

Sabina Vajrača

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FEATURES

- ❖ Voodoo Macbeth (2021 / In Theatres Oct 2022) Narrative | Period Drama
Co-Director | True story of the first all-black cast to perform 'Macbeth' in 1936 Harlem, NY, directed by an arrogant young Orson Welles. Produced by USC School of Cinematic Arts, in partnership with Warner Bros. / Premiere: PAFF 2021 / Winner: Best of Fest & Director's Choice, 2021 Sedona Film Festival; Best Director Award, 2021 Charlotte Black Film Festival, etc.
- ❖ Back to Bosnia (2005) Documentary | War Drama
Director ~ Producer | Feature documentary about the return of Vajrača family to Banja Luka, Bosnia after 10 years of exile. Premiere: 2005 AFI Fest (USA), 2005 Amnesty International Film Fest (Europe) / Winner: Director's Choice, 2006 Crossroads Film Festival / Streaming on Amazon, iTunes, GooglePlay, Xbox Video, YouTube.
- ❖ Adam (2009) Narrative | Romantic Drama
Assistant to Writer/Director Max Mayer on an independent feature starring Hugh Dancy and Rose Byrne. / Premiere: 2009 Sundance / Winner: Alfred P. Sloan Prize / Released by Fox Searchlight

SHORTS

- ❖ Sevap/Mitzvah (2023 / In Post) Narrative | Period Drama
Director ~ Writer ~ Producer | In Nazi-occupied Bosnia a Muslim woman risks her life to save her Jewish friends, only to be saved by them in turn 50 years later. Inspired by a true story. / Winner: 2021 Claims Conference Film Grant
- ❖ Variables (2019) Narrative | War Drama
Director ~ Writer | During the Bosnian war a teenage math prodigy is given a way out of the bloodshed when his math club goes to compete at the 1995 International Math Olympics in Canada. Starring Mira Furlan (*Lost, Babylon5*). / Premiere: 2019 Sarajevo Film Festival / Awards: Alfred P. Sloan Grant; DGA SFA Grand Prize; Best Student Short, Vail FF; Best Short, BHFF; BAFTA Student Awards Finalist; HUMANITAS Prize Finalist; Student Academy Awards Nominee; Script 2 Screens Grand Prize
- ❖ Callback (2018) Narrative | Drama
Director | At an audition for the biggest role of her career, a struggling actress is sexually assaulted by an A-list director, and has to decide whether to turn him in, or keep quiet and take the job. / Premiere: 2018 Cleveland Int'l Film Festival
- ❖ Lost Children: Kate & Bill (2018) Narrative | Drama
Director ~ Producer | Desperate to have children, Kate has been undergoing excessive infertility treatments, only to discover Bill has been hiding a secret that may change everything. Starring Rhea Seehorn (*Better Call Saul*).
- ❖ The Monster Within (2017) Narrative | Horror
Director ~ Writer | A woman is forced to confront the intruder in her house when she realizes there's no way out.
- ❖ Negative Feedback Loop (2017) Narrative | Experimental
Director ~ Writer ~ Sound Editor. | A woman works hard to break the loop of self-destructive thoughts, only to realize that the way out is much simpler than she suspected. / Premiere: 2018 Crossroads Int'l Film Festival
- ❖ Hiba (2016) Narrative | Drama
Director ~ Writer ~ Producer ~ Editor | A retired Muslim elementary school teacher is confronted by her former Serb students during the Bosnian War. Starring Mira Furlan (*Lost, Babylon5*), Edin Gali (*MadMen, Fury*). / Premiere: 2017 Female Eye Film Fest
- ❖ The Fight (2016) Narrative | Action
Director ~ Writer ~ Producer ~ Editor | A vicious fight between five women turns out to be a much more meaningful struggle.
- ❖ Nyx (2014) Narrative | Thriller
Director ~ Writer ~ Producer ~ Editor | A lone woman flees for her life from a mysterious nightly terror.
- ❖ Whim (2012) Narrative | Ghost Story
Director ~ Writer ~ Producer ~ Editor | Trying to mend a broken heart, Meg, and her best friend Jess, decide to go on an impromptu Bosnian vacation. Starring Flora Diaz (*Gotham*) and Lucy Walters (*Power, Get Shorty*).
- ❖ Smoking Kills (2011) Narrative | Dark Comedy
Director ~ Writer ~ Producer | A miscommunication between a maid and a businessman in a posh NYC hotel.
- ❖ Apparition (2009) Narrative | Horror
Director ~ Writer ~ Producer | A woman looks for an apartment in NYC. Inspired by Anne Washburn's play. Premiere: 2009 LA Shorts Fest / Awards: Bronze Palm, 2009 Mexico International Film Festival
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❖ **Emina (2009)** **Narrative | Drama**
Director ~ Writer ~ Producer | A young Bosnian woman confronts her wartime rapist in the modern-day NYC.
Starring Flora Diaz (*Gotham*) and Jack Kesy (*Strain, Claws*). Shot by Reed Morano.

