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# Ashley Griffin

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**I have worked as a ghost writer on Broadway (NDA's prevent me from disclosing more specific information.)*

2025 – Was selected as one of the writers to have their work included (along with that of Shakespeare and other major authors) in collaboration with NASA on the Griffin-1 Lander's Moon Capsule which will remain on the lunar surface (at the lunar South Pole's Nobile Crater) to archive and preserve Earth's literary artistic achievements.

## Theater/Film/Television

**Trial**

*A young woman waiting for her own judgment in the bureaucratic system of the afterlife finds herself in the role of judge and jury to determine the eternal fate of the man responsible for her death. Inspired by a true story.*

Current – In pre-production for commercial off-Broadway/Broadway production produced by **Fred Rohan-Vargas** *(Parade, Company)*, directed by **Lori Petty** *(A League of Their Own*, director of *The Poker House* (Jennifer Lawrence's first film))

2024 – NYC developmental reading at TheaterLab produced by Fred Rohan-Vargas (*Parade, Company*), directed by Lori Petty, starring Kate Siegel *(The Fall of the House of Usher)* and Callum Blue *(The Tudors)*

2021 – Don't Tell Amy Production's featured play with streamed talkback.

2019 – Winner of the WellLife Network Award and a county commendation for *Trial* and its advocacy impact.

2019 – Performance at the Tilles Center with all-star cast, directed by Lori Petty – raised over $100,000.00 in one evening.

2018 – Sold out off-Broadway run at The American Theater of Actors directed by **Lori Petty** *(Orange is the New Black, A League of Their Own.)* The entire run had sold out by opening night. The production was widely heralded, and began to attract word of mouth attention from Broadway producers. **Heralded as: "Masterful," "Exquisite," "Profound," A tour-de-force," "If this show were on Broadway it would win the Pulitzer."**

2018 – Developmental reading at Pacific Resident Theater directed by Lori Petty

2016 – Staff sponsored developmental reading at **Broadway's Manhattan Theater Club**, directed by **Lori Petty** (*Orange is the New Black, The Poker House, A League of Their Own*), featuring Geneva Carr (Tony Nominee, *Hand To God*), Oona Laurence (Tony Award, *Matilda, South Paw)*, Xanthe Elbrick (Tony Nominee, *Coram Boy*), Steve Hauck (*Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt)* and others.

2016 – Developmental reading with The Ivy Theater Company, NYC

2014 – Developmental reading with The Red Fern Theater Company, NYC, featuring **Finn Wittrock** (*American Horror Story)*

2011 – Developmental reading with Dreamcatcher Entertainment, NYC

**The Opposite of Love**

*"If 'Pretty Woman' was a 'Black Mirror' episode sans tech."*

2025 – Los Angeles premier* at the Hudson Theatre produced by Neil Gooding (TONY AWARD - *Sunset Boulevard, The Ferryman)*
***Winner – Eight BroadwayWorld Awards including Best Play**

2024 – Premier Off-Broadway production produced by New York Rep *(Church and State)*. A recipient of a DCLA grant, the production partnered with the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault and the Newy York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

2022 – Developmental reading at Theatre Row produced by Neil Gooding in association with New York Rep. in preparation for off-Broadway production.

2019/2020 – In preproduction with producer Neil Gooding (Broadway's "The Ferryman") in association with New York Rep.

2019– Developmental reading at A.R.T.

**Blank Paige**

*A television series/novel set in an ethereal bookstore where all of the employees are fictional characters who have yet to be written. An exploration of fate vs. free will, "Blank Paige" follows Paige – the first character ever to enter the bookstore with no knowledge of who she is, threatening to destroy the very fabric of imagination.*

Currently – **Has been in development talks with Amazon (T.V.)**

2023 – Novel version of *Blank Paige* published – immediately went to #1 on Amazon

**Forever Deadward**

*Formerly "Twilight: The Unauthorized Musical Parody," "Forever Deadward" is "a thinking man's parody" of the "Twilight" franchise, and our culture of obsession.* ***The show became a pop culture phenomenon*** *when it premiered at New World Stages off-Broadway and was highly praised by* ***E! Entertainment, Entertainment Weekly, MTV*** *and others.*

2014 – Developmental reading at The York Theater Company, NYC, directed by Gabriel Barre (*Amazing Grace*, Broadway, Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party*)
- Sold out concert at 54 Below, NYC

2012 - New World Stages performance featuring Meghann Fahy *(One Life To Live)* and Colin Hanlon *(Modern Family*), directed by Gabriel Barre (*Amazing Grace,* Broadway.) **Featured/highly praised by MTV, Perez Hilton, EW, E!, CNN and others**.

2010 - Sold out concert performance at the LABA Theater, NYC

**Snow**

*Using a structure similar to "Cloud Atlas," and "The Hours," "Snow" follows three disparate storylines that all revolve around the fairy tale Snow White. Exploring the power and importance of storytelling, "Snow" incorporates elements of "American Gods," and storytelling techniques a la "Peter and the Starcatcher."*

Semifinalist for American Shakespeare Center's Shakespeare's New Contemporaries Competition

Current – Screenplay adaptation in development

2020 – Production as part of the SDTC season – UK premiere starring Meredith Patterson and Jordan Lage.

2017 – Workshop production at The Sonnet Theater in Times Square.*
* **Three NY Innovative Theater Award Nominations including Best New Play**

2017 – Developmental reading at **Playwrights Horizons** featuring Jennifer Regan *(Born Yesterday)* and Christian Coulson *(Harry Potter*.)

2016 – Workshop production at Under St. Marks in NYC produced by A.N.O.N Productions. Heralded as: "Brilliant," "Impressive," "Darkly moving," "Innovative and ambitious."

2015 – Developmental reading with Dreamcatcher Entertainment, NYC

**The Illusionary Games of Edward Rye**

*World famous psychological illusionist Edward Rye has made his fortune demonstrating to the world that free will is merely, well, an illusion. But when, desperate for a challenge, he decides to use Claire Fox - an intelligent but fragile staff member at his show, as the subject of his next meta experiment his world is turned upside down and he is forced to question everything he once believed.*

2025 – World premiere production in Austin, TX produced by the Filigree Theatre (run by Elizabeth V. Newman and Alex Timbers) at Factory on Fifth, directed by Elizabeth V. Newman starring Malcolm Stephenson (*1883, The Sisters Rosensweig* (Broadway))*
***Winner – B. Iden Payne Award**
***Winner – Four BroadwayWorld Awards including Best Play and Best New Play**
***Austin Theatre Critics Award Nomination – Best Original Script**

**The Shadowlands**

*Described as: "If Lewis Carroll had written Angels in America." "The Shadowlands" is an original play dealing with the aftermath of the Orlando shooting, and set against the backdrop of the Trump election.*

Currently – Under consideration by Roundabout and LCT3

2020 – Development with South Side Stage in association with MPAC.

2017 – Reading at La MaMa, NYC. Currently under consideration by Roundabout and LCT3.

**Étude**

*"If Thornton Wilder wrote 'Gruesome Playground Injuries.'" When two soulmates, happily existing in the eternal realm, learn that they will be separated on earth, not even born in the same time or place, they become terrified that they will lose their connection forever. As both are reincarnated in various guises and in varied relationships to each other over the next three hundred years they are forced to test if true (not necessarily romantic) love and eternal connection can survive the trials of the human experience.*

2026 – off-Broadway workshop in produced by Caitlin McNeilage (*The Hills of California)*

2025 – Developmental reading produced by Caitlin McNeilage *(The Hills of California)*

**Silver Moon**

*Pilot commissioned by producer Mike Johnson, written by me. Under consideration by Fox and other networks. More info TBA.*

**Bombershay**

*Drama pilot in development with Stage Network created in collaboration with Broadway artist Jeffry Denman. More info TBA. Exploring the real, historical (and often gritty) origins of the "42nd Street" story we all think we know.*

**Company**

*Comedy pilot under consideration with NBC and Stage Network. More info TBA. "Slings and Arrows" meets the world of American community theater (with an emphasis on Musical Theater.)*

**Strike That**

*Comedy pilot created with Eric Pfeffinger. More info TBA. What happens when you build a billion-dollar entertainment company on the labor of creative artists, and then one day all those artists just walk off the job? Easy. Get all the other executives, desk jockeys, and bean counters together, roll up your French cuffs, and start making the movies yourself. How hard can it be? "Strike That" is an acidic comedy about extremely successful people pulling together to do something they're really bad at. It's "Veep" in a writers' room; it's "Succession" on a hot set.*

**Looking For Wonderland**

*Created in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil star/creator Joel Jeske "…Wonderland" uniquely combines physical comedy and dramatic narrative to explore the real life relationship between Charles Dodgson (ne Lewis Carroll) and his muse Alice Liddell. Director Gabriel Barre ("Amazing Grace," Broadway, attached.*

2015 – Under consideration by The Public Theater and Playwrights Horizons

2014 – Semi-finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Festival

2014 – Off-Broadway developmental reading

**Lyra**

*Created in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil artists, "Lyra" is a dark musical retelling of the Little Mermaid story, set in a dustbowl era circus. Written with composer Evan Jay Newman (Musical Director of the Broadway "American Idiot" national tour.*

2023/2024 – Accepted into the New Works Collaboration Catalog

2023 – Finalist for the Syracuse University New Works, New Voices Initiative

2018/2019 – In development in residence at the Access Theater Company and Streb, featured on, and added to the rotation on Broadway Radio

2015 – Sold out workshop at The Triad, NYC

2015 – Sold out concert reading at 54 Below, NYC

**Witch Hunt**

*A new musical that sets the Salem witch trials against the backdrop of our current political climate in Washington, D.C. Proctor is a Brett Cavanaugh – esque justice, the kids are rebelling against their right wing parents, and Abigail is an abused teen desperate to get her voice back. Book and Lyrics by Ashley Griffin, Music by Casey O'Neil.*

Current – We've received interest from several Broadway producers. We are currently finalizing the score and recording demos – **Grace McClean** *(Great Comet…)* has recorded the role of Elizabeth.

**Ophelia, Descending**

*Original screenplay – a psychological thriller in the vein of "Martha, Marcy May, Marlene." After her best friend is acquitted for killing her assaulter, a traumatized grad student's friends take her on a secluded getaway to help her emotionally recover. But when her friends start dying one by one she must learn that we all must embrace the things about ourselves that scare us to defeat the enigmatic murderer before she loses everyone she's ever loved.*

2026 – In development in L.A. as a full length screenplay

2016 – Short produced by SeaStone Productions

**Changed For Good**

*Featuring music by **Stephen Schwartz**, "Changed For Good" explores the power of musical theater through the lens of the work of Stephen Schwartz and the dichotomy between audience and critical reception of his work.*

2006 – Began development with The York Theater Company. Director Gabriel Barre (*Amazing Grace*, Broadway) attached.
-World premiere at the Playwrights Horizons Black Box Theater

**Spectacle the Musical**

*A hysterical, meta musical comedy described as "Title of Show" meets "The Play That Goes Wrong." Struggling artists Ashley and Evan are thrilled to have finally landed their big break when they are hired to pen producing mogul Frank Ryger's new 200 million-dollar Broadway mega musical "The Sound of Love." But at the industry presentation for their spectacle driven blockbuster they are forced to question whether they're willing to put survival above integrity and just how much they're willing to sacrifice in order to achieve their dreams. Written in collaboration with Evan Jay Newman (MD for Broadway national tours of "American Idiot", "Cinderella" and more.)*

2021 – Album released on iTunes and currently on rotation on Musical Theater Radio

2021 – Finalist for the Stellar Emerging Creators Award

2020 – Sold out run off-Broadway at The Triad Theater

**The Storyteller**

*Written in collaboration with composer Patrick Burns, this show explores the darker, historically accurate life of fairy tale author Hans Christian Andersen.*

Recipient of the Lincoln City Fellowship from the Speranza Foundation

Create Theater Semi-Finalist

2024 – Part of the Los Angels NOW (New Original Works) Festival – Time Out's #1 11/24 Los Angeles event

2020 – Current – Part of the Musical Theatre Educator's Alliance New Works Collaborations (MTEA, NWCC)

**Peculiar Creatures**

*"If Kafka, Brecht and Matthew Bourne created a fairy tale"*
*A unique, surrealist play that incorporates movement as an integral vocabulary, "Peculiar Creatures" tells the story of Brother and Sister – two adult siblings who have existed in an isolated, symbiotic world almost all their lives. Fleeing the enigmatic figure who killed their parents, they have had to survive as grifters – with Brother functioning as the caretaker and voice for his fragile, traumatized sister. But when a Stranger claiming to be an emissary from Sister's fantasy world becomes the first outsider to ever enter their lives, Brother and the Stranger must battle for the very soul of Sister – fighting to prove whether the Stranger is who he claims to be, or the very the very thing they have been running from all their lives. Exploring issues of safety versus freedom, "Peculiar Creatures" is an experimental piece part "Les Enfants Terribles, part "Rapunzel."*

Currently – In development with Denman Theatre and Dance company

2018/2019 – Developed in residence at the Access Theater Company in NYC

**Curio**

*"'The Tempest' meets 'Agatha All Along'". Summer, a brilliant, ancient witch, and Gerda, her beloved, decidedly un-magical adult daughter, must confront the realities of horrific loss when Summer learns she is dying of a non-magically (and non-medically) curable illness. But Summer's impending death, more than just leaving Gerda alone, threatens to uncover long buried secrets that would destroy the very essence of Summer and Gerda's bond*

2026 – Received development at A.R.T.

