



KLAUDIA KOVACS

Multi-Award-Winning Film & Theater Director

Participated in the Academy Awards in the "Best Documentary" category. Listed in the *Temporary Performance Almanac 2015* and the *Lexicon of Hungarian Theater Artists Abroad*.

CONTACT: KlaudiaKovacs.com

FILM EXPERIENCE:

Emerald, Texas, Los Angeles, CA and Oklahoma City, OK – 2012 to 2015: **Director's Creative Consultant** of award-winning feature-length, independent film about a young orphan girl in search of a miracle. She decides to head for Emerald, Texas, and along the way she finds friends, strength, and empowerment within.

Justified, Episode #405, Hollywood, CA – 2012: **Shadow Director** for Academy Award-winning Director, Peter Werner, of *Justified*, a two-time Primetime-Emmy-award-winning American television drama.

Touché: A Blind Fencer's Story, Hollywood, CA and Oklahoma City, OK – 2011 to 2013: **Second-Unit Director** of four-time-award-winning feature-length documentary about a young woman's struggle with her loss of eyesight and how the sport of fencing gave her the confidence to move forward with her life.

Torn from the Flag, Hollywood, CA – 2003 to 2010: **Director/Producer/Writer** of feature-length, 1.7 million dollar budget, eight-time-award-winning documentary. Created with cinematographers Oscar-winning **Vilmos Zsigmond** and multi-award-winning **Laszlo Kovacs**. The film is about the international decline of communism, the Cold War era (1945–1991), and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight with the following notables: **Mikhail Gorbachev**, **Henry Kissinger**, **Otto von Habsburg**, and **George Vassiliou**. Shot on HD in the U.S.A., Italy, Russia, and Hungary. The film has been invited to 20 festivals; it also participated in the **2009 Oscar competition in the "Best Documentary Feature" category**. It was presented to the **United States Congress** and was entered into the *Congressional Record*. As a filmmaker, I created a community of 20,000 people, gathered and coordinated 2,000 investors, donors, and in-kind donors for the North American Hungarian community's largest project ever. According to several critics and historians *Torn from the Flag* is the "best documentary" ever made about this topic.

MAOV, LLC, Los Angeles, CA – 2011 to 2010: **Second Assistant Director** of a television pilot, entitled *The Metaphysical Adventures of Verne*, directed by **Michael Simon**, starring **Verne Troyer** and **Pauly Shore**.

Panic Nation, Hollywood, CA and Oklahoma City, OK – *2007 to 2010*: **Co-Producer** of five-time-award-winning, feature-length documentary. It is an intense look at how state sponsored immigration laws are taking hold of the USA. The movie features former White House cabinet member **Henry Cisneros**, two-time Harvard graduate and syndicated CNN columnist **Ruben Navarrette Jr.**, multi-award-winning writer of "Sesame Street" **Luis Santeiro**, and multi-award-winning actor **Esai Morales**.

Mancs Productions, Budapest, Hungary – *2002 to 2003*: **Producer** of a 60-minute, educational television film about a rescue dog with an exceptionally sensitive, molecular smell.

Red Bull Air Race, Budapest, Hungary – *2001 to 2002*: **Associate Producer** of a 30 minute documentary introducing the birth of a new sport and the world's twelve best pilots.

Gardening, Budapest, Hungary – *2000 to 2001*: **Associate Producer** of monthly how-to television show on Satelit TV. The esthetic and lifestyle program consisted of 12 episodes of 30 minute segments.

Gems, Torrance, CA – *1999 to 1999*: **Assistant Producer** of a short that was based on an original script, produced and shot as a co-production with Torrance Cable Television about a gem smuggler who brings stolen gems into the United States and is double crossed.

THEATER EXPERIENCE:

A Lie of the Mind, Horseshoe Theater – LAVC, Valley Glenn, CA – *2016*: **Director** of Sam Shepard's three act drama that explores family dysfunction, domestic abuse, and the nature of love. It follows Jake as he searches for meaning and his wife, Beth, who struggles with brain damage.

Alexander the Great, Lonny Chapman Theater, 1st Annual One Act Play Festival, North Hollywood, CA – *2016*: **Director** of one of the *Nine Winning One-Acts* about a King of the Ancient Greek Kingdom of Macedonia who was one of the greatest conquerors and tactical minds of all time.

