

VIRGINIA GILBERT



Virginia is an award-winning, BAFTA-nominated writer and director in film, TV and radio, and a novelist and short story writer. Screen International named her as a 'Star of Tomorrow'. Her debut feature film as writer-director, *A Long Way From Home*, based on her original short story (published by Shortfire Press), was a nominee for the Michael Powell award for Best British Film, and premiered in competition at the International Edinburgh Film Festival 2013. Starring James Fox, Academy-Award winner Brenda Fricker and Natalie Dormer, the film was distributed in the UK and Ireland by Soda Pictures. Virginia's feature *Sweetheart*, developed with the assistance of the BFI, is being produced by Deadpan Pictures (IRE) and Dan Films (UK). She is also developing her debut novel for screen, *Travelling Companion*, with Blinder Films and the Irish Film Board and a third feature, *Learning By Heart* with Lookout Point and the Wellcome Trust. She is currently developing an original drama series in-house with the BBC, *Open Minds* and an original drama series with STV and ITV, *The Common Enemy*, and an original drama series, *Suffer The Little Children*, with leading independent producer Bekki Wray-Rogers' company Duck Soup.

Virginia began working in film aged thirteen, first as a production trainee in 1993 on the Academy Award-nominated *Tom and Viv*, starring Miranda Richardson and Willem Dafoe. Virginia was production assistant on the feature *Wilde* in 1996. She moved to Dublin in 1998 to study English and Drama at Trinity College. Whilst a student, Virginia set up a theatre company, directing productions around Dublin, and staging two shows for musician Damien Rice. Graduating in 2002, she began working for Irish production company Fastnet Films. She associate produced the feature *The Halo Effect*, starring Stephen Rea. In 2005 she produced the documentary *Lord Haw-Haw: Portrait of a Fanatic* for UK and Irish television, which broadcast to excellent ratings and reviews. In 2005, after attending the EAVE programme for international producers, Virginia decided to write and direct. Her debut film, *Hesitation*, adapted from her original short story of the same name, won top prizes at festivals around the world and was nominated for a **BAFTA** and an **IFTA** in 2008. Her second short film, *Mea Culpa*, also based on one of her short stories, toured the international festival circuit and was broadcast by RTE 1.

Virginia's documentary and comedy work includes the IFTA-nominated three-part documentary series *An Irish State of Mind*, which Virginia wrote and exec produced; a political comedy-documentary, *Money, Money, Money* for Irish national broadcaster, RTE 2, which Virginia directed and a three-part documentary series *Striapacha (Whores)*, on the history of Irish prostitution, which Virginia wrote and directed. A much acclaimed series ("Superb.... An example of how to make history sing on television" *The Irish Times*; "Brilliant.... Erudite and entertaining" *Irish Independent*), it is part of the teaching syllabus in the Women's Studies department at a leading Irish University and the series nominated for the Radharc award.

In 2009 Virginia wrote her first play for BBC Radio 7, *Meeting of Minds*, starring Adrian Dunbar and Joss Ackland. Her debut BBC Radio 4 Afternoon Play, *Helen*, starring Ed Stoppard, Lia Williams and Ashley Jensen was broadcast December 2013. Her second afternoon play for BBC Radio 4, *Now, Love*, starring Sorcha Cusack, was broadcast March 2015 and she has been commissioned for a third afternoon drama, *A Lesson*, due for broadcast September 2017.

Virginia also writes short fiction and novels. Her work has won numerous awards internationally, has been published in both the UK and Ireland, and broadcast on the BBC and RTE radio. Her debut collection of stories, *Abroad*, was shortlisted for the 2011 Scott Prize. Her debut novel, *Travelling Companion*, was published by Liberties Press and was featured on BBC Radio 4's *Women's Hour*. Virginia also directs live comedy and theatre, including five sell-out shows at the Edinburgh festival.

