

Maria Collette Sundeen

PRODUCER. WRITER. DIRECTOR.

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Yaqui-Latina Writer and Filmmaker. More than 10 years of experience in documentary, short, feature, and promotional productions. Skilled in research and story development.

- Experienced in the full production pipeline. Expertise in managing the development process, narrative storytelling, and post-production creative direction, including animated sequences.
- Produced in multiple states, with contacts/fixers as needed – Includes locating talent, hiring qualified crew, finding and managing locations, and obtaining permits and union contracts.
- Skilled in extensive research and writing for documentary, feature, short and promo productions.
- Planned and managed promotions and outreach, including media, screenings, & panels.

Producer / Writer / Director REGN-FILMS
“The Shadow” — Animated short pilot based on a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, in development (2023-present) *Translating global folktales to reveal the human condition outside of Euro-centric themes*

- Creative Producer & Writer — Developed idea. Wrote script. Gathered production team.
- Team has worked on Academy- and Emmy-award winning films and TV shows.

Producer GAMECHANGER FILMS
“Save Yourself!” — Hybrid Narrative/Doc, in post-production (2021-present) *Showing the role that BIPOC communities play in climate change, especially the harm done to communities of color and showcasing young people in those communities who are fighting back*

- Creative Producer— Develop story themes. Find, interview and secure locations & sources.
- Create and write material for Bible, Pitch docs, Production summaries, sizzle, etc.

Consulting Producer FRAME OF MIND FILMS

- “The Sacred Union” — Research, writing and production for the third film in a documentary trilogy, featuring interviews with the Dalai Lama. Produced development and outreach materials, including one-pager, funding requests, and trailer script. * 2025 release
- “The Great 14th: Tenzin Gyatso, The 14th Dalai Lama In His Own Words,” — Writing and research support for film autobiography told using archival footage, personal voiceover, and never-before-seen material. Includes extensive research, script concept writing, public relations, and outreach. *Telly award-nominated, released in 2019
- “The Great Mother” — Emmy-award winning biography of the Dalai Lama’s mother as an archetype for peace. Directed b-roll segments. Managed English translation and screen captioning. *Emmy award winner featured on PBS, released in 2007

Associate Producer VICE MEDIA for DISNEY+
“A Fashion Tale” — 4-part series (2021-2022) *Hybrid Narrative exploring the social and political role of fashion and culture in Disney films and characters, told through live action and animation*

- Creative and content producer for a 4-part series slated for Disney’s 100th anniversary. Includes developing story content and materials for production and promotion. Develop and write topic & episode summaries, pitch documents, story bibles, sizzle reels, and script treatments.
- Disney brand liaison & research lead— Managed a team of 3 researchers & archivists to identify topics, issues, and sources. Wrote and designed summary docs and pitch pieces.

Writer / Producer / Director	<p>REGN-FILMS</p> <p>“Lifeless” – Award-winning short horror film, shown in festivals worldwide (2021-2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wrote and directed award-winning short film and script. Soundtrack recorded by a live orchestra in Budapest, Hungary. Includes awards for special effects, music & VO narration.
Producer / Music Supervisor	<p>WOMEN MAKE MOVIES</p> <p>“Lola” – Award-winning short dramatic film, streaming via educational distributor (2020-2021) <i>Exposing cultural and weight bias in the medical community, focused on a Mexican-American patient</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Responsible for identifying & securing cast, crew and locations. Facilitated insurance and union (SAG) contracts. Managed all on-location shooting. Includes animated segments.▪ Negotiated original song with songwriter. Facilitated animated credits sequence. * AUDIENCE AWARD WINNER, Panamanian International Film Festival * FINALIST, New York International Women’s Festival
Post Production -- Captions & Subtitles	<p>PARK PICTURES</p> <p>"Dusty & Stones" – Award-winning music documentary about a determined duo of struggling country singers from the tiny African Kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) who long for their big break. * <i>In film festivals worldwide, 2023-2024</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Created translation & captioning master styles
Producer / Director	<p>MUSEWORKS</p> <p>“Kawit Legong: Prince Karna’s Dream” – Balinese music & dance performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Produced & directed a live music & dance performance of a Balinese stage production and shadow play. Includes behind-the-scenes interviews and commentary. * <i>Broadcast on UCTV</i>
Music Supervisor / Music Consulting	<p><i>Selected music tracks, negotiated contracts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “Everlasting” – Anthony Stabley, director - FEATURE▪ “Canvas” – Mick Erasquin, director - DOCUMENTARY▪ “Marta’s Sex Tape” – Anthony Stabley, director – SHORT▪ “Raw Non-Fiction” – Thomas Neece, director – DOCUMENTARY * WINNER, Angelica Film Festival / New York Independent Film & Video Festival
Promo Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “We Are Traffic” — Live performance video for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2021• “Gone” Series — Proof of Concept Teaser (for Peacock TV), 2019 *<i>Based on the Gone series IP</i>• ReflectSpace Exhibit promo spots — Produced for Glendale Library, Arts & Culture, 2018-2019• “Ag Education” Series — Produced for American AgCredit, Broadcast on PBS (90 second spots)• “Generations,” Series — Produced for American AgCredit, Web shorts (2-4 min spots)• “Hernando de Soto: Development Within the Global Economy” — Produced for the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), <i>includes animated segments</i>

Scripts & Awards: Features (*unproduced*)

TIMELESS - Romantic Comedy

- **Winner**
 - Feel The Reel International Film Festival
 - Florence Film Awards
- **Finalist**
 - Las Vegas International Film & Screenwriting Competition
- **Quarter Finalist**
 - New York City International Screenplay Awards
 - Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards
 - Female Eye Film Festival
- **Official Selection**
 - Manchester Lift-Off Film Festival

VOO DOO ARMY – Horror/Thriller

- **Winner**
 - Las Vegas International Film & Screenwriting Festival
- **Finalist**
 - NOLA Horror Film Fest
- **Semi-Finalist**
 - Los Angeles Crime & Horror Film Festival

THE REVENGE OF MEDUSA – Fantasy/Action

The origin story of Medusa

Scripts & Awards: Shorts & Pilots

LIFELESS – Horror/Ghost short (*2021-2023*)

- **Winner**
 - Best Short Script, Independent Horror Movie Awards
 - Best Local Short, West Sound Film Festival
 - Best Soundtrack-Short Film, Milan Gold Awards
 - Best Film Short / Narration/VO Talent, IndieFest Film Awards
 - Best Editing, Absurd Film Festival (Milan)
- **Nominee**
 - Best Short Score, International Sound Film Musical Festival
- **Official Selection**
 - Topaz Women’s Film Festival
 - HP Lovecraft Film Festival
- **Sci-Fi Horror Film Festival**
 - Excellence in:
 - Filmmaking
 - VO Talent
 - Original Concept
 - Makeup

PILOTS (*unproduced*)

- **ARCADIA**
 - Superhero Fantasy series
 - * Requested by Netflix Showrunner
- **NON-COMPLIANT**
 - Supernatural Drama series
 - * Requested by Fox TV Development Exec

Education

Master of Arts (MA)

Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA – *International Policy & French Studies*
International Business – L’Institut de Formation Internationale (IFI)/ NEOMA, Rouen, France

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

California Polytechnic University at Humboldt, Arcata, CA – *Journalism*
International Communications – Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden