



Pauline Findlay – Storyteller

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Profile

I have a unique combination of **creative** and **financial skills** which differentiate me from my peers. I worked in investment banking for nine years in London, before returning to Australia to pursue my passion in the creative arts. I'm currently working as a filmmaker, teacher and author. I **learn new skills quickly**, possess a commercial mind, **strong team building skills** and an ability to work effectively in high-pressure environments. As the online environment rapidly moves towards visual storytelling through content creation, I believe my filmmaking and storytelling skills are highly valuable for companies that want an edge in the market.

Key Skills

Project management

I have **excellent planning** and organisational skills and am used to delivering in **high-pressure environments**. I qualified as a **Producer** from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (**AFTRS**) in 2008 and was offered a Scholarship in **Multiplatform Producing** in 2012 at Metro Screen.

- **Associate Producer:** Screen World for **SBS** (2009): managed the production of **two** (one hour) **documentaries** in the Philippines and Romania, including identifying locations, researching and sourcing talent, managing budgets, logistics and travel and dealing with customs in all countries. Production Managed the Romania Documentary when the budget constraints reduced the PM role to part-time
- **Production Coordinator:** Iris Pictures for **SBS** (2007/8): managed the production of **six** (one hour) **documentaries** over two years, across Australia. I was responsible for the day-to-day running of each project, which included managing call sheets daily, identifying locations, managing budgets, logistics and travel, keeping the talent engaged and securing location agreements and release forms
- **First Assistant Director:** **Music videos** for **Gyote** and **Athron** (2007): managing a team of 15 and scheduling and running critical timings for each day's shoot
- **Project Analyst:** Equities & Derivatives, JP Morgan, London (Sept 2000 to Feb 2002): liaised with front and middle office and IT technicians to develop a new global accounting system to streamline the business; trained hundreds of users in London and Tokyo to achieve a successful roll-out
- **Project Analyst:** Fixed Income, Merrill Lynch, London (Jan 1998 to Aug 1999): set up a new business area over an 18 month period; reviewed strategic approach and saved company US\$10 million annually

Content creation (filmmaker)

I am an **experienced writer and filmmaker**. I can **create** and **produce scripts** and **video content** from scratch and **develop transmedia/multiplatform strategies** with narrative extensions across multiple channels.

- **Filmmaker:** Screenwriting, directing and producing **six short films** (2006 – 2016). My film, 'Blue Mist' (2016), was chosen out of **6,000 shorts** to screen as **one of 24** in the **Official International shorts section** at the Academy-accredited film festival, **Short Shorts in Tokyo**. I was nominated by the Australian Writer's Guild for the **Monte Miller Award**: 2011 for another of my scripts, 'Liv'.

- **Writer/Director/Producer:** Worked with **NAL (National Acoustic Laboratories)** and **Australian Hearing** to create a **volunteer recruitment drive film**. The brief was to incorporate past volunteers and hearing specialists at NAL to show the work NAL does and explain its rich history. The film has been hugely successful in engaging new volunteers and is used at state and international conferences to showcase NAL's work. This was NAL's first step towards video content. (2018)
- **Author:** Can You Feel It? (2017/18) I wrote a Young Adult novel, adapted from my feature film script 'Lola'. Published on Kindle: <https://amzn.to/2NvcWjp> in 2017 and in paperback in March 2018. I created a book trailer to give a feel for the tone of the book: <http://bit.ly/2E4N3Rs> and have developed other marketing content for Facebook and Instagram, as well as short videos / stories of deaf young women to reach my core teenage audience.
- **Transmedia Producer / Filmmaker:** Created a strategy for the **Australian Catholic University** to raise visibility, internally and externally, for their indigenous programs. The main aim was to increase student enrollment and encourage Indigenous and outback communities to enrol in ACU midwifery and other courses. (2013)
- **Transmedia Producer:** Created a Transmedia Strategy for LOLA – a feature film about a deaf teenage violinist set in the world of punk rock. The strategy aimed to bring together the deaf and hearing communities, creating an audience prior to developing the feature film. Produced a **Transmedia Bible** which outlined the channels / platforms to engage the teenage audience. Main Platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Wattpad & Pinterest. (2012-2015)
- **Filmmaker:** Creating and shooting a behind the scenes documentary for the **Mitsubishi Super-Short** series for **Tropfest** (2007). This was Tropfest's first year exploring online content outside the festival entries.
- **Writer:** I've written two full length plays (2006 – 2012) and three feature film scripts (2008 – 2016). Nominated by the Australian Writer's Guild for the **Monte Miller Award** in 2012 for my script 'Lola'.
- **Writer/Producer/Director:** Writing, directing and producing a play in London, 'Girls Talk' (2002), which played at three theatres: Soho Theatre West End, Man in the Moon Chelsea, The Space Canary Wharf.

