

Introduction to P. Scott Cunningham. 0:52 sec. Interview: Raymond Elman. Video editing: Nikita Yasmine Grant. Music: Carmen Cicero. Production: Gabriella Pinos.

Poet P. Scott Cunningham and the O, Miami Poetry Festival

By Elman + Grant + Pinos

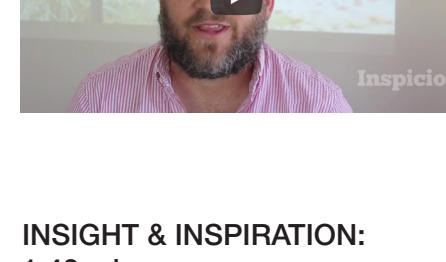
SCOTT CUNNINGHAM (b. 1978) is a poet, translator, essayist, and community organizer originally from Boca Raton, FL. He is the author of *Ya Te Veo* (University of Arkansas Press, 2018), selected by Billy Collins for the Miller Williams Poetry Series. His work has appeared in *The Awl*, *Harvard Review*, *POETRY*, *A Public Space*, *The Rumpus*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Monocle*, *RHINO*, *The Guardian*, *PANK*, *Electric Literature*, and others. His translations of Alejandra Pizarnik, César Vallejo, and Frank Báez have appeared in *Omniglots*, *H.O.W. Journal*, *Waxwing*, and *The Miami Rail*.

A graduate of Wesleyan University and the MFA Creative Writing program at Florida International University (FIU), he is the founder and director of O, Miami, a non-profit organization that celebrates Miami, FL through the lens of poetry, and the co-founder & executive editor of *Jai-Alai Books*, a regional publishing imprint. Named one of “20 Under 40 Emerging South Florida Leaders” by *The Miami Herald* and one of 51 “brilliant urbanites who are helping to build the cities of America’s future” by *Fast Company*, he has been a featured speaker at *The Aspen Institute*, *Breakout*, *Creative Many*, *TedX*, *Creative Mornings Miami*, *Miami Book Fair*, and the *Decatur Book Festival*.

He lives in Miami with his wife, Christina, and his daughter, Ada.

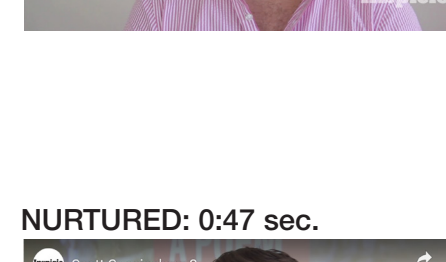
The videos below are organized by topic and run between 30 seconds and 9 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

NURTURED: 1:23 min.



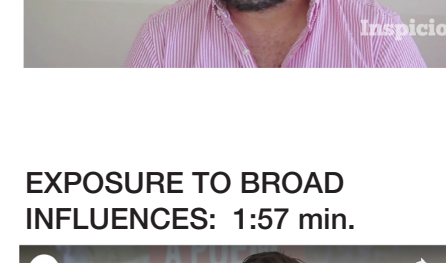
Where did you grow up and what was your earliest memory of art in any form?

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 1:43 min.



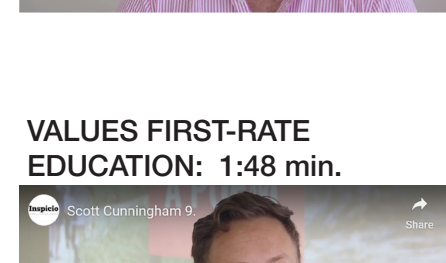
Do you remember when you started to feel passionate about writing?

NURTURED: 0:47 sec.



Was it your family’s idea to send you to a poetry camp?

EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 1:57 min.



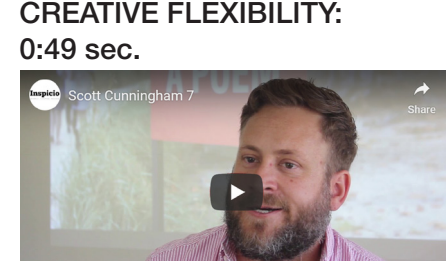
You grew up in Boca Raton, but you don’t seem like a Florida kid to me. Do you feel like a Florida kid?

VALUES FIRST-RATE EDUCATION: 1:48 min.



Where did you go to school and what did you learn that still informs you today?

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 1:00 min.



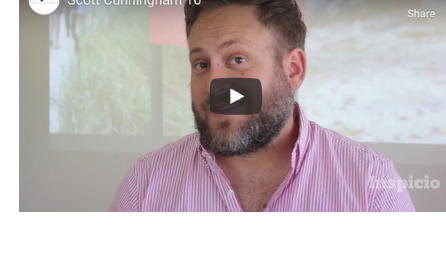
Are you conscious of the impact of South Florida on your work?

CREATIVE FLEXIBILITY: 0:49 sec.



We could make Inspicio a channel for collaboration between poets and other types of artists.

CRITICAL THINKING: 1:20 min.



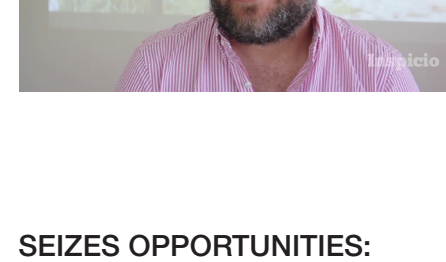
Do most poets try to connect poems to a central theme when they put together a book of poems? For example, Campbell McGrath’s book XX about the 20th century.

CREATIVE FLEXIBILITY: 1:35 min.



