

# Curriculum Vitae (CV)

## Alex Escaja-Heiss

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A compilation of employment, leadership experiences, presentations, and awards.

### EDUCATION

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|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing</b>       | New York, NY                    |
| <i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</i>               | In-Progress, Expected Dec. 2026 |
| <b>Monroe University</b>                            | New York, NY                    |
| <i>Non-matriculated</i>                             | Apr. 2024 – April 2025          |
| 4.00 GPA                                            |                                 |
| <b>University of Vermont</b>                        | Burlington, VT                  |
| <i>BA in Film and Television Studies</i>            | Aug. 2018 – May 2021            |
| <i>BA in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies</i> |                                 |
| 3.95 GPA including Honors & Academic Awards         |                                 |

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### HEALTHCARE

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| <b>Mount Sinai Institute for Advanced Medicine</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | New York, NY          |
| <i>Bilingual Health Education Associate</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Feb. 2023 – Present   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Delivered bilingual health education, point-of-care rapid testing, and care coordination at the Mount Sinai Comprehensive Health Clinic and at academic institutions, community organizations, and nightlife venues.</li><li>Performed quality assurance on rapid diagnostic tests, utilizing biohazardous controls and ensuring compliance with documentation and storage standards.</li><li>Facilitated workshops and presentations on sex education, HIV prevention including PrEP and PEP, and client-centered care.</li><li>Entered data, scheduled appointments and documented encounters in EHR software, managed inventory, verified insurance, developed institutional handbooks and policies, coordinated events, maintained community relationships, designed social media, and more.</li></ul> |                       |
| <b>Planned Parenthood of Northern New England</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Burlington, VT        |
| <i>Peer Educator</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Oct. 2015 – Jun. 2018 |

- Provided accurate health education and mentorship to teens on topics regarding sexuality and healthy relationships.
- Designed and delivered educational workshops, tabled at events, and presented at town halls at a variety of schools and conferences.

## MEDIA

**GLAAD** Los Angeles, CA  
*Special Consultant* Jun. 2021 – Jun. 2022

- Consulted cross-departmentally to help craft representational and empowering Transgender, Non-binary, Latinx, and other LGBTQ+ stories.
- Clients included Disney, Netflix, Hulu, and more.

*Campus Ambassador* Sep. 2019 – Feb. 2021

- Represented the University of Vermont in GLAAD's national network of LGBTQ students to combat discrimination through media.
- Wrote articles, produced videos, participated in campaigns, and programmed events.

**Museum of the Moving Image** New York, NY  
*Film Festival Coordinator, Film and Marketing Intern* Jan. 2020 – Apr. 2020

- Organized events and screenings, managed data, edited promotional videos, communicated with filmmakers, and assisted in producing the 2020 First Look Film Festival.

**Polaris Mediaworks** Burlington, VT  
*Television Broadcasting Assistant, Videographer* 2019 – 2020

- Mixed for live streamed interviews on broadcast networks and produced video content for news outlets on demand.

**Outfest** Los Angeles, CA  
*Programming Intern* 2019

- Helped program the 2019 Outfest Los Angeles Film Festival. Performed research, data entry, outreach, and worked with production crew.

**Outright Vermont, Department for Children and Families (DCF)** Burlington, VT  
*Videographer* 2017 – 2018

- Produced, filmed, and edited a video training series on LGBTQ+ inclusivity in the foster care system for the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) in collaboration with Outright Vermont.

**Mt Mansfield Media** Colchester, VT  
*Intern* 2016 – 2017

- Worked on-set during film production days, transcribed footage, and edited media projects for clients, including commercials and documentaries.

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| <b>Studio 3 Dance</b><br><i>DVD and Video Producer</i> | Burlington, VT<br>2016 – 2017 |
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- Filmed dance recitals and performances, burned and distributed DVDs to be purchased.

## OTHER

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| <b>Vermont Arts Council</b><br><i>Grant Reviewer</i> | Burlington, VT<br>2023 – 2024 |
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| <b>Starbucks Coffee</b><br><i>Barista</i> | Burlington, VT<br>2018 – 2021 |
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- Crafted drinks for customers, worked on register, managed store responsibilities. Trained in food-safety and sanitation. Fast-paced environment.

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| <b>University of Vermont</b><br><i>Resident Advisor</i> | Burlington, VT<br>2019 – 2020 |
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- Establishment a safe on-campus residential community through programming, mentorship, guidance for students with academic or institutional questions, and enforced university policies.

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| <b>Q-ChatSpace Directors</b><br><i>Beta Tester and Youth Advisor</i> | National<br>2017 – 2018 |
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- Consulted for the development of an LGBTQ platform created by Planned Parenthood, PFLAG, and CenterLink.

