

Alan Zhu

WRITER, MUSICIAN, ETC.

SEATTLE, WA

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Education

2023 - 2024	M.Eng, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT Thesis: Exploiting irregular parallelism to accelerate FPGA routing. link.	Cambridge, MA
2019 - 2023	S.B., Writing and Computer Science and Engineering, MIT Thesis: running away, running towards: a collection of sestinas. link.	Cambridge, MA

Plays + Translations

Play	<i>Jay v. Jay.</i> (4f, 70 min.) Professional staged reading, MIT Playwrights Lab, 2024, directed by Jack Serio.
Translation	<i>A Doll's House</i> 《玩偶之家》 by Zhang Xian 张献 (1f, 30 min.) Student staged reading and world premiere, MIT Play Translation Seminar, 2023.
Musical	<i>Remembering Her</i> (large cast, 90 min.) Full student production, Next Act, 2023
Play	<i>Hold Me (But Not Too Close)</i> (1m, 1f, 60 min.) Professional staged reading, MIT Playwrights Lab, 2022, directed by Taneisha Duggan. 1st Prize, Boit Manuscript Prize for Drama (2022).

Theatre Experience

MUSIC ROLES

	Show	Role	Company
Summer 2024	<i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	Rehearsal Pianist	MIT MTG
Spring 2024	<i>The Lightning Thief</i>	Orchestra Director	MIT MTG
Spring 2024	<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Percussion, Vocal Director	Next Act
IAP 2024	<i>tick, tick... boom!</i>	Orchestra Director, Keys	MIT KAST
Spring 2023	<i>Remembering Her</i>	Vocal Director	Next Act
Spring 2023	<i>The Addams Family</i>	Orchestra Director (co-position)	MIT MTG
IAP 2023	<i>Heathers</i>	Orchestra Director	MIT MTG
IAP 2022	<i>Pippin</i>	Violin	MIT MTG

OTHER ROLES

	Show	Role	Company
Fall 2024	<i>Three Short Plays</i>	Translator	MIT Wuming Theatre Club
Fall 2023	<i>Bus Stop</i> 《车站》 by Gao Xingjian 高行健	Subtitles Manager	MIT Wuming Theatre Club
Spring 2022	<i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i>	Actor (Underling)	Next Act

Music Experience

2024 -	Northwest Chamber Chorus, dir. Jeremy Edelstein	Seattle, WA
2021 - 2024	MIT Chamber Chorus, dir. Bill Cutter, Andy Clark, Ryan Turner	Cambridge, MA
2020 - 2021	MIT Concert Choir, dir. Bill Cutter	Cambridge, MA
2019 - 2023	MIT Asymptones; musical director (2022), publicity chair (2020, 2023) An acapella group that likes to sing...fun and nerdy music!	Cambridge, MA

Writing Experience

- Currently...* Writing on substack at alanwhyz.substack.com.
- 2020 - 2024* Blogger, MIT Admissions
Wrote blog posts about life as an MIT student for an audience of prospective students; [link here](#).
- 2021* Undergraduate Researcher, MIT Comparative Media Studies/Writing
Using referring expression generation to model literary style, with Joanne Yuan, Ardalan SadeghiKivi, and Nick Montfort. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Digital Humanities (NLP4DH) 2021*, [link here](#).
- Jan. 2021* Editorial Intern, Chaos + Comrades
Envisioned, created, and edited interviews for a new weekly newsletter, and wrote an article for the publication.

Leadership + Service

- 2021-2023* Dormitory Council, Vice President (2022-2023), Judicial Committee Chair (2021-2022)
- 2020-2022* Next House Exec Board, President (2022), Vice President (2021), and other committees
- 2021-2022* Schwarzman College of Computing Undergraduate Advisory Group, Member

Other

- Honors* Wiesner Award for Student Art (2024), Alan Brody Prize for Excellence in Dramatic Writing (2024), Phi Beta Kappa (2023), Boit Manuscript Prize for Essay (2023)
- Languages* English (native), Chinese (fluent), Spanish (intermediate)
- Other Skills* Computer systems + architecture, bouldering, walking long distances, going to Seattle Sounders games