

# JOHANNA ZIEGLER

WRITER, DIRECTOR, EDITOR, TUTOR

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## C.V. PROFILE

Motivated writer and aspiring educator with interests at the intersection of publishing, film, performance, and higher education. Committed to creative collaboration and pursuing advanced degrees in writing to engage and inspire diverse audiences.

## EDUCATION

**B.A. English-Creative Writing, honors**  
University of South Dakota  
2025

- Summa cum laude
- Minors: social media marketing & film studies
- University Scholar with High Distinction - top 1% of all honors graduates in program history

## CERTIFICATIONS & HARD SKILLS

- Hootsuite Platform + Social Marketing Certifications, 2021
- Southwest Airlines Professional Communications Certification, 2020
- WordPress
- Submittable
- Mailchimp
- Photoshop
- InDesign
- Copywriting
- Content & line editing

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Editorial Fellow

Southlands Magazine - Remote / New Orleans, LA June 2025 - Sept. 2025

- Collaborate closely with editor-in-chief and 15+ writers to clarify ambiguous claims, flag inaccuracies, and refine sourcing in nonfiction environmental pieces
- Manage tight editorial deadlines while maintaining a high standard for factual precision and ethical reporting practices

### Writing Consultant

USD Writing Center - Vermillion, SD Jan. 2025 - May 2025

- Worked with a diverse 10k+ student population, including multilingual writers, nontraditional students, and students from various academic backgrounds
- Maintained detailed, professional documentation of each tutoring session using center-specific platforms and protocols

### Audiobook Reviewer

South Dakota State Library Accessible Library Services - Vermillion, SD Sept. 2024 - Jan. 2025

- Analyzed narrator performance with attention to clarity, pronunciation, and rhythm, delivering organized feedback to help narrators address corrections in post-production

### Associate Editor, Creative Nonfiction

The Red Coyote Literary Magazine - Vermillion, SD 2021 - 25

- As associate editor (2024 - 25): evaluate creative nonfiction submissions for The Red Coyote, which receives 600+ submissions annually
- As assistant editor (2021 - 23): identify submissions that align with journal's aesthetic vision for associate editors to review

### Screenwriter & Post-Production Supervisor

MJ Canyon Productions - Remote / Phoenix, AZ 2022 - 24

- Collaborated with director and executive producer to write a half-hour coming-of-age short film, culminating in an in-person premiere with 120+ attendees
- Oversaw all phases of post-production, including editing, color grading, and captioning

### Director & Playwright

USD Department of Theatre - Vermillion, SD 2023 - 24

- Directed a 3-month production process, including script development, actor training in Scottish dialects, and scene blocking
- Collaborated with cast and crew to refine performance through workshops

### Social Media Manager

Coyote Costumes - Vermillion, SD 2022

- Created weekly Instagram and TikTok content to market USD costume shop + costume design program, garnering over 30k views for video content

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## DISTINCTIONS

- Pushcart Prize nominee, 2026
- *Best American Short Stories* nominee, 2025
- Shirley Jackson Award nominee, 2024
- USD Presidential Alumni Scholar, 2021-25
- Wayne S. and Esther M. Knutson Award for Playwriting, 2023-24
- Archer B. Gilfillan Scholarship for Creative Writing, 2022 & 2024
- People's Choice Award & Best Student Film - Fool's 48 Film Festival, 2023-24
- Best Student Narrative Short - South Dakota Film Festival, 2023
- Official Selection - Valkyrie International Film Festival, 2023
- Scholastic Art & Writing Awards SD Region - Keynote Speaker, 2023
- Background vocalist on Grammy-nominated song "Eleanor Rigby" by Cody Fry, 2022
- Best of Show & Best Cover Music Video - Slick Rock Film Festival, 2020-21

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- "Church!" premiere Q&A panelist at ASU Mix Center, 2024
- "BAM Quarterly Issue Five" virtual reading with *Broken Antler Magazine*, 2024
- "New Play Development" workshop with writer/director Reena Dutt, 2024
- "Works in Progress" reading and Q & A at Outside of a Dog Bookstore, 2023
- "Writers on Writing" workshop with novelist/screenwriter Pete Dexter, 2023
- "Summer Writers Institute" workshop at University of St. Thomas-Houston, 2022

## OEUVRE

### Academic

- Ziegler, Johanna G. "NPS-1." *USD RED*, 2025, red.library.usd.edu/honors-thesis/352/.
- Ziegler, Johanna. "Urban Horror Settings in the Works of Lovecraft and LaValle." *Aisthesis: The Interdisciplinary Honors Journal*, vol. 15, no. 1, May 2024, pubs.lib.umn.edu/index.php/aisthesis/article/view/5964

### Films

- *Church!* | MJ Canyon Productions, 2024 (writer)
- *Bellyache* | Fool's 48 Film Festival, 2024 (writer, co-director)
- *Places That Are Mine* | Valkyrie International Film Festival/SD Film Festival, 2023 (writer, director)
- *Hindsight* | Fool's 48 Film Festival, 2023 (writer, co-director)
- *When We Lived In La La Land* | Slick Rock Film Festival, 2021 (writer, director)
- *Stupid Deep* | Slick Rock Film Festival, 2020 (writer, director)

### Plays

- *Unfortunately, Unbearably, Undeniably Scottish* | Ron L. Moyer One-Act Festival, 2024 (writer, director)
- *Kiddo* | Ron L. Moyer One-Act Festival, 2024 (writer)

### Poetry

- "A Little Letter for Seamus Heaney" | *Oakwood*, 2024
- "Grief Decay" | *Oakwood*, 2024
- "The View from My Hilltop" | *The Albion Review*, 2022

### Prose

- "Cause & Effect" *The Vagabond's Verse*, 2025
- "Baccalaureate" | *Genrepunk*, 2025
- "Token" | *The Eyre*, 2024
- "Tie" | *The Gravity of the Thing*, 2024
- "Boy Needs a Bath" | *Broken Antler Magazine*, 2024
- "The Important Part" | *coalitionworks*, 2024
- "American Affairs" | *Oakwood*, 2024
- "Gap Year" | *Northern Eclecta*, 2023
- "The Friendship Obituaries" | *Hey! Young Writer*, 2023