

KAREN ANSTEE

WRITER - DIRECTOR - PRODUCER - MUSICIAN



I came to the film industry from a successful, ongoing, career in music. I graduated from the London Film School in 2012 and I have since written, directed and produced a number of award-winning short films, developed a slate of feature projects and founded my production company, Precious Hack Productions, which enables me to meet my commitment to work in a truly collaborative spirit with a team that is at least 50% female team and diverse across disciplines. My greatest strengths lie in my strong vision, breadth of skills, tenacity and ability to see the funny side even when the going gets tough, together with my empathetic, nurturing approach to the actors and crew I work with.

I am currently in post-production on my latest short film, Firebird, which was shot during lockdown and my first feature, Living with Honor, is in active development, with production planned for early next year.

WRITER- DIRECTOR – PRODUCER

FIREBIRD – Short film drama. 8 mins 30 seconds. 2021. Link to WIP - <https://vimeo.com/581908521> PW Music2021

Logline: A bereft musician counts the days till she will be allowed to pay music once more.

This film was conceived as part of a collaborative, year-long lockdown venture with European filmmakers in Germany, Spain, Malta and Italy. Developed through twice weekly zoom meetings, our films are designed to work both as standalones and when woven into each other to form one story / film, **EDIFICE 129**, which gives the impression that the whole film was shot in one location, at one time, despite being filmed in our home countries and the filmmakers never having met previously or in person.

LIVING WITH HONOR - Proof of Concept Short Film for feature project currently in development. 5 mins. Colour. 2019.

Short Teaser Logline: As a mysterious adversary closes in on their isolated farmhouse two sisters prepare to fight for their lives, but old wounds prove more dangerous.

Awarded BFI Highest Level Diversity Standard Best Practice Mark.

Feature Logline: After an art heist and a komodo dragon gone bad, a gang hide out in an isolated farmhouse, but when one of their number dies, her spirit returns to say it was murder not suicide.

Psychological thriller / Drama / Black Comedy – 90 pages.

Twitter: @honor_film Instagram: @livingwithhonorfilm Facebook: @LivingWithHonorFilm

APPROVAL NEEDED - Short film drama. 11 mins. Colour. 2018.

Logline: After a day that just can't get any worse a lonely traffic warden finds hope and an unlikely friend at the self-service checkout.

Distribution via Be Kind Movement's educational workshops, encouraging kindness amongst young people aged 4-18.

Awards and Festivals:

Awarded BFI Highest Level Diversity Standard Best Practice Mark.

Winner -Talkies Community Cinema Short Film Fund 2018.

Audience Award Winner - IMDb Script to Screen Awards 2017.

Heart of Gold International Film Festival, Australia. 2019.

Oaxaca International Film Festival, Mexico. 2019.

Portobello Film Festival, London. 2019. Nominated Best Short Film.

Shortest Nights Film Festival, London. 2019.

ARC Film Festival, Germany. 2019.

Bozeman Film Celebration, Montana USA. 2019.

Oxford Film Festival, Mississippi USA. (Top 50 rated festival) 2019.

Underwire Festival, National Film Theatre, BFI Southbank London. 2018. Nominated Best Acting.

HERE Festival, London. 2018.

www.approvalneeded.com Twitter: @approval_needed Instagram: @approvalneededfilm Facebook: @ApprovalNeeded

WRITER – DIRECTOR

RACHEL - Short film drama. 15 mins. Colour. 2016.

Logline: A young woman fights from beyond death to have the send-off she wants, despite the protests of her stubborn and devoutly religious father.

Distributed by Concord Media for educational use in university, vocational and therapeutic settings.

Awards and Festivals:

SNOB, New England Indie Fest, USA. 2016. Best Foreign Film.
UK International Jewish Film Festival, London. 2017. Three screenings at JW3 and Phoenix Cinema, London.
Portobello Film Festival. London. 2017.
Southend on Sea Film Festival, UK. 2018.
Sainte-Livrade Film Festival, France 2017. Companion to features LUCKY (USA), CARRÉ 35 (France)
HERE Festival, London. 2018.
Ouchy Film Awards, Switzerland 2016.
BLOW-UP Arthouse Film Festival, Chicago USA. 2017.
Life Death & the Rest Fest, Bristol UK. 2018.
You Only Die Once Fest, Birmingham UK. 2017.
Death and the Maiden Conference, Winchester University UK. 2017.

www.rachelbykarenanstee.com Instagram: @rachelthefilm.pr Twitter: @RacheltheFilm Facebook: @rachelthefilm

WRITER

WHEN THE FAT LADY THINS - Novel - Commercial Women's Fiction. Available on Amazon.

I am currently working on a screen adaptation. Tragi-comedy / Drama - Feature Script - 103 pages.

Logline: *Two sopranos, who share traumatic history, find their friendship tested by success and a charming Italian tenor.*

SYMPHONY OF SIGHS - Short Drama/Comedy, starring Hugh Dennis.

Produced for BBC Radio Four by Jeremy Osborne/SweetTalk. 2015. Pick of Week in both Telegraph and Radio Times. To listen, please visit portfolio on my website.

KILLING CATS IS WRONG... but nobody's perfect.

Romantic comedy. Feature Script -101 pages.

Logline: *An evil genius cat goes to murderous lengths to help his lonely owner find true love.*

THE LEGEND OF RORY FERGUSON

Adventure / Comedy / Family film. Feature Script - 99 pages.

Logline: *A lazy teenager is delighted when a famous explorer gives him a magical way to skip over the boring stuff, but nothing is as it seems.*

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Sci-fi / Romantic Comedy. Feature Script - 97 pages.

Logline: *When a dysfunctional programmer accidentally gives her robot sex toy a personality, she rediscovers the joy of love.*

MUSICIAN

A wide-ranging career, including orchestral contracting for Film & TV, and performing internationally with symphony, chamber, opera & ballet orchestras, alongside session recording work, touring as a backing musician for artists such as Sting, Goldfrapp, Kanye West, Shirley Bassey, Take That and also working as feature violinist for punk/folk band George Norway and the Jazz.

EDUCATION

London Film School - MA Screenwriting. Graduated 2012.

Weekend Workshops - Director's Preparation and Licensing Music for Film and TV.

Royal Academy of Music

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Directors UK; Writers' Guild of Great Britain (full member and seat on Film Committee); Women in Film & TV; Musicians' Union

OTHER INTERESTS:

London Fencing Club (Foilist). Allotment Gardening. Yoga. Cooking & Entertaining. Book Group.

STATUS: British Citizen. Married, with two young adult sons.

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Karen Anstee Writer - Director - Producer CV