

CURRICULUM VITAE

Theo Gangi

Department of Literature, Writing, and Publishing
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EDUCATION

Columbia University, School of the Arts, New York, NY — M.F.A. in Creative Writing (Fiction), May 2005

Thesis: *Twist the Trees*, a novel

Goucher College, Towson, MD — B.A. in English (Writing Concentration), Psychology Minor, May 1999

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY

Department Chair, Literature, Writing & Publishing — Fall 2025–Present

Assistant Professor of Literature, Writing & Publishing — 2021–Present

Director, MFA Program in Creative Writing — 2017–Present

Senior Lecturer of English — 2008–2021

As Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing, I oversee graduate and undergraduate creative writing curricula, admissions, residencies, visiting writers' programs, and alumni engagement. I developed new degree concentrations in Nonfiction and Graphic Writing, both approved by NYSED in 2021, and continue to serve as the program's principal academic and creative advisor.

John Jay College, CUNY, New York, NY — Adjunct Assistant Professor in English, 2005–2015

St. John's University, Staten Island, NY — Adjunct Assistant Professor in English, 2006–2007

mediabistro EDU, New York, NY — Crime Fiction Writing Instructor, 2013–2014

PUBLICATIONS

NOVELS

Encounter at Owl Rock, co-authored as *Rucker Moses* (Nancy Paulsen Books, Penguin Random House, June 2025)

An original middle-grade novel blending science fiction, mystery, and adventure. Written under the collaborative pen name *Rucker Moses* alongside Harold Hayes Jr. and Craig Phillips. The novel continues the creative partnership begun with the *Kingston* series and deepens its exploration of family and discovery through speculative storytelling.

- “The shivers start early in this book—and the surprises keep coming. Don’t miss this fun read!” — R.L. Stine
- “Delivers a pulse-pounding adventure... that balances an out-of-this-world premise with heartfelt ruminations on friendship and brotherhood.” — *Publishers Weekly*
- “E.T. meets *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*... exhilarating exploits aboard flying skateboards, rifts, and awesome aerial action.” — *Booklist*
- “A raucous romp from twin perspectives with something different to say.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

Ultra 85, ghostwritten for Logic (Simon & Schuster, September 2024)

A dystopian literary collaboration with Grammy-nominated recording artist and New York Times bestselling author Bobby Hall (Logic). This project bridged literature and pop culture, integrating the author’s worldbuilding with the artist’s creative vision across music, film, and publishing.

- “A rhapsody of pop culture references, arse-kicking robots, and high-octane action scenes... bold enough to imagine a brighter future.” — *Locus Magazine*
- Notable for its cross-media reach, *Ultra 85* marked one of the first major publishing efforts for a hip-hop recording artist in contemporary speculative fiction.

Kingston and the Echoes of Magic, co-authored as *Rucker Moses* (G.P. Putnam’s Sons, Penguin Random House, October 2021; paperback 2022)

The sequel to *Kingston and the Magician’s Lost and Found*, continuing the saga of the vanished illusionist and the young Brooklyn magician who seeks to uncover his secrets. Optioned by Disney Branded Television for development as a feature film.

- “An inspiring adventure of extraordinary moments.” — Ayo Davis, President, Disney Branded Television
- “An illuminating sequel.” — *Kirkus Reviews*
- Praised for its reimagining of Brooklyn as a magical landscape, the novel has been used in classrooms for middle-grade creative writing and urban fantasy studies.

Kingston and the Magician’s Lost and Found, co-authored as *Rucker Moses* (G.P. Putnam’s Sons, Penguin Random House, February 2021; paperback 2022)

The first book in the *Kingston* series, blending urban realism and magical adventure. The work draws inspiration from the authors' shared experiences in Brooklyn and the rich history of Black imagination in American fantasy.