Learning and Development

I have created and delivered **storytelling** and **filmmaking** courses for **primary** and **high school students** throughout Australia. This age group expect a **dynamic teaching style** and results. I've also run courses in **adult learning** for **storytelling** and **transmedia** with well-respected **conference** curators.

- **Creator / Teacher:** Created and rolled out **filmmaking workshops** to **deaf** and hard of hearing teenagers through my collaboration with **Hear for You**, across several states around Australia. The course was designed to **empower teenagers to share their stories** and the challenges of living with a **hearing loss**. The films are then entered into the Hear For You Film Festival, the first Deaf Film Festival in Sydney. (2016 - 2019)
- **Filmmaking Teacher:** Mentored and taught high school students struggling with **mental health challenges**, at **Centennial Park School** in Randwick. These students enter Centennial from mainstream schools looking for tools to understand how to manage their mental health. Through the **power of storytelling** and film, I helped them to **better understand** and articulate their **mental** challenges. Their films were then screened at the **REELise Film Festival**. Through REELise their stories reached a wider audience to educate others about mental health. (2013 – 2017)
- **Creator / Facilitator:** Opened **Ark Group's Content Creation Day** in **Sydney** and **Melbourne** on 'Storytelling for content'. Over three hours I introduced the principles of storytelling and the exciting potential of liquid storytelling through **Transmedia**. The course was interactive, allowing everyone to create a story that they could use for their company or brand. Participants left feeling empowered that they could create exciting new content. (2015)
- **Storytelling Teacher:** Worked with selected **primary schools** in Sydney to bring **storytelling** and **filmmaking** to students in new and exciting ways. The courses were run over 8 weeks adding value to the **Creative Arts K6** curriculum. Students were introduced to **pocket filmmaking** through iPhones and iPads. (2012 – 2013)

Producing & Marketing

I have produced and promoted my own book and films. I've also worked as a post-production coordinator to help market a feature film to distributors internationally.

- **Author:** Can You Feel It? Series (2017/19): **marketing** a YA novel to its **teenage audience** through Facebook, Instagram and Amazon, via book signings and directly through my teenage network. I'm currently creating a **web-series** and **podcast** for the teenage community.
- **Producer/Writer:** Raise awareness through film about **hearing loss** for NAL (National Acoustic Laboratories) and Australian Hearing. This **short film** was used to create a **volunteer recruitment** drive. (2018)
- **Producer/Director/Writer:** Short Film: 'Blue Mist' (2015/6): ran a successful **Kickstarter campaign** to raise \$12,000 for the film's post-production budget.
- **Producer:** Short Film: **Raw Nerve Screen Australia Funded** 'The Passenger' screened on **ABC2** (2014): produced a two night shoot with a cast and crew of 18 on a budget of \$3,500
- **Post-Production Coordinator:** Second Nature Films 'Yogawoman' (2010): created marketing collateral to attract **US distributors** for 'Yogawoman', a **feature length documentary**
- **Co-Producer/Director/Writer:** Short Film 'Liv' (2009): used Facebook and other direct marketing to raise cash and in-kind contributions to the value of AU\$80,000 to support the production of my short film, Liv. Liv achieved Official Selection at **Palm Springs ShortFest 2012 & Flickerfest** International Film Festival 2013 and standing ovations at Youth Conferences around the country.
- **Producer/Director/Writer:** Reality Survivor (2009): promoted my film, Reality Survivor, to Australian and international film festivals – **won best film**, Forster Film Festival; official selection Stratford upon Avon, UK; Heart of Gold, Gympie; Melbourne Underground Film Festival and several others
- **Producer/Writer:** Girls Talk (2002): secured three **London** theatre venues, including **Soho Theatre** in the **West End**, for my first play, Girl's Talk, and marketed it to Greater London audiences for a three week run

Financial management

I have a great head for figures and have managed and **reconciled budgets** for small businesses, through to Latin American-based mutual funds to the value of **\$US3 billion**. My financial management experience includes:

- **Portfolio Administrator:** Emerging Markets Team for Schroders Investment Bank, London (Feb 1994 to Apr 1996) responsible for daily pricing and balancing of 12 different funds, to total value of \$US 3 billion
- **Financial Accounting Manager:** Equity Derivatives Team, JP Morgan, London (April 1996 to Dec 1998): monitoring risk management exposure, booking and pricing trades daily and monthly reconciliation to general ledger
- **Trader Support:** Merrill Lynch, London (Aug 1999 to Aug 2000), managing external clients with portfolios in excess of \$US 10 million
- **Producer:** Raised equivalent of **\$AU80,000** for production of my short film, Liv (2009) **via social media** Facebook campaign and **\$AU12,000** for post-production funds for another short film, Blue Mist, through a successful **Kickstarter** campaign <https://kck.st/2IIQz90>

Team building & people management

I have recruited teams to support new business areas under my responsibility and as a **director/producer** have recruited and **run teams** of up to **60 people** under very tight timelines.

- **Director/Co-Producer/Writer:** 'Liv', Sydney (2010/11): I recruited, auditioned, directed and managed a **cast / crew** of **60** over a five day shoot and 12 locations in temperatures exceeding 40 degrees. All shots were captured in the set time schedule. <http://bit.ly/2jUpW0h>

- **Producer/ Director/Writer:** 'Reality Survivor', Sydney (2009), I recruited, auditioned, directed and managed a **cast / crew of 40** over a two day shoot across four locations, achieving all shots in the required time.
- **Producer & Writer:** 'Girl's Talk', London (2002): I produced a cast / crew of eight for a three week run at three **theatre venues** across **London**
- **Producer/ Director/ Writer:** Short Film: 'Blue Mist' (2015): I ran a successful **Kickstarter campaign** to raise \$12,000 for post-production budget and managed a team of 14. <http://bit.ly/2KIM3rO>
- **Producer:** Short Film: **Raw Nerve Screen Australia Funded** 'The Passenger' screened on **ABC2** (2014): I produced a two night shoot with a cast and crew of 18 on a budget of \$3,500
- **Project Analyst:** Fixed Income, Merrill Lynch, London (Jan 1998 to Aug 1999): I set up a new 'interest claim' business area, recruited and managed a team of three to create new systems and **saved** the business **US\$10 million** a year
- **Project Analyst:** Equities & Derivatives, JP Morgan, London (Sept 2000 to Feb 2002): liaised with front and middle office and IT technicians to develop a new global accounting system to **streamline** the business; **trained hundreds of users** in London and Tokyo to achieve a successful roll-out
- **Mentor / Committee Member:** REELise Film Festival 2013, 2014 & 2015 and **Board Member** 2017. A film festival **for 12-18 year olds** using their mobile phones to **raise awareness** for **cyber bullying**. Young filmmakers that I mentored **won the Spirit of REELise Film Festival award** in **2014, 2015 & 2016**.
- **Mentor/ Filmmaker/Film Festival creator:** Created and ran end-to-end filmmaking workshops across three States for **deaf teenagers** for the '**Hear for You**' charity. Held over two weekends, the workshops covered all elements of filmmaking, enabling the teenagers to make personal films to screen at the '**Hear for You**' **Deaf Film Festival** held in conjunction with the Golden Age Cinema in Sydney. (2016-2019)
- **Mentor/Filmmaker/Teacher:** Worked with **Centennial Park School** in Randwick to create **personalised films** on the challenges of being a teenager **living with mental health problems** for the REELise Film Festival. (2013-2017).

Education & Training

2012	Metro Screen - Advanced Diploma Multiplatform Screen Producing - Scholarship
2008	Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) Screen Drama – Producing & Screenwriting AFTRS - Directing - Visualising Story & Exploring Performance
2006	Metro Screen – Certificate IV in Screen & Media University of Sydney - Short Film Directing
1998-2000	The Academy Drama School London – Diploma in Dramatic Arts

Professional Associations

Australian Writers' Guild Member

Nominations & Competitions

2013 – Semifinalist – Final Draft Big Break (Lola) - USA
 2012 - Quarterfinalist – Nicholl Fellowships (Lola) - The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
 AWGIE 2012 – Nominated Monte Miller Long Form – Lola (Australian Writers' Guild)
 AWGIE 2011 – Nominated Monte Miller Short Form – Liv (Australian Writers' Guild)

Skills

Wordpress, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Lightroom, Canon 7D shooter, Photography, Teenage Mentor.

Other Passions

I'm passionate about education and access for teenagers from all backgrounds. I enjoy working with teenagers to educate, empower and develop the next generation of filmmakers and storytellers.

I love yoga, walking in the bush and swimming in the ocean for my mind and body fitness.

For more details, please refer to my LinkedIn Profile <http://au.linkedin.com/in/paulinefindlay>