

LAURA SOMERS

Director, Screenwriter

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thisislaurassomers.com

FILM DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER

CURRENT PROJECTS:

***Rise and Shine*, by Michael Stagliano, Producer Robert Mitas, Voyage Media**

***The Follower*, by Will McIntosh, Producer Robert Mitas**

***My Early Life*, by Laura Somers (television pilot), Producer Chris Leitch**

FILM PROJECTS

Screenwriter, Voyage Media, 2019 – Present, developing original spec features and pilots

Director/Writer, *Rich Kids*, (feature film), Rich Kids Productions, Premiered on Netflix February 2020, Comcast Spotlight Film, Official Selection: Cinequest Film Festival, Best Feature HBO New York Latino Film Festival, 16+awards

Director, *Orchard Wedding* formerly *Ripe*, (feature film), Metamorphic Productions

Closing Night Film: Women's International Film & Arts Fest., to be released Amazon Fall 2022

Co-Director/Co-Writer, *Child of Destiny*, (feature film), Unique Original Pictures, Nigeria, Africa

Director, *I Friggin Love You – Real Valentine* (web series), Avenida Productions

Official Selection: Bentonville Film Festival, series is part of Geena Davis's See It, Be It Program

Director/Writer, *ManDoula*, (sizzle on 35mm), ManDoula Productions

Director/Co-Writer, *Las Perdidas*, short film, LAGA Productions

Official Selection: Rhode Island International Film Festival, Winner Broad Humor Film Festival

Writer, *For the Last Sixth Time*, (short film), Film Independent, Banana Republic

Director/Writer, *Finding P.E.A.C.E.* (documentary short), UCLA Medical Center, Finalist The Freddie Medical Award

Director, *The World of Cory and Sid* (web series), 4 episodes, Hardly Working Ent.

Director, Brevity TV, 2011-2015 sketch comedy, 10 episodes, Episode "*Being A Vampire, Not So Awesome*" has generated over 4 million views on YouTube.

Director, *Honda "Pulling Weeds"* (spec commercial), The Smoking Robots

Director, *Las Vegas "Cindy"*, (spec commercial), The Smoking Robots, Winner, SHOOT MAGAZINE

Director, *1-800-Dentist "Clowns"*, (spec commercial), The Smoking Robots

Director, *Western Digital "Brides Vs. Zombies"* (sec commercial), The Smoking Robots

THEATER DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER

Director, *Far Away* by Caryl Churchill, Austin Community College

Director/Writer, *Hedda Gabler*, Blue Theater, Austin, TX

Director, *The Ballad of Yachiyo* by Philip Kan Gotanda, Tooth And Nil, New York, NY

Director, *Art Outside* by Andrea Ciannavei, Center Stage, New York, NY

Director/Writer, *The Gypsy Chain*, Mexican American Cultural Center for the Arts, Austin, TX

Director/Writer/Performer, *The Year of the Voice*, The Ontological Theater, New York, NY

Director, *Fool For Love* by Sam Shepard, The Hideout, Austin, TX

Director, *For Brothers and Superheroes*, Austin ScriptWorks

Director, *The Deep Piney Woods* by Cyndi Williams, Austin ScriptWorks

Director/Writer, *Desire Under the Elms* by Eugene O'Neil, Mark's Farm

Director/Writer, *Space: Gravity Is With Me*, Schubert Theater, PA

Director/Writer, *The Seagull*, Angel Orensanz Foundation, New York, NY

Director, *The Evolution of Man*, HERE Theater, New York, NY

Director, *Twelve Never Changes* by Andrea Ciannavei, NYU

Director/Writer, *Cultural Bondage*, NYU Playwrights Horizons

Director, *This Property Is Condemned* by Tennessee Williams, NYU Playwrights Horizons

Director, *Not I* by Samuel Beckett, NYU Playwrights Horizons

Director, *Teeth* by Tina Howe, NYU Playwrights Horizons

EDITOR

The Muthaship with Drea De Matteo (Season 1): ENDEMOL
Joe Rogan Questions Everything (Season 1): SYFY
Thrilling Adventure Hour, short documentary
Chrysler Mom's Day Out: short film commercial, CHRYSLER
Face To Face I (Season 3): MSN – Trium Entertainment
Too Young to Marry (Season 1) – Oxygen – A Smith & Co Productions
Wild Side Travel, A Smith & Co Productions
Save Our Business, A Smith & Co Productions
Happy and You Know It (Short film): Hamari Films
Mafia Girls (Sizzle): Lifetime
Mommy Issues (Season 1): Lifetime
The Hollywood Hunter (Season 2): Sportsman Channel
Someone's Gotta Go (Season 1): FOX
Makeover Madness (Season 1): STYLE
KONTOUR MD: Industrial Commercial
Swanderosa (Season 1): CMT
Ayn Rand and the Prophecy of Atlas Shrugged: Associate Editor
Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura (Season 2): Junior Editor, TRU TV
Mouthwatering Apparel - Commercial Series
Pros vs. Joes (Series, Season 4 and 5): Casting Editor, Spike TV
Design Disaster (Pilot): Casting Editor, A&E
Love 10 to 1: Narrative Short, Good Karma Films
Operation Backpack - PSA, Volunteers of America
Extreme Chef (Season 1), Lead Assistant Editor, Offline
Chef Hunter (Pilot). Lead Assistant Editor, Offline
Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura (Series, Season 1): Lead Assistant Editor
Unsung (Series, Season 1, 2 and 3): Lead Assistant Editor, Offline and Online

SOMERS FILM & THEATER CONSULTING, Remote

2001–Present

Strategic Consultant/Producer, Director, & Editor/Project Manager

Partner with film production companies and television networks on editing and producing content, including securing and maintaining relationships with Lifetime, FOX, Style, Syfy, and more. Source and select material for production. Coach and mentor diverse production teams. Administer budgets and allocate resources based on project/production plans. Establish scope of work, milestones, budgetary parameters, and requirements for each production project. Facilitate team meetings to review status updates and potential obstacles. Collaborate with directors on selecting creative partners, including casting agents, directors of photography/cinematographers, and production designers. Coordinate production logistics and daily operations. Define standard operating procedures (SOPs) and best practices. Approve change orders.

- Consulted with director at Unique Original Pictures to manage **feature film production on location in Nigeria**, ensuring project was completed on time and under budget.
- Drove **social media outreach and marketing strategy for theatrical and DVD releases of *An Inconvenient Truth*** with Participant Productions, positioning film as third-highest grossing documentary of all time.
- Built relationships with **more than 50K STEM educators across the US** on releasing promotional copies of *An Inconvenient Truth* for use in classrooms and community advocacy efforts.
- Produced **original rock musical exploring environmental issues for The Gypsy Chain Productions**, including recruiting team of 50, securing fundraising support (from key figures such as Julia “Butterfly” Hill and Woody Harrelson), and guiding publicity, marketing, and media relations for project.
- Led **pre-production and production efforts for Good Karma Films and LaGa Productions**, overseeing resource planning, location and talent sourcing, cost negotiations, and decision-making for projects.
- Supported C-suite executives at Buddha Films and **collaborated with celebrities, stakeholders, and partners to gain financial support for feature film, *Buddha***, as well as wrote digital and print marketing content.
- Supervised **vendor and team performance in India and China** during production of *Buddha*.
- Named **Producer & Director** for *Rich Kids, ManDoula, Las Perdidas*, and others.

- Served as **Guest Director for production of *Far Away*** at Austin Community College.
- Acted as **Field Producer for La Texa Productions**, leading fundraising, creative strategy, and project management.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater, Writing, & Directing, New York University–New York, NY
Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute
Professional Development, Professional Film for Screenwriting (UCLA); TV Writing & Cinematography (LA City College)
 PMP Certification, Project Management Institute

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Mentor, Judge, & Member–Writers Guild of America (WGA)
 Classroom Volunteer–Franklin Avenue Elementary and Glen Feliz Elementary
 Former Volunteer–SELAH; Homelessness Committee City Council
 Former Board Member–Moms’ Club of Los Feliz

AWARDS/HONORS

Best US Feature, RICH KIDS, HBO New York Latino Film Festival
 Comcast Spotlight Film, RICH KIDS
 Best Narrative Feature, RICH KIDS, Las Cruces International Film Festival
 Best Feature, RICH KIDS, Women Texas Film Festival
 Best of Fest, RICH KIDS, River’s Edge Film Festival
 Best Ensemble Cast, RICH KIDS, DTLA Film Festival
 Best CineMas Feature, RICH KIDS, Lone Star Film Festival
 Best Ensemble Cast, RICH KIDS, Phoenix Film Festival
 Best of Fest, RICH KIDS, STUFF Film Festival
 Best Actor, RICH KIDS, Reel East Texas Film Festival
 Best Cinematography, RICH KIDS, Reel East Texas Film Festival
 Best Ensemble Cast, RICH KIDS, Tulsa American Film Festival
 Best Screenplay, RICH KIDS, Black and Latino Film Awards
 Best Supporting Actress, RICH KIDS, Philadelphia Independent Film Awards
 Centerpiece Film, RICH KIDS, HerStory Cinephelia Society
 Best Feature - 3rd Place, RICH KIDS, Anchorage International Film Festival
 SHOOT Magazine New Directors Showcase
 Project: Involve, Film Independent Fellowship
 Grand Jury Prize, For The Last Sixth Time, Film Independent
 Series Urban Mediamakers nominee, Best Television or Web Series, The World of Cory and Sid
 Finalist, The Freddie Awards, Finding P.E.A.C.E.
 Best Short, Broad Humor Film Festival, Las Perdidas
 People’s Choice Award for Captain Cockblocker, Universal Studios Film Festival,
 Best Director of a Drama and Best Drama by Austin’s B. Iden Payne Committee in 2000 for *desire: a reconsideration of “Desire Under the Elms”*. Also awarded Best Actress and Best Supporting Actor.
 Nomination: Best Director of a Comedy and Best Comedy for *Hedda*, by the Austin Critic's Table
 Best Female Solo Performer nomination, NY International Fringe Festival,
 Austin Chronicle’s Top Ten Productions of 1999, *desire*
 Austin Chronicle’s Top Ten Productions of 2000, *Fool for Love*.
 Austin Chronicle’s Top Ten Productions of 2003, *Hedda*
 Awarded Cultural Contracts Grant by the City of Austin to write/stage *The Gypsy Chain*.
 Awarded IBM Community Grant for *The Gypsy Chain*
 Awarded IBM Community Grant for *Hedda*