond to the Pandemic (Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble; 2022)

The Best Ten-Minute Plays 2023 (Smith & Kraus; 2023)

The Best Men's Stage Monologues 2023 (Smith & Kraus; 2023)

Theatre in the Time of COVID: 50 Plays of Love, Loss and Hope (Flowersong Press; 2024)

The PGE Faces of America Monologue Festival Anthology #6 (The PlayGround Experiment; 2024)

Go Solo, Vol. 2: Contemporary Monologues for Young Actors (YouthPLAYS; 2025)

TEACHING/INSTRUCTURE

Workshop: Downtown Urban Arts Festival (2024)

Only in New York

Musical - Co-Book

Production: Wright State University (2026)

Prayer for a Hopeless Romantic: Lovers Rock

Musical - Book/Co-Lyrics

Workshop: The Pocantico Center/YoungArts (2025)

Sons of Liberty

2020 Semi-Finalist - Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference

2021 Semi-Finalist - Blue Ink Award for Playwriting

Reading: Columbia University Black Theatre Ensemble (2020)

Reading: American Stage 21st Century Voices New Play Festival (2021)

Reading: We Will Dream: New Works Festival (2023)

Sing For Me

2025 Top Ten Semifinalist - Centre Stage New Play Festival

2026 Winner - MACH 33: The Caltech Festival of New Science-Driven Plays

Reading: California Institute of Technology (2026)

Swan Song for a StarBoy: A One-Man Confession Booth of Virtues and Verses

Reading: The Makers' Ensemble (2024)

The Addict's Love Letter to His Prayerbook

2022 Finalist - Playwrights First Best New Play Award

Workshop: Morgan-Wixson Theater (2021)

The Final Verses of The Prophet and Wiz

2023 Winner - Black Broadway Men Playwriting Initiative

2025 Shortlist - Epiphanies New Play Festival

Reading: Black Broadway Men/Black Theatre Coalition (2023)

The Former Kings of Clutch City

2022 Winner - Lime Arts Productions Twenty-by-Twenty Fringe Producer's Award

2023 Winner - Downtown Urban Arts Festival Best Play Award

Workshop: Downtown Urban Arts Festival (2023)

The (MiS)Education of the Young Miss Cassie Jonze

2023 Winner - Muse of Fire BIPOC Playwriting Festival

Published by 1319 Press

Reading: State University of New York - Oswego (2023)

Reading: Atlanta Shakespeare Company (2023)

Reading: Billie Holiday Theatre/Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop (2024)

The Pitfalls of Exaggerated Swagger

2025 Finalist - Boise Contemporary Theatre BIPOC Playwrights Festival

Reading: Live Arts (2025)

**The State University of New York
- Oswego**

CRW 207 - Playwriting:

Introductory

THT 470 - Special Topics: Devising
Performance (2023)

ADDITIONAL WORK

A Family Tree

Radio Play

The Pressure Players (2021)

The Movement

Writer for 'Emerson'

Louisville Ballet (2021)

Juneteenth: What Is Free?

Educational Documentary

Los Angeles African American

Employees Association (2021)

The Last of the Son

Audio Drama Series

Also creator and director

The Garden of Voices (2022)

La Bici: Hold My Heart

Part of the *La Bici* video series

Teatro Milagro (2022)

SELECTED

PROGRAMS/INTENSIVES

**Under Construction Playwrights
Group**

Road Theatre (2021)

Workshop Writer's Intensive

The Workshop Theater (2021)

Volt Lab

Company One (2022)

PlayTime

Dramatic Question Theatre

(2022-2023)

Pipeline PlayLab

Pipeline Theatre Company (2023)

Evolving Playwrights Group

Circle X Theatre Company

(2025-2026)

The Show Ends When The Stoop Breaks

Published by YOUTHPlays

Reading: NYU Steinhardt New Plays for Young Audiences (2022)

Reading: Northwestern University/Purple Crayon Players (2022)

The Underground Color Wheel

Production: Obsidian Theatre Festival (2023; world premiere)

There Are Black Roses Under The Sea

Workshop: Pipeline Theatre Company (2023)

Reading: Troy Foundry Theatre Company (2024)

Whirlwind

Production: Endstation Theatre Company (2025; world premiere)