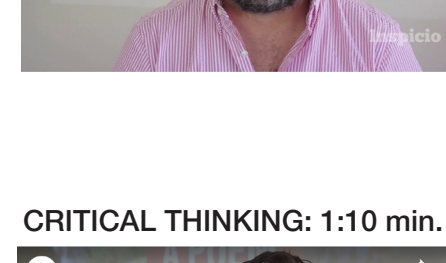
Do you still feel the pull of the other forms of writing?

CREATIVE FLEXIBILITY: 0:47 sec.



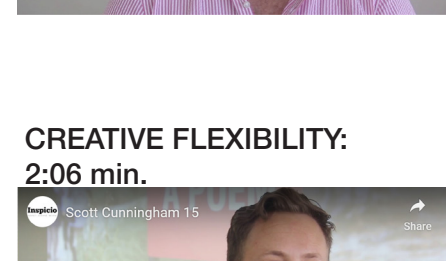
Did you read Edward Hirsch’s epic poem about his son Gabriel, who died from a drug overdose?

EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 1:33 min.

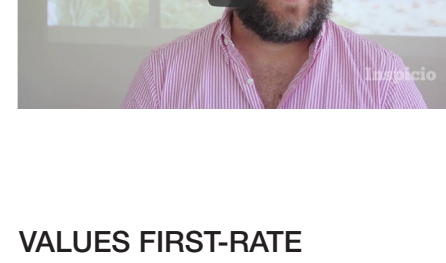


What kind of film work were you doing in San Francisco?

SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES: 9:01 min.



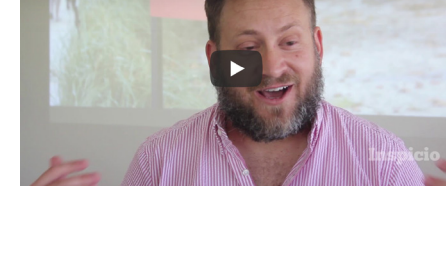
Tell us about the evolution of your writing career, starting with being a reporter at a newspaper in Colorado.



CRITICAL THINKING: 1:10 min.

Have you ever written lyrics to music?

CREATIVE FLEXIBILITY: 2:06 min.



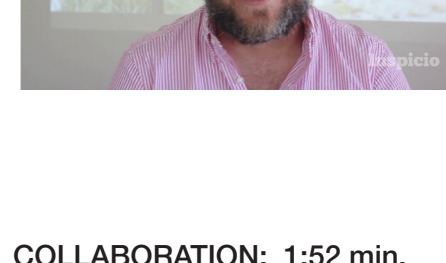
What are your thoughts about visual artists who create text and incorporate it in their work?

VALUES FIRST-RATE EDUCATION: 1:13 min.



What was the gestalt of the FIU Creative Writing program?

UNDERSTANDS THE AUDIENCE’S PERSPECTIVE: 2:20 min.



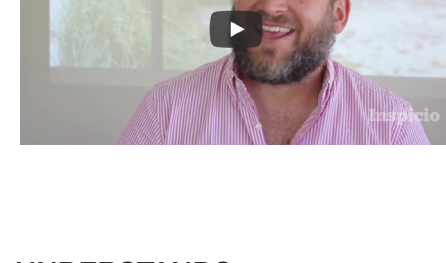
Do lay readers of poetry need to understand the concepts of poetry to fully appreciate a poem? Or is it enough to be moved by a poem?

SERENDIPITY: 4:09 min.



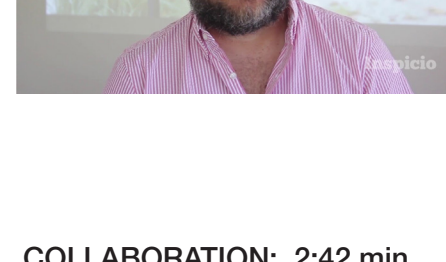
How did you get your original funding from the Knight Foundation for O, Miami? Did you apply for a Knight Challenge Grant?

COLLABORATION: 1:52 min.



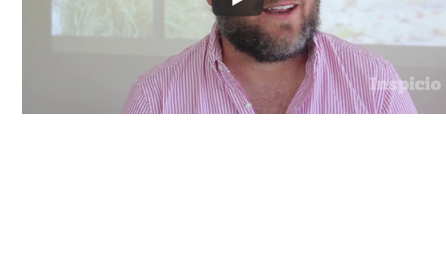
How did you develop the larger concept of O, Miami?

CRITICAL THINKING: 2:59 min.



What are your thoughts about incorporating humor in art?

UNDERSTANDS NETWORKING: 1:26 min.



What are some of the Miami-based organizations that have funded or inspired your work at O, Miami?

COLLABORATION: 2:42 min.

How did you meet Deborah Briggs and Jonathan Plutzik at The Betsy Hotel, and what role have they played in O, Miami?

UNDERSTANDS THE BUSINESS OF ART: 1:14 min.



So far you have been supported by granting institutions. Have you sought funding from individuals as well?

STRONG DRIVE FOR ACHIEVEMENT: 1:14 min.



Have you been able to participate in workshops that teach entrepreneurial and administrative skills?

UNDERSTANDS THE BUSINESS OF ART: 0:59 sec.



Do you mind if I ask you about the size of your budget?

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 1:25 min.



Who are your influencers and role models?

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 3:25 min.



You mentioned translating poetry. Are you bilingual?

CRITICAL THINKING: 1:59 min.



These days visual art students are taught to develop underlying themes and concepts for their work, and I can usually tell when they are “faking it” or when they are speaking from experience and from the heart. Does the same thing hold true with poetry?

CREATIVE FLEXIBILITY: 1:18 min.



What’s the role of serendipity in poetry?

UNDERSTANDS THE BUSINESS OF ART: 1:14 min.



Do you have a definition of the audience you are trying to reach for O, Miami?