- Optioned by Disney Branded Television for development as a movie to air on Disney+.
- “A fast-paced, magical read set in an accessible, vibrant world.” — *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)
- “Coded messages, characters who plainly know more than they’re saying, doppelgängers and secret schemes... all come together in a breathlessly paced tale.” — *Booklist*
- “Intricately crafted twists at every turn keep the determined crew on their toes... An enjoyable addition to most middle school mystery collections.” — *School Library Journal*

A New Day in America (Full Fathom Five, 2015)

A noir dystopian thriller examining race, crime, and violence in a near-future America.

- Barnes & Noble Nook Bestseller (#13, October 2015); iBooks Bestseller (November 2015).
- Optioned by Chris Moore’s LivePlanet as the basis for *The Chair* (Starz Network).

Bang Bang (Kensington Books, 2007)

A debut novel of crime and consequence in post-9/11 New York, establishing voice as a genre-bending storyteller blending literary and street fiction traditions.

- “Exciting and gritty.” — *Publishers Weekly*
- “The Hip Hop Elmore Leonard.” — *Mystery Scene Magazine*
- Featured in Barnes & Noble’s “Books We’re Talking About” and Partners & Crime’s “Staff Picks.”

SHORT FICTION

“Eddie May”, in *First Thrills*, edited by Lee Child (Tor/Forge Macmillan, 2010)

A literary crime story of deception and fate included in an international anthology featuring bestselling thriller authors.

- Published in both U.S. and U.K. editions; recorded as an audiobook.
- “Gangi’s out twists them all.” — *Booklist*

“Advanced at Nine”, *The Greensboro Review* (2005) — Honorable Mention, HM Literary Award

A coming-of-age story exploring competition and isolation.

“Bang Bang”, *The Columbia Spectator Literary Issue* (2003) — excerpt from early novel draft.

“So What”, *The Kratz Sampler* (2001).

SELECTED NONFICTION & CRITICAL WRITING

“The Big Idea: Middle Grade Multiverse.” *Whatever: Furiously Reasonable*, February 2021.

Essay exploring multiverse storytelling in middle-grade fiction and its influence on imagination, mentorship, and moral perspective.

“GRRM’s Two Dads: Tolkien and Druon.” *The Thrones Effect: How HBO’s Game of Thrones Conquered Pop Culture* (Tonic Books, 2019).

Scholarly essay analyzing the intertextual lineage between George R.R. Martin’s work and European literary traditions.

“A New Day, A New Genre.” *The Kill Zone*, February 2015.

Essay discussing the evolution of the political thriller and the merging of literary and crime fiction.

“From Crime to Kids.” *Editing Genius*, January 2014.

Reflective piece tracing a writer’s transition from adult crime fiction to children’s fantasy and the role of empathy in storytelling.

“The Tragedy of Fidel Castro.” *Bibliotekos*, September 2013. Review essay examining magical realism and political allegory.

“Blood Brothers.” *Inked Magazine*, November 2009.

Profile of tattoo culture and loyalty in American subcultures.

“Juvenile Justice.” *Murderati*, November 2007.

Critique of the moral ambiguity in crime fiction and youth representation.

“My Book: Bang Bang.” *Mystery Scene Magazine*, November 2007.

Author’s commentary on the social and aesthetic goals of debut fiction.

“Walking Backwards.” *Killer Year*, September 2007.

Essay on narrative voice and hindsight in crime fiction.

“We Have Nothing to Fear.” *3AM Magazine*, April 2007.

Cultural criticism on paranoia and media in post-9/11 America.

“National Pastimes.” Column in *Crucial Minutiae*, 2005–2008.

A recurring series exploring popular culture, politics, and contemporary identity through short essays.

FILM AND TELEVISION WRITING

Writer/Producer, SunnyBoy Entertainment — November 2024–Present

Writer and creative producer tasked with scripting, concept ideation, and creative development for behind-the-scenes documentaries, featurettes, and marketing content across major studio properties. My role bridges narrative structure and visual storytelling, developing scripts for in world bridge content, special shoots, and features that highlight process, artistry, and collaboration for global entertainment campaigns.

