

## **GEORGE SIOUGAS**

**Represented by Jennifer Thomas**

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### **Short Bio**

I was born in Athens Greece and studied at the London Film School (LFS) where I made 5 short films which competed in more than 30 international short film festivals. Between them they won 3 Grand Prix and 4 Best Director awards. Two of these shorts have since gone on to be used as examples of "High Quality and Vision" in the LFS curriculum.

I returned to Greece in 2002 after being headhunted to direct CLOSE YOUR EYES (S02) a high end drama for Mega Channel. The show was very successful and won 4 awards at the 2003 Hellenic TV Awards including Best Director for me. In 2004 I directed SUDDENLY, another high end drama for the same network. The show broke popularity records and won 3 awards at the 2004 Hellenic TV Awards. I continued directing non stop across the high end and continuing drama platforms for the next 11 years.

Burning Heads (aka "To Gala"), my debut feature, was released in Greece in 2012 (Odeon). It was nominated for 11 awards by the Hellenic Film Academy including Best Director, and went on to win Best Actor and Best Actress awards at Alexandria Film Festival (2012) and Best actor and Best Film in London Greek Film Festival (2012). In addition, it was selected to close the Los Angeles Greek Film Festival in 2012.

When Greece's economy collapsed in 2011, my family and I relocated to Cyprus where I continued to direct several TV dramas over the next four years.

In 2015 my family and I moved to the UK where I have established myself as a well sought out director.

A CASUALTY episode of mine was amongst the four episodes nominated for a BAFTA (2022) and I was also nominated for a BAFTA Craft Award for my work on a stunt block on CORONATION STREET (2022). Additionally one of my CORONATION STREET scenes was up for the Scene of the Year award at the British Soap Awards (2022).

In 2023 I wrote and directed THE ONE NOTE MAN, a short film starring BAFTA winner Jason Watkins with the voice of Ian McKellen and music by Oscar winning composer Stephen Warbeck. The film opened the 2023 Rhode Island International Film Festival and won the Grand Prize Best Live Action Short hence making it Oscar and BAFTA qualifying for 2024. We have also been officially selected for the Norwich FF, Barcelona FF, British Independent FF, Birmingham FF and BIFA.

I am currently developing THE ONE NOTE MAN feature film and I'm attached to direct CARNIVAL, a heist movie set during the Notting Hill carnival.

### **Skills**

As a director working across all platforms during the span of my career, I am fully accustomed to handling single and multi-camera setups. I have worked on the continuing drama platform a lot which has given me a discipline of economy in my story-telling as well as knowing which part of a shot I'm most likely to use. I always have the edit in mind which saves a lot of time on the day.

I aspire to constantly maintain an inspiring and productive working environment. My relationship with actors is excellent and I am renowned for keeping to schedule while working calmly and confidently. I strive to be open but at the same time I am very well prepared. That way if on the day something comes along which is more interesting than my prep I can throw the prep away while maintaining a clear head. I believe these skills and my 20+ year experience have kept me in constant work.

I like working at a pace and I am recognised for achieving quality output, largely by devising quick solutions to unforeseen shooting problems, scheduling or creative.

Through the absorption and influence of American, British and European film and television, I possess a strong visual sense and style and make clear and achievable creative decisions. Above all I regard performance as the number one priority in anything I do. Without good performances even the best of shots have no emotional impact.

## **TV Directing Experience**

**“THE ONE NOTE MAN” SHORT FILM 2023**

**“CASUALTY” DIRECTOR (S37E5&6 AND S38E11&12), 2022/2023/2024 BBC**

**“EMMERDALE” DIRECTOR 2021/2022 / 2023**

**“CASUALTY” DIRECTOR (S36E12), 2021 BBC**

**“CORONATION STREET” DIRECTOR (SUPER SOAP WEEK - SUPERVISING DIRECTOR - DIRECTOR OF ALL UNDERGROUND AND STUNT SEQUENCES), 2021 ITV, UK**

**“CASUALTY” DIRECTOR (S36E5&E6), 2021 BBC**

**“CORONATION STREET” DIRECTOR (EP. 10143-10154 & 10193-101205), 2020/21 ITV, UK**

**“EMMERDALE” DIRECTOR (EP. 8784-8789), 2020 ITV, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 5386-5390), 2020 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 5346-5350), 2019 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“CORONATION STREET” DIRECTOR (EP. 9934-9937), 2019 ITV, UK**

