

# MATĪSS KAŽA

## EMPLOYMENT

- **Lecturer in Film Directing/Screenwriting**, National Film School, Latvian Academy of Culture, Riga, Latvia, September 2020 - Present
- **Head of Film Production & Development**, Deep Sea Studios, Riga, Latvia, February 2015 – Present
- **Curator of Youth Film Education Programs**, Jest/Splendid Palace, Riga, Latvia, September 2015 - Present

## EDUCATION

- Latvian Academy of Culture, Riga, Latvia  
Master of Arts in Audiovisual and Performing Arts, expected June 2021  
Designated Emphasis in Interdisciplinary Theatre
- American Film Institute Conservatory, Los Angeles, CA  
Master of Fine Arts in Film Directing, not completed
- New York University, New York, NY  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film & Television, May 2018  
*Summa Cum Laude*, Dean's List (2014-2018)

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

- Sources2 Projects & Process, Script Doctor Program, Riga, Latvia (2020)
- The Barrow Group Theater, Directing, New York, NY (2016)
- Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting, Acting Techniques, Scene Study, Voice & Movement, New York, NY (2015)

## PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE

### Works-in-Progress:

- **Dramaturg & Director**, *The Gilgamesh Project*, produced by Latvian Academy of Culture, Riga, Latvia (TBR 2021)
- **Dramaturg & Director**, *The Taste of Water*, produced by Gertrudes ielas teatris, Riga, Latvia (TBR 2021)

### Completed:

- **Video Artist**, *Fun Violence by Davide Giovanzana*, Latvian Academy of Culture, Riga, Latvia (October 2020)

## PROFESSIONAL FILM EXPERIENCE

### Works-in-Progress:

- **Writer & Producer**, *Flow* (animation, 75', dir. Gints Zilbalodis), Dream Well Studios/Sacrebleu Productions, Latvia/France/Germany (TBR 2024)
- **Producer**, *Sisters* (family drama, 100', dir. Linda Olte), Deep Sea Studios/Fenixfilm/Albolina Film, Latvia/Italy (TBR 2022)
- **Director, Writer & Producer**, *Neon Spring* (youth drama, 90', dir. Matiss Kaza), Deep Sea Studios, Latvia (TBR 2021)
- **Director, Writer & Producer**, *Where the Road Leads* (western, 93', dir. Matiss Kaza), Deep Sea Studios, Latvia (TBR 2021)
- **Producer**, *The Girls of 1960* (documentary, 70', dir. Una Celma), Fenixfilm, Latvia (TBR 2021)

## Completed:

- **Producer**, *Imad's Childhood* (documentary, 60', dir. Zahavi Sanjavi), Fenixfilm/AVB Production, Latvia/Sweden (2021)
- **Director, Writer & Producer**, *At the Movies* (comedy, 87', dir. Matiss Kaza), Fenixfilm/Deep Sea Studios, Latvia (2020)
- **Director, Writer & Producer**, *When You Look at Me* (comedy, 18', dir. Matiss Kaza), Deep Sea Studios/Latvian Academy of Culture, Latvia (2020)
- **Director, Writer & Producer**, *The Wanderers* (documentary, 90', dir. Matiss Kaza), Fenixfilm/Deep Sea Studios, Latvia (2020)
- **Associate Producer**, *Nothing Can Stop Us Now* (drama, 100', dir. Andris Gauja), Riverbed, Latvia (2019)
- **Producer**, *Memories from Earth* (drama, 9', dir. Kirils Ecis), Deep Sea Studios, Latvia (2019)
- **Director, Writer & Producer**, *Meyerhold's Flight* (experimental, 18', dir. Matiss Kaza), Deep Sea Studios, Latvia (2018)
- **Producer**, *The Man and the Dahlias* (documentary, 38', dir. Guntis Bojars), Deep Sea Studios, Latvia (2018)
- **Producer**, *Zigfrids Anna Meierovics* (documentary, 48', dir. Talivaldis Margevics), Deep Sea Studios, Latvia (2018)
- **Director, Writer & Producer**, *One Ticket Please* (documentary, 65', dir. Matiss Kaza), Fenixfilm/Deep Sea Studios, Latvia/USA (2017)
- **Co-Production Manager**, *The Return* (documentary, 52', dir. Zahavi Sanjavi), Fenixfilm/AVB Production, Latvia/Sweden (2017)
- **1st Assistant Director**, *The Short Day* (documentary, 24', dir. Una Celma), Fenixfilm, Latvia (2014)
- **Writer**, *My Family Tree* (documentary, 73', dir. Una Celma), Fenixfilm, Latvia (2013)
- **Writer**, *Month of the Witches* (mockumentary, 96', dir. Una Celma), Fenixfilm, Latvia (2012)

## GRANTS, NOMINATIONS & AWARDS (Selected)

- Industry@Tallinn Baltic Event Works in Progress Award for *Neon Spring*, Tallinn, Estonia (2020)
- Trieste Film Festival Baltic-Italian Development Award for *Sisters*, Trieste, Italy (2020)
- Latvian National Film Awards, Nomination for Best Directing/Documentary for *The Wanderers*, Riga, Latvia (2020)
- Latvian National Film Awards, Award for Best Debut for *The Man and the Dahlias*, Riga, Latvia (2018)
- Latvian National Film Awards, FIPRESCI Critics' Prize for *One Ticket Please*, Riga, Latvia (2017)
- Stockholm City Culture Grant, Stockholm, Sweden (2017)
- Tempo Documentary Festival, NewDoc Prize for *One Ticket Please*, Stockholm, Sweden (2017)
- Chris Columbus Family Scholarship, New York University, New York, NY (2017)
- Martin Scorsese Young Filmmakers Scholarship, New York University, New York, NY (2017)

**LANGAUGES**

- English (native fluency)
- Latvian (native fluency)
- Russian (good speaking, reading and writing ability)
- Swedish (basic speaking, reading and writing ability)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Film Producers Association of Latvia
- Latvian Screenwriters Guild
- Latvian Film Workers Union (board member)

15.03.2021.