Key Projects:

- **Scary Movie 6** (*Paramount Pictures*, 2025) — Developed creative and tonal approach for the film’s behind-the-scenes and marketing narrative; scripted 8-9 short legacy parodies .
- **Clayface** (*Warner Bros. Entertainment*, 2025) — Wrote and produced in-depth featurettes exploring visual design, mythic legacy, and performance artistry behind DC’s classic villain.
- **Mortal Kombat II** (*Warner Bros. Entertainment*, 2025) — Scripted *A Boon to Gamers Everywhere* and *Klose Quarters Kombat*, documentary-style shorts celebrating the franchise’s longevity and creative innovation.
- **The Black Phone 2** (*Universal Pictures*, 2025) — Scripted *Carved in Ice* and *Frozen in Time*, exploring creative continuity and performance collaboration between Ethan Hawke, Mason Thames, and director Scott Derrickson.
- **Street Fighter** (*Legacy Pictures*, 2025) — Developed concepts deck for a hybrid featurette blending nostalgic fan culture and contemporary adaptation, emphasizing the franchise’s cross-generational impact.
- **The Fast and the Furious 25th Anniversary** (*Universal Pictures*, 2025) — Developed concepts deck for retrospective content contextualizing two decades of cinematic evolution, car culture, and global reach.
- **Neuromancer** (*Apple TV*, 2025) — Provided creative consultation on thematic throughlines connecting William Gibson’s cyberpunk foundation to the adaptation’s visual design and world-building.
- **Superman** (*Warner Bros. Entertainment*, 2024) — Authored bridge content connecting *Superman* to DC Studio’s upcoming *Supergirl* release, focusing on myth, legacy, and generational storytelling.
- **The Morning Show** (*Apple TV*, 2024) — Scripted short-form featurettes exploring the show’s evolving themes of media accountability and personal resilience.
- **Back to the Future 40th Anniversary** (*Universal Pictures*, 2024) — Developed concepts deck examining time travel in film, cultural legacy, and the enduring design mythos of the classic film.

Co-Executive Producer, Disney Branded Television — *Kingston and the Magician's Lost and Found*, 2021–Present

Serve as Co-Executive Producer for the adaptation of my co-authored novel. Collaborate directly with Disney's creative and production teams on story development, tone, and adaptation strategies.

Screenwriter, *Fall* — *3AM Collective*, August 2025–Present

Co-writer of a historical espionage thriller set during the fall of the Berlin Wall, developed in collaboration with producer/actor Michael Weston and director Marc Schölermann. Explores restitution through a political heist framework.

Screenwriter, *Fading Suns* — *Elysian Production AG*, 2023–Present

Co-author of pilot script and show bible for a one-hour animated science-fiction drama based on the *Fading Suns* role-playing franchise. Develop a high-concept narrative combining science fiction, theology, and imperial decline. Collaborating with animation showrunners Sean Jara and Evan Thaler Hickey.

Screenwriter, *The New Legend of Monkey* — *See-Saw Films / Netflix*, 2018

Wrote for the reboot of the internationally acclaimed series based on *Journey to the West*, produced by See-Saw Films and released globally via Netflix. Developed episodes that reinterpreted classical mythology for modern audiences.

Writer, Full Fathom Five Productions — 2014–2015

Contributed to James Frey's multimedia production company, participating in development and adaptation of literary, television, and digital projects.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY

Assistant Professor, Department of Literature, Writing & Publishing — 2021–Present
Senior Lecturer / Director, MFA Program in Creative Writing — 2008–2021

In my seventeen years of teaching at St. Francis College, I have developed and led a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses in creative writing, literature, and film studies. My teaching emphasizes narrative craft, interdisciplinary storytelling, and the relationship between artistic form and cultural identity. I mentor undergraduate writers preparing graduate school applications, MFA candidates developing thesis manuscripts, and alumni entering professional writing, film, and publishing fields.

Undergraduate Courses (Taught and Designed)

- **Fiction Writing:** Introduces short and long-form narrative structures, voice, and revision practices. Emphasizes peer critique and narrative experimentation.