**“EMMERDALE” DIRECTOR (EP. 8573-8577), 2019 ITV, UK**

**“EMMERDALE” DIRECTOR (EP. 8513-8516), 2019 ITV, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 5171-5175), 2019 CHANNEL 4, UK **WINNER BEST SOAP - ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY AWARDS 2019****

**“EMMERDALE” DIRECTOR (EP. 8385-8388), 2018-2019 ITV, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4956-4960), 2018-2019 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“EMMERDALE” DIRECTOR (EP. 8268-8271), 2018 ITV, UK**

**“EMMERDALE” DIRECTOR (EP. 8235-8238), 2018 ITV, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4956-4960), 2018 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4896-4900), 2018 CHANNEL 4, UK **WINNER BEST CONTINUING DRAMA - BROADCAST AWARDS 2018****

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4836-4840), 2017-2018 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS CHRISTMAS HOUR-LONG SPECIAL” DIRECTOR (EP. 4805-4806), 2017 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“SO AWKWARD” DIRECTOR (SEASON 4, 6 EPISODES), 2017 CBBC, UK **WINNER BEST COMEDY - BAFTAKIDS AWARDS 2018****

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4686-4690), 2017 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4626-4630), 2017 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4576-4580), 2016-2017 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“SO AWKWARD” DIRECTOR (SEASON 3, 7 EPISODES), 2016 CBBC, UK **NTS NORTH BEST COMEDY AWARD 2017 NOMINATION, BAFTA KIDS BEST COMEDY NOMINATION 2017****

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4416-4420), 2016 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“HOLLYOAKS” DIRECTOR (EP. 4336-4340), 2015-2016 CHANNEL 4, UK**

**“YOUR FAMILY” DIRECTOR, WEEKLY SITCOM 52 X 35-MINUTE EPISODES – 2014-2015 ALPHA CHANNEL GREECE**

This sitcom enjoyed success reaching 38% ratings and was remade in the USA (aired in 2015).

**“CODE OF SILENCE” , DIRECTOR, DAILY SOAP 200 X 40-MINUTE EPISODES – 2014-2015 SIGMA CHANNEL/STAR CHANNEL CYPRUS/GREECE**

**“7<sup>TH</sup> HEAVEN” , DIRECTOR, DAILY SOAP 200 X 30-MINUTE EPISODES – 2013-2014 SIGMA CHANNEL CYPRUS**

Reached No 2 at the ratings charts.

**“GUILTY SECRETS” , DIRECTOR, TWICE WEEKLY SOAP, 61 X 45-MINUTE EPISODES - 2012 MEGA CHANNEL CYPRUS**

Peaked No 2 at the ratings charts.

**“ZERO” , DIRECTOR, TWICE WEEKLY SOAP 61 X 45-MINUTE EPISODES - 2012 MEGA CHANNEL CYPRUS**

The highly controversial show was the network’s No 1 show (May 2012).

**“THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SIGN” , DIRECTOR, WEEKLY DRAMA 50 X 45-MINUTE EPISODES - 2011-2012 MEGA CHANNEL CYPRUS**

The show pushed the network to the No 2 spot during its run.

**“SECRETS OF EDEN” DIRECTOR, DAILY SOAP, 615 X 45-MINUTE EPISODES - 2008-2011 MEGA CHANNEL**

A daily soap that reached the no. 1 position in its key prime-time slot leading-in to the network’s main evening news. It achieved ratings averaging 52%.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KGrIDioDRU> (season 1) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeRBFqJV-fQ&feature=related> (season 2)

**“BIG BANG” DIRECTOR, WEEKLY COMEDY, 28 X 45-MINUTE EPISODES - 2007-2008 MEGA CHANNEL**

A quirky weekly comedy that has enjoyed multiple repeats due to its cult status. The series became so popular amongst the teen target audience that catch-phrases from the show were adopted into daily slang.

