

Kelly Younger

Professor of English and Affiliate Faculty of Theatre Arts at Loyola Marymount University

Los Angeles, CA, US

Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts

Biography

Kelly Younger is a screenwriter, TV writer, playwright, story consultant, and Emmy-nominated producer. He is the writer of the Amazon feature film *CANDY CANE LANE*, starring Eddie Murphy and Tracee Ellis Ross, directed by Reginald Hudlin, and produced by Imagine Entertainment, which premiered in December 2023 and quickly became the biggest Amazon MGM Studios-produced title of all time domestically. He is also writing and developing several projects for The Muppets Studio, having already co-created and co-executive produced *MUPPETS NOW*, and written and co-executive produced *MUPPETS HAUNTED MANSION* (4 Emmy nominations with 1 win, and winner of the 2022 PGA Award for Outstanding Children's Programming) both of which are streaming on Disney+ to much acclaim. Younger served as a member of the Disney Animation Story Trust, working on such films as *RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET* (story credit), *FROZEN 2*, *MOANA*, and *RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON*. Additionally, he consulted on the live-action *TINKERBELL* (Reese Witherspoon, p.) and the live-action *ALADDIN* (Guy Ritchie, d.), and participated in the Pixar Animation Brain Trust on *CARS 3*, *INCREDIBLES 2*, *TOY STORY 4*, *COCO*, and *ONWARD*. Younger is currently co-writing a feature film for Skydance Animation for directors Rich Moore (*ZOOTOPIA*) and Jim Reardon (*WALL-E*). Younger has developed at Amazon, Apple, Hulu, Disney Studios, Paramount Animation, Warner Animation Group, Dreamworks Animation, Disney Originals, and consulted at Skydance Animation and on both *SHREK 5* and *PUSS IN BOOTS 2* at Illumination. He frequently gives invited studio talks on fairy tales and story structure. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Younger earned an MA in Classics (Mythology, Folktales, and Fairy Tales) at Loyola University Chicago and a PhD in Literature and Drama Studies from University College Dublin in Ireland. He is currently a tenured professor in the Departments of English and Theater at Loyola Marymount University where he leads writing workshops and teaches seminars in fairy tales.

Industry Expertise

Writing and Editing, Animation, Entertainment

Areas of Expertise

Muppets, Play Writing, Drama, Theatre, Fairy Tales, Irish Drama, Modern Drama, Contemporary Drama, Screenwriting, Entertainment Industry, Animation, Writing for Animation, Disney/PIXAR, Television Writing, Producing

Affiliations

Dramatists Guild of America, Comparative Drama Conference: Board Member, Pacific Residents Theatre: Associate Member, Writers Guild of America , Comparative Drama Conference: Board Member , Pacific Residents Theatre: Associate Member

Education

University College Dublin - National University of Ireland
Ph.D. Drama Studies

University College Dublin - National University of Ireland
M.A. Drama Studies

Loyola University, Chicago
M.A. Classical Studies

Accomplishments

Fritz B. Burns Distinguished Teaching Award
Awarded by Loyola Marymount University, 2011

Teacher Eddy Award
Awarded by LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce

State of California Senate Teaching Recognition
Awarded by State of California

California Legislation Assembly Teaching Recognition
Awarded by California Legislature Assembly

County of Los Angeles Commendation for Teaching
Awarded by County of Los Angeles

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