TV

❖ **Madam Secretary (2019)** **CBS**
Shadowing a Director on episode 604 | Director: James Whitmore | EPs: Eric Stolz, Lori McCreary | Producer: Sam Hoffman

❖ **9-1-1 (2019)** **FOX**
Shadowing a Director on episode 311 | Director: Sarah Boyd | Part of the Ryan Murphy Half Directing Mentorship

COMMERCIALS | MUSIC VIDEOS

❖ **Made in NYC Media Center by IFP (2015)** **Commercial**
Director | 60sec | Released in 16,000 NYC taxi cabs, and on all local NYC channels.

❖ **ESPN's Generations Matter (2011)** **Commercial**
Director | 30sec | Created in celebration of the Black History Month.

❖ **Bela Lugosi's Dead (2012)** **Music Video**
Director ~ Choreographer ~ Producer ~ Editor | Band: Nouvelle Vague | 12,500+ online views.

THEATRE (*selected*)

❖ **Svila/Seta/Silk (2004)** **Full-Length Play**
Director ~ Playwright ~ Producer | Stage adaptation of Alessandro Baricco's period novella *Silk*. Premiere performance at Anne Bogart's SITI Company in NYC.

❖ **The Beauty Project (2001-2008)** **Full-Length Play**
Director ~ Producer | Devised theatre project, exploring the connections between beauty and violence throughout centuries. Created with the company of 10 actors, over 7 years, and culminating in a performance at Anne Bogart's SITI Company in NYC.

❖ **Twelfth Night / Much Ado About Nothing / The Rover (1999-2002)** **Full-Length Plays**
Assistant Director ~ Fight Choreographer | As a member of Holderness Theatre Company, helped stage classical texts using movement theatre and modern dance techniques. All plays were presented at the Lincoln Center's Rose Theatre in NYC.

EDUCATION

- ❖ **USC School of Cinematic Arts**
M.F.A. in Film and TV Production
- ❖ **University of Central Florida**
B.F.A. in Theatre Directing & Stage Management
- ❖ **University of Cambridge**
Shakespeare in Theory and Performance
- ❖ **School of Practical Philosophy**
Level 8 / Stoicism and Vedanta

AWARDS (*selected*)

- ❖ Claims Conference Film Grant (2021)
- ❖ BAFTA Student Awards Finalist (2020)
- ❖ HUMANITAS Prize Finalist (2020)
- ❖ Script 2 Screens Grand Prize (2020)
- ❖ DGA Student Awards Grand Prize (2019)
- ❖ Student Oscars Semifinalist (2019)
- ❖ Ryan Murphy Half Directing Mentee (2019)
- ❖ Almanack Screenwriters Fellow (2019)
- ❖ Stowe Story Lab / Tangerine Ent. Fellowship (2019)
- ❖ Annenberg Fellowship (2018/19)
- ❖ Alfred P. Sloan Grant (2017)
- ❖ AAUW Fellowship (2016/17)
- ❖ FEBA Road Map Award (2012)
- ❖ Puffin Foundation Grant (2007)
- ❖ Jerome Foundation - SITI Company Grant (2004 & 2007)
- ❖ MSN/Visa Ideas Happen Award (2003)

MEMBERSHIPS

- ❖ Film Fatales
 - ❖ BAFTA
 - ❖ Women in Film
 - ❖ Lincoln Center's Directors Lab
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