

VICTOR J. WISHNA

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www.thevitalword.com

EXPERIENCE

Playwright 2008 – present
Award-winning author of nearly a dozen scripts, including several that have been staged at theatres and festivals regionally.

[PLEASE SEE PLAYWRITING RESUME FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.]

Freelance Writer/Editor/Commentator New York, NY/Kansas City, MO 1998 – present

- **National correspondent**, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), 2014 – present
- **On-air commentary**, “A Fan’s Notes,” broadcast regularly on NPR-affiliate KCUR, 2011 – present
 - ♦ Gold Awards for Radio Commentary, Kansas City Press Club, 2016, 2017, 2018
- **Senior Editor, Theatre**, KCMetropolis.org, “Kansas City’s Journal of the Arts,” 2010 – 2018
- **Real-estate feature**, “Dream Homes,” published weekly in the *New York Post*, 2003 – 2017
- **Contributing writer** on language and literature, BookRiot.com, 2011 – 2014
- **Staff writer**, ArrowheadAddict.com and FanSided.com’s TheBarstool, 2010 – 2012
- **Column**, “Letter From New York,” syndicated nationally in community newspapers, 2001 – 2010
- **Scriptwriter** for AntennaAudio tours for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Jewish Museum, and others, 2003 – 2007
- **Articles** published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Miami Herald*, *Forward*, *Kansas City Star*, *Humanities*, *Stanford Magazine*, *Yahoo! Sports*, and others, 1998 – present

Author Umbrage Editions, 2006
In Their Company: Portraits of American Playwrights, with photographer Ken Collins. Conducted and edited interviews with 61 prominent stage writers including Edward Albee, August Wilson, Wendy Wasserstein, Tony Kushner, and others. Winner, 2007 Independent Publisher Book Awards Silver Medal. (intheircompany.com)

THE VITAL WORD Leawood, KS July 2011 – present
Chief Editorial Officer. Provide writing and editing services on wide variety of projects, from press materials to speeches to web site copy to custom publications, for array of business, nonprofit (particularly arts-related), and individual clients. Advise and assist students with application essays from idea stage to final polish. (thevitalword.com)

KANSAS CITY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL Overland Park, KS Nov. 2010 – Nov. 2011
Producer. Under auspices of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, coordinated volunteer committee and ensured implementation of all aspects of production—selection, programming, marketing, fundraising, sales, special events—for nine-day festival of films and speakers, as well as ancillary events throughout the year.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY New York, NY Oct. 2008 – July 2010
Special Assistant to the Chancellor. Served as aide-de-camp to Arnold M. Eisen, seventh chancellor of JTS, an institution with student body of 700 and annual budget of \$36 million. Assisted with research, editing, and writing of Chancellor's speeches and materials for publication.

QUEST/Q MAGAZINES New York, NY Nov. 2004 — Sept. 2008
Managing Editor. Oversaw all sections and all aspects of editorial production from story planning to final layout for monthly Manhattan society magazine with circulation of 75,000+, and quarterly fashion publication with distribution of 150,000 (plus online presence). Cultivated and assigned freelance writers, designers, photographers, and copy-editors. Wrote 50+ news pieces and longer features.

YOUR WORLD PUBLISHING Baltimore, MD/New York, NY Jan. 2003 — Jan. 2005
Writer/Editor/Client manager. Prepared oral histories and personal narratives, from interviews to final layout, for family, foundation, and corporate clients.

AVENUE MAGAZINE New York, NY Jan. 2001 – Aug. 2002
Staff Writer. Developed 40+ long features and short pieces for monthly glossy targeting affluent New Yorkers. Covered the arts, society, real estate, philanthropy, financial issues, lifestyle trends. Wrote weekly column for companion newspaper, *On The Avenue*. Edited others' work. Assisted with layout.

RESTAURANT BUSINESS New York, NY Dec. 1998 – Dec. 2000
Senior Editor. Wrote 75+ in-depth features and news articles about the restaurant industry for magazine with twice-monthly circulation of 135,000. Reported on lifestyle issues, political developments, marketing, financial performance, food trends. Developed story ideas. Cultivated freelancers. Edited special features.

THE INDEPENDENT Kansas City, MO Feb. – Nov. 1998
Arts Writer. Developed *Art Seen*, a bi-weekly feature focusing on local up-and-coming artists.

EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY Stanford, CA Sept. 1993 – June 1997
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology. Coursework in journalism, history, religious studies, playwriting.

THE NEW SCHOOL New York, NY Sept. 2003 – May 2005
Master of Fine Arts, Non-fiction. Thesis: *From Bagels to Baghdad: Dispatches from Jewish New York*.

OTHER SKILLS / EXPERIENCE

Arts/Culture: Semi-pro stand-up comedian, appearing throughout New York and the Midwest. Writer and Guide for JWalks, a Jewish heritage walking tour company. Acted in 30+ theater productions.

Computers: Fluent in Word, Excel, Quark, InDesign, Photoshop, and iMovie.

Language: Knowledge of American Sign Language, written/spoken Hebrew.

Community Leadership/Volunteering: Executive planning committee for environmental bike ride with 500 participants, raising \$400,000. Team Leader for New York Cares. Four years as after-school reading tutor. Seven summers as camp counselor, U.S. and Israel.

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PLAYS – FULL LENGTH

<i>DNR</i>	Production	The Living Room Theatre (Kansas City, MO)	Sept. 2019
	Staged Reading	The Living Room Theatre (Kansas City, MO)	Aug. 2017
<i>Shearwater</i>	Staged Reading	Playhouse on the Square (Memphis, TN)	Dec. 2018
	Staged Reading	Panndora Productions (Long Beach, CA)	Oct. 2018
	Workshop	The Living Room Theatre (Kansas City, MO)	Jan. 2017
	Staged Reading	The Living Room Theatre (Kansas City, MO)	Nov. 2015

SELECTED PLAYS – SHORT / ONE ACTS

<i>Written Off</i>	Staged Reading	Theatre Lawrence (KS)	Nov. 2018
	Production	Kansas City Fringe Festival	July 2016
<i>The Impressionists</i>	Production	Kansas City Fringe Festival	July 2015
	Production	City Theatre of Independence (MO)	July 2013
<i>After All</i>	Production	Kansas City Fringe Festival	July 2014
<i>Fish and Houseguests</i>	Staged Reading	The Fishtank Theatre (Kansas City, MO)	June 2014
<i>To The Dogs</i>	Production	The Barn Players (Mission, KS)	Dec. 2012

PUBLICATIONS

<i>In Their Company: Portraits of American Playwrights</i>	Umbrage Editions	2006
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HONORS / AWARDS / AFFILIATIONS

Semi-Finalist	Blue Ink Playwriting Award	2019
Finalist	New Works @ The Works Playwriting Competition	2018
Winner	Panndora's Box New Works Festival	2018
Audience Award: Best Script	City Theatre of Independence Original Playwrights Festival	2013
Silver Medal: Performing Arts	Independent Publisher Book Awards	2007
Member	Dramatists Guild of America	since 2017

EDUCATION

Stanford University	Bachelor of Arts, Psychology	1997
The New School	Master of Arts, Creative Writing	2005