

Mikhail Saburov

Writer/Director

355 S Madison Ave, Apt 322
Pasadena, CA 91101

310.467.8823
saburov.mike@gmail.com
msaburov.com

Skills

Languages: Fluent in Russian and English languages.

Writing skills: Proficient in various forms of writing including feature and short screenplays of different genres, adaptations, one-hour TV, treatments and plays. Strong film review and criticism skills including script doctoring and script analysis. Basic copywriting skills.

Software skills: proficient in Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Pro X, Social Media targeting; basic knowledge of Avid Media Composer, Adobe After Effects, Maya, Substance Painter, Adobe Photoshop, Da Vinci Resolve.

Experience

Freelance Writer & Director

Aug 2018 - Present, Los Angeles, CA

Wrote two feature specs ("Under" - supernatural/horror, "Silver" - period drama), & a short film adaptation ("Russian Spoken Here"). Co-wrote an one-hour TV spec pilot ("Promises" - period drama). All projects are currently in development.

Wrote and directed two short films ("Like Us" (18 min - sci-fi/drama), "Bound" (4 min - drama) as well as five AFI Conservatory internal productions. "Bound" premiered at Oscar-qualifying Rhode Island International Film Festival 2020. "Like Us" is starting a festival circuit.

Co-wrote two treatments adapting popular Russian novels for Mars Media, Russia.

Started a Russian-language personal blog on screenwriting, dramaturgy and directing. Currently counting over 2000 subscribers including top professionals in Russian film industry.

Feature film "Pressed" / Co-Writer (Writer on Assignment)

Jun 2017 - Sep 2017, New York, NY

Was hired to co-write an Iranian-American feature film "Pressed" which was selected for the 2nd round of Sundance Labs 2020. The film is currently in development.

Forpost-sz.ru / Writer-Columnist

Feb 2018 - Aug 2018, Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Wrote film criticism and film reviews for one of the biggest media companies in Saint-Petersburg, Russia.

Freelance Writer & Director

Aug 2013 - Jul 2017, New York, NY

Wrote a feature based on an original short film ("Remember Us" - sci-fi/drama), a feature spec ("Ignis Fatus of Marcus Bidi" - drama).

Wrote and directed three award-winning short films ("Silver" (30 min - period drama), "Remember Us" (28 min - sci-fi/drama), "Ascendant" (10 min - drama)).

Directed (as a guest director) several scenes of Neverland the LARP Sitcom episode 1.

Beccarre Magazine / Writer-Columnist

Sep 2015 - Jul 2017, Moscow, Russia

Wrote a series of articles on motion pictures and film language.

Freelance Writer & Director

Jun 2010 - Aug 2013, Aug 2017 - Aug 2018, Yekaterinburg, Russia

Wrote and directed three original short films ("Reflection" (30 min - thriller/drama), "Discovery" (6 min - drama), "Buried" (20 min - thriller/drama).

Wrote a spec feature "Tavern on Empty Blvd."

Directed three music videos: "Lenin" and "Tanya v Smetane" for Ministerstvo Kultury band, and "Lichno" for Vyacheslav Moskovkin starring nationally-known actor Sergey Ershov.

"In Family Circle" International Film Festival / Head of Junior Jury

Nov 2010, Yekaterinburg, Russia

Served as a head of junior jury evaluating films at the international film festival organized and curated by award-winning director Krzysztof Zanussi and nationally-known actor, Valeriy Zolotukhin.

Education

American Film Institute Conservatory / M.F.A. in Directing

Aug 2018 - Aug 2020, Los Angeles, CA

School of Visual Arts / B.F.A in Directing

Aug 2013 - Jul 2017, New York, NY

Workshops & Intensives

Cinemotion_lab / Basics of Producing

2011, Yekaterinburg, Russia

School of Cinema and Media Business "STRANA"

/ 1-st Assistant Director Program

2009 - 2010, Yekaterinburg, Russia

Awards

Short film "Bound": official selection at Oscar-qualifying Rhode Island International film festival 2020.

Short film "Discovery": official selection at Miami Independent Film Festival 2020, Melrose Film Festival 2020, Jacksonville Film Festival 2021

Short film "Silver": Best Short Film at European Cinematography Awards (ECU) 2017, Best Cinematography (nomination) at ASC Heritage Award Competition 2017, Best Cinematography (nomination) at DUSTY Film Festival. Official selection at Unknown Film Festival 2018

Short film "Remember Us": Best Short Film at Washington Film Festival 2017, Best Director (nomination) and Best Short Film (nomination) at New York City International Film Festival 2016. Official selection at Euro Fest European International Film Festival, the New Filmmakers NY 2015, Cinema LA 2017 and Access Code Film Festival 2017.

Short film "Ascendant": official selection at Shorts. Russian Film Festival 2014

Short film "Reflection": official selection at VI KinOmetr, Russian National Short Film Festival 2010