

Chad Chenail

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Hello!

Over the past six months, I've had the awesome opportunity to intern at Gimlet on their children's show Chompers. I love this work and will continue creating inclusive, positive, and kind children's media with all the energy I've got. Here, I've had a taste of how rewarding work can be when it's geared towards social good. A motto I've learned is, "Use privilege to fight privilege" and I plan to take that with me.

I studied as a theatre director. Through theatre, I learned how to work with a large group of creative people toward a common goal, speak different creative languages and work on all types of elements toward the final product. I learned about fostering an environment in which talented and creative people can deliver their best work, collaboration, and teamwork. Especially, I learned about how important and exciting telling stories can be.

From there, I learned how to teach myself. I said yes to every opportunity that came my way. This landed me in sound and video design for experimental opera. Here, I learned that storytelling is an enormous endeavor – creativity and talent don't look a certain way, and I won't always know what's going on – but that doesn't mean it isn't successful and beautiful. Most importantly, I learned how to teach myself on the fly, to say "I don't know, but I can find out," and to work quickly and efficiently in support of those around me.

Next, I learned the power of working with and teaching children. I became a Media Education Coordinator with the NYC Parks and Recreation Department and taught music, storytelling and video production classes for all ages. I found a strong sense of meaning in teaching a group of children that they can create their own stories. Teaching an adult something new is great, but opening an entire creative channel for a child is incomparable.

In response to the 2016 election, a good friend of mine, Rebecca Cunningham, sparked a great idea. She invited me to co-produce a podcast for children that spoke to the idea that girls can do anything. We didn't know how to make a podcast, but I knew I could find out. And so I became a producer of Girl Tales, a children's feminist fairytale podcast. We commission female-identifying, Brooklyn-based playwrights to retell classic fairytales in a way they needed to hear when they were a kid. We purposefully approach a diverse and inclusive set of story tellers in order to vary the traditional princess narrative and include voices and cultures that match the diversity of our listeners.

Inclusion and representation are also two guiding principals in the work that I do. I am queer, and was once asked who my gay idols were growing up. I had none, and not seeing or hearing from anyone who was like me had a huge impact on the decisions I made about myself for years to come. Providing opportunity for every child to see themselves in the media they consume is a major driving factor that motivates and inspires me. I would love to bring my motivation to your company.

Thank you for your time!

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Pronouns: he/him