

Alan Zhu

WRITER, MUSICIAN, ETC.
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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	Jay v. Jay. (4f, 70 min.) Professional staged reading, MIT Playwrights Lab, 2024, directed by Jack Serio.
Translation	A Doll's House 《玩偶之家》 by Zhang Xian 张献 (1f, 30 min.) Student staged reading and world premiere, MIT Play Translation Seminar, 2023.
Musical	Remembering Her (large cast, 90 min.) Full student production, Next Act, 2023
Play	Hold Me (But Not Too Close) (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
Spring 2025	Seussical Jr.	Music Director (Sub)	Youth Theatre Northwest
Spring 2025	Instant Noodles	Keys, Song Writer	Pork-Filled Productions
Fall 2025	Mean Girls	Keys 1 (Sub)	Village Theatre Kidstage
Summer 2024	The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Rehearsal Pianist	MIT MTG
Spring 2024	The Lightning Thief	Orchestra Director	MIT MTG
Spring 2024	Legally Blonde	Percussion, Vocal Director	Next Act
IAP 2024	tick, tick... boom!	Orchestra Director, Keys	MIT KAST
Spring 2023	Remembering Her	Vocal Director	Next Act
Spring 2023	The Addams Family	Orchestra Director (co-position)	MIT MTG
IAP 2023	Heathers	Orchestra Director	MIT MTG
IAP 2022	Pippin	Violin	MIT MTG

OTHER ROLES

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

Music Experience

2024 -	Northwest Chamber Chorus, Tenor; dir. Jeremy Edelstein	Seattle, WA
2024 -	Redmond Technology Orchestra, Violin II; dir. Peter Yang	Seattle, WA
2021 - 2024	MIT Chamber Chorus, Tenor; dir. Bill Cutter, Andy Clark, Ryan Turner	Cambridge, MA
2020 - 2021	MIT Concert Choir, Tenor; dir. Bill Cutter	Cambridge, MA
2019 - 2023	MIT Asymptones, Tenor; 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 <i>Proceedings of the Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Digital Humanities (NLP4DH) 2021</i> , 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