

Kayla Lane Freeman

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Filmography

Director Credits

Xaria Does It!, Documentary Series (2026) - Producer/Director

- 6-episode documentary television series highlighting experts of Austin subcultures
- Currently in pre-production, in collaboration with presenting station Austin PBS

Plant Moms, Horror Comedy (8:03; 2025) - Writer/Director

- Official Selection, Fantastic Fest 2025 (World Premiere)
- Add'l Film Festivals: Queer Fear Film Festival 2026, Austin Horror Film Festival 2025, Ethereal Horror Festival 2025
- Add'l Screenings: GRRL HAUS Cinema @ Brattle Theater Cambridge, MA, "Community Shorts" at We Luv Video Austin, Hyperreal Film Club Austin

The NDE, Dark Comedy (8:11; 2023) - Writer/Director

- Official Selection: LA Dark Comedy Film Festival 2023, ATX Short Film Showcase 2023, Stockholm City Film Festival 2023, Lysistrata Comedy Festival 2023

Additional Credits

Script Supervisor - We Skip School, Drama (In Post; 2025) d. Ryan Darbonne

Producer/1st AD - Daylight, Music Video (3:32; 2025) d. Mona Maclay

Script Supervisor - Loretta, Romantic Drama (In Post; 2025) - d. Maryan Nagy Captan

Producer/Production Designer - Shhh... Thriller (7:08; 2024) d. Jordan Gracey

Production Assistant - Here To Make Friends (11:01; 2023) d. Meghan Ross

Filmmaking Awards & Recognition

Selected Fiscal Sponsorship Project, *Xaria Does It!* - Future Front Texas, January 2026

Selected Fiscal Sponsorship Project, *Xaria Does It!* - Austin Creative Alliance, January 2026

Winner "Most Original Short", *Plant Moms* - Ethereal Horror Festival, November 2025

Nominee "Best Comedy Short", *Plant Moms* - Austin Horror Film Festival, October 2025

Selected Artist, Artist Residency at *The Line Hotel* - Future Front Texas, August 2025

Film Production Grant Award, *Plant Moms* - Austin Film Society, December 2024

Film Production Grant Award, *Plant Moms* - Austin Film Society, December 2023

Nominee "Best Comedy of the Year", *The NDE* - ATX Short Film Showcase, August 2023

Nominee "Best Direction", "Best Production Design", "Audience Favorite", *Shhh...* - 48Hr Film Challenge, 2023

Education

Master of Social Work, Clinical Mental Health Focus - Loyola University Chicago, May 2021

- 3.9 GPA, graduated with honors, obtained clinical licensure upon graduation

Bachelor of Science, Radio-TV-Film & Bachelor of Arts, American Studies - University of Texas at Austin, May 2013

- 3.4 GPA, member of Senior Fellows Communication Honor Society

Screenwriting Fundamentals - January 2025-April 2025 - Sundance Collab

Directors' Intensive, Summer Education Series - July 2024 - Austin Film Society

Austin Public Production Training Program - June 2024-December 2024 - Austin Film Society

Script to Screen Filmmaking - August 2022-December 2022 - Austin Cinemaker Space

Playwriting - September-October 2017 - Chicago Dramatists

Writing and Performing Autobiography - Fall 2016 - The Neo-Futurist Theater

Improv, Clown & Sketch Comedy - 2013-2018 - iO Chicago, The Annoyance Theater, Second City

Professional Film & Video Experience

Executive Producer, MMKay Productions

January 2024 - Present

- Along with co-owner, Mona Maclay, serve as primary creative executives of this boutique production studio. We produce narrative and branded video for indie creators and small businesses

e-Learning Producer (contract), NAMI Chicago

January 2020 - August 2020

- Primary writer/content creator of proprietary online learning multimedia for this mental health org

Public Documenter/Writer (contract), City Bureau

February 2019 - September 2020

- Documented City of Chicago meetings, live reporting on events via Twitter for nonprofit newsroom

Event & Food Photographer (contract), Tasting Collective

January 2019 - March 2020

- Attended Chicago and Austin restaurant events, photographed kitchen, dishes and dining room

Media Assistant (PT), Ensemble Media

March 2018 - March 2020

- Worked alongside owner/principal creative of this small agency to support multimedia projects

Multimedia Content Producer (FT), NogginLabs

June 2016 - March 2018

- Worked as Line Producer and Content Writer to collaborate with corporate brands to create employee training media; oversaw script creation, development and on-set production

Post-Production Intern (contract), Kartemquin Educational Films

January 2015 - May 2015

- Credited as "Additional Crew" on *Minding the Gap* (d. Bing Liu), nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 91st Academy Awards

Professional Affiliations

Member, Austin Film Society - Since January 2026

Member, Women in Film & Television Austin - Since October 2025

Producer, Austin Public - Since December 2024

Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Supervisor Distinction, TX #105280 - Since May 2021

Selected Theater Credits

BAFFLING! (Performed January, February & May of 2025) - Writer, Performer

- A 25 minute solo clown performance exploring objectification and "unruly women"
- Selected as "Best of Fest" at Hyde Park Theatre's Frontera Fest 2025
- Official Selection Austin Sketch Fest, May 2025

Kyle Romero is Your Dad (January, June & October of 2025) - Writer, Director

- A 45 minute solo clown performance from Kyle Romero on the topic of male loneliness and identity
- Official Selection Denver Sketch Fest, October 2025

Fallout Theater, various shows - Performer (Since 2022)

- I appear regularly as a performer at Fallout Theater in improv, sketch and clown showcases

Hysteria, ColdTowne Theater - Director, Co-Producer (March 2022 - August 2024)

- Monthly variety show benefiting reproductive justice orgs; Official Selection Lysistrata Comedy Festival '24

Several Short Sketches About Sadness: The Comedy - Writer, Performer (October 2018)

- Solo comedy performance about mental illness; Official selection of NYC SoloCom 2018

All of Kate's Horses & All of Kate's Men - Writer, Director (July 2015)

- Comedic one-act play presented by The Annoyance Theater in Chicago, IL

Ankle Boots: Absurd Miniature Memoirs -Writer, Director, Performer (2014-2015)

- Co-created with Sara Richmond; Winner of "Artists' Choice: Best of Fest" in Chicago Fringe, 2014

Teaching

Guest Lecturer, "Dumb is Smart; Silly is Serious", University of Texas at Austin School of Design & Creative Technologies, Jan 2026

Comedy Writing & Clown Faculty, Fallout Comedy Theater, Since January 2025

Various Teaching Artist assignments in filmmaking and creative writing from 2013-2019. Non-profit organizations include: Open Books, Jane Addams Hull House, Creative Action, Unsilence, Evanston Public Library