

# Karen Hope

Writer / Director



Agent: Christina Pickworth

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Born 'n' bred Geordie, now London-based, with strong Northern roots. Passionate about edgy, character-driven dramas, with social and racial diversity at their core, foregrounding flawed and complex female characters. Award-winning theatre & radio playwright/director (GLA/LBC radio playwrights award; UK entry for Prix Italia Awards; Runner-up, Verity Bargate Award; Nominee, Sunday Times Best New Play Award; publication by Methuen Books; productions throughout the UK and off-Broadway). Short film success as writer/director includes over 30 international short film festival screenings and six 'Best Film' / 'Best Director' awards.

As a feature screenwriter, Karen's coming-of-age girl gang drama, 'Ladykilaz', was selected as a Nicholl Fellowship Top 50 script. An alumna of Edinburgh International Film Festival Talent Lab, Filmonomics, Kinoteka, and Triangle UK screen directing talent schemes, as well as a member of Directors UK, Karen is currently transitioning into TV drama directing.

## IN DEVELOPMENT

### MEMORY GIRL

*(writer/director)*

Feature. Psychological thriller, adapted from Karen's critically acclaimed stage play, FOREIGN LANDS.

### LADYKILAZ

*(writer/director)*

Feature. Girl gang coming-of-age drama. Selected as a 2013 Nicholl Fellowship Top 50 script.

### ATOMIC

*(writer)*

Feature. Thriller about personal and political betrayal set against the backdrop of nuclear tests in 1950's Mormon Nevada.

### BEFEHL 101 (ORDER 101)

*(writer/director)*

Short. Psychological thriller. Two young Berlin Wall border guards engage in a psychological game of chess with only two outcomes: escape to the West - or being shot dead in the attempt.

## TELEVISION

### CORONATION STREET

*(multicam director trainee)*

ITV Studios. Selected as one of 12 emerging UK drama directors for ITV Studios' multicam director training scheme on the set of CORONATION STREET.

### CASUALTY

*(shadow director)*

Continuing drama series. BBC Wales. Shadow director on two episode block of CASUALTY through Directors UK 'Inspire' career development programme, mentored by writer/director Paul Unwin.

## SHORT FILMS

### HELL TO PAY

*(writer/director)*

13 minutes. Comedy drama. A reality TV celebrity pays the price of fame on a taxi journey to an unexpected destination.

## **BUON GIORNO SAYONARA**

*(writer/director)*

8 minutes. Italian-Japanese romantic comedy.

\*WINNER Best Comedy award, Hyart Film Festival, USA.

\*JOINT WINNER Best Comedy award, Iron Mule Comedy Screening Series, USA.

\*WINNER Best International Film, Best Director, Best In Festival, Thurrock International Film Festival, UK.

\*WINNER Best UK Film, Sarnia Shorts.

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## **THEATRE**

### **THE THRILL OF LOVE**

*(director)*

'Film noir' style drama by Amanda Whittington about Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in England. Tower Theatre, London.

### **FOREIGN LANDS**

*(writer)*

Psychological thriller. Finborough Theatre, London.

\*Nominated for Sunday Times Best New Play Award.

\*Published by Methuen.

Also produced at The Wolsey Studio, Ipswich; The Landor Theatre, London; Northern Stage Company, Newcastle upon Tyne; Theatre Royal, Watford; Medicine Show Theatre; New York.

### **FOREIGN LANDS**

*(writer/director)*

Landor Theatre, London.

### **RIPPED**

*(writer)*

Body-building comedy-drama. Soho Poly Theatre Company, Cockpit Theatre, London.

\*RUNNER UP Verity Bargate Award

### **ROCKING THE CRADLE**

*(writer)*

Geordie family life drama. Live Theatre, Newcastle upon Tyne.

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## **RADIO**

### **MISSING THE MELODY**

*(writer)*

Dramatic exploration of deafness. BBC Radio 4.

### **LOTUS BLOSSOM**

*(writer)*

Drama about wartime evacuees and Chinese foot-binding. Independent Radio Drama Productions for LBC Radio.

\*WINNER GLA/LBC radio playwrights award.

UK drama entry for the Prix Italia Awards.