## FILM CREDITS

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| <b>“What We Have” Short Film, Casey Knepley</b><br><i>Editor, Creative Producer</i> | Chicago, IL<br>2023 |
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| <b>“Twitterpated” Feature Film, Cameron Cole</b><br><i>Production Assistant</i> | New York, NY<br>2023 |
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| <b>“Summer Solstice” Feature Film, Noah Schamus</b><br><i>Actor</i> | New York, NY<br>2022 |
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| <b>“Piercing” Short Film, Nate Gualtieri</b><br><i>COVID Compliance Officer</i> | Los Angeles, CA<br>2021 |
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| <b>“22” Short Film, Jordan Buttolph</b><br><i>Production Assistant</i> | New York, NY<br>2020 |
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| <b>“First Look Festival” Trailer, Museum of the Moving Image</b><br><i>Editor</i> | New York, NY<br>2020 |
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| <b>“Codependent” Television Pilot, Lloren Zeigler</b><br><i>Script Supervisor</i> | Los Angeles, CA<br>2019 |
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**“Looking Back at Me” Short Film, Alex Escaja***Director, Producer, Editor*

Burlington, VT

2017

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**AWARDS AND HONORS**

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**Recognizing Champions in LGB/TGNB Healthcare: Profiles in Pride***Mount Sinai Health System*

New York, NY

Jun. 2024

Recognized by the Mount Sinai Health System, the largest hospital network in NYC, for exemplary leadership and dedication to LGBTQ+ health equity.

**Tranquil Trailblazer Award***New York City Department of Health*

New York, NY

Jun. 2024

Awarded by the NYC DOHMH for safe, affirming, and effective STI testing services and health education at the 2024 National HIV Testing Day initiative.

**Warner Bros. Discovery Early Career Bootcamp***Warner Bros. Discovery Access and the Transgender Film Center*

Los Angeles, CA

Sep. 2021

One of forty young professionals identified to be the next generation of storytellers and content creators to participate in an industry bootcamp.

**Outstanding Senior Award***University of Vermont Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies Department*

Burlington, VT

May 2021

**Excellence in Film & Television Studies Award***University of Vermont English Department*

Burlington, VT

May 2021

**20 Under 20 Rising Stars***GLAAD and Teen Vogue*

National

Jun. 2020

A national award presented to young LGBTQ+ individuals shaping the future of media and activism.

**Dean’s List***College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont*

Burlington, VT

2018 – 2021

Granted to students with a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college. Received every semester.

**Choice Champion Award***Planned Parenthood of Northern New England*

Burlington, VT

Oct. 2018

Awarded for excellence in leadership and advocacy with PPNNE.

**Timothy D. Comolli Scholarship***South Burlington High School*

South Burlington, VT

Jun. 2018

A scholarship awarded to a self-motivated high school Senior who has excelled in film, media, and other emerging technologies.

**Excellence in Digital Media Award***South Burlington High School Awards Ceremony*

South Burlington High School

Jun. 2016

An award given to a South Burlington High School student who excelled and contributed in digital media classes. Awarded for excellence as a Teacher's Assistant in the class Advanced Digital Media.

**Social Studies in Action Award**

South Burlington High School

*South Burlington High School Awards Ceremony*

Jun. 2016

An award given to a South Burlington High School student who has contributed as a leader in the school community in regards to social advocacy. Awarded for the founding and direction of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club.

**Student Activist of the Year Award**

Essex, VT

*Outright Vermont*

Apr. 2016

Awarded to a Vermont middle or high school student who has made a positive impact on the lives of LGBTQ students in their community. Awarded for the founding and direction of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club, and the active involvement as a Youth Leader with Outright Vermont.

**Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award**

Statewide, VT

*HOBY Foundation*

2015

Recognizes a sophomore high school student that has made contributions in leadership and service in the school and greater community.

