

**SCOTT BURKHARDT**  
**scott@smallmotorskills.com**

**Writer/Director: Films**

**WE BUY HOUSES (2025)**

When a house flipper encounters a man barricaded at one of his properties he is forced to reconsider his role in his community.

- Wrote and directed short film shot in Columbus, Ohio.
- WINNER, Hell's Half Mile Film Festival, Crowdfunding Rally
- World Premiere @ Florida Film Festival (April 2025)

**EXUVIA (2024)**

A 90s teenager grapples with her growing maturity and a fracturing friendship the summer before starting high school.

- Co-wrote and directed a short film shot in Philadelphia, PA.
- Based on a short story written by a former UPenn student., Andie Tursi ('18, LPS)
- Just completed (October 2023) and currently submitting to festivals.

**GIRLS ARE STRONG HERE (2021)**

When a mother and daughter arrive at his service station with a broken down car and no where to sleep that night, a Syrian immigrant must decide how trusting he can be in his new country.

- Wrote and directed short film shot in Boise, Idaho. Played festivals worldwide.
- WINNER 2022, Humanitas Prize, Short Film: 10k award that "honors film and TV writers whose work explores the human condition in a meaningful and nuanced way".
- WINNER 2021, IFF Boston - Grand Jury Prize, Best Narrative Short Film
- WINNER 2019 1 Potato Award from the Sun Valley Film Festival: 5k production grant and dedicated premiere at the 2020 Sun Valley Film Festival
- WINNER 2018 Fade In Short Script Competition: First Prize
- WINNER 2018 StoryMode Independent Short Film Awards: Best Short Script

**THE ASSASTANT, WRITER/DIRECTOR (2008)**

When Staniel, an assassin's assistant, takes on a job solo it has unintended consequences for himself and his boss, Red Cobra.

- Faculty Selects Film 2008 Columbia University Graduate Film Festival 2008
- WINNER New Line Cinema Development Award and additional funding from the Milos Forman Foundation, The Caucus Foundation and the Carole and Robert Daly Foundation.
- WINNER 20th Century Fox/Farrelly Brothers Outstanding Achievement in Comedy Award.
- WINNER Student Choice Award for Best Writing.
- Student Academy Award Finalist.
- Distributed by Cinetic Media as part of their FilmBuff series on [hulu.com](https://www.hulu.com).

## Writer: Television

### **ABC/UNIVERSAL TV, CONSULTING PRODUCER – JULY 2014 - JANUARY 2015**

- Consulting Producer on half hour comedy pilot, *MEN IN SHORTS*, based on the life of LA Galaxy soccer player, Robbie Rogers.

### **CBS TELEVISION STUDIOS, WRITER/PRODUCER – SEPTEMBER 2012 - MAY 2013**

- Developed an untitled half hour comedy with Fred Savage, director *Modern Family*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* and Flower Films.

### **SMASH, NBC, STAFF WRITER (2012)**

- Writer on the NBC TV series *Smash*. Created by Theresa Rebeck and Executive Produced by Steven Spielberg
- Nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Drama Series

## Academic

### **KILLER FILMS/STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, FACULTY – FALL 2017 - PRESENT**

- Teaches television writing and screenwriting in graduate film program run by producer Christine Vachon (*Past Lives*, *May/December*)
- Instructs MFA students on writing a spec episode of a currently airing television show and guides students as they develop a show bible and write the pilot episode of their own series.

### **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR – SPRING 2015 - PRESENT**

- Teaches screenwriting, television writing and short film development and production.
- Instructs students on writing a screenplay using traditional three act structure while discussing alternative approaches for visual storytelling.
- Teaches students television writing and its unique structure for broadcast, cable and streaming.
- Teaches students to develop, write, direct and produce their own short film project with the intent to go into production over the summer months.

### **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR – SPRING 2015 - PRESENT**

- Teaches television writing and preparing the screenplay and teleplay.
- Instructs students on conceiving, developing and writing a spec episode of a current one hour drama and a pilot of their own creation.
- Instructs students on developing and properly structuring a television pilot and screenplay of their own.

## **BROOKLYN COLLEGE, FEIRSTEIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF CINEMA, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR – SPRING 2018 - FALL 2021**

- Taught short film writing and television writing to graduate film students.
  - Took students through the process of writing a short film via scene writing exercises and prompts
  - Instructed students on developing and properly structuring a television pilot of their own through instruction and analysis for shows currently airing.

## **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR – SUMMER 2014 - SUMMER 2017**

- Taught television writing in the Summer Television Intensive.
  - Instructed students on conceiving, developing and writing a spec episode for a current television series. Both one hour drama and half hour comedy.

## **Education**

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY – MFA, FILM, 2008**

**DAVIDSON COLLEGE – BA, HISTORY, 1998**

## **Professional Memberships**

**WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST**

**SCREEN ACTORS GUILD**

**UAW, LOCAL 7902, NYU, Bargaining Committee & Joint Council Elected Member**

## **Accolades**

### **WINNER**

2022 Humanitas Prize - Girls Are Strong Here

2021 Independent Film Festival of Boston, Grand Jury Prize - Girls Are Strong Here

2021 Hell's Half Mile Film Festival, Crowdfunding Rally - We Buy Houses

2019 Sun Valley Film Festival, US, 1 Potato Film Initiative - Girls Are Strong Here

2018 Fade In Script Awards, Best Short Script - Girls Are Strong Here

2018 StoryMode Independent Short Film Awards (SISFA) - Girls Are Strong Here

2008 Columbia University Film Festival - Student Choice Award, Best Writing - The Assasant

2008 Columbia University Film Festival, Outstanding Achievement in Comedy - The Assasant

2007 Columbia University Film Festival, New Line Cinema Development Award - The Assasant

### **NOMINEE/FINALIST**

2012 Golden Globe Awards, TV Series: Drama SMASH

2008 Student Academy Awards- The Assasant

## **FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS (Partial List)**

Humanitas Prize (*Best Short Film*)

IFF Boston (*Grand Jury Prize for Best Short Film*)

Sun Valley Film Festival (*1 Potato Short Film Grant*)

Mill Valley Film Festival

Palm Springs International ShortFest

Newport Beach Film Festival

Sante Fe Independent Film Festival

Florida Film Festival

Coronado Island Film Festival

SENE Film Festival

Dam Short Film Festival

Stony Brook Film Festival

Julien Dubuque International Film Festival

Adirondack Film Festival

Hamilton Film Festival

Hell's Half Mile Film Festival

## **ACADEMIC**

2003 Columbia University, Dean's Scholar

2004 Columbia University, Carla Kuhn Speaker Series Fellowship