

Lorenzo DeStefano

Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i, Lorenzo DeStefano is a playwright, screenwriter, novelist, producer, director and photographer. A member of the Directors Guild of America and past member of the Motion Picture Editor's Guild, DeStefano has worked in U.S. and U.K. Theater, written fiction & non-fiction, original screenplays and adaptations, and produced and directed documentary and narrative films.

DOCUMENTARIES include the 2018 Humanitas Prize-nominated "*Hearing is Believing*", about the Young musician and composer, Rachel Flowers. DeStefano produced and directed "*Los Zafros – Music From The Edge Of Time*", a multi award-winning film about the Beatles of 1960s Cuba. He produced, directed and edited the acclaimed PBS documentary "*Talmage Farlow*", a portrait of the American jazz guitarist.

NARRATIVE FILM PROJECTS as producer/writer/director include "*Shipment Day*", a filmed adaptation of his prize-winning play about his cousin, Olivia Robello Breitha, a teenage girl diagnosed with leprosy in 1930s Honolulu. DeStefano is writer/producer include "*The Diarist*", a 5-Part Limited Series inspired by the true story of Boston eccentric Arthur Crew Inman and his 17 million word "Inman Diary", published by Harvard University Press. He is writer/producer of the 3-Part Limited Series "*House Boy*", a fact-based urban thriller set in London and South India, adapted from his novel. He is producer/writer/director of "*Stairway to the Stars*", a narrative short film based on his One-Act play.

SCREENPLAYS include "*Shipment Day*", "*The Diarist*", "*House Boy*", "*Stairway to the Stars*", "*Lads*", "*Deep Inside*", "*Cropper's Cabin*" (from the novel by Jim Thompson), "*Appointment in Samarra*" (co-writer, from the novel by John O'Hara), "*Waiting for Nothing*", based on the novel by Tom Kromer, and "*Creeps*" (from the play by David E. Freeman).

FICTION includes the novel "*House Boy*" and the short story collection "*The Shakespearean*".

NON-FICTION includes the essay, "*On Knowing Daniel Aaron*", the short story "*Hitchhike*", the memoir "*Visitations–Finding A Secret Relative In Modern-Day Hawai'i*", "*Callé Cero–An Encounter with Cuban Film Director Tomas Gutierrez Alea*" (Cuba Update), "*Diary of a Nobody*" (The Guardian), and the photographic memoir "*Cubanos – Island Portraits*".

PLAYS include the One-acts "*Stairway to the Stars*" & "*Shipment Day*". Full-length plays include "*Shipment Day*" (2018 World Premiere Hawaii Performing Arts Company/Manoa Valley Theatre). "*Camera Obscura*" is a dramatization of The Inman Diary developed at Seattle Repertory Theatre followed by a World Premiere at the Almeida Theatre in London, both productions helmed by the celebrated English director Jonathan Miller. "*House Boy*", based on DeStefano's novel, tells the true story of a young Dalit man from India held captive in an upper caste Brahmin household in North London. "*Providence*" is DeStefano's stage adaptation of the screenplay by the late English dramatist David Mercer.

OPERA - "*The Inman Diaries*", a chamber opera by Thomas Oboe Lee, based on DeStefano's play, received its world premiere in September 2007 at the Intermezzo Opera Company, Boston.

THEATER DIRECTING includes "*Stairway to the Stars*", "*Shipment Day*", "*Providence*", the world premiere of Robert Schenkkan's "*Conversations with the Spanish Lady*", the 25th anniversary Los Angeles production of William Inge's "*Natural Affection*", Horton Foote's "*The One-Armed Man*", "*Jitters*" by David French, and the world premiere of "*Twisted Twain*", the one-man show by Bill Erwin.

FILM EDITING includes "*Dreamscape*," "*That Championship Season*," "*Girls Just Want To Have Fun*," "*Winners Take All*", "*Body Rock*", "*Thrashin*", "*The Killing Time*" and "*Gingerale Afternoon*." DeStefano was Supervising Film Editor and a Producer and Director for the four-season run of "*Life Goes On*," the historic ABC/Warner Brothers drama series starring Patti Lupone, Bill Smitrovich, Christopher Burke and Kellie Martin.

PHOTOGRAPHY – DeStefano began as a teenage street photographer in Honolulu, chronicling the diverse multi-cultural island life where he grew up. His early black & white thematic work included "*Rest Homes Hawai'i*" and "*Leahi Hospital – Children's Ward*". He continued to freelance in California before turning his attention from still photography to film. He credits his journeys to Cuba starting in 1993 with reawakening the photographer in him. His traveling exhibition, "*Cubanos-Island Portraits*" / "*Cubanos-Retratos de la Isla*", has been shown extensively in Cuba as well as in New York, Chicago, London, Havana, Los Angeles, and Vancouver. Lorenzo's photographs have been licensed for Print, CDs, TV & Film, including for HBO's "*Six Feet Under*" and for the Warner Brothers film, "*Queen of the Damned*".

DeStefano is founder of the *Ventura Film Society*, a California-based cinema cooperative bringing people together in the dark since 2008.