

# ISLA BADENOCH

WRITER, DIRECTOR AND ARTIST.

An intuitive storyteller, Isla has a curiosity for telling unexpected stories of kindred spirits leading unusual lives. Her work is grounded in her roots as a self-taught documentary filmmaker; re-imagining contemporary issues and our human landscape through a dark sense of humour and cinematic visuals that combine mysticism with the mundane.

Her films have been selected for Oscar and BAFTA-qualifying film festivals, broadcast on BBC4, and supported by BFI, DocSociety, Arts Council England, LUX, Screen Scotland, BBC Arts and Statens Kunstfond. She is a member of BFI Network x BAFTA Crew, BFI Writers Lab, Directors UK and BIFA Springboard.

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## SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

### ONE NIGHT (2021, In Post-Production)

Arts Council Funded short dance/documentary film. Based on real-life events, ONE NIGHT is a physical exploration of the emotional journey one woman takes to find the strength to leave an abusive relationship.

### THE ELVERMEN (2021)

Short documentary funded by BFI Doc Society about a community of fishermen in the rural south-west UK. Selected for Sheffield Doc/Fest (UK Competition), Camden International FF, Aesthetica, Raindance, UN Global Food Summit, CamerImage Short Doc Competition, Short of the Week + Vimeo Staff Pick tba 2022.

### THE DEAD ARE JEWELS TO ME (2021)

An experimental film that explores a forensic jeweler's craft, commissioned by LUX + BBC Arts. Broadcast BBC4 International Women's Day March 2021, Official Selection London Short Film Festival 2022.

### ELVER (2020)

Dance film for BBC Arts / Arts Council exploring the experience of a critically endangered creature. Broadcast BBC4 + Bristol Old Vic.

Church Cottage, Church Lane, Ledbury, HR8 1DP

islabadenoch@gmail.com / 07432 573450

[www.islabadenoch.com](http://www.islabadenoch.com)

## ACADEMIC HISTORY

### MA Visual Arts, 2016

Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art, Copenhagen  
First Class Honours

### BA (Hons) English Literature, 2012

University of Sheffield, Sheffield  
First Class Honours

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## PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

### Directing Actors + Pitching Workshops

Directors UK, 2020/2021

### Screenwriting Foundation Certificate

Raindance London, 2020

### Documenting Life on Film

UCL + Open City Docs, London w/ Grierson  
Award-winning Director, Lucy Cohen, 2019

### Documentary Storytelling

UCL, Open City Docs, London, 2018-19

### Self-Shooting Documentary

NFTS, London, 2017

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## AWARDS + RESIDENCIES

Arts Council England 'Developing Your Creative Practice' Grant 2021

LUX, BBC Arts, Screen Scotland 'Now & Next' Fund 2020

BFI Doc Society 'Made of Truth' Fund 2019

BBC Arts & ACE New Creatives Scheme 2019

Bristol VR Lab Residency 2018

Statens Kunstfond Grant 2018 (DK)

Marie Madssons Grant 2016 (DK)

## SELECTED EMPLOYMENT

### SAVA Films

Director / Producer, June 2018 - Present

Shooting, directing & producing feature documentary **KWETU** in rural Tanzania about sustainable architecture. Branded content for clients incl. National Numeracy Trust, Amazon, Google.

### Mercurial Pictures

Creative Producer, 2017 - 2020

Development, production and self-distribution of BIFA nominated feature doc **H IS FOR HARRY** (IDFA Forum 2017 & Sheffield Doc/Fest Meetmarket 2017). Nationwide theatrical release & press campaign incl. features on BBC Breakfast, The Guardian, Telegraph, BBC Radio 5Live + screening in Parliament. Running 'host your own screening' impact campaign sponsored by Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

### Lief

Creative Producer/Researcher, 2018 - 2019

Researching & developing pitch/treatments for female-led creative content studio including branded content & documentaries funded by Tribeca, BFI, The Guardian & Lush Film Fund.

### Postcode Films

Creative Producer/Director, 2017 - 2019

Researching, developing & producing feature, charitable & creative documentary content for London Science Museum & The Design Council.

### Sheffield Doc/Fest

Film Programmer, 2013 - 2019

Previewing, reviewing & programming film submissions.

Marketplace/ Industry Assistant, 2013 - 2014

Developing & co-ordinating year-round industry & marketplace workshops. Organising festival conference programme of 120 sessions & international speakers. Reviewing / selecting MeetMarket applications.

### ValstedBrask, Denmark

Development Producer, Jul 2015 - July 2017

Research, development, fundraising, outreach and distribution strategy for documentaries; **DANCING ON TWO FEET**, investigating religious tolerance in Sierra Leone (dir. Cecilia

Valsted), **RASCALS & SOLDIERS** (dir. Vibeke Bryld), & futuristic documentary **SHOOTING OURSELVES** (dir. Christine Cynn, Prod. 'The Act of Killing').

### Heyday Films

Director's Assistant, Mar 2014 - Jun 2014

Assistant to Director, James Kent, on WWI fiction film, **TESTAMENT OF YOUTH**. Art department assistant, graphic designer & hand double to lead actress, Alicia Vikander.

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## SELECTED COMMISSIONS

### We Sing in Fire & Blood VR (2018/19)

Arts Council funded 25-minute virtual reality opera about how society responds to acts of extreme violence.

### The Burnesha Archive (2018/19)

Book and installation film about a vanishing transgender tradition in Northern Albania exhibited in Copenhagen.

### Skagen: Archiving a Town (2017)

Temporary exhibition in an abandoned police station with 12 artists and local community stories about famous fishing town, Skagen, Denmark.

### Manchester Jewish Museum (2018)

Arts Council art film celebrating Sports collection.

### CPH Photo Festival, Copenhagen (2015)

Photography exhibition at Pavillion 11, Copenhagen.

### Storying Sheffield Exhibitions (2011 - 12)

Working with marginalised people from different social & mental health backgrounds to create narrative film & installations that represent the life of Sheffield.