

THOMAS JOHNSON

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EDUCATION

The New School, New York, NY

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, May 2026

Concentration: Fiction

Thesis: *Revival!* (novel)

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Master of Arts in Writing, May 2023

Concentration: Fiction

Thesis: *A Great and Profound Sadness: Stories* (collection)

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Bachelor of Journalism, August 2008, dual major

Certification: Broadcast Journalism

Bachelor of Science in Radio-Television-Film, August 2008, dual major

Certification: Screenwriting and Film Theory

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Union Spring Literary Review, New York, NY

Founding Editor, February 2024-Present: Founded literary journal and performs all aspects of submission management and acceptance, website build, maintenance, and printing of hard editions. Runs contributor correspondence, social media engagement, and designs, formats, and publishes print, digital, and online versions of each issue. Writes submission guidelines, works with authors on revisions, and determines overall direction of layout, vision, and artistic ethos.

West Trade Review, Charlotte, NC (Remote)

Reviews Editor, July 2023-Present: Selects titles from publishers across all genres and coordinates in advance to schedule delivery of physical Advanced Reader Copies for assigned writers. Provides editorial feedback on reviews to meet EIC guidelines for publication.

Community of Literary Magazines and Presses, New York, NY (Remote)

Press Intern, August 2025-December 2025: Participates in meetings to discuss publication industry and generate new ways to promote literature and writers. Contributes to group database for production of user materials to increase knowledge of CLMP services and members.

The New School MFA, Monthly Meetings, New York, NY

Organizer and Host, August 2024-May 2025: Organized monthly First Saturday “Roundups” for all incoming members of The New School MFA in Creative Writing. Chose literary topics for open discussion, coordinated with cohort members to reserve space, and facilitated dialogue.

Iron Oak Press, Charlotte, NC (Remote)

Fiction Editor, August 2023-July 2025: Reads manuscript submissions on regular basis for consideration toward publication by the press. Offers critiques for both internal discussion and external feedback to submitting writers. Provides analytical and technical responses to queries.

West Trade Review, Charlotte, NC (Remote)

Associate Fiction Editor, December 2022-July 2023: Wrote critiques for external feedback to contributing writers. Participated in twice-monthly editorial meetings to assist with executive journal decisions including publication, finances, artwork, promotions, contests, and staffing.

West Trade Review, Charlotte, NC (Remote)

Fiction Reader, July 2022-December 2022: participated in twice-monthly Fiction team meetings to discuss submissions and literary topics. Assisted with selection of fiction for publication. Provided personalized critiques to writers. Selected from team to become Assoc. Editor.

Abandon Journal, Austin, TX (Remote)

Fiction Reader, July 2022-December 2022: read submissions and provided critique for publication worthiness. Worked in Submittable in accordance with publisher’s grading method.

Philadelphia Stories, Philadelphia, PA (Remote)

Fiction Reader, July 2022-December 2022: received monthly assignment of a dozen assigned texts and provided written critiques to editors on a timely basis (seven days turnaround).

PUBLICATIONS

Short Fiction

“[A Cabin](#),” *Valparaiso Fiction Review*, Summer 2023

“[Shutting Down](#),” *Cleaver Magazine*, Spring 2023

“[Coming Home](#),” *Museum of Americana Literary Review*, Winter 2022

Literary Criticism

“[Luckies From Now On](#): Denis Johnson’s *Nobody Move* Shifts Narrative Modes for Want of Salvation,” *A Thin Slice of Anxiety*, Summer 2025

“[Evil Always Already Exists](#) in Hamaguchi’s *Evil Does Not Exist*,” *Union Spring Literary Review*, Spring 2025

Literary Commentary

“[Finding Hope and Joy Once More](#),” *Union Spring Literary Review*, Winter 2025/26

“[Commentary on a Better Future](#),” *Union Spring Literary Review*, Winter 2024/25

Book Reviews

“Everything Leads to Right Here, Right Now in Corinna Vallianatos’s [Origin Stories](#),” *West Trade Review*, February 2025