## FILM FESTIVAL LAURELS

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**Women and Non-Binary Filmmakers Showcase**

Burlington, VT

*BTV Media Factory*

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

"Looking Back at Me"

**Best Experimental Film Award**

Burlington, VT

*UVM Student Film Festival*

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

"Ex Post Facto"

**Vermont Filmmakers Showcase**

Burlington, VT

*Vermont International Film Festival*

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

"Looking Back at Me"

**Audience Choice Award**

Andover, MA

*Phillips Academy Interscholastic Film Festival*

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

"Looking Back at Me"

**Second Place Winner, Personal Stories Grades 9-12**

White River Junction, VT

*Freedom & Unity Film Contest*

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

"Looking Back at Me"

**Best Ethnographic Film Award**

White River Junction, VT

*Freedom & Unity Film Contest*

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

"Looking Back at Me"

**First Place Winner, Contemporary Issues Grades 9-12***Freedom & Unity Film Contest**"Young and Queer Vermont"*

White River Junction, VT

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**Judge's Pick Award***Freedom & Unity Film Contest**"Young and Queer Vermont"*

White River Junction, VT

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**Third Place Winner***NASA's Optimus Prime Spinoff Film Contest*

National

2011

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**LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

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**UVM Film Club***President*

University of Vermont

2019 - 2020

- Organized and facilitated weekly club meetings, workshops, film screenings, fundraising campaigns, and community events, including the University of Vermont Student Film Festival.

**New England Queer and Trans People of Color Conference***Presenters and Workshop Proposals Co-Chair*

University of Vermont

2019 - 2020

- Assisted in coordinating workshop submissions, choosing sessions and keynote speakers, soliciting proposals, communicating with facilitators, and attending committee meetings.

**Queer Student Union (QSU)***Activism Committee Chair**Gender Programming Coordinator*

University of Vermont

2018 – 2019

2019 – 2020

- Oversaw and organized a committee of student leaders with the intention of advocating for the rights and well-being of LGBTQ students on campus
- Facilitated regular committee meetings, presentations, and campus-wide events. Represented LGBTQ students at administrative meetings

**Inclusive Restroom Work Group***Student Representative*

University of Vermont

2018 - 2019

- Worked with and advised university administrators in implementing accessible, inclusive, and gender neutral bathrooms on campus

**Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club (GSA)**

South Burlington High School

*President and Founder*

2014 – 2018

- Established a safe space of LGBTQ students and allies to socialize, find validation, and make a difference within the school community
- Organized and facilitated regular club meetings, presentations, and school-wide events

**Outright Vermont Board of Directors**  
*Youth Representative Board Member*

Burlington, VT  
2015 – 2018

- Represented the voice and perspective of the LGBTQ youth Outright Vermont serves
- Attended regular board meetings, Outright Vermont events, and participated in planning committees

**Outright Vermont Youth Leadership Council**  
*Member and Peer Educator*

Burlington, VT  
2016 – 2018

- Organized and facilitated events, workshops, and presentations regarding LGBTQ education and empowerment
- Sat as an Outright Vermont youth panelist at a variety of conferences, schools, and universities

**South Burlington School District Board**  
*Student Representative Board Member*

South Burlington, VT  
2017 – 2018

- Represented the voice of South Burlington students to the district school board on issues and policies that directly affect the student body
- Attended monthly board meetings, communicated with South Burlington students, and advocated on their behalf

**Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar**  
*Nominated Sophomore Representative*

St. Michael's College  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- Represented South Burlington High School at a state-wide leadership summit hosted by the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation

**Broadcasting Club**  
*Vice President and Founder*

South Burlington High School  
2015 – 2016

- Led a school broadcasting club that live-streamed sports games and other school events online to be accessed by the community
- Attended school-organized events and taught workshops to new members on how to use the broadcasting equipment

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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**NYC GSA Summit**

New York, NY

*Workshop Facilitator, "Let's Talk About... STIs, Baby!"*

Jan. 2025

*Workshop Facilitator, "Consent Feels Good!"*

Jan. 2024

**LGBTQIA+ Health Pathway Didactics Series, SUNY Downstate**

New York, NY

*Lecture, "The Language of Trust: Affirming Communication in Healthcare"*

Jan. 2025

**“Mi Vida Mi Voz” Video Art Workshop***Workshop Facilitator*Burlington, VT  
December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Presented a workshop in Spanish to immigrant youth on video art, filmic process, and artistic expression during the COVID pandemic.

**LGBTQ+ Authorship Series, University of Buffalo***Guest Speaker, “LGBTQ+ Media and Representation Talkback”*

Buffalo, NY

Nov. 2020

- Delivered a presentation on the importance of LGBTQ representation and authorship in media to a class at SUNY Buffalo succeeding the screening of independent film “Looking Back at Me”

**LGBTQ+ Youth Forum 2020: Being a Teen in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***Keynote Speaker*

Bangkok, Thailand

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Delivered a keynote speech on the history of LGBTQ representation in media and how it influences LGBTQ youth in the present day.

