

Susan V.F. MacRae
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Summary:

Former tenured English professor pivoting into film and television, with a focus on story development and screenwriting. Currently completing an intensive Writing for Film and Television certificate at Langara College (Vancouver, BC) while building a slate of original projects and launching my production company, Picture Writing Films, Inc.

Education:

Certificates in Film:

Film Arts (Writing Certificate) 2026

Langara College

- Presently enrolled January to August 2026
- GPA 3.65
- Dean's Honour Roll

Writing for Film and Television 1999

Vancouver Film School

- BC Arts Scholarship Award

Degrees:

PhD Interdisciplinary Studies (coursework only) 2006-08

University of British Columbia – Okanagan

Master of Arts (English and Creative Writing) 2006

City College of New York

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Creative Writing) 1999

University of British Columbia - Vancouver

Additional Certificates:

Fine Art Techniques Certificate Program 2021

Emily Carr School of Art and Design – Vancouver

Certificate in Acting 2018

The Neighborhood Playhouse – New York, NY

- Meisner acting technique

Certificate in Creative Writing

2014/15

Simon Fraser University – Vancouver

- Southbank Writer's Studio (Poetry). Supervisor: Renee Sarojini Saklikar
- The Writer's Studio (Creative Non-fiction). Supervisor: JJ Lee

Recent and Upcoming Film Screenings:

Premiere of 3min short 'Bellybutton Love', written by Susan MacRae, directed by Tony Huang, produced by Siqu Hsu

- Synopsis: Two bellybuttons, in love struggle to overcome their technology addictions and fear of intimacy,
- Langara College, Saturday April 25, 2026.
- Kelowna Film Festival entry: June 19-21, 2026
- CheongJu International Short Film festival entry: August, 2026.

Premiere of 9min short 'Nautical Disaster', written by Susan MacRae.

- Synopsis: In 1994 Vancouver's West End, a man dying of AIDS and a home care worker fight against the medical system for some semblance of dignity.
- Rio Theatre, Unlock the Vault, August 18, 2026.

Film Projects in Development (Screenwriting Portfolio)

"Gandy Dancer" : series

- In 1983, Vancouver, a 2Spirit sex trade worker exacts revenge on city hall at the beginning of the AIDS crisis.

"Nautical Disaster": series

- In 1994 Vancouver, a group of four friends struggle to survive the ongoing AIDS crisis, prior to the pivotal 1996 AIDS conference.

"Disappearing Acts": series

- In 2023 Vancouver, the children of the HIV/AIDS crisis now struggle to navigate an additional fentanyl crisis in the city.

"The First to Call It Red" feature film

- In May 1940, the Scottish poet Mary E. Boyle and the famous priest/paleontologist Abbe Henri Breuil must race against time to document the cave paintings of Western Europe before Himmler's famous Ahnenerbe takes over the narrative.

"In the Waiting Room" : animated short

- Short animated adaptation of Elizabeth Bishop's poem, 'In the Waiting Room, 1918'

"Mom": spec script for series

Spec script for sitcom 'Mom' starring Allison Janney