

## LAURA MACDONALD

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**May – Current 2009** **Film-maker**

- \* Wrote first, now working on second draft of feature set in nineteenth century Australia
- \* Researching and developing additional film projects

**February – April 2009** **Presenter/Producer, LEGACY**

- \* Documentary project recording family history
- \* Researched and co-produced Stage 1 of filming over Easter in rural Vic & NSW
- \* Oversaw all pre-production and production, interviewed a range of family members

**January 2009** **Host, JAIPUR LITERATURE FEST**

- \* Festival Director William Dalrymple & Producer Sanjoy Roy, Teamwork Productions, New Delhi put on an astounding festival with world class authors in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
- \* Hosted main Durbar Hall, introduced authors and poets such as Vikram Seth, Gulzar, Patrick French, Simon Schama, Tarun Tejpal, Nadifa Das, Tina Brown, Colin Thubron....
- \* Oversaw smooth running of main venue with massive crowds, briefed authors and implemented Q&A sessions whilst keeping to tight schedule

**April 2007 – November 2008** **Creative Director, FILMAKA**

- \* Set up and ran London office, regularly liaised with head office in Los Angeles
- \* Strategic brand ambassador and creative guide for this start-up film network, which challenges and commissions emerging film talent from around the globe
- \* Oversaw European positioning, membership drives and industry outreach
- \* Established allegiances, facilitated deals and project managed competitions with brands such as Canon, MSN, Tiscali, Cisco, Ford, FX Networks, Red Bull, SAB Miller
- \* Managed PR, marketing strategies and project managed website re-skin
- \* Sat on numerous film panels, took part in conferences, hosted events (see Additional)

**Oct 2006 – Feb 2007, Oct – Nov 2007, Nov 2008** **Producer & Presenter, BIFA**

- \* Worked with Directors of the British Independent Film Awards, interviewed nominees, winners, jury members and patrons on awards night
- \* In 08 was involved with production of the event, briefed all presenters back stage and oversaw smooth running of the awards
- \* Interviews included award winners, nominees, jury members and patrons such as Helen Mirren, Ray Winstone, Ken Loach, Daniel Craig, Anton Corbijn, Judi Dench, Shane Meadows, Tilda Swinton, Rosamund Pike, Alan Cumming & many more
- \* In 06, hosted and produced BIFA promotional film, and in 07, liaised with and advised brands, then hosted interviews on the red carpet and behind the scenes

**August – September 2006** **EPK Presenter, SLINGSHOT STUDIOS**

- \* Director Gary Love's feature film *Sugarhouse Lane* starring Ashley Walters, Steven Mackintosh and Andy Serkis
- \* Hosted extensive on set interviews with Gary, his cast, writer, producers and heads of dept for the feature's electronic press kit

**February – December 2006** **Rep/Assoc Producer, SKEPPER FIENNES**

- \* Representing Director Martha Fiennes, met with a variety of advertising agencies to elicit jobs, worked alongside ex-Still King Producer Richard Skepper for pitches & shoots
- \* Associate produced a short film directed by Martha for BAFTAs 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- \* Developed and researched a variety of film projects including Walkers & Sheba

**September-October 2005**

**Executive Asst, HEYMAN HOSKINS**

- \* To Norma Heyman, Academy & BAFTA award winning independent Producer
- \* Following *Mrs Henderson Presents*' premiere at the Toronto Film Festival, assisted in the global release of the feature film, (Director – Stephen Frears, Cast - Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins, Kelly Reilly), whilst maintaining the smooth running of the production office

**June 2004 – June 2005**

**Creative Executive, ROLTHOLZ PICTURES**

- \* To Martha Fiennes, acclaimed Writer/Director, *Chromophobia*, *Onegin*
- \* Supported Martha in every aspect of pre-production, production and post on *Chromophobia*, her second feature film (closing night, Cannes 05)
- \* Liaised with each department, constant problem solving across a myriad of issues and assisted with script fine-tuning
- \* Cast: Penelope Cruz; Kristin Scott Thomas; Ralph Fiennes; Rhys Ifans; & Damian Lewis

**January 2004 – May 2004**

**Production Exec, ROTHOLZ PICTURES**

- \* To New York Producer, Ron Rotholz, worked out of Little Wing Films, London
- \* Packaged and developed a full slate of projects for the 04 deadline in conjunction with Rotholz's deal with LWF Development Fund
- \* Oversaw running of slate and fund submissions whilst assisting with raising finance, particularly the deal at Cannes Film Festival for *Chromophobia*

**March 2002 – November 2003**

**Development Exec, NFH FILMS**

- \* Producer Norma Heyman's feature film production company
- \* In depth project development, script analysis and slate management
- \* Extensive personal assistance to MD, responsible for office communications, management and training of interns

**Other Relevant Experience:**

- \* Jan – Feb 2002 & Nov – Dec 2004 : Script Assessor LITTLE WING FILMS, UK & WARNER BROS, UK, BEYOND FILMS, Australia
- \* Sept 2000 - April 2001, Deputy Publisher, BLACK BOOK PUBLISHING, UK & USA
- \* Sept 1997 - Oct 1999 Film Journalist: New York: Filmmaker, RES Magazine, indieWIRE.com; London : The Face, Total Film, Reel Scene; Sydney : if Magazine
- \* Feb - June 1999, Executive Co-ordinator, RISING TIDE STUDIOS, NY, USA
- \* Jan 1997 - May 1998, Publisher's Assistant, FILMMAKER MAGAZINE, NY, USA

**Additional:**

- \* Festival panels include: Cannes Film 08; London Film 08; Soho Rushes 08, 07; Birds Eye View 08, 07; Brief Encounters 07, Raindance 07
- \* Conferences or events panels: BAFTA Short Sighted; Shooting People; Institute of Contemporary Arts; Semi Permanent; Cultural Industries Diversity Agency; Stellar Networks; New Producer's Alliance; National Film & TV School, London College of Communication, London Film Academy
- \* Represented Canon in UK publicity campaign
- \* Wrote or participated in articles for publications such as: Wall St Journal; The Guardian online; Dazed & Confused; Netribution; BBC Radio
- \* Australian born, holds Australian and British passports

**EDUCATION**

- 1996 - Screenwriting & Film Production - Boston University, Massachusetts, USA
- 1995 - Commerce & Arts - Swinburne Univ. of Technology, Melbourne, Australia
- 1993 - Arts - Melbourne University, Australia

**REFERENCES (on request)**

Deepak Nayar (Producer), Martha Fiennes (Director), Norma Heyman (Prod)