

Zeke Nicholson didn't always consider himself funny. A seasoned scene-stealer and scribe on TBS's *Miracle Workers* and NBC's *A.P. Bio* and *The Good Place*, Nicholson — whose first name used to be Isaac — discovered his gift for making people laugh after pulling off an epic prank in college.

"My sophomore year," he recalls, "some friends were leading a four-day orientation trip for incoming freshmen. I tagged along and pretended to be a freshman named Zeke Birnbaum who'd taken a gap year to Peru. The last night, I revealed that my whole persona was fake, and they were really distraught. It was pretty funny. In the end, the name Zeke stuck."

Born in Rhinebeck, New York, Nicholson excelled as a track star in school but found his true calling in his junior year at Williams College when he joined the improv team. In 2011, he graduated and arrived in L.A. planning to do improv and "see what happens."

He took classes at the Upright Citizens Brigade during the day and worked nights at the Roosevelt Hotel's upscale bowling alley, The Spare Room. Before long, he'd racked up thousands of hours on the UCB stage.

"Performing improv every week in front of an audience really ingrained comedic rhythm into my bones," he says. "I wasn't sure if I wanted to act or write. Luckily, with comedy, you're able to dip a toe in both worlds."

He booked a few small TV parts, but his big break was a six-episode arc opposite George Lopez on TV Land's *Lopez* in 2016, which led to gigs on *The Good Place* and Seeso's *Take My Wife*. But by 2017, the acting work had dried up, he says, "as it does."

In his downtime, he binged Simon Rich's FX show *Man Seeking Woman* and wrote a pilot called *Boo'd Up* — a romantic comedy involving a ghost. Then, at a taping of the *Comedy Bang! Bang!* podcast (he'd been on the TV show), Nicholson bumped into Sean Clements, a comedian-writer-producer who offered to send his script around. That led to a job writing for *A.P. Bio*.

It all came full circle in 2019 when Nicholson got hired on Simon Rich's TBS show, *Miracle Workers*, an anthology series starring Steve Buscemi and Daniel Radcliffe.

"Simon responded to details that he liked in my sample script, and I told him, 'I just stole all that stuff from you.'"

With *Miracle Workers*, Nicholson's been able to write and act, even travelling to Prague for a guest spot in season two. When season three wrapped, he joined the writing staff of *Loot*, a new Maya Rudolph comedy for Apple TV+. Recently, after months on Zoom, he finally met his coworkers in person.

"We had a blast together and it was like, 'Oh, I imagined your body proportions differently.'" —Hilary Hattenbach

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