**The Little Mermaid (Audio play adaptation)**

2020– Produced by Audible and The Liminos Project. Available on Audible.

**Children's Theater Plays:**

**The Jungle Book**
**A Little Princess**
**The Snow Queen**
**The Wind in the Willows**
**Winnie-the-Pooh**
**Ever After**
**Starship MacGuffin!**

2022-2026 – "The Jungle Book", "A Little Princess", "The Snow Queen", "Th Wind in the Willows", "Winnie-the-Pooh", "Ever After" and "Starship MacGuffin!" Published with Plays For New Audiences and produced continuously around the world.

2022 – "Starship MacGuffin!" published by Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing

2017-2020 – Premier commissioned productions of "The Jungle Book", "A Little Princess", "The Snow Queen", "Ever After" and "Starship MacGuffin!" at the MAOR Theater

**Children's Theater Musicals:**

**Ready Player 3**

2025 – Published by Plays For New Audiences

2022 - Commissioned by Musical Theatre West

**The 8th Square**

*Original screenplay that sets "Alice in Wonderland," and "Alice Through The Looking Glass" in the darkly magical underbelly of NYC. Terry Gilliam meets Neil Gaiman.*

2025 – In development with Wrong Rabbit Productions. Doug Jones *("Hellboy," "Pan's Labyrinth")* attached.

**The Death Of Emily Webster**

*A dark comedy that crosses Martin McDonagh with Christopher Durang. On the verge of another meaningless year, Madeline, a "queen bee" discovers that she may be partially responsible for the suicide of a friend, Emily Webster. After clandestine visits from two other friends of Emily, Ivy Eddie, the three manipulative victims of their own guilt team up to take credit for their friend's "life work" guaranteeing them a free ride for the rest of their lives. But when an unexpected visitor from the trio's past arrives, they must learn that the traps we set for others inevitably ensnare us all before discovering just who is the predator, and who is the prey.*

2011 – Off-Broadway production produced by Dreamcatcher Entertainment

- Staged Reading, The Spoon Theater, NYC – produced by Dreamcatcher Entertainment.

**Subtext**

*A dark comedy that explores the inner workings of a high school social hierarchy.*

2001 – Staged reading, Barber Theater, Chicago

2002 – Workshop production, The Santa Monica Playhouse, L.A.

## Novels

**Blank Paige**

*Adapted from the television series (in development, see above)*

2023 – Published by Inklings Literary. Went to number one on Amazon

**The Spindle**

*"Sleeping Beauty" from the dark faerie's point of view, incorporating elements of Celtic mythology.*

2022 – Published by Oaklea Publishing (in 2026 changed publishers to Inklings Literary) went to number one on Amazon

## Award Highlights

2026 – Five BroadwayWorld Awards for two different shows in different regions in the same year:
Best New Play or Musical – *The Illusionary Games of Edward Rye*
Best Play – *The Opposite of Love*
Best Play – *The Illusionary Games of Edward Rye*
Best Performer in a Play – *The Opposite of Love*
Best Performer in a Play – *The Illusionary Games of Edward Rye*

Both shows won an additional combined seven BroadwayWorld Awards

2025 – Austin Theatre Critics Award Nomination for Best Outstanding Script for the world premiere of *The Illusionary Games of Edward Rye*

2025 – Three B. Iden Payne Award Nominations for the world premiere of *The Illusionary Games of Edward Rye*

2024 – Create Theater Semi-Finalist – *The Storyteller*

2019 – Winner of the WellLife Network Award and recipient of a county commendation for work on *Trial* and its advocacy impact.

2018 NYIT Award nominee for Best New Play and Best Actress for *Snow*

2017 NYIT Award nominee for Best Director and Best Actress for *Hamlet*

Recipient of 2007 outstanding playwriting commendation from the New York International Fringe Festival.

Grand prizewinner in the Los Angeles Shakespeare Festival Competition.

