

CURRICULUM VITAE

STEVE BALDERSON



Film & TV Director · Best-selling Author · Mentor

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BIO

Roger Ebert gave Steve's film FIRECRACKER, starring Karen Black and Mike Patton, a Special Jury Award on his annual Best Films of the Year list. The U.S. Library of Congress selected his film THE CASSEROLE CLUB, starring Kevin Richardson of the Backstreet Boys, for its permanent collection. Steve ranks #47 on the IMDb's Top 100 Gay and Lesbian director's working today.

Film Threat magazine praises, "Balderson makes movies that are so gorgeous that it's not unreasonable to say that, cinematographically at least; he's the equal of an Argento or Kubrick in their prime. Some people have perfect vocal pitch, Steve has perfect visual composition."

Steve's book, "Filmmaking Confidential," debuted as an Amazon and Audible best-seller. He is a contributor to The Advocate and MovieMaker magazines and shares his extensive filmmaking knowledge as a guest lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

FEATURE FILMS ALL AS DIRECTOR

2026 BRAINSTARE

PSYCH/SCI-FI THRILLER

World's First "Live-Action" Feature Film Generated Entirely by A.I.

2025 SEX LOVE VENICE

GAY LOVE STORY

Daniel Bateman, Alexander Ananasso, Mink Stole

Theatrical Release; Now streaming worldwide

2024 BLOODY FAMOUS

MINI-SERIES

The no.1 hit Reality TV show on Tubi (April 2024)

2023 ALCHEMY OF THE SPIRIT

GOTHIC SUPERNATURAL LOVE STORY

Xander Berkeley, Sarah Clarke, Mink Stole

Winner of 20+ awards including Best Director, Best Feature Film, Best Cinematography, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Screenplay.

2018 **SHORT STRAW**

DRAMA

Elaine Hendrix, Joe Pantoliano, Rockmond Dunbar, Sarah Clarke, Naomi Grossman, Rick Ravanello

2016 **EL GANZO**

DRAMA · FILMED IN MEXICO

Susan Traylor, Anslem Richardson

Winner Best Feature Film, Salento International Film Festival, Italy

Theatrical release September 2016

2016 **ELVIS LIVES!**

MOW/DRAMA

Produced by Mark Cuban AXS TV

2015 **HELL TOWN**

HORROR MELODRAMA

Cable/Satellite release August 2016 (Debut #14 on Google Play, Top 100 iTunes)

Colorado Horror Con Winner Best Feature Film

2014 **OCCUPYING ED**

ROMANTIC COMEDY

Premiere Raindance Film Festival

Opening Film, Perlen Hannover Germany

2014 **THE FAR FLUNG STAR**

ADVENTURE COMEDY

Filmed in Hong Kong

2013 **CULTURE SHOCK**

ACTION COMEDY

Filmed in London, England; Paris, France

2011 **THE CASSEROLE CLUB**

PERIOD DRAMA

Kevin Richardson, Susan Traylor, Daniela Sea, Pleasant Gehman, Jane Wiedlin

U.S. Library of Congress Permanent Collection

Won 7 Independent Vision Awards including: Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Picture, Best Director

Steve Balderson

2010 **STUCK!**

STYLIZED DRAMA

Karen Black, Mink Stole, Jane Wiedlin, Susan Traylor

Lifetime Achievement Award Mink Stole, Boston Underground Film Festival

Icon Magazine's TOP 10 Films

2009

WATCH OUT

SATIRE HORROR

Matt Riddlehoover, Peter Stickles, Jillian Lauren

Best International Feature Raindance Film Festival (nominated)

2005

FIRECRACKER

SURREALIST CRIME DRAMA

Karen Black, Mike Patton, Susan Traylor, Kathleen Wilhoite, Jane Wiedlin

Roger Ebert's Best Films of 2005

Best Picture (various fests) · Best Actress Karen Black (various fests) · Best Cinematography (various fests)

1998

PEPSQUAD

BLACK COMEDY SATIRE

Brooke Balderson, Amy Kelly · Sound Design by Paul N. J. Ottosson

Premiere Cannes Film Festival Marché du Film

Best International Feature Fantasporto (nominated) · Best Supporting Actress Brooke Balderson (various fests) · Best Screenplay Steve Balderson (various)

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

2008

UNDERBELLY

YEAR IN THE LIFE OF PRINCESS FARHANA

Pleasant Gehman, Margaret Cho

2009

PHONE SEX

STARS ANSWER THE QUESTION, "WHAT IS SEXY?"

