

KAREN LAM

Writer/Director Biography

Karen has worked in the Canadian film and television industry since 1996.

Karen received her Bachelor of Arts from Brandon University in Manitoba. She graduated with an Honours Degree in English literature (Silver Medal 1991), focusing on 20th century American and Canadian literature. She also completed a double minor in History and Religion (comparative religious studies).

Over the years, Karen has received extensive training in a range of artistic disciplines. Starting at the early age of four, Karen studied classical piano (Royal Conservatory of Canada) for over sixteen years, garnering awards for both performance and music theory. She played French Horn (First Chair) throughout high school in the Honours-level Wind Ensemble, as well as the Brandon Youth Orchestra. Karen continued her musical training at the university level, in performance (piano) and music history.

With an avid interest in fashion design and textiles, Karen has been designing and sewing fashion garments for over seventeen years. She studied Fashion Illustration at the Academy of Fashion and Merchandising in Toronto, Ontario before enjoying a brief stint in the Fashion Design degree program at Ryerson Polytechnical University. To date, Karen continues to design and construct garments, including bridal and formal wear.

Karen is also a self-taught visual artist who works in various mediums, including charcoal, acrylic, oil, watercolour and pastel. Her paintings are pop surrealist in style, with a strong emphasis on figurative work and portraiture. She has sold paintings to both private and corporate clients on a commission basis.

In the fall of 1992, Karen entered Law School at the University of British Columbia. While at law school, Karen developed an interest in the film and television industry. After being called to the Bar of British Columbia, she was able to secure a position at British Columbia Film in her efforts to learn more about the entertainment industry. There Karen worked as in-house legal counsel, program administrator, and revenue collector. In 1998-9, she assisted in drafting tax credit legislation in British Columbia and administered the tax credit program on behalf of the provincial government.

While working at British Columbia Film, Karen produced a number of short films for local filmmakers. All the films were financed with the generous support from arts funding organizations such as the Canada Council for the Arts, the B.C. Arts Council, Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society, and the National Film Board. Karen discovered that she enjoyed the collaborative process of filmmaking, and began to develop her skills as a business and financial advisor in order to produce films for independent filmmakers.

Karen joined PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in their entertainment and media group as a film and television industry advisor. She worked as a legal and business advisor on varied productions such as the feature documentary “The Corporation” (2003) and the feature film “The Burial Society” (2002). In the fall of 2000, Karen became a full-time producer, and has since received producer credits on two feature films, two short films, and three television series. She has also developed many projects with both broadcaster and distributor support, including documentaries, feature films, and television series.

In late 2005, Karen wrote her first short film script entitled “The Cabinet.” It was selected for the National Screen Institute – Drama Prize in 2006 and premiered at the 2007 FilmExchange Film Festival in Winnipeg. To date, the film has been invited to the Bradford Horror Film Festival in June 2007 and has received an Honourable Mention at the Accolades Film Competition in Los Angeles. It was also selected for competition in the horror category at Comic Con 2007 in San Diego.

Being selected for the Drama Prize sparked Karen’s interest in writing and directing her own projects. Since the spring of 2006, she has written three feature length screenplays, and a number of short film scripts. She has received distribution interest both nationally and internationally on her most recent feature script, “Stained,” and hopes to direct the film in the spring of 2009.

She also wrote a comedic television series pilot and series bible. “Bruised Fruit” is one of seven television projects selected for development in the National Screen Institute’s *Totally Television* program in 2007.

Karen was accepted into the competitive Women in the Director’s Chair program which she will attend in early 2009.