Semi-finalist for Women's Project Theater (WPT) Lab

In consideration for the Vradenburg Prize

Winner of the CRF Poetry Prize

Winner of three Golden Pencil Awards

## Music

Forever Deadward – Composer/Lyricist. Currently in development (Gabriel Barre, dir.)

Spectacle: The Musical! – Composer/Lyricst/Vocalist – Cast album with five star rating on iTunes and other platforms.

Trial – Composer/Lyricist

Lyra – Composer/Lyricist

Witch Hunt – Composer/Lyricist

Solo Album – In development

Extensive knowledge of music theory.

## Poetry/Short Stories

Published in "Read Me" Magazine

Winner of the CRF poetry prize

## Teaching

NYU Asst. Faculty Member – (Has taught, and been a guest lecturer in the Theater Studies department teaching Shakespeare and Musical Theater History)

Masterclass teacher for Forward Motion

Guest teacher/lecturer SUNY Fredonia (Playwrighting)

Guest teacher – Columbia University

## Performing/Directing

- Has worked on and off-Broadway as a performer (with shows ranging from ***Rocktopia*** to the highly acclaimed, He For She inspired ***Hamlet*** (playing Hamlet.)) Most recently she filmed on ***The Greatest Showman***, ***The Deuce*** and ***Homeland***.

**- The first person in history to be nominated for a major award for both playing and directing *Hamlet* in a theatrical production.**

- Director of *The Middleman* at the Hudson Theater, nominated for Best New Play.

- Director of *Prick Perfect* which won best show at the 2017 NYC EstroGenius Festival.

- Has directed/produced multiple shows at 54 Below (and has been hired as a director/producer by head of 54 Below Jennifer Ashley Tepper.

- Attached to direct the world premiere of Sara Elizabeth Brown's *Why Not Us* at the Workshop Theater.

- Full performance resume available on request

- Review highlights:

*"Utterly electric."*

*"It's hard to think of many actresses who would not only put themselves through the beating this play demands of her roles – both physically and emotionally but attack everything her character must endure with utter commitment."*

*"Griffin as…Arcadia exploded in a plethora of sadness, fear and righteous indignation. A whirlwind of emotional torment, she brilliantly portrayed the myriad stages of psychological, emotional anguish and discovery."*

*"There are times when it is to the benefit of a piece to have the author take part as a cast member, Griffin clearly has a strong connection to the material, and it served the show."*

*"Griffin has magnificent chemistry with everyone else on stage."*

## Other

- Artistic Associate – New York Rep
- Masterclass teacher for Forward Motion
- Guest teacher/lecturer SUNY Fredonia (Playwrighting)
- NYU Ass. Faculty Member – (Has taught, and been a guest lecturer in the Theater Studies department teaching Shakespeare and Musical Theater History)
- Associate producer for the Library of Congress's Songwriter Series "Charles Sings Strouse" released December 2006, "Jonathan Sings Larson" released 2007.
- Contributing journalist to "The Curator" magazine
- Contributing journalist to Onstage Network
- Journalist for American Theatre Magazine
- Journalist for Dance Magazine
- Theater critic for Theateronline.com (http://www.theateronline.com/Showstaff.xzc?PK=20)
- Judge – Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference
- Judge – AMPA Artist of the Year Award
- Judge – Mixing It Up Productions Playwrighting Competition
- NYU – Tisch Graduate Mentor (Ongoing)
- Statera Arts Mentor (Ongoing)
- Artist in Residence - Access Theater Company (NYC) 2018-2019
- Artist in Residence - Dreamcatcher Entertainment (NYC) 2011-2012
- Directed *Prick Perfect* for the NYC EstroGenius Festival – which went on to win best show of the festival
- Directed the world premiere of *The Middleman* (off-Broadway), NYWF nominee for Best Play
- Has been nominated for five NYIT Awards across multiple categories.
- Sketch writer for SeaStone Productions

- Dramaturge for "Tick…tick…BOOM!" by Jonathan Larson, Directed by Gabriel Barre, produced at the Adirondack Theatre Festival July 2007

- Member of the Dramatists Guild

- Member of Actors Equity Association

- Member of The League of Professional Theater Women

- Member LMDA (*Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas*)

- Board Member – Wait in the Wings

- Member of Mensa

## Education

- BFA - New York University Tisch School of the Arts (*Playwrights Horizons Theater School*)
- The Boston Conservatory of Music
- Hamilton Academy Of Music (L.A's premiere performing arts High School)
- National Theatre
- RSC