Margaret Cho, Ron Jeremy, Penn & Teller, Earl McGrath, Tura Satana, Pleasant Gehman, Karen Black, Edie McClurg, Josie Cotton, Chi Chi La Rue, and more

**2004–
2009**

WAMEGO: TRILOGY

HOW TO BE A MAVERICK FILMMAKER

Karen Black, Clark Balderson, Debbie Harry, and the casts/crews of Firecracker and Watch Out
Best Documentary Feature (various fests)

MEDIA BLURBS

“Steve Balderson’s brilliant.” **ROGER EBERT**

“(Balderson) makes movies that are so gorgeous that it’s not unreasonable to say that, cinematographically at least; he’s the equal of an Argento or Kubrick in their prime. Some people have perfect vocal pitch, Steve has perfect visual composition.” **FILM THREAT**

“Balderson is the cornbread-fed lovechild of David Lynch and Gus Van Sant” **MONTREAL MIRROR**

“Steve Balderson knows how to weave visuals and sound together like a master chef.” **BANG NOIR BLOG**

“Steve Balderson’s approach to his work is not just a breath of fresh air – it is a gale-force wind.” **OREGON DAILY EMERALD**

“Steve Balderson is the best-kept secret in American independent cinema. He makes his own films – which are unfailingly brilliant – and the rest of the world very, very gradually catches up with him...” **MJ SIMPSON, UK FILM CRITIC**

TESTIMONIALS

“Steve Balderson is one of the greats!”

KAREN BLACK OSCAR NOMINEE, GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER

“Working with Steve Balderson was a blast. His artistic drive and work ethic are second to none. He creates a family atmosphere free from egos where all the artists can be free and thrive. When it was all over and we wrapped, I felt like summer camp had just ended.”

KEVIN RICHARDSON SINGER, THE BACKSTREET BOYS

“Steve Balderson is the last true indie filmmaker. His process is fast and furious and always a thrill. Working with his cast and crew, I experienced a sense of community that remained intact long after the film was in the can. Working with

Steve is a true artistic collaboration and an unforgettable adventure.”

JILLIAN LAUREN NY TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF SOME GIRLS

“Working with Steve has always been a pleasure, because he does so much advance prep, that by the time you show up for the shoot, he already knows exactly what each shot is going to be and what it will look like. Thus, instead of working at the soul-numbingly slow pace of a “normal” film, everything goes really quickly, and scenes are not shot over and over from every conceivable angle and distance. It keeps things fresh, fun, and inspired.”

JANE WIEDLIN ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME, THE GO-GO'S

PUBLISHING

Accessing Creativity // Author // Dikenga Books 2024

How to Find Investors // Author // Dikenga Books 2022

Phone Sex // Author // Dikenga Books 2022

Filmmaking Confidential // Author // Dikenga Books 2020

Simple Times // Publisher // Dikenga Books 2002

INSTRUCTION

Guest Lecture // UCLA // 2022

Guest Lecture // The University of California, Davis // 2020

DIY Filmmaking seminar // Hong Kong University // Hong Kong, 2012

Maverick Filmmaking Intensive // Workshop at Raindance 2013 // London, England

Maverick Filmmaking Intensive // Workshop // Kansas City, MO

Maverick Filmmaking // Extended Curriculum // ongoing

SPECIAL HONORARY SCREENINGS

The American Cinematheque // Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood // THE CASSEROLE CLUB

The American Cinematheque // Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood // STUCK!

EXHIBITIONS

LACDA // Los Angeles, CA // “No despierten a la cabra” video installation // Group // 2019

LACDA // Los Angeles, CA // PHONE SEX video installation // Group // 2018

Retropia Gallery // Los Angeles, CA // PHONE SEX video installation // Solo // 2009

EDUCATION & TRAINING

CalArts // California Institute of the Arts // Mentors: Eric Sherman, Hartmut Bitomsky
Core Transformation & Aligning Perceptual Positions // Tamara Andreas
The Wholeness Process // Connirae Andreas
Certified Master Practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP)

SPECIAL SKILLS

Voice Over actor, audiobook narrator
Extensive experience in writing, directing, producing and editing
Highly organized and prepared
Extremely diplomatic and calm when handling high-maintenance actors
Creating a camaraderie amongst cast and crew through a careful screening process
Art Direction & Production Design
Valid passport & Global Entry