Calling America: Don't Hang Up!!, United Solo Theater Festival, New York, NY – *2013*: **Director** of 90-minute, sold-out one-woman show with 50 characters about society and the political climate of the United States. The play was selected by and performed at the world's largest theater event of individual performers at Theater Row in the Broadway District.

Bill & Coo, Annual Playwright's Festival, Tehachapi, CA – *2011*: **Director** of a comedy about a former couple whose relationship ended after the man cleared out their bank account and disappeared. **World Premiere and winner of the Playwright Contest.**

The Insanity of Mary Girard, Raw Space at Theater M, New York Spotlight On Festival, New York, NY – 2004: **Actor (Mary Girard)** in a dramatic play by Ira Levin about a woman who was committed to an asylum and by the end grown into her diagnosis. **Winner of Best Ensemble Cast Award.**

Midnight Video, John Raitt Theater, Hollywood, CA – 2003: **Producer** of a futuristic, two-act play about a video shoot set in a shabby, one-room apartment in a bad part of town...

Shoebboxes, Courtyard Playhouse, Palos Verdes, CA – 2004: **Producer** of an original play about a daughter's emotional journey who discovers her deceased mother's past when she goes through her shoeboxes full of memorabilia.

Veronica's Room, Redondo Beach Theater, Redondo Beach, CA – 2003: **Actor (Veronica)** in a thriller by Ira Levin about a middle-aged Irish couple who abduct a young woman who resembles someone no longer alive... **Best Ensemble Cast Award.**

The Comedy of Errors, Los Angeles Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival, Thousand Oaks, CA – 2002: **Actor (Courtesan)** in William Shakespeare's play about two sets of identical twins that were accidentally separated at birth. **REP Award for Excellence in Production.**

Don't Dress for Dinner, The Palos Verdes Players, Torrance, CA – 2002: **Actor (Suzanne)** in a naughty comedy with a lot of confusion and misunderstandings...

Maids, The Cellar Theater (Pincszinhaz), Budapest, Hungary – 2001: **Actor (Claire)** in Jean Genet's drama about two French housemaids who construct sadomasochistic rituals when their madam is away.

The Madman and the Nun, Improv Theater, Hollywood, CA – 2000: **Actor (Paphnutius)** in the "Polish Beckett," Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz's absurd play that is staged in an asylum showcasing bureaucrats, scientists, and religious authorities.

Various International Theaters, Los Angeles, CA; New York, NY; Budapest, Hungary – 1998 to Present: **Member/Actor** of various award-winning theater troupes in Europe and the United States. Experience in the areas of producing, crowdfunding, fundraising, marketing, public relations, social media, online presence, and theater festivals.

SKILLS: I'm fluent in English and Hungarian, and have basic knowledge of German. I have both, US and EU passports; and I can be employed in the USA and EU countries.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES:

1. City of Los Angeles - Certificate of Celebration for Contribution to Cinema, Art and Culture (Panic Nation)
2. Republic of Hungary - Hero of the Freedom Fight Award (Torn from the Flag)
3. AFI (American Film Institute) FEST Milestone Selection (Torn from the Flag)
4. Panavision's Young Filmmaker's Program (Torn from the Flag)
5. Technicolor Sponsorship (Torn from the Flag)
6. Alliance of Women Directors' Television Shadowing Program, 2012
7. CINE Eagle Award - Best Independent Documentary (Torn from the Flag)
8. CINE Eagle Award - Best Independent Documentary (Panic Nation)
9. Beverly Hills Hi-Def Film Festival - First place (Torn from the Flag)
10. Broadway International Film Festival - Best Documentary (Panic Nation)
11. Madrid International Film Festival - Best Documentary Short (Touche: A Blind Fencer's Story)
12. Mexico International Film Festival - Golden Palm Award for Feature-Length Documentary (Panic Nation)
13. Nevada Film Festival - Gold Reel Award - Docu Film Competition (Touche: A Blind Fencer's Story)
14. Tiburon International Film Festival - Golden Reel Award (Torn from the Flag)
15. Minneapolis/ St. Paul International Film Festival - Best of the Fest Award (Torn from the Flag)
16. Seattle True Independent Film Festival - Best Documentary Feature - 2nd Place (Touche: A Blind Fencer's Story)
17. Noches de Oklahoma - Special Recognition by the Latino Community (Panic Nation)
18. New York Spotlight On Festival Award - Best Ensemble Cast (The Insanity of Mary Girard)
19. Ventura County Reporter - REP Award for Excellence in Production (The Comedy of Errors)
20. Indianapolis International Film Festival - Audience Award - Best Documentary - 3rd Place (Torn from the Flag)
21. DocUtah International Documentary Film Festival - Audience Favorite Top Ten Award (Panic Nation)
22. BeeKay Theater Annual Playwright's Festival - Golden Apple Award (Bill & Co)
23. Slow Film International Film Festival - Special Prize of the City of Eger (Torn from the Flag)
24. Slow Film International Film Festival - Special Prize of Agria Television (Torn from the Flag)
25. Slow Film International Film Festival - Festival's Special Award (Torn from the Flag)
26. Hungarian Freedom Fighters World Federation - Certificate of Recognition (Torn from the Flag)
27. International Technology Institute - Memorial Medal (Torn from the Flag)
28. Corvina Cultural Circle - Certificate of Recognition
29. Thalia Studios - Certificate of Recognition - 20 Year Anniversary (Gloria Victis)