**Film Screening at the Agency of Human Services***Filmmaker and Panelist*Waterbury, VT  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

- Held a screening of independent film “Looking Back at Me” at the Vermont Agency of Human Services
- Sat alongside protagonist Sade Bolger on a panel answering questions from professionals about the film, trans youth, and allyship

**Vermont Fall QSA Conference***Representative and Workshop Facilitator*Burlington, VT  
October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- Attended state-wide conference as the President of South Burlington High School’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club.
- Interviewed the Vermont Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe.
- Facilitated a comprehensive Queer Sex Education workshop to high school and middle school students alongside other Planned Parenthood Peer Educators.

**Queer & Allied Youth Summit***Workshop Facilitator*Moretown, VT  
May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- Organized and facilitated a workshop on the subject of “Tackling Authenticity as a Member of the LGBTQ Community”
- Interested Vermont youth attended and learned about self-expression and battling LGBTQ-specific prejudices.

**Lt. Governor High School Town Meeting***Youth Panelist*PBS Studio, VT  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- Served on a panel of Young Leaders alongside Lt. Governor David Zuckerman at a live-streamed Town Meeting on Vermont PBS (Public Broadcasting Service)
- Answered questions posed by the Lt. Governor and the public on community involvement, activism, and youth empowerment

**Dismantling Rape Culture Conference**  
*Workshop Facilitator*

University of Vermont  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - 2017

- Facilitated a workshop on the topic of Consent alongside other Peer Educators at the Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
- Conducted workshop on the conference for two consecutive years

**Queer Youth Leadership Day**  
*Honored Guest and Spokesperson*

Vermont State House  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - 2017

- Testified to the Committee of Education on the experience of LGBTQ youth in schools and advocated for mandatory faculty allyship training
- Introduced and spoke in place of the invited LGBTQ Outright Vermont Youth in a presentation to the House of Representatives

**Vermont Aware: Confronting Bias and Discrimination at the Intersection of Identities**  
*Workshop Facilitator*

University of Vermont  
February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- Facilitated conversations on LGBTQ intersectionality as an Outright Vermont Youth Leadership Council Member
- Answered questions from public educators and community members on the experience of LGBTQ youth

**LGBTQIA+ Health Disparities Panel Presentation**  
*Panelist*

University of Vermont  
November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- Advised and testified on the topic of LGBTQ inclusive healthcare to undergraduate UVM nursing students
- Spoke as a youth panelist, answered questions posed by the students on personal experience

**Outright LGBTQ Public Training**  
*Youth Panelist*

Burlington, VT  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

- Conducted a comprehensive workshop on LGBTQ terminology and topics to community members
- Presented and spoke on a panel of LGBTQ youth testifying on personal experience and answering public questions

**LGBTQ 101 Workshop Middle School Presentation**  
*Peer Educator and Workshop Facilitator*

Harwood Union Middle School  
May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- Taught a comprehensive LGBTQ workshop to Harwood Union Middle School students.
- Answered questions and facilitated activities in a classroom environment.

**Gender Stereotypes in Schools Panelist Presentation**  
*Youth Panelist and Educator*

University of Vermont  
April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

- Sat on a panel and presented on the topic of gender stereotypes in Vermont schools to university students.

- Presented to and answered questions inquired by upcoming educators.

**LGBTQ Youth Panel for Bullying Prevention Class**  
*Youth Panelist and Educator*

University of Vermont  
 March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

- Sat on a panel and presented on the topic of bullying and harassment in Vermont schools to undergraduate students.
- Spoke for and answered questions on preventing bullying and bias in classrooms.

**LGBTQ Panel Workshop for Undergraduate Nursing Students**  
*Panelist*

University of Vermont  
 December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

- Sat on a panel and presented on personal experience with health care as an LGBTQ individual to undergraduate nursing students.
- Answered questions relating to proper etiquette expected from doctors and nurses in clinics.

**Peer Leadership Institute: Stigma Reduction through**

Montpelier, VT

**Language Replacement, Working with Unique Populations**

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*LGBTQ Youth Panelist*

- Sat on a panel and represented LGBTQ youth at a presentation to members of PEAR Vermont (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Recovery)
- Spoke on personal experience of LGBTQ-specific struggles in classrooms and answered questions relating to proper LGBTQ allyship from educators

## SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

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- Fluent in Spanish, German, and English
  - Trained in EMR software (Epic, Cerner).
  - Trained in point-of-care testing via capillary finger-prick microsampling.
  - Experienced in delivering preliminary positive HIV and STI test results with linkage to care.
  - Trained in health equity, trauma-informed care, and motivational interviewing.
  - Trained annually in HIPAA compliance and information security, biohazard and infection control, MRI/Radiation safety, emergency bleeding response, and antibiotic stewardship.
  - Certified in Basic Life Support (CPR and AED) by the American Heart Association.
  - Highly organized with excellent task management and attention to detail.