

Russ Nickel

Objective: Lead the writing team for a sci-fi/fantasy video game.

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VIDEO GAME EXPERIENCE

Arrowhead Game Studios, Stockholm — *Head Writer*

FEBRUARY 2020 - Feb 2022

- **What:** An 80+ person AAA game studio that's produced multiple titles with millions of copies sold
- **Role:** Create characters, write dialogue, develop lore, cast actors, run VO sessions, manage LAMS integration, collaborate with loc team

Tappity, Los Angeles — *Head Writer*

MAY 2018 - June 2022

- **What:** A startup which produces a live-action, interactive game that teaches science to kids! Has 100k+ paid monthly active users
- **Role:** Manage writing team, design playable storylines, brainstorm interactions, write dialogue, cast actors, run VO sessions

Asgardian Games, Los Angeles — *Writer*

JUNE 2015 - FEBRUARY 2016

- **What:** A Silicon Valley startup that makes a story-driven SRPG that was featured on the app store
- **Role:** Edit and polish role-playing game storyline & dialogue

Loki Studios, Palo Alto — *Writer*

OCTOBER 2010 - MARCH 2012

- **What:** Pokemon GO before Pokemon GO! Also known as Yahoo!'s [4-Billion-Dollar Mistake](#)
- **Role:** Edit and polish role-playing game storyline & dialogue

FILM EXPERIENCE

Bear with Us, Feature Film — *Co-writer, Producer*

- **What:** A farcical, bear-attack romcom starring Christy Carlson Romano (*Even Stevens*; *Kim Possible*) and Cheyenne Jackson (*Watchmen*; *American Horror Story*; *30 Rock*)
- **Distribution:** The film got a major release, playing in festivals, on airplanes, in hotels, on Amazon Prime, and supposedly even in prisons!

AWARDS

Best Feature (*Bear with Us*)

- Alameda Int. Film Festival
- Gasparilla Int. Film Festival
- Hill Country Film Festival
- FilmQuest Film Festival
- Columbia Gorge Film Fest

Black List TV Staffing Book

- 1 of 10 featured comedy writers

Acclaim Screenwriting Contest

- Grand Prize Winner

Launch Pad Workshop

- 1 of 15 writers selected for a NASA-led sci-fi workshop

EDUCATION

Chapman University

- MFA in Screenwriting

Stanford University

- BA in Creative Writing

SKILLS

- Managing a writers room
- Plotting, Worldbuilding, Character Creation, Dialogue, Sci-fi/Fantasy, Humor
- Boundless Enthusiasm!
- Collaboration & People Skills
- Unhealthy addiction to Magic the Gathering

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FILM EXPERIENCE (CONT'D)

The Speed of Time, Proof of Concept Short — Co-writer

- **What:** An off-the-wall time travel comedy starring WWE Wrestlers John Hennigan & Nic Nemeth, as well as Sean Marquette (*The Goldbergs*)
- **Distribution:** Acquired by sci-fi studio, DUST, for an exclusive release, as well as premiering at the Los Angeles Chinese Theater. Currently being shopped by producers for a feature adaptation

Stellar People, Digital Series — Co-writer

- **What:** A sci-fi comedy digital series starring Danny Tamberelli (Pete from *The Adventures of Pete & Pete*) and 8-time Emmy Award Winner Rory Albanese
- **Distribution:** Funded by Adaptive Studios, which has since been acquired by Mad River Pictures--awaiting distribution

The Noble Grapes, Feature Film — Co-writer

- **What:** A mockumentary about the hardest test known to man. That's right: the Master Sommelier Exam. Starring Sarah Levy (*Shitt's Creek*)
- **Distribution:** Funded, filming once production reopens. Produced by RBF Productions (*Loving Vincent, American Honey, Tallulah*)

PROSE

“The Motivation Cure”

- **What:** A black-mirror-esque descent into the loss of humanity that comes from no longer having to do “all the little things”
- **Distribution:** The sci-fi podcast *DUST: Horizons*, which reached #1 on Apple and has millions of downloads. They bought my stories for both their opening episode and their season finale

“The God Egg”

- **What:** A different take on the advancement of Artificial Intelligence
- **Distribution:** A Sci-fi Writers of America qualifying magazine edited by Mike Resnick, the most awarded sci-fi writer in history

“Clockwork Corsair”

- **What:** A steampunk fantasy about the dangers of being able to store objects outside of time
- **Distribution:** A Sci-fi Writers of America qualifying anthology put out by one of the best small presses in the industry

BIBLIOGRAPHY

For a complete list of published works and projects, please see www.rknickel.com