30.Thalia Studios - Certificate of Recognition - 10 Year Anniversary (Gloria Victis)

31.Torrance Cable Television - Best Short Nomination (Gems)

FILM REVIEWS:

"A documentary thriller. Superb." — Chuck Wilson, LA Weekly

"Easily the best documentary film on the 1956 Hungarian revolution." — István Deák, Seth Low Professor Emeritus of History, Columbia University

"A definitive account. The most comprehensive chronicle of the Hungarian uprising yet caught on film. The film never bogs down. A lively piece of history, put together with a good deal of technical skill as well as unmistakable passion." — Stephen Farber, The Hollywood Reporter

"This was the most powerful and important film experience of my life. Klaudia Kovacs' work in tracking down all those marvelous witnesses, selecting the most illuminating and combustible quotes was unprecedented in documentary filmmaking." — Barry Farber, Talk Radio Network

"A quality production satisfying the highest expectations and demands. It chains you to your seat and helps us understand what freedom truly means." — Leslie Eloed, American Hungarian Journal

"I found the film to be extremely well done and informative. I think it would be a great addition to any history curriculum as a way of truly understanding the history of 20th century Europe and Hungary. It gives insight into current problems and makes students think about ways we can better understand the world." — Paul Fouhy, Teacher, Auburn Mountainview, Auburn, WA

"Every high school should use this wonderfully produced film in their curriculum." — Dr. Tas Szebedy, President of the National High School Association, Budapest, Hungary

THEATER REVIEWS:

"A wonderful tale of deceit. The director created a bit of mystery with thrills and chills for all... Nudity was tastefully done yet added just the right amount of creepiness to the play. Well done." — The LA Webb

"A strong director drew great performances... Attention paid to details..." — Stage Pages

"Excellent choices. A very talented director." — Lanie Robertson, Playwright

Convincing performances; well directed." — America Oggi

"Truly interesting and exciting." — The Foreigner Artist

"Flawless performance." — Easy Reader

"Orwelian in thought ... well cast ... thoughtfully directed. It could have gone in a direction full of clichéd and tired contrivance but didn't; thank you." — The LA Webb

Exceptionally talented young actress, Klaudia Kovacs, performed with deep empathy. Her performance was unforgettable" — American Hungarian News

"The name for whom the ovation would not stop: Klaudia Kovacs." — Hungarian Californian

"There is a magic spell cast by a stunning courtesan, Klaudia Kovacs, adding further spice." — The Star

"Kovacs is well-cast as Bernard's trashy and peevish paramour." — Daily Breeze

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- Alliance of Women Directors
- Film Independent
- International Documentary Association
- Screen Actors Guild of America – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)

EDUCATION:

- Film & Theater Studies – Los Angeles Valley College, Valley Glen, CA
- Pedagogy – ELTE – Eötvös Loránd University's Teacher's College, Budapest, Hungary
- Shakespeare Workshop - Lynn Redgrave, Beverly Hills, CA
- Documentary Filmmaking – Film Independent & Lisa Leeman, UCS, Los Angeles, CA
- Scene Study - Larry Moss Studios, Santa Monica, CA
- Film Technique – M.K. Lewis Workshops, Santa Monica, CA
- Documentaries & the Oscars – International Documentary Association / Writer's Guild of America, Los Angeles, CA
- Personal Branding / Image Definition – Sam Christensen Studios, North Hollywood, CA
- Performance Art – Pincszínház (Cellar Theater), Budapest, Hungary