

Michael Ray FitzGerald, PhD

Music-history consultant

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Historical researcher, author of five books (three about Jacksonville's music history), winner of 2020 Florida Book Award, highly educated in film and television studies, former prof musician and songwriter.

I. Education

- **University of Reading**, Reading, UK (2012). Doctorate in film & television history, chair: Prof. Jonathan Bignell.
- **University of Florida**, Gainesville, Fla. (2007).
Master's in mass communication; focus: media history. Additional studies in doc film under Prof. Churchill Roberts.
- **Jacksonville University** (2004)
Bachelor's in print journalism.

II. Nonprofit & volunteer experience

- Pres., **Documentary Film Institute Jacksonville, Inc** (registered 501c3), 2022-present. <https://documentaryfilminstitute.com/>
- Consultant/interviewee, *True South*, ESPN/SEC Network, Bluefoot TV, dir./host Wright Thompson, 2025.
- Research consultant/presenter, **Riverside-Avondale Preservation, First Annual Music Tour**, 2024, contact Shannon Blankinship, shannon@riversideavondale.org.
- Consultant to **City of Jacksonville, Ray Charles monument**, contact: Rahman Johnson, Jacksonville City Council, rahman@coj.net.
- Selection committee, **Music Heritage Walk of Fame, Downtown Investment Authority**, contact: Ina Mezini, rmezini@coj.net.
- Consultant to **Jacksonville American Music Museum**, contact Charles Storey, chip.storey123@gmail.com.
- Consultant to **City of Jacksonville, Walter Eaton commendation**, contact Todd Roobin, CoJ Film & Television Office, troobin@coj.net
- **Research consultant**, Jacksonville History Center Music Exhibit, October 2019, contact Alan Bliss, alan.bliss@jaxhistory.org.
- Editorial consultant, *Calling Me Home: Gram Parsons and the Roots of Country-Rock*, Bob Kealing, author. University Press of Florida. Sept. 2010.
- Consultant to **State of Florida. Museum of Florida History's Follow That Dream exhibit**, Tallahassee, Fla., 2001.
- Historian, **North Florida Music Hall of Fame**, 1999-2005, contact Larry Cohen, larrycohen@larry.ws.
- Pres., **North Florida Music Assn** (501c3), 1999-2001.
- **Board of Governors, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences**, Florida Branch (Miami), 1999.

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III. Industry experience

- Professional musician & songwriter, 1973-2015.
- Recording studio owner-manager, 1989-2004.
- Wrote songs for films:
 1. *Saving Sophie*. Director/producer: Lorraine Portman, Portman Productions, St. Augustine, Fla. Summer 2004.
 2. *Stitches*. Dir. by Joe Black, Blue Means Pregnant Films, Los Angeles, Calif. Spring 2015.
 3. *Stick 'Em*. Dir. by Joe Black, Blue Means Pregnant Films, Los Angeles, Calif. Fall 2014.
- Contributing writer, *Folio Weekly*, Jacksonville, Florida, 1998-2008. Wrote stories about music, arts, education, including three cover stories.
- Correspondent, *Jacksonville Business Journal*. 2002-2005. Published more than 150 assignments specializing in arts and entertainment .
- Editor, *Cowford*. Jacksonville, Florida, 2004. Edited and designed magazine featuring local arts, music and lore.
- Actor, dialog consultant, Blue Means Pregnant Films, Los Angeles, contact: Joe Black.
- Production assistant, *It's a Miracle* (TV series). Clearlake Productions/PAX-TV, 1998.
- Contributor/columnist, *Musician's Trade Journal*. Nashua, N.H., 1996-1999. Wrote stories and columns on music-industry issues for nationally distributed monthly trade magazine.
- Contributor/columnist, *JAM Magazine*. Altamonte Springs, Fla., 1995-1998. Wrote regular column on music business along with local music stories and reviews for bimonthly, statewide trade magazine.
- Music critic, *Southeast Entertainer*. Jacksonville, Florida, 1984-1990.

IV. Awards & recognitions

- Bronze Award, nonfiction, Florida Book Awards, *Jacksonville and the Roots of Southern Rock*, University Press of Florida, 2020.
- Letter of commendation, Association for Racial and Cultural Harmony, March, 2003.
- *Business Journal* Editor's Awards (2), 2002.
- *USA Today*/Phi Theta Kappa All-Florida Academic Team, 2002.
- Florida Community College Press Association Award, In-depth Reporting, 2002.
- Commendation from Katherine Harris, Florida Secretary of State, for participation as volunteer consultant in the official *Follow That Dream* exhibit honoring Florida's world-renowned musical talent, 2001.
- "Faces of Change," *Florida Times-Union*, December 2000. Selected by area newspaper as one of 200 influential people in Jacksonville.
- "Excellence in Rock Music" Award, 1990, awarded by radio station Rock-105 (WFYV-FM) and Jacksonville newspaper *Southeast Entertainer*.

V. References

- Todd Roobin, CoJ Film & TV Office, troobin@coj.net.
- Melissa Ross, CoJ Mayor's Office, mross@coj.net.
- Joanelle Mulrain, marketing/nonprofit consultant, jmulrain@comcast.net.
- Anne Schindler, host, *First Coast Connect*, WJCT-FM, aschindler@wjct.org.
- Larry Cohen, talent manager, larrycohen@larry.ws.