

Benjamin Joseph

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I. EDUCATION

- Miami Palmetto Senior High School
- Expected Date of Graduation: June 2023
- **Current GPA: 4.409 - Weighted & 3.409 - Unweighted**
- **Advanced Coursework to Date: 11 AP and 9 Honors Courses**
- **Community Service Hours Completed to date: 670 hours**
- **Highest SAT Score - 1450**

II. WRITING AND PRODUCING

SUMMER 2020 - "A NIGHT OF HOPE" - SHOWCASE - NIGHTINGALE PRODUCTIONS - PRODUCER

After creating Nightingale Productions, I began planning our inaugural fundraiser, "A Night of Hope," a collection of musical theater pieces filmed by each performer and live-streamed via YouTube Premiere. Though we could not charge admission through YouTube, we asked for donations several times throughout the stream and explained HALO's purpose. Despite this, A Night of Hope raised over 700 dollars for Help A Little One and taught me the basics of running a virtual show.

2021 - CARRIE: THE MUSICAL - FULL MUSICAL - NIGHTINGALE PRODUCTIONS - DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER

In November 2021, Nightingale Productions purchased the rights to virtually produce *Carrie: The Musical*. After assembling a cast and crew, I began rehearsals as the production's Director. In an effort to not perform a full musical on zoom, I opted to film our production like a movie musical, with dozens of different shots and cuts in every scene and sequence. This required me to create a shot list, film the shots, edit them together, and then layer recordings of each actor or actress singing separately in our makeshift recording studio in my friend Dani's bedroom. The rehearsal, filming, and editing processes were tedious, but *Carrie: The Musical's* opening night live stream raised over 2000 dollars for Help A Little One.

SUMMER 2021 - "THE CABIN" - SHORT FILM - BLUE STAR CAMPS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS - WRITER AND DIRECTOR

As a CIT at Blue Star Camps, my ten-year-old campers and I created a parody of *The Office* entitled *The Cabin* for the Pioneer Boy Film Festival. I wrote, directed, shot, and edited the 8-minute parody, which included a shot-for-shot remake of the original show's theme sequence. "The Cabin" won first prize in the Festival, which might not be worth mentioning, but if I hadn't, you would have assumed we lost, right?

2021 - CURRENT - BUG JUICE - ORIGINAL SERIES - WRITER

Bug Juice is an original half-hour comedy series based on my experiences growing up at sleepaway camp. Told from the perspective of eleven-year-old Reese, *Bug Juice* attempts to capture the harmless chaos of adolescence. Though I have loose plans for the first five seasons of *Bug Juice*, I have only written the first season. My series bible details three-act breakdowns for each of the thirteen episodes describes each character's arc, explains my reasoning behind creating the show, and plans for future seasons.

2022 - "THE OPTIMIST" - SHORT FILM - WRITER AND DIRECTOR

After purchasing my first camera, I began writing my first short film. A loosely autobiographical mockumentary, "The Optimist," poses the question: what if you derive all your joy and drive from doing this one thing and are not even good at it? The cast consists of my immediate family and my friend Dani, who play satirized versions of themselves, all fed up with the documentarians, played by me, unwarranted confidence. The short film spans 7 minutes, following a single day in the documentarian's life.

SUMMER 2022 - "PIONEER THINGS" - SHORT FILM - WRITER AND DIRECTOR

After our victory in 2021, my campers and I were determined to uphold our title, pouring ourselves into our submission for this summer's Film Festival: a parody of *Stranger Things* entitled "Pioneer Things." Written, shot, directed, and edited by me, "Pioneer Things" won first prize in The Pioneer Boy Film Festival, an unimpressive accomplishment that I would still feel remiss about not mentioning.

SUMMER 2022 - "THE BATMAN" - SHORT FILM - WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Dissatisfied by the cabin's choice to parody *Stranger Things*, my camper Joshie begged me to write a parody of Robert Pattinson's *Batman*, a film I had not seen. Eventually, I caved, watched the film, and began writing a parody starring Joshie. Thank god I did because, for some reason, our "The Batman" figured out everything "The Cabin" and "Pioneer Things" had gotten wrong. After learning to cast to each camper's strengths, the boy's acting drastically improved. I grew adept at editing footage, adding special effects, and manipulating the lighting for dramatic effect.

2022 - CURRENT - CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DIRTBAG - ORIGINAL SERIES - WRITER

I began writing *Confessions of A Teenage Dirtbag* after finishing the first season of *Bug Juice*. A loosely autobiographical mini-series, *Confessions of A Teenage Dirtbag*, explored the themes introduced by "The Optimist" through a more dramatic lens. Consisting of six hour-long episodes, the series follows 16-year-old Ben as he attempts to figure out his place in both the world and his sleepy suburban home. Unlike *Bug Juice*, this series has a distinct beginning, middle, and end, with no possibility for future seasons.

III. THEATER AND DRAMA PERFORMANCES

9TH GRADE - (2019-2020)

- Performed in *Miscast*
- Performed two pieces in *An Evening of Theatre*
- Competed at District 8 Thespian Competition
- Performed in *The Winter Show*
- Cast in three pieces in *The Senior Directing Showcase* - canceled due to Covid
- Cast as Daniel in *Once On This Island: The Musical* - canceled due to Covid
- Cast as a featured ensemble member in *Thoroughly Modern Millie: The Musical* - canceled due to Covid
- Wrote and edited the Freshman piece for *Final Act*

10TH GRADE - (2020-2021)

- Performed two pieces in *A Night of Hope*
- Performed three pieces in *An Evening of Theater*
- Competed at District 8 Thespian Competition
- Performed in four pieces in *The Student Directing Showcase*
- Helped organize, lead, and participate in *The Improv Jam*
- Wrote the opening number for, hosted, and performed in *Back To December Showcase*
- Performed as Billy in *Carrie: The Musical*
- Wrote the Sophomore piece for *Final Act*

11TH GRADE - (2021-2022)

- Performed three pieces in *An Evening of Theater*
- Competed at District 8 Thespian Competition
- Performed in *The Winter Show*
- Helped organize, lead, and participate in *The Improv Jam*
- Performed as Mr. Krabs in *Spongebob: The Musical*
- Competed at Florida State Thespian Competition

- Chose theme, Junior performance, helped write Sophomore piece, and hosted *Final Act*
- Performed at Graduation

IV. HONORS AND AWARDS

- Palmetto Panther Community Service Award - 10th Grade
- Most Improved Thespian - 9th Grade
- Most Improved Thespian - 10th Grade
- Most Improved Thespian - 11th Grade
- Most Talented Junior Actor - 11th Grade
- Advanced Placement Scholar Award - 11th Grade
- Inducted into the Miami Palmetto High School International Thespians Honor Society - 9th Grade
- Inducted into the Miami Palmetto High School National Honor Society - 11th Grade
- Inducted into the Miami Palmetto High School Psychology Honor Society - 11th Grade
- Superior Award: Small Group Musical - District 8 Thespians Competition - 9th Grade
- Superior Award: Large Group Musical - District 8 Thespians Competition - 10th Grade
- Superior Award: Duet Musical - District 8 Thespians Competition - 10th Grade
- Superior Award: Duet Acting Scene - District 8 Thespians Competition - 11th Grade
- Superior Award: Ensemble Scene - District 8 Thespians Competition - 11th Grade
- Top Honors Award: Large Group Musical - District 8 Thespians Competition - 11th Grade
- Excellent Award: Duet Acting Scene - Florida State Thespians Competition - 11th Grade