

# Artistic Portfolio



Presented by: Sophia Dawson



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# About Me

## SOPHIA DAWSON

CREATIVE ARTIST. PHOTOGRAPHER. FILMMAKER

I am a passionate filmmaker and photographer dedicated to crafting unique and authentic stories that resonate with audiences. My work spans behind-the-scenes content, short films, and narrative storytelling, where I focus on capturing genuine moments and translating them into compelling visual experiences.

With a deep appreciation for the creative process, I thrive in dynamic environments, whether documenting the energy of a set, directing a project, or curating visuals that bring a story to life. My goal is to create work that not only inspires but also connects on a human level, blending artistry with technical precision.



# Objectives

## Create Meaningful Visual Narratives

My goal is to craft stories that resonate with audiences by blending authentic emotions and innovative visuals. Through film and photography, I aim to connect people to narratives that inspire, provoke thought, and leave lasting impressions.

## Elevate Collaborative Creative Projects

I strive to work with passionate teams to bring unique creative visions to life. By contributing my expertise in behind-the-scenes content, short films, and storytelling, I aim to enhance the creative process while maintaining high standards of quality and artistry.





### *Production Management and Coordination*

Highly skilled in managing complex workflows, I thrive in fast-paced production environments. From pre-production planning to on-set coordination, I handle scheduling, logistics, and team collaboration with efficiency and precision. My experience in assisting directors and producers has equipped me to oversee multifaceted projects while ensuring smooth execution and adherence to creative goals. This ability to balance organizational expertise with creative input makes me an asset to any production.



### *Storytelling and Narrative Development*

With a deep passion for storytelling, I excel at conceptualizing and developing narratives that resonate with audiences. Whether through photography or filmmaking, I craft compelling visual stories by understanding character arcs, thematic depth, and emotional impact. My experience spans short films, BTS content, and branded projects, where I merge creativity with a strategic approach to ensure the story aligns with the intended message or purpose.



### *Technical Proficiency and Visual Design*

Proficient in industry-standard tools and camera systems, I bring technical expertise to every project. I am experienced with cameras such as the Sony a7 III and Canon EOS R5, and software including Adobe Premiere Pro, Lightroom, and After Effects. My strong eye for composition, lighting, and visual design allows me to produce high-quality content, whether directing a photoshoot, editing BTS footage, or executing a narrative film. This combination of artistry and technical skill ensures every project meets its full creative potential.

# *Educational Attainment*

## *The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, NYC*

ASSOCIATE OF OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES  
IN ACTING AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Gained comprehensive training in acting, voice, movement, and script analysis, focusing on character development and authentic storytelling. Developed creative skills through collaborative performances, workshops, and showcases, honing a professional approach to the craft.

## *UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television (TFI)*

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN ACTING,  
DIRECTING AND FILMMAKING

Expanded expertise in acting and directing while acquiring technical skills in filmmaking and industry knowledge in entertainment business practices. Explored storytelling from multiple perspectives, blending artistic vision with practical applications to produce well-rounded, professional-grade projects.





*Film Production Associate -  
Cypress Films*

Collaborated in managing behind-the-scenes operations for various film productions, ensuring smooth workflows and coordinating diverse elements to maintain high visual and technical standards. Leveraged a keen eye for detail and multitasking abilities to oversee schedules, logistics, and set preparations. Captured and edited behind-the-scenes (BTS) photography, contributing to the creative vision and visual storytelling of each project.



