

Paola Morabito

Director

Paola Morabito is an award winning filmmaker whose unique approach to storytelling involves a beautiful visual style potent in its portrayal of humanity. Unafraid of dealing with culturally taboo themes, Paola's films have a delicate intimacy with a strong emotional hook that draw from her love of real life stories. In 2001, Paola's career took an important turn when she was invited to work as Jane Campion's assistant on her feature film *In the Cut*, shot in New York City. This invaluable experience set Paola's career as a film director in motion and in 2007, she graduated from Australian Film Television and Radio School with a Masters in Film Directing completing two short films, *My Sister & I* and *Bread*. Paola continues to work with Jane Campion and four years ago she directed 2nd Unit on 'Bright Star' shot in London. This project also saw her produce and direct the documentary 'Working With Jane' - an entertaining portrait (which aired on the ABC late 2009) that reveals Campion's unique approach to film through the making of her Oscar nominated feature *Bright Star*. In pursuit of furthering her script writing skills, in 2008 Paola attended the Script Development Program Binger Filmlab in Amsterdam where she developed a feature film, *Explosions Like Stars*. In 2010 Paola shot and directed the first Australian online documentary, a series of short documentaries for SBS "Africa To Australia." This series went on to win numerous awards including Best Cultural and life style award at AIMIA awards and nominated for 2011 Best Online Program at Banff World media awards. 2011 saw Paola write and direct *Hair*, a documentary commissioned by the ABC and Screen Australia for the Anatomy Series produced by Matchbox Pictures Tony Ayres and Michael McMahon (makers of *The Slap*). *Hair* aired in March 2012, and is a story about a man's brave shift of gender and identity as he comes to terms with his natural femininity. Also in 2011, Paola received funding for her 3rd short film *I'm the One* from Screen NSW as part of the Emerging Filmmakers Fund. *I'm the One* was selected for competition at the Venice International Film Festival. It tells the story of 16-year-old Wolfe's overwhelming lust for his father's girlfriend that has him pursue her despite the forbidden nature of the relationship. Paola also directs commercials and recently was awarded a Sliver for Direction at Ad Fest, and a finalist at D&AD and Cannes 2011 for her commercial for Guide Dogs Australia. Currently Paola is developing her first feature film.

SHORT FILMS

| PRODUCTION (ROLE) | COMPANY | PROJECT DETAILS |
|-------------------|--------------|---|
| I'M THE ONE | Curious Film | Nominated for Best Short Film at the Venice Film Festival and the Stockholm Film Festival |