

# SUZANNE BIRRELL

Screenwriter | Composer | Director

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

A multi-ethnic Renaissance woman and former paralegal turned screenwriter, I draw from a lifetime of vivid experience—raising children, escaping wildfires, surviving cancer, touring as a bassist, and being a key witness in a murder trial. My stories are rooted in truth and edge, laced with humor and heart, and centered around strong women challenging expectations and forging identity.

## HIGHLIGHTS & AFFILIATIONS

- *SAG-AFTRA Member since 1976*
- Associate Editor, *Discover Hollywood Magazine* (3 years)
- Founding Member, Screenwriters & Actors of Santa Fe (2017–present)
- Former Host, Screenwriters & Actors of Hollywood (2013–2016)
- Director's Lab West Participant, 2016
- Script Judge, George RR Martin Screenwriting Grant (2018, 2019)

## EDUCATION

**Webster University**, St. Louis, MO – *B.M.Ed. with Honors*

**Fullerton College**, Fullerton, CA – *Screenwriting Certificate*

**National Paralegal Certification**, American Institut

## SCRIPTS

### FEATURES

**Time Before the Fall** (*Drama*)

**Quarterfinalist – Emerging Screenwriters; Social Impact Selection – ISA**

*A legendary filmmaker's great-granddaughter tries to tell his life story while he wrestles with guilt and unresolved secrets from the Korean War.*

**Phishing for Phoebe** (*Comedy/Drama*)

*A small-town waitress's cautious life is upended when she becomes the unexpected target of an online scam—and the scammer turns out to be connected to her long-lost past.*

**Have You Met My Sister?** (*Romantic Comedy*)

*A painfully shy paralegal's life gets turned upside down when her glamorous long-lost sister shows up and wreaks havoc on her job, her crush, and her comfort zone.*

**What About Mom?** (*Family Drama*)

*When three adult siblings argue over whose turn it is to visit their estranged mother, they discover she's gone on a solo horseback trek along the Continental Divide.*

**Heirs Unapparent** (*Mystery/Comedy-Drama*)

*When a spoiled heir returns home after his father's death, he discovers his inheritance may not be what he expected—DNA reveals a sister of a different ilk.*

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## **A Vow For Vengeance** (*Thriller*)

*A reclusive editor living under a new identity is forced to confront her past when the serial killer she testified against escapes from prison and sends her a chilling story submission.*

## **Merrimen Exterminators** (*Dark Comedy/Crime*)

*A seemingly ordinary pest control business run by two siblings specializes in more than bugs—they discreetly 'eliminate' abusive partners, until a new client complicates everything.*

## TELEVISION

### **The Silver Sleuths – Self Defense** (*Comedy/Drama*)

*A feisty pair of retired teachers defend their home from intruders with sass and shotguns—sparking a secret alliance with local law enforcement and igniting a late-in-life taste for vigilante justice.*

### **Johanna – She Knows Things** (*Historical Drama*)

*In 1847 Missouri, a courageous 13-year-old girl is gambled away in a poker game and forced to join a lecherous stranger on the Oregon Trail, but with her mother's wisdom, her grandfather's pistol, and a mutt named Buck by her side, she must survive a harrowing journey and outwit those who would control her destiny.*

### **Tangled Lines – Look What the Cat Drug In** (*Comedy/Drama*)

*After a failed hedge fund manager and his Fifth Avenue wife inherit a crumbling fishing lodge in New Mexico, they clash with eccentric locals and each other as they fumble toward reinvention in a town that doesn't want them—but might just need them.*

### **The Stones of Naharahn** (*Science Fiction/Drama*)

*When alien artifacts awaken long-buried memories, extraterrestrial refugees hidden among humans must choose whether to guide Earth to survival—or take it for themselves.*

### **Code Name: P.B.C.** (*Action/Thriller*)

*When a political uprising erupts overseas, the children of U.S. consular staff are trapped inside an isolated compound. With no contact to the outside, they form a secret film crew—only to discover their pretend stories may hold the key to real survival.*

## STAGE & SHORTS

**The Old Man** (*Thriller*) – Table Read

**The Prime of Miss Marianne** (*Comedy*) – Table Read

**The Ladies of Lawrence** (*Satirical Comedy*) – Table Read (4x Popular Demand)

**The Gargoyle** (*Drama*) – Based on a true event

**It's Very Crowded** (*Comedy/Paranormal*) – Audience & Critic's Choice

**Saturday in the Park with Vic** – from scene 4 of *The Silver Sleuths* - [produced short](#)

**St. Barts is a Happening Place** (*Dark Comedy*) - [produced short](#)

## MUSICAL & OPERA

**Bobbit** (*Comic Opera*) – Libretto by S. McClure, Music by Suzanne Birrell

**Shy Sophia** (*Children's Musical*) – Book & Music by Suzanne Birrell

**A Day in the Life** (*Teen Drama Musical*) – Libretto by Steve Cross, Music by Suzanne Birrell

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Middle School Band & Theatre Teacher (Title I school)
- Bassist/Singer in touring country band
- Director/Choreographer of 20+ stage productions
- Former Camp Cook/Wrangler, Radio DJ, and Bartender