

Nicholas O'Brien

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Skills

Narrative Design: Ink (w/ Unity & Godot integration), Twine, Yarn Spinner

Game Dev: Unity (3D & 2D), Godot, Source/Hammer, Aseprite, FMOD Studio

Programming: C#, gdscript, javascript, HTML/CSS, Python, hlsl

Misc Software: Adobe CC Suite, Google Suite, Office365, Audacity, OBS, Notion, Trello

Other: published creative writer, 10+ years teaching experience, discord admin

Experience

Title: Founder & Director

Dates: June 2018-Present

Location: Brooklyn, NY

Company: Essay Games

- Shipped 3 games on Itch.io & Steam: The Last Survey (2020), The Trolley (2018), and In the Hollow of the Valley (2015/18)
- Over 14K Downloads including participation in Word Play Festival (CA), Now Play This (UK), and IndieCade 2020 shortlist.
- Wrote 15K word script for The Last Survey based on meticulous research and several rounds of prototyping in Twine.
- Developed custom tool in Unity to handle player choices, manage in-game narrative content, and track player progression for The Last Survey.
- Games & work have been featured in the New York Times, Kotaku, Game Developer, Rock Paper Shotgun, itch.io front page & YouTube, Gamescenes.

Title: Narrative Editor

Dates: June 2023

Location: Brooklyn, NY

Company: Kara Stone

- Edited 43 pages of prose for upcoming game project in two week turnaround.
- Advised on narrative flow, continuity, story beats, and interaction design.
- Rewrote central antagonist to fit story mood and tone.

Service

- Rhode Island School of Design MFA Thesis Advisor & Visiting Critic (2023)
- INKgd Godot Plugin Documentation Contributor (2022)
- Games for Change Festival Juror (2018-2022)

Education

MFA, Integrated Media Arts Practices, University of Colorado Boulder

- Thesis: The Wanderer, video game, custom electronics, CNC sculptures, custom upholstered & refurbished furniture, digital archival prints
- Advisor: Mark Amerika

BFA, Film, Video, and New Media, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

- Thesis: Pulcera, hand-processed super 8mm & 16mm film transferred to DV
- Advisor: Frédéric Moffet