

ANGELO SALAMANCA – Biography

Italian-born, Angelo Salamanca's love of theatre, world cinema and filmmaking commenced during his time at Merri-bek (Moreland) High School. His foray into screenwriting and directing produced short film, 'Deadly Diane' (super 8) described by his class mates and teachers as the definitive "vampire western!"

Angelo has many years of experience in the film industry and the performing arts as scriptwriter, director and actor. He was a member of the Melbourne International Film Festival preselection panel for 11 years as well as judging shorts (live action and animation) for the Australian Film Institute (AACTA). He has also judged film and TV drama scripts (short and long form) for the Australian Writers Guild (AWG) over an eleven-year period ('INSITE'; 'WHAT HAPPENS NEXT'; 'PRIME TIME'; 'MONTE MILLER AWARD'; 'EMERGING WRITERS AWARD'.

Angelo began his professional career in the performing arts with Australian touring company, 'Triad Stage Alliance' (Edinburgh Fringe First Award 1978, 1979, 1981) performing in England, Scotland, Wales, Holland, Germany, Belgium and Italy.

In the mid-1980s he made his first foray into the film industry writing the feature screenplay *Closer and Closer Apart* praised by David Stratton in 'Variety'. In 1989 he established 'The Australian Cinema Ensemble' with a view to facilitating better dialogue between actors and film production personnel including principal crew. His belief is that actors and production personnel should be invited to collaborate more closely in the various phases of film making. Over the years Angelo has consulted with, and employed, a large array of personnel working in various film production disciplines.

In 1991, Angelo graduated with distinction from Swinburne Film and Television School (VCA Film and TV School) where his film, *Urban Myth* (writer/director), was distributed by the Australian Film Institute and received a Certificate of Merit from the Nimes Film Festival, France.

His short drama, *The Last Babushka Doll*, (Anne Lambert, Don Bridges, Chris Gabardi, Joanne Samuel, Tiriell Mora, Keiran King) has screened at the San Jose (US) International Short FF; St. Kilda International FF; Setting Sun FF; Yonkers FF (New York); Lorne Film and Byron Bay International FF where it was nominated for best short film.

More recently, Angelo has collaborated with Kurdish poet, Maryam Babaali, on short film *Broken Boat* produced by Georgina Luck and associate producer, Bill Mousoulis. *Broken Boat* has screened at Yonkers FF (New York); Setting Sun FF and Cultural Bridges Film & Dinner Night (City of Greater Geelong).

His first feature as writer/director was *Hostage to Fate*. A 35mm short film followed: *The Spider and the Fly* screened at a number of festivals including St Kilda International FF, and In The Realm of The Senses short film program.

A second feature film as director, the futuristic teen flick, *Zyco Rock* was produced in 2008 and screened at the Kent International Film Festival (Connecticut, USA); Seattle True Independent Film Festival, USA; Sled Island Festival Alberta, Canada; International Film Festival of Ireland.

Angelo's third feature, *Life on Earth: Severance* has screened at Lorne Film and the Austin (Texas) Indie Fest where it won the Best International Feature film award. His latest work in feature films was as co-writer on Australian comedy, *The BBQ*.

A more definitive biography of Angelo's work can be viewed at: www.angelosalamanca.com & <http://www.innersense.com.au/mif/salamanca.html>