

# Director's Spotlight

## Kim Kopf [77]

Kim Kopf is the founder and CEO of Apple Road Films. The company focuses on female driven storytelling. Her current production, 77, a short film delving into the dangers psych meds can pose on its young innocent victims marks her directing debut, in which she has garnered many awards in the festival circuit. She wrote 77 as a proof of concept for her full-length feature film, Experiment 77, which is next on her production slate.



## Smahi Anand [Daffodils]

Smahi Anand, a 21-year-old filmmaker hailing from Delhi, India, is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree at the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles. Passionate about storytelling through film, Smahi combines her Indian roots with the cinematic world. Eager to explore diverse narratives, she brings a fresh perspective to the industry, blending cultural influences with her education in the heart of the global entertainment hub.

## Alysha Haran [Nocturne]

Alysha's career started in the San Francisco theatre community before transitioning to Los Angeles where she spent almost a decade producing commercials and music videos. After a change in travel plans saved her from the events of 9/11, she spent seventeen years serving all over the world in the US Navy. A member of the Dramatist Guild with degrees in Theater Directing and Creative Writing, she is passionate about blending her artistic and military experiences into a unique narrative.



## Christopher Schultz [Enemy No More]

Christopher Schultz was born in Green Bay, WI. His love of music and acting brought him to Hollywood where he pursued a career in film and television. For over two decades, he has honed his skills as a writer, director, and producer. Christopher has won numerous awards for his short films and scripts, ranging from horror to comedy. He continues his journey with numerous projects in development. He resides in Southern California with his wife and son.



## Richard Kilroy [Proof Sheet]

Richard Kilroy began his filmmaking career in visual effects as a model builder, matte artist and storyboard artist working on such films as 'Terminator 2' and 'Titanic'. While in v/f/x, Kilroy wrote and directed short films to hone his filmic skills culminating in the short film, 'Scene Stealer' which screened at the Hollywood Arclight in the Silver Lake Film Fest. Clips of 'Scene Stealer' were highlighted in the Joseph Gordon-Levitt documentary, 'Dreams: Cinema of the Subconscious' which was featured on the 'Inception' Blu-ray.



## Morgan MacDouglas [The Nanny]

A writer, director, and actor with a background in theater, Reynolds brings a dynamic and diverse skill set to his projects. His short film Origin of a Hero won numerous awards at film festivals including the Tokyo International Short Film Festival, Vancouver Independent Film Festival, and Roma Short Film Festival. His debut feature film The Nanny is a gripping portrayal of a young woman's journey into the dark world of a wealthy and predatory family.

## Jessica Aquila Cymerman [The Stairs]

Jessica is a film and theatre director, producer and writer from Los Angeles. Film credits include the shorts ONE MORE LINE, THE STAIRS, KING KILLER, THE MAD ONES, and THE DEN. She co-founded the Theatre company, Untold Wants in Dublin (now world-traveling), where she continues to direct and produce contemporary theatre. BA from Sarah Lawrence College, and MA in Directing from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, with training from Shakespeare's Globe, UK. [jessicaaquilacymerman.com](http://jessicaaquilacymerman.com)



## Troy Paff [Texas Music Revolution]

Troy has traveled the globe as a nonfiction cinematographer on Emmy-winning projects for Discovery, CNN, NatGeo, Travel, Sundance, and more. He is best known for his work behind (though sometimes in front of) the camera on shows like Dirty Jobs with Mike Rowe, Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern, Wicked Tuna, and Somebody's Got to Do It. His current directorial effort examines a bonkers tale of the mysterious theft and auspicious recovery of an iconic Nudie suit made famous by the young Elton John.



## Clara Gabrielle [The Uncanny]

Clara Gabrielle began her career portraying Julia Roberts' baby boy in "Steel Magnolias." Trained at the Lee Strasberg Institute and LACHSA, she honed her craft and performed in several short films before starring off Broadway in "Innocent Flesh." Shifting to feature films, she co-wrote "The French Teacher" and collaborated with her mother, Marie Laurin, to create "The Uncanny". This award-winning psychological horror indie marks Clara Gabrielle's directorial debut.



## Wheeler Mckiethen [Tranq]

Wheeler M is a social documentarian whose photo essays tell the stories of the country's undervalued and marginalized voices. He offers us a visual critique of the world, addressing the intersection of those things that make us human.

## Hannah Gal

### [Erin: Beyond the Bruises]

Hannah Gal is a London based, multi award winning documentarian. Her films were screened on UK TV, and festivals worldwide including Edinburgh, Brief Encounters, Berlin and London among others. Hannah's films are represented by the British Council and supported by the UK Film Council. Her documentaries include Hollow Men about Holocaust survivor Leon Greenman, and Take This Longing about London's homeless mothers screened on TogetherTV. Hannah is also a highly published journalist.



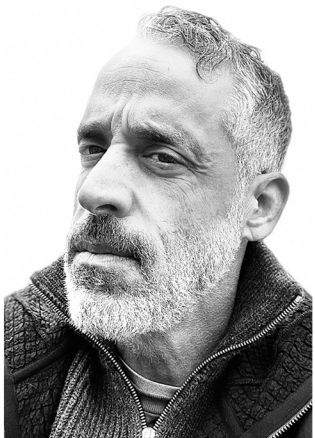
## Yana Klimova-Yusupova [ONLYHUMAN]

Yana Klimova-Yusupova (37), is a screenwriter and film director residing in U.A.E. Yana has been in TV, Radio and Film industry since 18. Her short films "Love" and "Alive" have won numerous awards in international film festivals. The feature film "ONLYHUMAN" has also been awarded 5 international film festivals including International Human Rights Film Festival STALKER which has in the past been supported by United Nations and European Union - it has rewarded the ONLYHUMAN film with the BEST FILM award. Yana is also involved in charities providing educational support to children in orphanages through a family charity fund "Culture of Growth."



## Jason A. White [Help Is... on the Way?]

"Help Is... on the Way?" is Jason A. White's sophomore directing effort. Previously, he wrote and directed "The Hit," a short film that garnered 11 awards including Best Director awards from the Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema (2021), the Show Low Film Festival (2021), and Best Comedy Short Film Director from the Jane Austen International Film Festival (2021). Currently, he is producing a horror short film called "Babyteeth," developing two features and working on "Breaking Bear" an animated series for TUBI.



## Blacksmith Rose [They Don't Make 'em Like Willie Anymore]

The two women of Blacksmith Rose are the whole shebang; they write, play, sing, and record a song, then produce and direct its music video. Along the way, they often include friends and family, then bring in session players to augment the unique instruments they play (including theremin and otamatone). Their music and videos are sometimes humorous, sometimes heartfelt, and always compelling.



## CJ Morrison [Touched]

CJ Morrison, an award-winning American actress, screenwriter, and producer hailing from Boling, Texas. Raised by hardworking parents, she developed a passion for animals and nature. After a career in education, CJ pursued acting, starting with the musical comedy "MINNIE PAUSE & THE HOT FLASHES." She transitioned to film acting through AMTC, accumulating credits as an actor, producer, writer, and director. Constantly honing her craft, CJ's entertainment journey continues to flourish.