SCREENWRITING & SCRIPT CONSULTING

THE MUSEUM GUARD // based on the novel by Howard Norman // PrairyNation Films
THE DEVIL & MRS. REYNOLDS // screenplay adaptation // Cerberus Films
ME // script repair // dirs. Jefery Levy, Susan Traylor

MUSIC VIDEOS (AS DIRECTOR)

Tori Sparks // HAPPY ON THE OUTSIDE // 2026
Jane Wiedlin // STOP, DROP & SWALLOW // 2018
Desi Valentine // ALTAR // 2019
Desi Valentine // ROCKED // 2019
Desi Valentine // O.D. // 2019

COMMERCIALS & INDUSTRIAL VIDEOS

Director // 502 Media Group, Producer // ZOMBIE MARTINI // 2013 * **Silver American Advertising Award**
Producing, directing and editing consultant // FlyMHK.com // American Airlines // 2011
Producing, directing and editing consultant // Manhattan Regional Airport // American Airlines // 2011
Producer, director, editor // Dymax Rail // 135 YEARS OF HISTORY // 2011
Producer, director, editor // Dymax Rail // BALLAST BLASTER // 2011
Producer, director, editor // Dymax Rail // RAIL RIDER // 2011
Producer, director, editor // Dymax Tree Shears // VARIOUS // 2009-2012
Producer, director, editor // Emerald City Market // VARIOUS TV SPOTS // 2006-2011
Producer, director, editor // Princess Farhana // VARIOUS INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS // ongoing
Animation illustrator // Teradata Corporation // CreepFactor for EcooloMedia // Good Focus, Producer // 2013

SELECT INTERVIEWS & MEDIA COVERAGE EXCLUDING REVIEWS

The Advocate // contributing writer // September 2016

MovieMaker Magazine // contributing writer // 2016

Behind The Lens with Debbie Lynn Elias // Episode #86 // September 2016

Voice of America NPR // interview // September 2016

Interview Magazine // interview // 2011

Curve Magazine // Feature on Stuck! // 2009

WOW TV // Ring My Bell with Steve Balderson & Mink Stole // 2009

Anthem Magazine // feature interview // No. 35 // 2008

Markee Magazine // Cover Story // September 2007

The New Yorker // article with Bjork & Mike Patton

Film Fever // 20Q with Steve Balderson // 2005

Offscreen Magazine // True Indie Spirit // 2005

Giant // Mike Patton Explodes in Firecracker // 2005

DROME Magazine // feature stories // 2004, 2005

Bizarre Magazine // Cover Story // August 2004

INDEX magazine // feature with Karen Black // March 2004

Showreel Magazine // article // Summer 2004

Filmmaker Magazine // interview // Spring 2001

Moviemaker Magazine // article // July 1999

Bikini Magazine // feature article // 1999

ABC World News // TV interview at Cannes Film Festival // May 1998

E! Entertainment // TV interview // Cannes Film Festival coverage // 1998

Hollywood Reporter // front page article // May 1998

Screen International // Cover Story // May 22, 1998

My Midwest // Midwest Airlines in-flight magazine // interview

Sweden Channel 5 // Series of TV interviews

Indiewire.com // editorial // July 1998

LA Weekly // interviews // various

Ain't It Cool News // interviews // various

Film Threat // interviews // various

FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS SELECTED, ALPHABETICAL

American Film Market (AFM)

Anchorage International Film Festival

Barcelona Queer Film Festival

Berlin International Film Festival

Boston Underground Film Festival

Cannes Film Festival

Chicago Underground Film Festival, Opening Film

Coney Island Film Festival

Fantasperto, Portugal

Fantasia, Canada

FilmOut San Diego

Great Plains Film Festival

International HOF Film Festival

Lund International Fantastik Film Festival, Sweden

Nevada City Film Festival

Miami Underground Film Festival

Outfest, Los Angeles

OYA Festivalen, Norway

PiFan, Korea

Queer Lisboa Film Festival

Raindance Film Festival, London

Ravenna Film Festival, Italy

Reel Affirmations, Washington DC

Reeling, Chicago

San Diego Film Festival

San Francisco Indiefest

Seattle International Film Festival

Seattle LGBT Film Festival

Sitges Film Festival

Skeive Filmer, Oslo

Stockholm International Film Festival

Tiburon International Film Festival

TLVFest, TelAviv

Visionfest Tribeca Cinemas

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