

CALLIE MAKUNAS

ASPIRING FILMMAKER, ARTIST, CREATOR

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OBJECTIVE: Make art that I love and enjoy the process of making it. Tell stories that I want to see and hear but cannot currently find. Elevate sub-genres like horror comedy to a wider audience. Bring light to things that are not currently recognized or in the mainstream.

EDUCATION: Jewish Community High School (JCHS), anticipated graduation date June 2026, weighted GPA 3.2

ACTIVITIES: Term-time activities both in and out of school devoted to film, theater, art, and creative exploration

JCHS THEATER: From ensemble to lead, acted in every JCHS production during my high school career, finding my “main character energy” in the process. Studied voice independently, even made my own sword, shield, and other weapons.

2022-2026

- **MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS**

- “Something Rotten” - Portia - in production for December 2025
- “Once Upon a Mattress” - Lady M, Lady Beatrice - December 2024
- “Little Shop of Horrors” - Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Luce, Ensemble - December 2023
- “Spamalot” - Brother Maynard and Historian - December 2022

- **THEATER PRODUCTIONS** (no play was produced Spring 2024)

- “She Kills Monsters” - Agnes - Spring 2025
- [no production in Spring 2024]
- “Anatomy of Grey” - Ensemble - Spring 2023
- Spring 2026 production to come

SF ART and FILM: Spent my Sundays during the school year immersed in a film studies and production workshop, watching and discussing diverse films from “Citizen Kane” to “Saltburn,” falling in love with Cuarón’s “Children of Men,” and assistant directing films for fellow participants. **6 hrs/week October 2023 - May 2024**

KEYSTONE IN PROGRESS: Finally making the mockumentary of my dreams for my Senior Independent project. Currently producing, writing, directing, editing, mixing, and eventually debuting “PTA,” a story of the comedic and competitive underbelly of elementary school parent organizations. **Premiering May 2026.**

INDEPENDENT STUDY: Partnered independently with my voice teacher to create a custom 8-week curriculum called “Music as Story-Making” focused on creating tension and suspense in film via music. **Spring 2024**

JTV: Investigative reporter, intrepid interviewer and co-host of the “Club Highlights” segment for internal school TV station. Bringing you the dirt on Environmental Club, the latest moves of Chess Club, and following every last thread of the Fashion Club. **2022-2023**

JCHS HORROR CLUB: Scared (rallied) fellow horror fanatics to establish first-ever JCHS Horror Club, in part to convince our amazing filmmaking teacher that horror is a valid genre. Discussed tropes like “final girl,” and religious horror, shared favorite movies and stories. **Founding member 2023 - 2025, President/Leader, 2025-2026**

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Observed Saturday Shabbat through service volunteering with local community organizations

- **SF and MARIN FOOD BANK:** Weekly interfaith food bank serving local community members **2023 - ongoing**
- **CITY HOPE SF:** Server at City Hope Cafe, a restaurant serving Saturday brunch and providing dignity and food security to SF’s most vulnerable and marginalized populations. **2025 - ongoing**

CREATIVE EXPERIENCE: Summer programs focused on developing my love of film, screenwriting, storytelling, illustration, and animation

SCHOOL OF CREATIVE and PERFORMING ARTS: Got my first taste of college-level film and screenwriting programs spending summers on campus in both Los Angeles and Manhattan

- **CORE FILMMAKING** - Occidental, CA - **Summer 2023**

- 2 week Fundamentals of Filmmaking course with separate classes in screenwriting, directing, producing, cinematography and sound recording; post-production classes in editing and sound design. Made 2 films including “The Real Housewives of SOCAPA”

- **SCREENWRITING** - New York, NY - **Summer 2024**
 - 3-week Screenwriting and creative workshopping course including instruction in writing theory, film analysis, 3-act structure, rules of visual storytelling, idea and theme generation, character development/analysis, producibility, proper formatting, screenwriting software, and genre study
- **ADVANCED FILMMAKING** - New York, NY - **Summer 2024**
 - 3-week Advanced Filmmaking course focused on making two longer films, advanced classes in cinematography, sound, and digital editing, script development, writing and directing. Worked with professional working actors and assisted other directors. Made "You Are Running out of Time" and "Monster Dating"

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE of the ARTS: Summer Pre-College program; 4-week course, 3 college credits

- **2D ANIMATION** - San Francisco, CA - **Summer 2025**
 - Immersive introduction to 2D character animation where I learned the fundamental techniques for bringing my characters to life on screen. Instruction included physical and digital illustration, animation analysis, and a QuickTime project using pencil test software

INDEPENDENT ARTISTIC ACTIVITY: Devote a good portion of my "free" time to independent drawing, illustration, writing, and character study at a multiple-sketchbook/year pace.

STUDENT PRODUCTIONS: Actor, assistant director, and all-hands production assistant for numerous student films, productions, and projects including acting in "Superhero Shakespeare," and acting and crewing for "It's All about Charlie." Still trying to re-film elements of "Monster Dating". **2022-2025**

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Wolf of the Week: All-school award for successful Horror Club Halloween event **Fall 2024**

Wolf of the Week: All-school award for leading a student Neurodiversity panel **Spring 2023**

Wolf of the Week: All-school award for outstanding academic performance in Hebrew **Spring 2022**

SKILLS: Procreate, Adobe Premiere Pro, TVPaint, WriterDuet, Google Docs, Canva. Technical proficiency with 4K still camera and 4k video camera, cinematography equipment (lenses, jibs, sliders and basic lighting), and sound equipment (handheld audio recorders, shotgun and lavalier microphones, production slates, etc.)