Ksenia Naughton

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Ksenia is an award-winning film director, screenwriter and video editor with over ten years of experience in the film and television industry. She is a member of BAFTA Connect, NYWIFT and Film Fatales, and earned her MFA degree in Cinema Directing from Columbia College Chicago. She is passionate about creating original and diverse stories that resonate with global audiences.

Freelance
Chicago, IL
Writer/Director/Video Editor
June 2022 – Present

- Work for hire as a video editor on numerous projects including promotional videos for Tricoci University of Beauty, an episode of the original TV series, *The Miracle Show,* an episode of an original video podcast for Echelon Studios and the short film, *Red Rice*.
- Plan, script, and execute video projects from concept to completion, ensuring high-quality visuals and storytelling.
- Direct short form independent projects by successfully executing the creative vision on schedule and within the budget.
- Write and develop short and feature length original screenplays including the award winning short, *The Blouse*.

BAFTA Student Awards
Chicago, IL
Selection Panel Judge
May 2023 – July 2023

- Reviewed submitted student films in the Live Action Category.
- Provided detailed feedback and evaluation for each submission.
- Met with other judges to refine the submissions into the Finalist Short List.

Questar Entertainment
Chicago, IL
Digital Delivery Manager/ Director of Original Content/ Video Editor
August 2019 – June 2022

- Managed a distribution team delivering and programming original content to digital platforms including Samsung, Vizio, Redbox, Pure Flix, PlutoTV, Vudu, Crackle, Kanopy, Xumo, In Demand, Tubi, IMDB TV and Amazon Prime.
- Directed and produced original TV productions.
- Edited original TV series, trailers and social media content.

NBCUniversal, *Chicago Med* TV Series
Chicago, IL
Production Assistant - Location Department
July 2018 – September 2019

- Assisted the location manager with coordinating the logistics for the production to complete its work.
- Oversaw set preparation, ensured the location remained clean and undamaged, and closed the location down when filming wrapped.

Regency Enterprises Feature Film *Widows*, director Steve McQueen
Chicago, IL
Set Intern
June 2017 – August 2017

- Assisted key department heads during the entirety of the film's production.
- Helped with various administrative work.
- Worked with director Steve McQueen learning in detail about the production process of a big budget Hollywood film.

MayFilms
Chicago, IL
Researcher
August 2016 – January 2020

- Researched information on projects for BBC, Animal Planet, Apple TV and independent documentaries.
- Sourced and researched facts, figures and information using the internet, film and tape archives, specialist collections, picture libraries, museums and government departments.

Columbia College Chicago
Chicago, IL
Teaching Assistant
August 2016 – May 2019

- Led discussions and reviewed class materials with students in small groups.
- Evaluated student essays, projects, labs, tests and other assignments.
- Assisted other faculty members with their independent film projects.

Freelance
St. Petersburg, Russia
Director/Producer
April 2013 – August 2016

- Directed commercials and short films for hire.
- Planned, scripted, and executed video projects from concept to completion, ensuring high-quality visuals and storytelling.
- Maintained clear project timelines, milestones, and deliverables, ensuring alignment with overarching strategic goals.

St. Petersburg State University of Cinema and Television
St. Petersburg, Russia
Adjunct Faculty
December 2013 – August 2015

- Lectured undergraduate classes: Film, TV and Media Management and Distribution in the Film Business.
- Evaluated student essays, projects, labs, tests and other assignments.
- Mentored students' growth through extracurricular activities.

Absolute Film
Moscow, Russia
Line producer/Assistant to the Executive Producer
April 2012 – April 2013

- Managed the budget for original productions.
- Planned the production and shooting schedules.
- Assisted the Executive Producer with the day to day aspects of the production.

Star Media
Moscow, Russia
Script Supervisor
December 2010 – February 2011

- Supervised continuity during the production of the TV series *Bez Sroka Davnosti*.
- Took copious notes on everything that was shot, including slate info, take numbers and length of takes.
- Provided the editor and post-production team their collected notes for reference.

Professional Affiliations

- BAFTA Connect
- Film Fatales
- New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT)

Education

- **Columbia College Chicago**, Chicago, IL
  2019 Master of Fine Arts: Cinema Directing
- **All-Russian State University of Cinematography (VGIK)**, Moscow, Russia
  2013 Bachelor of Arts: Film and Television
- **St. Petersburg State University**, St. Petersburg, Russia
  2010 Bachelor of Arts: Cultural Studies
- **St. Petersburg State University of Film and Television**, St. Petersburg, Russia
  2014 Advanced Training Course Up-To-Date Film Producing Tools

Skills

Directing, Producing, Screenwriting, Pre-Production, Video Editing, Adobe Creative Suite, Premiere, After Effects, Photoshop, Media Encoder, Motion Graphics, Microsoft 365, Researching and Sourcing Information, Digital Asset Management, Video Distribution, Content Programming, Content Management Systems (CMS), Project Management, Social Media, YouTube, Marketing, Canva, Human Resources

Languages

English, Russian

Selected Filmography

- *One Woman Hamlet,* experimental, 71 min. co-director, 2021
- *Jack and Anna*, narrative, 15 min. director/screenwriter, 2019
- *Letter from Maggie*, narrative, 9 min. director/screenwriter, 2017
- *The Secret of the Violin*, narrative, 6 min. director/screenwriter, 2017
- *The Sun Rises for Everyone*, documentary, 13 min. director/screenwriter/producer, 2016
- *Lady and the Tramps*, documentary, 12 min. director/screenwriter/producer; 2014
- *Sweethearts*, narrative, 11 min. director/screenwriter/producer; 2013

Awards and Honors

- Semifinalist, PANO Network Micro Grant 2024, *The Interview*
- Semifinalist, Outstanding Screenplays Shorts Competition 2023, *The Interview*
- Finalist, Screenwriters Network - SWN Short Film Screenplay Competition Autumn 2023, *The Interview*
- Alumni, AICP Mentorship Cycle Two 2023 (Mentor - Jennifer Sprunger, E.P. at Ridley Scott Associates)
- Semifinalist, Commercial Diverse Directing Program (CDDP) 2023
- Grand Prize Winner at Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival Screenplay Competition 2022, *The Blouse*
- Silver Telly Winner in Non-Broadcast: Student 2021, *Jack and Anna*
- Bronze Telly Winner in Social Video: Student 2021, *Jack and Anna*
- Nominee Young Director Award, Cannes Lions 2020, *Jack and Anna*
- Nominee Focus Features & JetBlue Student Short Film Showcase at the Gotham Awards 2020, *Jack and Anna*
- Best Production Design Winner, The Midwest Independent Film Festival 2020, *Jack and Anna*
- Audience Choice Award Winner, Blackbird Film Festival 2020, *Jack and Anna*
- Best Global Short: Beyond the Rainbow Award Winner, SCAD Savannah Film Festival 2019, *Jack and Anna*
- The Dwight W. Follett Continuing Graduate Student Fellowship Recipient 2018
- The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation Grant Recipient 2018
- The Albert P. Weisman Award for the Completion of Arts and Communications Projects 2017
- The Lya Dym Rosenblum Professional Development Fund Award 2017
- UFVA Carole Fielding Student Grant Award 2017
- Graduate Assistantship Full Tuition Award, Columbia College Chicago 2016