*Assistant Director &  
Photographer - Independent  
Projects*

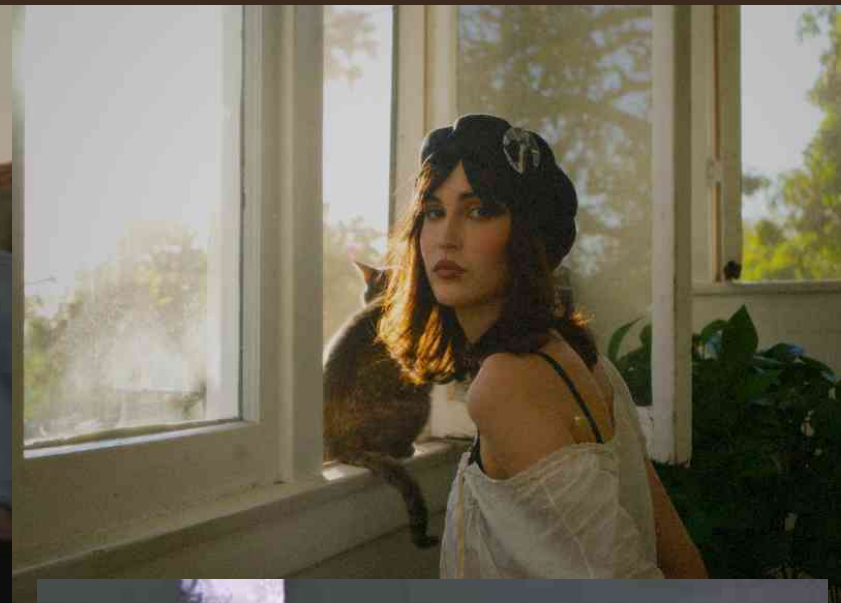
Supported the creative vision of directors and producers on stage and screen productions, including a modern adaptation of The Seagull. Coordinated rehearsals, assisted actors in character development, and managed logistical elements to optimize production quality. Independently directed photoshoots and created compelling visual narratives by designing lookbooks, managing on-set operations, and ensuring alignment with artistic goals.



*Creative Producer &  
Photographer - WayOutInc*

Played an integral role in executing high-profile multimedia projects, including music videos, commercials, live performances, and social media campaigns. Collaborated with leading brands and artists to develop innovative visual content, contributing to over 550 million organic views. Directed photoshoots, managed lighting and composition, and designed creative decks and lookbooks to define and enhance the artistic direction of each project.







**MACBETH**

**Look 7: ENTANGLED IN DESIRE**

**Frame:** Dynamic shot capturing movement and interaction between the characters, either in lines or a circle, with a focus on the scenery on the primary prop.

**Placement:**

- **Formation:** The four characters sit on a low or chair, creating tension as they through their positions.
- **Focus:** Each character holds their own heart and the heart of the person next to them, creating a web of connection and desire.

**Character & Props:**

- **Character:** Dynamic. The scene is a cinematic moment of power and play, used to push, pull, or create eye direction. Each character enters, exits, or interacts, conveying dominance and submitting to the pull of others.
- **Character:** Dynamic.

**COSTUME**

**NIKA:** A soft, flowing white dress with delicate ruffles, ethereal and minimal, featuring sheer or lace details that enhance appearance.

**ARKADINA:** A structured white ensemble, possibly a tailored dress or blouse, with dramatic, refined details like lace or brocade.

**TRIGORIN & TREPLEY:** A loose fitting white shirt or jacket, embodying his youthful rebellion and emotional turmoil, with a textured or layered look.

**TRIGORIN:** A fitted white shirt or suit, exuding a composed and detached aura, his attire sleek and unadorned.

**Look 1: FAMILY PORTRAIT**

**Frame:** Mid-shot (MS) capturing all four characters in a balanced composition.

**Placement:**

- **Nika & Trepley:** Seated in two chairs, positioned side by side.
- **Trigorin:** Standing behind Nika, slightly angled to create depth.
- **Arkadina:** Standing behind Trepley, leaning subtly into Trigorin, completing the frame.

**Character & Props:**

- **Trigorin:** Seated in a chair, looking towards the camera with a neutral expression.
- **Nika:** Seated in a chair, looking towards the camera with a neutral expression.
- **Arkadina:** Standing behind Trepley, looking towards the camera with a neutral expression.
- **Trepley:** Standing behind Nika, looking towards the camera with a neutral expression.

**Look 3: ABBEY ROAD**

**Frame:** Wide shot capturing the four characters in linear motion, maintaining alignment while exploring shifts in connection.

**Placement:**

- **Order:** Arkadina leads, followed by Trigorin, Nika, and Trepley.
- **Formation:** Characters stand in a loose line, creating a sense of connection and tension.

**Character & Props:**

- **Character:** Dynamic. A chain of trust or control, with Arkadina leading confidently, Trigorin following hesitantly, Nika hesitantly, and Trepley reluctantly at the end.
- **Separation Moment:** Characters break their line as they pull apart, symbolizing fragile connections and individuality.
- **Trigorin:** Seated in a chair, looking towards the camera with a neutral expression.

**THE TONE**

The tone of this story is introspective, haunting, and contemplative. It delves into deep emotional territories, exploring the intricacies of the human psyche, inviting the audience to reflect on their own inner complexities and the masks they might hide behind.

