

JEFFREY STEPAKOFF - BIO



Jeffrey Stepakoff was raised in Atlanta, Georgia. He is an accomplished writer-producer and an experienced academic, with a twenty-eight year entertainment industry career that includes sweeping internationally-recognized credits, leadership roles in content creation and production, and a track record of collaboration, innovation, and success in virtually all forms of commercial media.

After graduating from Woodward Academy, earning a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and then completing his Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting at Carnegie Mellon University, School of Drama, Stepakoff moved to Hollywood and began writing and producing film, television and digital entertainment.

He has “written by” or “story by” credits on thirty-seven television episodes, has written for fifteen different series, and has been a writer and/or writer-producer on eight primetime or first-run cable staffs, credited on more than two hundred episodes of popular television. The TV credits for which he is most known include the Emmy-winning *The Wonder Years*, *Sisters*, and break-out hit *Dawson's Creek*, where he was Co-Executive Producer. Until July 2015, he worked as the Co-Executive Producer of *Chasing Life* for ABC Family – a position he left to become the founding Executive Director of The Georgia Film Academy.

Stepakoff has also created and developed pilots for many of the major studios and networks, including 20th Century, Paramount, MTM, Fox and ABC. He has also developed and written major motion pictures, including Disney's *Brother Bear*, *Tarzan*, and EM Entertainment's *Lapitch*, Croatia's selection for the 1998 Academy Awards.

Stepakoff is also a bestselling novelist. There are over a million copies of his books in print in twenty languages, as well as in editions for Reader's Digest, France Loisirs, and all the major domestic book clubs.

Stepakoff holds a tenured professorship in Film & Television at Kennesaw State University. He has also taught at Carnegie Mellon, UNC- Chapel Hill, Clemson, Notre Dame, CCNY, and Emory. Stepakoff lives in East Cobb County with his wife, actress Elizabeth Miller, and their three children. In his spare time, he builds forts in living room with sofa cushions.