

Dennis “DJ” Manning

Writer | Creator | Architect of Modern Noir

www.danforthmusic.org | Miami, FL

DJ Manning crafts bold, cinematic noir where love is dangerous, power is seductive, and fate is inescapable.

His work blends the grit of crime thrillers with the haunting depth of doomed romance, redefining LGBTQ+ storytelling for the modern era.

SELECTED WORKS

Feature Screenplays (*All Greenlight Coverage: RECOMMEND*)

The Shaft (2023)

Psychological thriller, LTFI style, set in 1953 NYC
Psychological thriller, LTFI style, set in 1953 NYC

Deuce’s Wild (2025)

Modern-day noir thriller set in Chicago’s criminal underworld.

- Voyage Media – Under active consideration
- Greenlight Coverage: RECOMMEND
- DJ Manning Signature: visual style, electric pacing, and Othello-inspired architecture

More Going Down (2024)

LGBTQ+ Miami crime noir. Love, betrayal, and power collide in a deadly cocktail.

- Greenlight Coverage: RECOMMEND
- Stage 32 – Double Recommend, IN LOOK BOOK, March 2025
- In circulation with Zero Gravity & A24

The Woman on the Bench (2024)

Magical realism meets generational heartbreak in this LGBTQ+ small-town fable.

- Greenlight Coverage: RECOMMEND

The Substitute Wife (2025)

1953 Hollywood. A deadly cat-and-mouse game in pearls and gloves.

- Optioned by Voyage Media & currently being shopped

One Less Egg to Fry (2025)

Boston crime saga drenched in Catholic guilt, broken men, and waking ghosts.

- In revision based on coverage & producer notes

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

- **Undertow** (2024) – Coming-of-age love triangle tension piece, modern Fantasy
- **Bedlam** (2025) – Film noir cop drama with original soundtrack backbone
- **Now & Then** (2018) – A musical, 2019 London Off-West-End #2 Show – www.nowandthenmusical.com
- **One More Yesterday** (2022) – A musical: a faded actress wants one more time on the stage
- **Hometown** (2023) – A musical about love, hope, and regret

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Represented by In-Brand Entertainment
- Collaborating with Voyage Media, Zero Gravity, and Stage 32
- Dramatists Guild
- Board President – *Plays Of Wilton* (501(c)3) – www.playsofwilton.com

EDUCATION

King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA – BA/BS English/Marketing – 1985

Lesley University, Cambridge, MA – MS in Training - 1992