

DEAN WARD (WRITER)

Ward's original musical screenplay "**Imagination**" is a passion project that celebrates the legacy of MGM Musicals and icons of classic film musicals including Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra. Grant Gustin ("*The Flash*") is attached to star and Michael Rooney ("*500 Days of Summer*"), the son of MGM Musical icon Mickey Rooney, is slated to choreograph. Ward idolized Gene Kelly as a kid, learned to tap dance, and eventually took master classes from tap legends Gregory Hines, Savion Glover and Charles "Honi" Coles." In the 1990's, while attending film school at NYU, Ward began to correspond with Gene Kelly - culminating in a nice letter he received from Kelly after Kelly viewed his student thesis film. Kelly concluded his note with the encouraging salvo "you must keep working."

Ward is currently a writer on Chelsea Handler's new Netflix series "**Chelsea**." Previously, Ward served as a writer on Chelsea Handler's latenight talk show "**Chelsea Lately**" for the show's final two years on the air. Prior to that, Ward served three seasons as a Supervising Producer and writer for Handler's scripted mockumentary series "**After Lately**," having written scenes for celebrity guest stars including Jennifer Aniston, Jane Fonda and Reese Witherspoon.

Previously, in television, Ward has served as an Associate Producer on "**The Late Late Show**" and as a writer on shows including "**Talk Soup**," "**The Josh Wolf Show**," "**Infomania**," "**The Aisha Tyler Show**" and "**Penn & Teller's Bullshit!**" Ward has also been commissioned to write a number of original pilots for the Disney Channel, the most recent being a blind script deal.

In feature film, Ward's screenplay "**The Extraditers**," co-written with television and feature director Jay Karas, is currently being packaged with Shawn Levy's 21 Laps attached to produce. An additional script, "**Deported**," recently wrapped production. Tyler Spindel, Ward's co-writer on "Deported," is directing the romantic comedy and the cast includes **Megan Park, Whitmer Thomas, Gregg Sulkin, Mickey Gooch** and **Fortune Feimster**. Ward & Spindel are also currently scripting a project with Adam Sandler's Happy Madison Productions entitled "**Rent-A-White Guy**." Previously, Ward's screenplay "**Tow Truck**" sold to Our Stories Films with Broken Lizard Industries attached to produce.

Ward is also a documentarian. Rolling Stone called his critically acclaimed HBO documentary "**Let Me In, I Hear Laughter – A Salute To The Friars Club**," "a funny, lovable documentary featuring memories from a bunch of amazing comedians old enough to have shtupped Adam Sandler's grandmother." Featuring comedians ranging from Jeffrey Ross and Janeane Garofalo to Milton Berle and Phyllis Diller, USA Today gave the program "4 Stars." In addition, Ward received an Emmy Nomination for his History Channel special "**The Bielski Brothers: Jerusalem In The Woods**."

An alumni of NYU's Tisch School of The Arts Department of Film & Television, Dean is repped by Brad Petrigala at Brillstein Entertainment and Greg Pedin at Gersh.