

KATJA ESSON, Writer, Director, Producer

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2012 Nomination Cinema for Peace® award, Berlin for **POETRY OF RESILIENCE**
- 2009 Nomination 4 NY Emmys for **WE ARE NEW YORK**
- 2007 Simons Public Humanities Fellowship, Kansas University.
National Endowment for the Arts' grant for **POETRY OF RESILIENCE**
Nomination Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship
- 2004 Academy Award® Nomination, **FERRY TALES**

FILMOGRAPHY – Writer/ Director

- 2015 **AMERICAN RIVERS**
rbb/ARTE, 5 Episodes
- 2014 **CANTINEROS DE CUBA**
Penelope Pictures
In Production
- BACKROADS SOUTH AMERICA**
Penelope Pictures/ARTE
In Pre-Production
- 2013 **BACKROADS USA**
Maha Productions/ARTE, 5 Episodes
(“Mohawk Trail, Blues Highway, Oregon Trail, The Loneliest Road of America, Route 66”)
- 2011 **POETRY OF RESILIENCE**
Documentary, 40/53 min, Penelope Pictures
IDA DocuWeeks, Los Angeles **Academy Award Qualification*
Woodstock Film Festival **Winner Best Short Doc*
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival
Miami International Film Festival
Sarasota Film Festival
Palm Springs International Short Film Festival
- SKYDANCER**
Documentary, 75 min, Penelope Pictures, Ma.ja.de, WDR/ARTE
Broadcast Premiere Arte June 2011, France/Germany
Margaret Mead Film Festival
Big Sky Documentary Festival
Shanghai Film and TV Festival **Magnolia Award Nomination for ‘Best Doc, Director, Camera’*
Hot Springs Film Festival
Salem Film Festival **EDA Award Nomination*

One World Film Festival, Prague
Guanajuato International Film Festival * *Nomination for Best Doc*
Pärnu International Film Festival **Nomination for Best Film on Indigenous People*
Environmental Film Festival, Smithsonian, Washington DC

NY CONFIDENTIAL – BROOKLYN

TV series about the 5 boroughs of New York, Maha Productions/ARTE
Broadcast Premiere Arte, September 2011

2010 LATCHING ON – THE POLITICS OF BREASTFEEDING IN AMERICA

Documentary, 40 min, Penelope Pictures
Distributor: Women Make Movies
New York Women in Film and Television, Tribeca Film Center
La Femme Film Festival, Dallas Film and Video Film Festival

2009 Hooker, Harlot, Whore – Stories of Prostitution

Documentary, 90min, LE Vision for ARTE/ARD
Broadcast Premiere ARTE February 2010
US International Film and Video Festival **Winner ‘Silver Screen’*

2008 WE ARE NEW YORK

Narrative PSA Series, Episode “The Wedding”,
The Mayor’s Office of Adult Education and the City University of New York

2006 A SEASON OF MADNESS

Narrative Short Film, 16 min, Penelope Pictures & Isotope Films
Woodstock Film Festival
New Britain Museum of American Art
Florida Film Festival, Austin Film Festival, Hamburg Film Fest, Germany
San Diego Film Festival, Tiboron International Film Festival

HOLE IN THE SKY – THE SCARS OF 9/11

Documentary, 70 min, MA.JA.DE Filmproduktion
Broadcast Premiere ARD September 2006
World Media Festival, Germany **Winner ‘Gold Award’*

2005 GATEWAY TO THE WORLD: NEW YORK HARBOR

Documentary, 60 min, Ma.ja.de. Filmproduktion
Broadcast Premiere ARTE

VERMISST – DAS GEISELDRAMA IN DER WÜSTE (LOST: HOSTAGE CRISIS IN THE DESERT) Documentary, 70 mi, Zero Film Berlin

Broadcast Premiere: ARTE

2004 SIEGFRIED & ROY: A FAIRYTALE FOR GROWN UPS

Documentary, 60 min, Zero Film Berlin
Broadcast: WDR, ARD, ARTE

ADAM – RETORTENBABY ALS LEBENSRETTER (ADAM – MADE TO ORDER SAVIOR) Documentary, 70 min, Zero Film Berlin

Broadcast: ARD, ARTE

- 2003** **FERRY TALES**
 Documentary, 40 min, Penelope Pictures - *Academy Award® Nomination, 2004*
Broadcast Premiere HBO
 Women's Image Network, LA *Winner 'Grand Price'
 Bird's Eye, LONDON
 Ashland Film Festival *'Honorable Mention'
 Sarasota *'Honorable Mention'
 Palm Springs International Film Festival
 Annapolis - November *'Honorable Mention'
 Seattle Film Festival
 Woodstock Film Festival *'Honorable Mention'
 IDA Theatrical Showcase, LA *Academy Award Qualification
- 2002** **SEARCHING FOR SENSE**
 Documentary, 7 min, SeePaint
Broadcast Premiere PBS
Aspen Short Film Festival
- 2001** **VERTICAL TRAVELER**
 Documentary, 45 min, Schenk Productions
Broadcast: ARTE, PBS
 Ft. Lauderdale Film Festival, Braunschweig Film Festival, Germany
 IFP Market New York
- 1990** Bachelor of Film and Theater, University of Miami.