

# Hank Gerba, PhD

## PROFILE

Recent PhD in Film & Media Studies from Stanford University with many years experience researching and implementing emerging technologies for the entertainment industry. Working between academia and industry, I am 1) an award-winning humanist scholar of digital media with exceptional facility in teaching, writing, and organizing, and 2) an effective industry researcher attuned to evolving technologies, narrative, and artificial intelligence.

## EDUCATION

Stanford University, Stanford CA – PhD in Film & Media Studies (2024)

Stanford University, Stanford CA – MA in Film & Media Studies (2020)

Reed College, Portland OR – BA in Art History (2016)

## EXPERIENCE

PRODUCER & RESEARCHER, ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHER CALIFORNIA – 2016-PRESENT

Produced *Wonder Buffalo: The VR Experience*, an Emmy-nominated VR short with research deliverables for virtual production, and toured it at Sundance, SXSX, etc. Contributed to several white papers for the “Big 5” film studios concerning the relationship between AI and storytelling. Currently contributing to a project which seeks to standardize AI-assisted character management in interactive media.

PHD STUDENT, STANFORD UNIVERSITY – 2018-2024

Produced award-winning research in film & media studies. Organized high-profile conferences and speaker series. Liaised between students and faculty as graduate student representative, and served as secretary to a special interest group in film philosophy. Received extremely strong praise as a teacher and discussion leader. Held fellowships at Stanford’s Human-Centered AI (HAI) and Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA). Graduated with the Christopher Meier Prize, the Art & Art History Department’s highest award for a graduate student.

PROJECT MANAGER & ROBOT OPERATOR, HANSON ROBOTICS – 2016-2019

Managed a team of engineers, writers, and animators to upgrade Sophia the Robot’s capabilities. As Robot Operator, liaised with event coordinators, wrote and programmed Sophia’s speeches, and operated the robot live. Gained proficiency in communicating about AI and other technologies to professional, governmental, and popular audiences.