REPRESENTATION

Film: Mark Casarotto, Casarotto Ramsay
Fiction: The Jonathan Williams Literary Agency

COMPLETED FILM & TELEVISION:

- 2014 *An Irish State of Mind*, TV Doc Series, (TG4/Blinder)Wri/Series Creator/Exec Prod
2013 *A Long Way From Home*, Feature, (February Films, Dist. Soda Pictures) Wri-Dir
2011 *Money, Money, Money*, Comedy Documentary (Blinder Films/RTE) Dir
2011 *Sex Traffic*, TV Comedy Documentary Pilot (RTE 2/Blinder) Dir
2011 *Who's in, Who's Out*, TV Drama Series (NewBeTV) Development Writer
2008 *Whores*, Documentary Series, TG4 (Blinder Films) Writer-Director
2008 *Mea Culpa*, Short Drama, RTE/GFC (Blinder Films) Writer-Director
2007 *Hesitation*, Short Drama, Fr/UK/Ire (Neon Cinema/Frigid Films) Wri-Dir
2004 *Lord Haw-Haw*, Doc, RTE, IFB, UK History (Fastnet Films) Producer
2002 *The Halo Effect*, Feature Film (Fastnet Films) Assoc. Producer
2001 *The Gathering*, Feature Film (Samuelson Productions) Assist. Director
1996 *Wilde*, Feature Film (Samuelson Productions) Production Asst.
1993 *Tom & Viv*, Feature Film (Samuelson Productions) Prod. Trainee

IN DEVELOPMENT:

- Open Minds*, TV Drama Series (BBC) Writer-Director
The Common Enemy, TV Drama Series (ITV) Writer
Learning By Heart, Feature Film (Lookout Point/The Wellcome Trust) Writer-Director
Suffer The Little Children, TV Drama Series, (Duck Soup) Writer-Director
Travelling Companion, Feature Film, Development (Blinder Films/Irish Film Board) Wri-Director
Sweetheart, Feature Film, Development (Deadpan Pictures/Dan Films) Wri-Director
The Boys, Original Screenplay, Development (Irish Film Board) Writer
33 Days, Feature Film, Development (The Film Studio Ltd) Writer-Director
Now, Love, Feature Film, Development (Deadpan Pictures) Writer-Director *Brit-Listed Script

RADIO & FICTION WRITING

- 2017 *A Lesson*, BBC Radio 4 Drama, TX September 2017
2015 *Now, Love*, BBC Radio 4 Drama, TX March 16th 2015
2013 *The Little Book of Christmas Memories*, Contributing Author, Liberties Press
2013 *Travelling Companion*, Novel, Liberties Press
2013 *Helen*, BBC Radio 4 Drama
2012 *A Villa In The Sun*, published in 'Three Steps to Investment Success' by Rory Gillen, Oak Tree Press
2012 *Winter Lambing*, Winner, Willesden Herald International short story competition. Published Willesden Herald New Writing 6, Pretend Genius Press.
2011 *Abroad*, Short Story Collection, Shortlisted for the Scott Prize
2011 *A Long Way From Home*, Short Story, Published www.shortfirepress.com
2011 *Outside Broadcast*, Short Story, Published Crannóg Magazine, Spring Edition
2010 *The Conversation*, Highly Commended Runner-Up, Biscuit Publishing Short Story Competition, published in the Biscuit Anthology 2011. Shortlisted for Paris Short Story Competition 2011.
2010 *Meeting of Minds*: BBC Radio Drama, Writer, Broadcast BBC Radio 7
2009 BBC Radio 4 broadcast season of short stories, March 2009 entitled *Abroad*. Stories broadcast: *The Conversation*, *Hesitation*, *Sisters*.
2008 *Karel*. Winner, Metro Eireann/Roddy Doyle short story competition. Published March 2008
2006 *Hesitation*. Shortlisted Francis McManus national short story competition. Broadcast RTE Radio, 2006.

THEATRE AND COMEDY

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| 2015 | <i>'Fighting Chance' 10x10x10</i> | Director | Comedians Theatre Co, Pleasance Theatre |
| 2013 | <i>Keith Farnan, 'Fear Itself'</i> | Director | Underbelly, Edinburgh |
| 2011 | <i>Keith Farnan 'Money'</i> | Director | Underbelly, Edinburgh |
| 2010 | <i>Keith Farnan 'Sex Traffic'</i> | Director | Underbelly, Soho Theatre |
| 2009 | <i>Keith Farnan 'No Blacks etc'</i> | Director | Underbelly, Soho Theatre |
| 2001 | <i>Damien Rice Concert</i> | Director | Temple Bar Music Centre, Dublin |
| 2001 | <i>Closer</i> | Director | Temple Bar Music Centre, Dublin |
| 2001 | <i>Total Eclipse</i> | Director | Andrews Lane, Dublin |