Trailer: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LycKhPFHnxs&feature=results\\_video&playnext=1&list=PL74765D91E284C3C7](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LycKhPFHnxs&feature=results_video&playnext=1&list=PL74765D91E284C3C7)

**“WEDDING RING” DIRECTOR, DAILY SOAP, 410 X 45-MINUTE EPISODES - 2005-2007 MEGA CHANNEL**

This daily soap became the second most successful in Greek TV history and enjoyed a 3-year run at no. 1 in its prime-time slot. It won seven TV awards and ratings regularly hit 58%. It was later sold to five countries and was even featured on top brand toothpaste with the tagline ‘Your Daily Habit’.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuklpGyDqws>

**“SUDDENLY” DIRECTOR, WEEKLY DRAMA, 20 X 45-MINUTE EPISODES - 2004-2005 MEGA CHANNEL**

Written by Mirella Papaeconomou, one of the highest-regarded writers/creators in Greek TV, who most recently adapted Victoria Hislop’s best selling novel “The Island”. This weekly drama series enjoyed great critical acclaim, winning awards and achieving ratings averaging 32%.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIC8XiBe-tg>

**“CLOSE YOUR EYES” , DIRECTOR, WEEKLY DRAMA, 28 X 45-MINUTE EPISODES - 2002-2004 MEGA CHANNEL**

In its two season run, the show became one of the most successful TV shows in Greek history. It won six TV awards including Best Director, Best Actor and the Audience Award, and topped the ratings at 58%.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4P4PvNAq4Q>

**Film Directing Experience**

**“MILK” AKA “BURNING HEADS” DIRECTOR, FEATURE FILM, 104 MINS - ODEON, CL PRODUCTIONS, FALIRO HOUSE PRODUCTIONS 2011**

Based on the critically acclaimed contemporary play ‘To Gala’, ‘Burning Heads’ is my first feature film. The world-wide premiere was held at the Writers’ Guild Theatre in Los Angeles June 15 2011, as the closing film of the 2011 LA Greek Film Festival. It attracted such positive pre-release reviews that the distributors doubled their normal print roll-out and scheduled run. International Film Director, Costa Gavras, recently stated in an interview that he considered ‘Burning Heads’ to be: ‘the best film he’s seen coming out of Greece this decade’.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lbhbhv3LXU8>

**“THE ONE NOTE MAN” SHORT FILM , 21 MINUTES - CUSP FILMS/MOSELEY ROAD PRODUCTIONS/VERUS STUDIOS 2023**

The film stars BAFTA winner Jason Watkins with the voice of Ian McKellen and music by Oscar winning composer Stephen Warbeck. The film opened the 2023 Rhode Island International Film Festival and won the Grand Prize Best Live Action Short hence making it Oscar and BAFTA qualifying for 2024. We have also been officially selected for the Norwich FF, Barcelona FF, British Independent FF, Birmingham FF and BIFA.

**“THE FRIDGE”, DIRECTOR, SHORT FILM 24 MINUTES**

This successful short won three awards at the Drama Film Festival, Greece including Best Director and Best Actor and also won Best Short and Best Director awards in the Tribeca, Houston, Chicago and Los Angeles short film festivals. Picked up several merits and awards in various international film festivals.

Full Short: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcN0kGcMpCk> (PART 1), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbmff30dWRQ> (PART 2)

**“LOVE TENDER”, DIRECTOR, SHORT FILM 19 MINUTES**

Won best sci-fi film in Greece as well as best short screenplay in Tel Aviv.

**“SKIN FLICK”, DIRECTOR, SHORT FILM 14 MINUTES**

Won best short film in San Diego and various awards in Houston, Chicago and Tampere and picked up several merits and awards in various international film festivals. The London Film School shows the short each year to freshmen students as an “example of imaginative filmmaking”.

**“B-MOVIE STATUS”, DIRECTOR, SHORT FILM 18 MINUTES**

Won best short at the Moscow International Film Festival.

**TV Commercial/Music Video Directing Experience**

**“MEVGAL MILK”, CINEGRAM 2002**

**“CONN-X MOBILE PHONES”, LESPOT 2002**

**“MOBILE PHONE EGYPT”, INDEPENDENT EGYPTIAN COMPANY 2003**

## Education

London Film School, 1993-1995 - Graduated with Distinction having directed five short films, which amongst them won numerous international awards.

## Personal Info

Fluent in English and Greek.

## References

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