“Yuri Herrera Wants Us to Act in [Season of the Swamp](#),” *West Trade Review*, Oct. 2024

“Love is the Obvious Thing in Maggie Nelson’s [Like Love](#),” *West Trade Review*, Apr. 2024

“Fragments of Time in Christine Lai’s [Landscapes](#),” *West Trade Review*, Sep. 2023

“History, Heritage, and Uncertain Truths in Robert Lopez’s [Dispatches from Puerto Nowhere](#),” *West Trade Review*, Mar. 2023

“Belonging in Bushra Rehman’s [Roses. In the Mouth of a Lion](#),” *West Trade Review*, Dec. 2022

Chapbooks

writing, artwork, and layout for self-publishing; viewable at ts-johnson.com

Things I’ve Never Done: Collected Poems, Nov. 2016

Costumes, novella, Aug. 2018

Ode to Myself: Song for an American, Jul. 2020

Sometimes Good Days: The Pandemic Poems, Pt. I, Jun. 2021

Ab-Sin-Te! The Pandemic Poems, Pt. II, Jun. 2021

A Capital Farewell & Other Poems from Hell, May 2023

One Thing at a Time: Meditation Haikus, May 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teachers & Writers Collaborative, New York, NY

Education Associate, September 2025-June 2026: as TA, collaborates with instructor on lesson planning and research for classroom instruction of poetry and fiction at The Mamie Fay School, PS/MS 122 Queens, NYC Dept. of Education. Attends bi-monthly pedagogical training and edits anthology of student work for publication at end of term. Administers evaluations to students.

Teaching of Writing Seminar, The New School, New York, NY

Student Participant, August 2025-December 2025: generates undergraduate-level syllabus for course instruction. Collaborates with instructor to create proposed coursework, reading material, and methods of student evaluation at a collegiate level. Culminating project includes designing a personal pedagogy for promoting equity, fairness, and inclusion in writing workshops.

LANGUAGES

French, CEFR-level A1

Spanish, CEFR-level A1

CONFERENCES and WORKSHOPS

Johns Hopkins MA in Writing Residency, Bar Harbor, ME

Reading Organizer and Host, July 2022: Organized capstone reading for all participants, reserved facilities, and served as host for all readers across genres.

Johns Hopkins MA in Writing Residency, Bar Harbor, ME

Fiction Contributor, July 2022: contributed fiction for week-long workshop residency.

Cleaver Pitch Fest, Philadelphia, PA (Remote)

Fiction Contributor, July 2022: contributed fiction for review with industry agents.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

United States Army, Civilian, Morale, Welfare, & Recreation, Washington, DC (Remote)

Senior Contract Specialist, ID-Sustainment Office, January 2017-February 2025: Executed contractual actions for purchase and acquisition of goods and services. Worked with senior department chiefs to ensure financial and community goals are met through services.

United States Army, Active Servicemember, Various

Commissioned Officer, December 2013-August 2025: Completed Officer's Candidate School after fulfilling Student Loan Repayment Program enlisted obligations. Honorably discharged.

United States Army, Active Servicemember, Various

Enlisted Active Duty, January 2011-December 2013: Enlisted to receive Student Loan Repayment Program and certified as aircraft technician. Completed tours in Europe and Kuwait.

Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX

Substitute Teacher, August 2009-May 2010: Taught classrooms as substitute teacher for K-12.

Lindale News & Times, Lindale, TX

Staff Writer, October 2008-May 2009: Wrote articles for publication in weekly local. Conducted interviews with authorities in the area on topics relevant to the community. Managed website.

MEMBERSHIPS and AFFILIATIONS

Association of Writers & Writing Programs, January 2025-Present

The International David Foster Wallace Society, January 2025-Present

PEN America, January 2025-Present

Poets & Writers, January 2025-Present

Community of Literary Magazines and Presses, March 2024-Present

United States Armed Forces, Veteran, 2011-2015