

Contact

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Top Skills

Supportive Services

Production Assistance

Development

Matt Cunningham

Creative Producer / Director / Writer / Editor and puppet builder/
puppeteer

United States

Summary

Matt Cunningham is a multifaceted creative force in the film and television industry, boasting over two decades of experience as a writer, director, producer, creature/puppet creator, and FX artist. Additionally, he is a published children's book author and former columnist for Famous Monsters of Filmland magazine. Matt is also a distinguished member of the Producers Guild of America and a vital contributor to the synthwave band Dreaming In Neon.

Notably, Matt and his team triumphed against adversity, producing two feature films, "The Spore" (distributed by Lionsgate) and "3 Demons" (distributed by Uncork'd), amidst the challenges of the pandemic. Their resilience and creativity shone through as they navigated production with a compact yet formidable crew, delivering compelling stories that captivate and chill.

Currently, Matt is seeking to grow his entertainment company Groovy Monsters with a focus on family/kid entertainment that could reach a global audience.

With an impressive array of credits to his name, including work on blockbuster films like "The Predator" (2018) and TV series such as "The Tick" (Amazon), Matt's contributions to the entertainment industry are both diverse and impactful. His talent extends to selling feature projects to Disney, developing pilots for Cartoon Network, and serving as a staff writer for groundbreaking series like MTV's "Live Through This."

Matt's creative prowess extends beyond the mainstream, with his short films earning acclaim at prestigious festivals like Shriekfest, Women in Horror Film Fest, and Thriller Chiller. "Motherhood Bites," in particular, garnered recognition as an Official Selection for the Legendary Digital/Alpha series Short Ends, solidifying Matt's reputation as a visionary storyteller.

Beyond his professional achievements, Matt's proudest roles are those of husband and father, cherishing his family of "gremlins" with boundless love and devotion.

Experience

Groovy Monsters

Company Owner

January 2018 - Present (6 years 6 months)

Groovy Monsters is on a mission to ignite imagination and captivate hearts through the magic of storytelling. We specialize in crafting feature films, series, digital content, literary treasures, and immersive experiences that resonate deeply with audiences of all ages. Our passion lies in the enchanting realms of comedy, horror, and cult classics, where we blend nostalgia with innovation to create unforgettable tales. Each project we undertake is not just entertainment, but a journey that inspires, uplifts, and leaves a lasting imprint on the soul. Join us in exploring the boundless possibilities of storytelling and let's embark on an adventure together, where dreams come alive and magic thrives.

Red Tower Entertainment

1 year 6 months

Producer

January 2023 - Present (1 year 6 months)

Senior Content Producer

January 2023 - April 2024 (1 year 4 months)

Lionsgate

Writer / Producer / Director

September 2019 - November 2021 (2 years 3 months)

In the face of challenges and uncertainty, I embarked on a transformative journey as a storyteller, bringing to life the independent horror film 'The Spore.' With unwavering determination, I took on multiple roles – writer, producer, director, and more – crafting a cinematic experience that transcends boundaries and ignites the imagination.

As fate would have it, we completed filming just one week before the onset of the global pandemic, unknowingly paralleling the themes of our narrative with the emergence of real-world events. 'The Spore' delves into the terrifying

concept of a mutating virus that transforms individuals into grotesque creatures, a chilling reflection of the world we found ourselves in.

Despite the challenges and limitations, our small but dedicated team poured their hearts and souls into every aspect of production, defying conventions and pushing creative boundaries. What emerged was not just a film, but a testament to the power of resilience and creativity in the face of adversity.

I am proud to say that our vision caught the attention of Lionsgate, who recognized the unique and thought-provoking nature of our work, leading to its release in the United States. 'The Spore' is more than a traditional narrative; it is a bold exploration of 'what if,' challenging audiences to confront the darkest corners of their imagination.

Together, with a crew of just five individuals, we proved that passion, innovation, and dedication can transcend any obstacle, leaving an indelible mark on the world of cinema. Our journey is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, creativity has the power to inspire, provoke, and ultimately, unite us all.

Legendary Entertainment

Producer / Acquisitions Consultant

January 2017 - June 2018 (1 year 6 months)

Los Angeles, California, United States

As Producer - Handled the development, preparation, budgets, schedules, script writing, hiring crew, contacting and booking talent with a coordinator for a limited series hosted by Clarke Wolfe. As the Acquisitions Consultant – tracked down and contacted rights holders for television and feature film projects for Worldwide streaming on the Legendary Digital Networks Alpha channel.

Quantum Creation FX, Inc.