- **Advanced Fiction Writing:** Workshop-intensive course focusing on the development of long-form fiction and advanced storytelling strategies.
- **Writing & Publishing:** Explores professional pathways for emerging writers. Students produce polished work and learn querying and marketing strategies.
- **Brooklyn: Film & Fiction:** Interdisciplinary seminar exploring representations of Brooklyn across literature and film. Students engage with works by Spike Lee, Martin Scorsese, and Jonathan Lethem to analyze local mythologies and cultural identity.
- **Seminar: The Literary Mystery Novel:** Examines the evolution of the detective and mystery narrative from Edgar Allan Poe through Umberto Eco and contemporary authors. Students produce analytical essays and creative responses that merge genre and literary techniques.
- **The Epic: Film, Fiction, and Poetry:** Analyzes epic narrative across forms, from Homer and Virgil to contemporary cinema and speculative fiction.

Graduate Courses (MFA Program — Developed and Taught)

- **Residency Workshop (Intro–Thesis):** Multi-genre writing workshop serving as the foundation of the MFA curriculum. Focuses on sustained project development, revision, and authorial identity.
- **Dramatic Writing for Stage and Screen:** Teaches screenwriting and playwriting fundamentals; incorporates table reads, scene workshops, and guest lectures by professional screenwriters, actors, producers and directors.
- **Graphic Writing for Comic Books:** Newly developed degree concentration exploring visual narrative, panel structure, and script formatting for comics and graphic novels.
- **Nonfiction Writing:** Newly developed degree concentration for nonfiction. Emphasizes memoir, reportage, and the ethics of truth-telling in creative nonfiction.
- **Thesis Residency and Workshop:** Intensive mentorship and editorial guidance for graduating MFA candidates completing book-length manuscripts.

Across both levels, my pedagogy integrates creative discipline with professional development, aiming to prepare students for publication, screen production, and literary citizenship. Many of my students have published books, signed with agents, or transitioned into roles in film, education, and media industries.

John Jay College, CUNY — 2005–2015

Courses included *The Crime Film*, *Crime and Punishment*, *Writing Across the Disciplines*, *Scorsese: Melancholia and the Mob*, and *Medieval–Early Modern Literature*.

My teaching at John Jay combined literary and cinematic analysis through the lens of justice, crime, and morality. I designed writing-intensive syllabi that connected genre study to questions of ethics and representation, often pairing texts like *Crime and Punishment* with contemporary filmic interpretations.

St. John's University, Staten Island, NY — 2006–2007

Courses: *Creative Writing: Fiction* and *Introduction to Creative Writing*.

Designed and taught foundational creative writing courses emphasizing narrative voice, imagery, and the workshop method. Students produced original short fiction portfolios and critical reflections on process.

mediabistro EDU, New York, NY — 2013–2014

Instructor, *Crime Fiction Writing*

Created and taught an online professional writing course for emerging novelists, with weekly lectures, writing exercises, and live feedback sessions. The course attracted students nationally and internationally, many of whom completed manuscripts for submission to agents and contests.

Law School Boot Camp, John Jay College — 2007–2010

Collaborated on an interdisciplinary program preparing undergraduates for legal studies. Taught writing-intensive sections emphasizing clarity, persuasion, and analytical reasoning.

DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Academic Leadership and Program Development

Director, MFA in Creative Writing — 2017–Present

Founded, designed, and continue to direct the St. Francis College Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program, overseeing all aspects of administration, curriculum, recruitment, accreditation, and community engagement. I authored the NYSED *Application for Registration of a New Program* (approved in 2016) and led the subsequent expansion into Nonfiction and Graphic Writing tracks (approved 2021). The MFA has grown into a dynamic creative community centered on mentorship, professionalization, and literary citizenship.

Scope of Leadership and Programming:

- Designed and launched the graduate-level curriculum for multiple genres (fiction, poetry,

screenwriting, nonfiction, and graphic writing).

- Recruited and mentored distinguished visiting faculty including Marlon James, Chloe Cooper Jones, Ben Snyder and Lincoln Michel.

