

FRANCESCA VARISCO

Italian born and raised, citizen of the world. A 2019 Nicholl Semi-Finalist with my feature script *The Code*, I love historical fiction, unusual points of view and “what if” scenarios. My stories explore universal themes or controversial issues. Most of the times, they have a happy ending.

Besides scripts, I’ve written librettos and poems for musical theatre, working with the esteemed Maestro Federico Bonetti Amendola. My TV production experience includes PA on *SHŌGUN*, and the Production Office of *Joe Pickett S2*.

FEATURE

THE CODE

SPY THRILLER. BASED ON TRUE FACTS. THE BIG SHORT MEETS SNOWDEN AND ARGO

An ambitious tech journalist and a team of IT analysts investigate the infamous Stuxnet malware and accidentally expose a covert cyberwar operation targeting Iran's nuclear program.

Nicholl Fellowship Semi Finalist 2019 | Official selection Oaxaca Film Festival 2017

BREAKING OUT

DRAMA, TRUE STORY. BASED ON THE BOOK FROM BABITA PATEL, BREAKING OUT IN PRISON

When humanitarian photographer Babita starts working with an NGO that promotes education in prison, her own sense of justice is challenged. Based on the true stories of fifteen men who went to college during incarceration.

Semi finalist, Empowering Women Script Competition 2023 Catalyst Studios & Stage 32

LET THE RAIN

ACTION / CRIME STORY, INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS.

A badass lieutenant and her smart aide struggle to pin the criminal gangs behind Vancouver’s drug trade, until she resolves to take the matter in her hands and things derail.

The Hot 100 List 2022, Capital Fund Screenplay Competition

THE KING’S HORSE

ROMANTIC COMEDY. CRAZY RICH ASIANS MEETS THE HORSE WHISPERER

When horse trainer Sylvie meets Karim, vacationing on the French Riviera, she instantly dislikes him, unaware he’s a prince—until his talent with animals changes her mind.

Official selection Oaxaca Film Festival 2019

TIMELESS

ACTION / ADVENTURE, YA. CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON MEETS THE AVENGERS, WITH TEENS.

A teenager with the extraordinary ability to glimpse past ages must master her gift to evade a ruthless criminal, uncover the dark secrets of her family, and ultimately confront a sinister plot to control humanity's free will.

TV SERIES

PEOPLE OF CAHOKIA

PERIOD DRAMA, THRILLER. BASED ON THE NYT BESTSELLER SERIES FROM M. GEAR AND K. O'NEAL GEAR, 16 MILLION COPIES SOLD
GAME OF THRONES SET IN PRE-COLOMBIAN NORTH AMERICA

LOGLINE:

In ancient Cahokia, Spirits and humans weave fragile alliances in the fight for Power, politics, love and vengeance.

EPISODE 1 - KILLING A LIVING GOD

Walking Smoke, the exiled brother of the ruling Four Winds Clan, returns to Cahokia in disguise and plots to assassinate the Morning Star, the Living God who now occupies the body of his brother Chunkey Boy. Their sister Night Shadow Star travels to the Underworld, where the Panther God Piasa possesses her souls and transform her in his pawn in the fight for Power. She must spare the life of her enemy Fire Cat - the man she wishes to see dead - and keep him as ally. Meanwhile, Clan Keeper Blue Heron manoeuvres to keep Cahokia from chaos.

EPISODE 2 - A VIPERS' NEST

After a ritual skin-cutting ceremony, Fire Cat is bound to serve Lady Night Shadow Star. The Morning Star tasks Blue Heron to quietly investigate his attempted murder. Instructed by Piasa, she summons the thief Seven Skull Shield to help. Night Shadow Star can't bring herself to stab Fire Cat in his sleep. Skull stops an assassin short from slicing Blue Heron's throat, while Walking Smoke kills the Four Winds Clan patriarch leaving behind a trail of blood and terror.

PIONEERS - PILOT: WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS LAND

SCIENCE-FICTION

When the Pioneers expedition to planet Teegarden-b is wiped out by its native civilization, the resident scientist and commander must go past their mutual dislike to survive - while on frozen Earth, a boy joins a group of eco-lunatics in the desperate rescue of the scientist who can fix Earth's climate: his father.

STUFF IN SPACE - PILOT: VERA

SCIENCE-FICTION

A young, ambitious engineer lands her dream job at a space launch agency, only to discover a dangerous secret about her half-alien boyfriend and race to stop a rogue satellite EMP attack while navigating corporate politics.

IN DEVELOPMENT

SHADOWS

TV MINISERIES

SPY THRILLER, TRUE STORY, BASED ON EXISTING IP

The real story of G-71, covert agent of the NATO secret army Gladio during the Cold War and larger-than-life character. As told by G-71 himself.

FEARLESS JO

FEATURE

MAGICAL REALISM, INSPIRED BY AN ITALIAN TRADITIONAL TALE

Once upon a time, there was a girl who wasn't afraid of anything.

IL CORSARO NERO

TV MINISERIES

ADVENTURE, BASED ON EXISTING IP

The Black Corsair adventures, based on the books of Emilio Salgari.

FRANCESCA VARISCO

WORK EXPERIENCE

PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT (PRE-)

Best | TV Pilot | ITA-CAN

Payback | Feature | US-CAN

SCREENWRITER, ACTIVELY PITCHING

Breaking Out | Feature

Pioneers | TV Pilot

PRODUCTION OFFICE

Joe Pickett Season 2 | Canada | 2022

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

SHÖGUN

Kung Fu Season 2

Peacemaker Season 1

Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist Season 2

FREELANCE, SCREENWRITER

Screenwriter for NextSteps | USA | 2019

CONTRACTED PROFESSOR

ADLM | Italy | 2024

CHAIR, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

The Virtues Projects | Canada | 2019 - 2023

PRODUCER, CORPORATE VIDEO & COMMERCIAL

IED Lab for Baxter Italia | Italy | 2017

HEAD, BD, MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

ECOFAC | Switzerland | 2016 – 2017

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION CONSULTANT

Freelance | Italy and New Zealand | 2012 – 2015

HEAD OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Alstom Power | Switzerland and Spain | 2007 – 2012

COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT LEADER

ABB | Switzerland and Italy | 2000 – 2007

EDUCATION

CERTIFICATE IN DIGITAL MARKETING

Columbia Business School | 2018

LAB: MOVIE PRODUCTION

IED Milan | 2017

STEVE McCURRY PHOTO WORKSHOP

New York | 2009

MASTER'S DEGREE, ITALIAN LITERATURE

Università degli Studi di Milano | 1999

MASTER IN COMMUNICATIONS

Università degli Studi di Milano | 2000

LANGUAGES

ITALIAN

Native speaker

ENGLISH, FRENCH

Fluent (C2)

SPANISH

Intermediate (B2)

PORTUGUESE

Conversational (B1)