

RAJENDRA THAKURATHI

writer, director

rajendra.thakurathi@gmail.com
(563) 845-1483
Los Angeles, California
rajendrathakurathi.com

 @rajnroll

 @rthakurathi

EDUCATION

USC School of Cinematic Arts

Los Angeles, California

MFA in Film & Television Production

May 2016

Loras College

Dubuque, Iowa

BA in Media Studies, Politics

May 2012

HONOR & RECOGNITION

Finalist, Viacom ViewFinder Directors Program - 2019

Directing program for upcoming promising directors.

The Airplane (short script)

- Coverfly's Red List 2019 - One of year's top fantasy short scripts
- Screencraft Film Fund 2019 - Semifinalist

The Blind Ride (feature script)

- Sundance Lab 2017; 2018 - 2nd Round
- Nicholl Screenwriting Fellowship - Top 20%

The Door (feature script)

Rotterdam's Hubert Bals Bright Future Script Development Fund - Pre-Selected

Fellow, Armed With a Camera Fellowship - 2017

Fellowship for emerging Asian Pacific American media artists. Supported by the Academy.

Director Finalist, Project Greenlight - 2016

Prominent film competition for emerging filmmakers.

Guest Speaker, Creativity & How to Fuel It? - 2018

UC - Los Angeles, UC - Irvine

The Order of Areté, USC - May 2016

Award for service to USC community.

Film Fellow, USC - 2013 to 2016

Frank Sinatra Foundation; Mary Pickford Foundation; Albert Broccoli Foundation

Filmmakers to Watch, Cinephilia & Beyond - 2015

FILM FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Psycho Save Water Commercial

Featured on Best Ads on TV, Ads of the World and Shots Creativity Magazine.

BuzzFeed: People Give Up Social Media for a Week

Total Online Views: 881k

BuzzFeed: Moments You Wish You Could Undo

Total Online Views: 780k

My Claire

- Amazon's All Voices Film Festival 2019
- Masters Award in Student Film, Julien Dubuque International Film Festival 2016
- Drama International Short Film Festival 2016
- Short Film Corner, Cannes Film Festival 2016

Being Kicked

- Durban International Film Festival 2016
- Tripoli Film Festival 2015

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

FILMS

The Cartoonist - Drama - 2018

100 Days of Smoke Free - Drama - 2017

My Claire - Fantasy, Drama - 2016

Being Kicked - Drama - 2015

The Dishwasher - Drama - 2014

COMMERCIALS

Psycho - Comedy - 2018

The Detox Water Bottle Commercial - 2017

MUSIC VIDEOS

Story of Love & Death - Gemini Crisis (animated, in progress) - 2019

Yo Mann - Rashik Aryal - 2019

6 Months - Eleana Moore - 2018

Land of the Living - Plain White T's - 2017 (concept music video)

INTERNET VIDEOS

BuzzFeed: People Give Up Social Media for a Week - 2016

BuzzFeed: Moments You Wish You Could Undo - 2016

BuzzFeed: You vs. Your Anxiety - 2016

WRITING EXPERIENCE

FEATURES

The Door - Fantasy, Drama, Comedy - 2019

The Salesmen - Drama, Comedy - 2018 (Production Co. Wyldside Media)

The Blind Ride - Drama, Comedy, Road Film - 2017

SHORTS

You Are Never Here - Comedy - 2019 (Dir: Vishnu Perumal)

Happy Ending - Fantasy, Comedy - 2019 (Dir: Christina Jun)

Helium - Animated Fantasy, Drama - 2019 (Dir: Danna Galeano)

The Airplane - Fantasy, Drama - 2019

100 Days of Smoke Free - Drama - 2017

The Dishwasher - Drama - 2014

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Production Assistant, Various

Sept. 2018 - present

Have been working as a a freelance production support for BuzzFeed, Mythical Entertainment, and Wyldside Media, among others.

Intern, Pixar Animation Studios

June 2017 - Sept. 2018

Worked as an editorial intern on *Onward*, an upcoming Pixar film. Also assisted on *Toy Story 4* and *Incredibles 2*, among others.

Video Intern, BuzzFeed Motion Pictures

July 2016 - Dec. 2016

Worked as a video intern supporting production of viral videos. Directed and produced three videos that went viral.

Film Directing, Editing Student Teaching Assistant, USC

2014 - 2016

Facilitated in graduate courses with Jeremy Kagan (*Heroes, Lost*), Mark Rosman (*Lizzie McGuire*) & Michael Taylor (*Bottle Rocket*).

Executive Editor, The Lorian, Loras College

Aug. 2011 - May 2012

Was the executive editor of the weekly college newspaper, the midwest's best. Wrote, edited and supervised writers and editors.