- Organized semiannual MFA residencies since 2017—each featuring multiple days of workshops, readings, panels, and one-on-one mentorship sessions.

- Partnered with Books Are Magic, The Black List, Narrative4, The Center for Fiction, and major publishing houses to bring editors, agents, screenwriters, directors, actors and producers directly into student residencies.

- Developed alumni mentorship and community-building initiatives, ensuring ongoing professional connections and creative support beyond graduation.

Select Visiting Authors and Industry Professionals (Highlights by Year):

2025: Franklin Leonard & Randy Winston (The Black List); Sidik Fofana; Sulay Hernandez; Michael Weston; Alex Bijan Zandi; Jahid Wilson.

2024: Kathryn Belden (Scribner); Chuck Hogan (*Prince of Thieves*); Jonathan Evison; Sidik Fofana; Rebecca Murga.

2023: Felice Belle; Clarence Haynes; Isaac Fitzgerald; Hannah Assadi; Yahdon Israel (Simon & Schuster).

2022: Daniel Vasquez; Daniel Nayeri; Ethan Sacks & Stuart Moore (Marvel); Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah.

2021: Matt Bell; Chloe Cooper Jones; Kellee Garrett; Hala Alyan.

2020: Laura Van Den Berg; Aja Monet; Robert Lopez; Shira Erlichman; Stacey Barney (Penguin/Random House).

2019: Marlon James; Jamel Brinkley; Ben Snyder; Victoria Marini; Johnny Temple.

2018: Lincoln Michel; Jason Starr; Tony Tulathimutte; Kate McKean.

2017: Kaitlyn Greenidge; Tiphonie Yanique; Dana Spiotta; Maria Gagliano.

Department Chair, Literature, Writing & Publishing — 2025–Present

Provide leadership across the department's undergraduate and graduate programs.

Responsibilities include faculty supervision, course scheduling, strategic planning, assessment, and new program initiatives. Areas include increasing enrollment, diversifying curriculum, and expanding focus into digital media.

Chair, Admissions, Scholarship & Financial Aid Committee — 2023–Fall 2025

Oversee admissions and funding processes for undergraduate and MFA students, including the awarding of merit-based scholarships and fellowships. Led initiatives to improve recruitment and strengthen outreach.

Director, Writing Program — 2015–2019

Managed Writing Minor course offerings, faculty coordination, and student advising. Introduced courses in multimedia storytelling and professional writing to align with emerging creative industries. Organized campus-wide student showcases and professional panels.

Author, Master Plan Amendment for MFA Accreditation — 2015–2021

Wrote and submitted accreditation documentation to the New York State Education

Department for both the original MFA and subsequent expansions into Nonfiction and Graphic Writing. These approvals positioned St. Francis College regionally in creative writing education.

Visiting Writers and Public Programming

Founder, SFC and *Books Are Magic* Partnership Series — 2023–Present

Created public literary program hosted at St. Francis College that bridge the campus community with Brooklyn's creative scene.

- The *Books Are Magic* partnership brings top-tier authors to campus for high-attendance public readings (200+ attendees). Guests have included Gabrielle Zevin, Curtis Sittenfeld, and Kelly Yang.
- Events are co-sponsored by Books Are Magic and draw both local residents and the SFC community, positioning the college as a literary and cultural hub.

Co-Director, Walt Whitman Writers Series — 2013–2018

Coordinated readings and lectures by Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and Man Booker Prize winners such as George Saunders, Junot Díaz, Paul Beatty, and Marlon James. Developed partnerships with BookCourt and Books Are Magic to elevate SFC's literary visibility citywide.

College and Community Engagement

Moderator and Panel Organizer, Brooklyn Book Festival — 2015–Present

Regularly represent St. Francis College as moderator and panel curator at the Brooklyn Book Festival, one of the nation's premier literary events. Panels have included Pulitzer Prize-winning authors such as Hisham Matar and Phillip Lopate.