FX fabrication / Mold shop tech

August 2016 - December 2017 (1 year 5 months)

Burbank, California, United States

Creating and molding key elements for creature suit and character armor fabrication on such titles as The Predator, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and Free Guy.

Prometheus Entertainment

Producer

February 2012 - July 2016 (4 years 6 months)

Los Angeles, California, United States

Assume full accountability in overseeing and maintaining an ever-changing production environment. Proficiently approve and fact-check all incoming scripts, elements, material orders and purchases. Assess all arriving materials while efficiently recommending and implementing key improvements to better production.

Highlights:

1. Contact experts, high-profile officials, celebrities, scientists, theologians and others, when necessary, to obtain key documentation for production and verify facts regarding show topics.
2. Implementing, monitoring, and modifying a database of hundreds of incoming media materials on a daily and weekly basis.
3. Progressively built and maintained positive, working relationships and deals with outside vendors.
4. Played a vital role in continuously identifying and obtaining valuable assets globally.
5. Produced creative resolutions, from development through final delivery of ongoing high-profile television series.

Famous Monsters of Filmland

Columnist

January 2014 - June 2015 (1 year 6 months)

Los Angeles, California, United States

Created and wrote a column about famous horror movie props called Terror By Design. Interviewed several of the industry's top and iconic talent in the genre.

Spencer Hill Press

Author

January 2012 - December 2014 (3 years)

Los Angeles, California, United States

Embarking on my literary odyssey, I unveiled my inaugural middle-grade novel, 'NILES WORMWORT: ACCIDENTAL VILLAIN,' a tale brimming with twists on the timeless themes of heroes and villains. Armed with the wisdom gained from the Children's Institute of Writing, I set forth to carve a niche in the literary landscape.

The launch of my book heralded a promising dawn, sparking interest from film companies, agents, and enthusiasts alike. The future seemed ablaze with

possibilities as I dared to dream of sequels and spin-offs, envisioning a vibrant series that would captivate readers young and old.

Yet, the fickle tides of fate swept in, as Spencer Hill, my publishing ally, succumbed to the currents of change through acquisition by another publisher. Suddenly, my journey was met with an abrupt pause, a disheartening setback that tested my resolve and spirit.

But adversity breeds resilience, and from the ashes of disappointment, I emerged with newfound determination. Reclaiming the rights to my creation, I stand poised on the brink of resurgence, ready to breathe new life into 'NILES WORMWORT' and unleash its magic upon the world once more.

For in the ebb and flow of life's journey, we are reminded that the path to success is seldom linear, but rather a winding road marked by twists, turns, and unexpected detours. Yet, it is precisely these challenges that fuel our growth, shaping us into the authors of our own destiny.

So, as I stand on the precipice of possibility, I am reminded that while the road ahead may be uncertain, the power to craft our own narrative lies within each of us. For every setback is but a stepping stone toward greater triumphs, and with each chapter, we author our own legacy of resilience, courage, and unwavering determination.

Cartoon Network

Writer

August 2011 - May 2012 (10 months)

Los Angeles, California, United States

Co-created a live action pilot for series called Out of this World.

American World Pictures

Post Production Supervisor

July 2005 - June 2008 (3 years)

Los Angeles, California, United States

In my role as Post-Production Supervisor, I took charge of all aspects of film acquisition and delivery for distribution to the market. I meticulously oversaw every step of the post-production process, ensuring seamless scheduling and supervision to bring our cinematic projects to completion and delivery.

Barnholtz Entertainment, LLC

Development / Production Supervisor

November 2000 - April 2005 (4 years 6 months)

Malibu, California, United States

- Researched topics, read scripts and wrote coverage, fact checked.
- Coordinated multiple productions - from hiring and scheduling crews, booking travel, securing locations and all necessary paperwork.
- Supervised post production and all delivery elements to domestic and foreign buyers/distributors.
- Participated in marketing decisions for home video and television release.

Universal Studios Hollywood

Assistant to Executive Producer

August 1998 - July 1999 (1 year)

Universal City, CA

Worked as an assistant to David Peckinpah and script writing team on the television series "Sliders". Handling day to day tasks for the producers and writers. Delivering scripts to talent.

Tippett Studio

Visual Effects Assistant

April 1996 - June 1996 (3 months)

Wyoming, United States

I had the great honor to be Phil Tippett's visual effects assistant on location (Wyoming and South Dakota) for the filming of Starship Troopers. What a mind-blowing experience it was. To help Phil and all of the artisans make a cult-classic of a film was an experience I will never forget. My job was to map out all of the camera placements, lighting, characters, set pieces, etc so that the digital artists back in San Francisco had a guide for placing the visuals properly in the frame.

Education

Full Sail University

Bachelor's degree