

TOBY KEARTON

DIRECTOR

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Extensive experience crafting emotional narratives work, blending creative vision with technical expertise. Proven leader delivering on time and budget without compromising creativity or quality.

Award winning director with work selected at BAFTA and BIFA qualifying festivals, earning 20+ awards, including Best Director at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival with short film 'Dissonance' which premiered at the Court Métrage at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018, amassing millions of views online.

Mentored by director Azhur Saleem in HETV drama as part of the Directors UK Mentorship Scheme.

Key Skills

- Conducting rehearsals to minimise retakes and achieve truthful performances.
- Unparalleled attention to detail in storyboards containing concise visual instructions
- Ability to clearly communicate with cast and crew on the successful execution of each shot.

FILM

- **DIRECTOR - 'Tethered' (Short Film) | Seagull Soup Films** Nov '24 - Mar '25
Led a large-scale production within a Los Angeles studio, orchestrating a multi-camera setup while working with theatre-trained actors to refine their stagecraft for the screen.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Constellations' (Short Film) | Seagull Soup Films** Aug '24 - Mar '25
Collaborated with RADA-trained actors to adapt their performances for the nuances of the screen, ensured every shot visually echoed its core thematic depth of story.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Defending Drama' (Short Film) | LJ Productions** Feb - Jul '24
Generated fictional scenarios within real-life settings. Directing crew, multi-cam filming. Filmed on London streets, creatively blurring reality and fiction in a docu-drama narrative.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Kamerad' (Short Film) | Southern Door Productions** Jun '22 - Mar '23
Led a 30+ crew to bring a meticulously detailed World War I setting to life, earning 8 festival award wins and a BAFTA-qualifying nomination at the Flatpack Festival.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Pricks' (Short Film) | Sloan Pictures** Jun '21 - Feb '23
Revamped hit stage play on type 1 Diabetes, casting non-actors and minors, premiered at Royal College of Physicians convention, BIFA Nominated at Sunderland Film Festival.
- **DIRECTOR - 'You're Crazy' (Short Film) | Seagull Soup Films** Jul - Sep '18
Adapted a chapter from a novel into a romantic short at Big Bear, while preserving the story's tenderness on screen, collaborating with an intimacy coordinator to ensure safety & authenticity.
- **DIRECTOR - 'The Little Picture' (Short Film) | LOPO Films** Feb - Sep '18
Recreated Nazi-occupied France in LA with detailed research and international talent. With 20+ awards, captivated audiences, garnering nearly 800k YouTube views.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Toe Tapper' (Short Film) | Seagull Soup Films** May - Sep '18
Demonstrated precise blocking and choreography through a dynamic interplay of tight framing and extended takes to sustain the subjective suspense of the character's peril without dialogue.

- **DIRECTOR - 'The Dust Child' (Short Film) | Seagull Soup Films** Mar - May '18
Initiated the shooting location of Malibu Creek State Park to double as Vietnam. Meticulously crafted an authentic portrayal of the horrors endured on the battlefield.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Dissonance' (Short Film) | LOPO Films** Oct '16 - Feb '18
Designed a dystopian realm where music is forbidden, Filmed amidst the gritty confines of an active New York City prison, with a dedicated crew of 30+, balancing tone to heighten impact.

TV

- **SHADOWING - 'After The Flood' (Series 2) | ITV Studios Limited** Feb - Mar '25
Observed mentor Azhur Saleem (director of Block 1 of series), covering aspects of production from prep-post, including directing stunt sequences & SFX in studio setting.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Livin' with the Devil' (TV Pilot) | LWTD Productions** Jul '24 - Jan '25
Directing multi-cam set up. Directing both theatre and screen talent. Ensuring adherence to creative vision of producers in a style that aligns with the continued tone of the series.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Magic Hour' (TV Pilot) | Annerl Productions** Nov - Dec '17
Orchestrated multi-camera setup on bustling streets of Los Angeles, seamlessly integrating unscripted public reactions, to heighten the street magician's illusions to immerse viewers.

COMMERCIAL BRANDED

- **DIRECTOR - 'Hidden Wounds' | Louingham Productions** Apr - May '22
Crafted a poignant PSA on PTSD in veterans, juxtaposing picture and sound to deliver a powerful sensory experience unique to the medium of visual storytelling.
- **DIRECTOR - 'Tesla Project Lovejoy' | Retro Nouveau Productions** Apr - May '17
Commissioned to direct spec submission for Fan-Made Ad Contest.

MUSIC PROMO

- **DIRECTOR - 'RIDI: What You're All About' | Mockingbird Films** Nov - Dec '21
Collaborated with artist to elevate their brand with a visually stunning music video, transforming dreary locations into captivating backdrops teeming with musical talent.
- **DIRECTOR - 'RAKAN: Nothing But The Truth' | Morningstar Corp.** Nov - Dec '21
Reflected the aesthetics of the artist's brand, through contrasting locations, by blending the expanse of the desert with urban Los Angeles to amplify the song's social themes.

IN DEVELOPMENT

- **DIRECTOR - 'Sweet Nothings' (Feature Film)**
Debut feature film: A morally charged love triangle, currently in soft prep.
- **DIRECTOR - 'The Can Man' | (Short Film)**
A powerful, child's-eye exploration of life with an alcoholic parent, in active development.

Key Achievements

- Arts Award for practice and leadership, Trinity Collage London, through BFI, 2014.
- Official Selection at the Cannes Court Métrage 2018 for the short film '*Dissonance*'.
- Awarded Jury Annual Award for '*The Little Picture*' in 2020 - Currently at 800k views online.
- Winner of over 20 awards, inc. Best Director at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival 2018.

Education

New York Film Academy - Los Angeles | Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production

2015 - 2018

This CV may be kept on file for employment purposes.