Waking Life (2001) meets The Night of the Hunter (1955)

**DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

I aim to delve into the abstract nature of the mind's perception and the dichotomy between the Ego and Shadow within a theatrical noir ambience. I'm fascinated by the division between one's spirit and the Shadow—a haunting aspect of the mind that impedes progress, thriving on fear, guilt, and shame. This force of mindfulness can be paralyzing, manipulating our actions and holding us back.

I aim to symbolize control, questioning whether external forces

**LogLine**

Inspired by true events, Sophia Taylor and her grandfather Steven, two artistic innovators, immerse themselves in the 'silent film era' to discover the truth of their forefather, Stanner E.V Taylor, who wrote the first film that was ever shot in Hollywood. But when Steven loses the ability to communicate, Sophia finds that life imitates art in ways she never imagined.

**THEMES**

- **Inner Turmoil and Healing:** Characters seek emotional healing, confronting deep wounds through encounters with the Shadow Artist's symbolic representations.
- **Confronting Shadows:** Exploring hidden aspects of the self, characters grapple with inner shadows and the

**LOOK THREE: POLISHED FAULTLINES**

**VISION**

a striking departure from the naturalistic softness of the previous looks. It is a bold, polished, and meticulously composed homage to the timeless sophistication of high-fashion editorials, infused with the dramatic undercurrents of The Seagull's emotional complexity. Drawing inspiration from iconic Vanity Fair covers, this setup transforms the cast into a tableau of elegance, power, and vulnerability, their relationships revealed through the sharp contrasts of formal attire and the charged energy between them. This is the kind of image meant to captivate—destined for a magazine cover or billboard that commands attention.

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**SILENT CINEMA FESTIVAL**

05 MAY 2024  
5:30PM—MIDNIGHT

6712 HOLLYWOOD BLVD LOS ANGELES CA 90028

FEATURING  
DOMINICK FAIRBANKS

**ATMOSPHERE**

**LIGHTING:** The golden light of the setting sun reflects off their wet skin, creating halos of warmth that soften their sharp edges. The ocean mirrors their movements, capturing the ripples of water and emotion alike. As the sun sinks lower, the transition to cooler tones reflects a shift to vulnerability, the wetness becoming a darker, more dramatic element under the twilight sky.

**MOTIVE:** Encourage the cast to immerse themselves in their characters' most vulnerable states. The water is both cleansing and revealing, and their poses and expressions should convey the raw honesty of being seen without barriers.

- Arkadina might exude a sense of authority slipping away, holding onto grace despite the ocean's relentless pull.
- Trigorin could appear caught between worlds—drawn to the ocean but tethered to the land.
- Nina reflects transformation, her wet attire clinging like a second skin, symbolizing growth through struggle.
- Trepley channels deep introspection, the wet look heightening his emotional rawness.

**CHARACTER MOMENTS**

- **Arkadina:** Regal yet disarmed, she stands in the shallow water, waves lapping at her legs. Her soaked gown flows around her like a second skin, every movement revealing the weight of her position.



# VACANCY FILMS

## Fearless Filmmaking, Powered by Creatively Driven Women

Vacancy Films is a woman-owned production company co-founded by me and my creative partner, born out of a shared vision to craft bold, authentic, and thought-provoking storytelling. Our mission is to create raw and compelling narratives that resonate with audiences by tapping into universal truths and underrepresented perspectives.

At Vacancy Films, we collaborate with a versatile team of artistic creatives, each bringing unique talents and perspectives to the table. Together, we specialize in producing a wide range of visual content, including short films, feature films, photography, and innovative campaigns. We pride ourselves on cultivating an environment where creativity thrives, enabling us to tackle projects that push boundaries and challenge conventional storytelling norms.

From conceptualization to execution, we are committed to ensuring each project embodies our core values of authenticity, artistic excellence, and inclusivity. Whether we're capturing the intimate moments of a narrative film, crafting visually arresting photography, or producing campaigns with a strong message, Vacancy Films is dedicated to elevating the voices and stories that need to be told.

By focusing on collaboration, innovation, and a relentless passion for storytelling, Vacancy Films aims to make a lasting impact in the creative industry while empowering others to share their unique perspectives with the world.

CONTACT

CREATIVE VISUAL STORYTELLER

# *Contact*

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

*Thank You!*

*Here's to Creating Stories that Enlighten  
Artistic Bliss*

Feel Free to Reach Out!