Faculty Visitor, LaSalle High School Creative Writing Program — Ongoing

Regularly visit LaSalle High School's creative writing classes to lead workshops and discussions on fiction, storytelling, and the writing life. These visits strengthen community outreach by connecting St. Francis College's MFA and undergraduate writing students with young, aspiring writers.

Sponsor, Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Conference Benefactor — 2017

Organized SFC's \$10,000 Benefactor sponsorship for AWP's annual conference in Washington, D.C. Designed and oversaw the creation of a six-page marketing brochure that introduced the MFA nationally.

Director, *Troupers of St. Francis College* — 2016–2018

Supervised the student theater and acting club, producing several campus performances. Integrated cross-departmental collaboration with literature and writing courses to encourage interdisciplinary creativity.

Community and Alumni Outreach

Mentor to graduates now working in publishing, film, and education. Maintain long-term

professional and creative relationships with alumni through mentorship, manuscript consultation, and career development. Examples include former MFA students who have published debut novels, joined literary agencies, entered graduate programs or now teach at the college level, including several adjuncts at SFC.

SELECTED READINGS, PANELS & MEDIA APPEARANCES

Over the course of my career, I have participated in dozens of public readings, panels, festivals, and media appearances celebrating literature, film, and creative writing. These events have amplified St. Francis College's visibility in the broader cultural landscape and created sustained opportunities for students and alumni to engage with the professional literary community.

Recent Highlights (2021–2025)

- *Encounter at Owl Rock* launch and readings: Books Are Magic (Brooklyn), Brave + Kind Bookshop (Atlanta), and Vroman's Bookstore (Pasadena), 2025.
- "Fresh Pages" Reading Series with Clarence Haynes, Jive Poetic, and Caroline Hagood, St. Francis College, September 2025.
- *Kingston and the Echoes of Magic* reading and Q&A with Isaac Fitzgerald, Books of Wonder, January 2022.
- *Kingston and the Magician's Lost and Found* virtual launch events hosted by Books of Wonder, Vroman's, and national bookstore partners, 2021.
- "True Eco-Terror: Writing Frightful Economic and Ecological Dystopias and Disasters" with Jeff VanderMeer, Mad Duck Coalition, 2023.
- Brooklyn Book Festival, Children's Day "Adventure!" panel with David Levithan, Mandy Gonzalez, and Victor Piñeiro, 2021.

Major Panels, Festivals, and Conferences (2015–2020)

- "The Art of Family Stories," Brooklyn Book Festival, 2017 — moderator for panel featuring Hisham Matar, Phillip Lopate, and Sujatha Gidla.
- "When Home Is Not Home at All," Brooklyn Book Festival, 2016 — moderator for international fiction panel.

- “Today’s Yesterday,” Brooklyn Book Festival, 2015 — moderator for contemporary fiction panel featuring Michael Datcher and Esmeralda Santiago.
- Slice Literary Conference, 2018 — “More Than a Piece of Paper: How To Make the Most of an MFA” panelist with Malcolm Hansen and Yahdon Israel.
- Brooklyn Book Festival, 2018 — “Brooklyn Writers in Streets, Sands, and Salons” panel featuring Jamel Brinkley, John Wray, and Iris Cohen.

Early Career and National Readings (2005–2014)

- *A New Day in America* reading and Q&A, Electric Literature, March 2015.
- *Bang Bang* national book tour, 2007 — readings at Park Slope Barnes & Noble, Partners & Crime, Cody’s Books (San Francisco), Eso Won Books (Los Angeles), and Hue-Man Books (Harlem).
- ThrillerFest, 2008 — panelist for International Thriller Writers Debut Authors.
- KPFA Pacifica Radio, “Hard Knock Radio” interviews, 2008.
- WHDH-TV “Urban Update” television interview, December 2007.

Digital and Broadcast Media

- *GoT Academy* YouTube Scholar Series (2017–2018) — recurring guest on long-form essays comparing *Game of Thrones* and *The Lord of the Rings* adaptations; cumulative viewership over 150,000.
- *Electric Literature* feature, “A New Kind of Apocalypse: A Conversation with Theo Gangi,” 2015.