



## Phillip Domfeh '00

Disney recently developed a short film series called “LAUNCHPAD.” They selected six filmmakers from underrepresented backgrounds to produce live-action short movies to tell their stories and share their perspectives. An impressive venture by Disney, they chose our very own Phillip Domfeh’00 as the Senior Manager/Producer of LAUNCHPAD. But perhaps more impressively, Phillip also continues to successfully write, direct and produce for his own production company Cosmic Otter Productions.

A 2000 graduate of St. Thomas’s, Phillip credits his elementary school teachers for embracing and championing his creative spirit in his formative years. Phillip says, “I distinctly remember that one play time in first grade, I wanted to stay inside and build cityscapes with a bunch of leftover cardboard boxes. Mr. O let me have at it and when the class returned, I had crafted this wild landscape that everyone thought was pretty cool. Now as an adult in film industry, I find I’m still doing the same thing.”

After his time at St. Thomas’s, Phillip went on to the Greater Hartford Academy of Arts. He then went to Los Angeles for his undergraduate and graduate study, receiving a BA in Classical Guitar Performance from Biola University, Conservatory of Music, and a Masters in Strategic Public Relations from the University of Southern California, Annenberg School of Communication Journalism. Phillip says his path to Disney and a career in tv/film production was a long and winding road. “Life and your career path can be mysterious, but if you chase after the things that inspire and intrigue you, and work hard, you’ll undoubtedly find your way.”

Phillip has definitely found his way. He is not only an integral part of Disney’s LAUNCHPAD series, but also an award-winning writer, director and producer on his own. He and his wife’s musical dramedy *Cary in Retrograde* has won the jury award for episodic at the Nashville and Buffalo Film Festival and most recently at the Austin Film Festival. Phillip is a true inspiration, saying St. Thomas’s taught him it was ok to follow the beat of your own drum, he offers this last piece of advice for our students, “Don’t be afraid to be yourself or be different than your peers. The long arc of history bends towards those who give themselves the freedom to be distinct.”

To read more about Phillip, please feel free to visit his website at [www.cosmicotterproductions.com](http://www.cosmicotterproductions.com).

