

LISANNE SKYLER

Born and raised in New York City, Lisanne Skyler is a screenwriter and director of fiction and nonfiction films that have played at the Venice Film Festival, Sundance, South x Southwest and the New York Film Festival, on HBO, MAX, PBS and Sundance Channel, and broadcast/streamed on networks/platforms all over the world.

After directing a series of award-winning documentaries, Lisanne transitioned to writing/directing fiction with the feature film "Getting to Know You," starring Heather Matarazzo, Zach Braff and Bebe Neuwirth, making her a Spirit Award nominee and one of a few directors selected for Sundance's Dramatic and Documentary Competitions. The film opened the 1999 Venice Film Festival Critics Week, was released in Italy and the U.S. arthouse circuit, to acclaim. She has since been honored by the Stockholm Film Festival (FIPRESCI jury award), the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival (career retrospective), and the Nantucket Film Festival for her 2010 dramatic short "Capture the Flag."

Returning to documentary in 2014, Lisanne was commissioned by HBO Documentary Films to write, produce and direct "Brillo Box (3¢ off)", now streaming on MAX, about an Andy Warhol sculpture's 40 year journey from her family's living room to the global art market. Executive Produced by Sheila Nevins, the film played New York Film Festival, was Oscar-shortlisted and distributed on television/streaming to over 100 countries worldwide.

A mother of two, Lisanne lives in Tucson, where she teaches at the University of Arizona. She is currently drawing on her experiences teaching film school in a scripted series called "Back to One," and editing "This Side of Midnight," a feature doc about Club 57 and the art community that emerged from 1980s New York city nightclubs and survived the ravages of AIDS, for producer Erin Wright.

Lisanne is repped by Matt DiPaolo of Zero Gravity.

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DIRECTING FILMOGRAPHY

This Side of Midnight | Writer/Director | feature documentary | in postproduction

The rise and fall of New York's 1980s legendary nightclub scene, as told by those who survived.

A Few Things About Art + Film | Writer/Director | branded documentary | 2021

The story of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) Art + Film Gala. Featuring Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio and Eva Chow. A LACMA Production. Sponsored by Gucci.

Secret Superhero | Writer/Director | branded fiction film | 2018

On the frontlines of the opioid crisis, social worker Chanetta Curtis provides hope and compassion to families and children in distress. Commissioned by the State of Arizona / Lane Terralever (agency).

Brillo Box (3¢ off) | Writer/Director/Producer | documentary | 2017

An HBO Documentary Film. An Andy Warhol sculpture travels from a New York living room to the contemporary global art market. Executive Producer, Sheila Nevins; Lisa Heller, Senior Producer.

- Oscar Shortlist, 89th Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Awards
- Official Selection, 54th New York Film Festival, Sheffield Doc/Fest (in competition)
- Now streaming on MAX and distributed by HBO/WBD internationally

A Few Things About Robert Irwin | Writer/Director | branded documentary | 2016

A LACMA Production. Iconic Light and Space artist Robert Irwin has explored perception for six decades. Along the way, he broke a few rules.

- Premiered at the 2016 LACMA Art + Film Gala, chaired by Leonardo DiCaprio and Eva Chow
- Official Selection, AFI Docs, Provincetown International Film Festival, LA Film Festival

Capture The Flag | Director/Co-Writer/Producer | fiction short | 2010

Annie (Jane Stiles) and her father Luke (Scott Cohen) gather with friends for an annual tradition, but changing relationships and new rivalries threaten to topple the world she has known.

- Official Selections, Aspen Shortsfest, Hamptons International Film Festival
- Showtime Tony Cox Award (Best Short), Nantucket Film Festival

Dreamland | Director/Producer | feature documentary | 2000

Retired tailor Lou Gerard follows his love of blackjack to a new life, in this portrayal of survival on the margins of the Las Vegas Strip and the inner workings of the gambling industry.

- Debuted on PBS on *P.O.V./The American Documentary*, August 2000

Getting to Know You | Director/Co-Writer | feature | 1999 (2024 rerelease)

A chance encounter alters the lives of three teens from broken homes. Based on stories by Joyce Carol Oates. Executive Produced by Larry Estes and Scott Rosenfelt for Shadowcatcher Entertainment. Starring Zach Braff, Bebe Neuwirth, Heather Matarazzo and Michael Weston.

- Official Selections, Sundance, Dramatic Competition, Venice Film Festival, Critics Week
- FIPRESCI Special Jury Prize, Stockholm Film Festival
- Theatrical premiere, Film Forum; "Two Thumbs Up," Roger Ebert and Richard Roeper
- Released theatrically in Italy (Key Films); broadcast on Sundance Channel and Tele+, Italy

Youth Games | Director | documentary short | 9 minutes | 1997

Young athletes from underrepresented communities travel to New York to participate in a national competition. Commissioned by the Department of Parks and Recreation, City of New York, Commissioner Henry Stern. Presented at The Museum of Natural History, New York.

No Loans Today | Director/Producer | nonfiction feature | 1995

Centering on the ABC Loan Co pawnshop and check cashing outlet, *No Loans Today* documents day to day survival of the Black community of South Central LA in the wake of the 1992 riots.

- Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival, South x Southwest Film Festival
- Debuted on PBS in *P.O.V./The American Documentary*, July 1996
- Rereleased in 2013 on Amazon, YouTube, and other digital platforms
- Acquired by the UCLA Film and Television Archives, 2021

Oldtimers | Co-Director/ Co-Producer/ Co-Editor | nonfiction short | 1993

At an Irish bar in San Francisco's Mission District, a trio of troubadour musicians help the elderly regulars navigate the loneliness of old age, and the economic cycles of a vulnerable community.

- Official Selection, Cinéma du Réel, Paris (to represent new voices in US documentary)
- Kracow International Film Festival, Audience Award
- Special Jury Award, San Francisco International Film Festival

RELATED EXPERIENCE | HONORS | AWARDS

Screenwriter, freelance/on assignment, as of 2000

Production Faculty, University of Arizona School of Theatre, Film & Television, as of 2005

- Supervise a diverse slate of film productions for delivery to international film festivals
- Teach courses in directing, screenwriting, documentary, and film/television aesthetics

Juror, Florida Film Festival, 2020

Panelist, NYFF Live: International Shorts Filmmaker Panel, 54th New York Film Festival, 2016

Juror, Provincetown International Film Festival, 2016

Production Consultant, GreeneStreet Films, for *Tenderness* released by Lionsgate Films, 2009

Distinguished Alumna, San Francisco State University, as of 2005

Instructor, American Film Institute, Directing Workshop for Women, 2003 – 2005

Juror, AFI Film Fest, 2003

Episodic Director *Shadow*, *Six Feet Under* (HBO), *Felicity* (WB), *Popular* (WB), 2002

Nominee, Someone to Watch Award, 2000 Independent Spirit Awards

Programming Committee, Sundance Film Festival, 1996 – 1998

Panavision New Filmmaker, Los Angeles, 1993

LANGUAGES | AFFILIATIONS

French, intermediate reading and conversation, Spanish, basic conversation

Film Independent, Women in Film, Sundance Collective

EDUCATION

BA, English, University of California, Berkeley, 1990

MA, Cinema Studies, San Francisco State University, 1995

REPRESENTATION

Matt DiPaolo, Zero Gravity Management, mdipaolo@zerogravitymanagement.com