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Rebekah Fortune

Writer/director

Rebekah began her career as an actress, training at the Central School of Speech and Drama where she earned a BA in Acting and an MA in Classical Theatre. She went on to tour extensively with her own theatre company, Negativequity, before moving into filmmaking.

An openly autistic filmmaker, Rebekah founded Seahorse Films with a clear mission: to develop a bold slate of projects that balance creativity and commercial appeal, while championing greater opportunities for women and disabled artists both on and off screen.

A committed advocate for underrepresented talent, Rebekah has mentored with BFI Network, served on the BAFTA short film jury, and is an alumna of Network@LFF, Edinburgh Talent Lab, BIFA Springboard, Screen Yorkshire Flex and Breaking Through the Lens. She also works extensively with young disabled actors, preparing them for careers both in front of and behind the camera.

Feature film

2026 **Learning to Breathe Under Water**
Director
Feature film
Shudder Films / Bankside Films / Wildcard Films
Producer: Jack Tarling [KNEECAP, GOD'S OWN COUNTRY]
Writer: Richard Brabin
Starring Rory Kinnear, Maria Bakalova and Ezra Carlisle
Nominated: VFF Talent Award at Berlinale
Featured on the Brit List 2021
Selected for Breaking Through the Lens 2022
Selected for the British Council's "Cannes Great 8" 2025
Global Premiere at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2026
Winner: Audience Award, Galway Film Fleadh 2026
Winner: Club of Festivals Award at Schlingel Film Festival 2026
Honourable Mention of the Jury: International Feature Film Competition at Schlingel Film Festival 2026
Winner: Fischer Audience Award - Official Selection at Thessaloniki International Film Festival 2026

2026 **The Turning**
Co-writer, attached to direct
Feature film in development
Co-writer: Rosy Deacon
Selected for 104 Films & BFI's D-Horror development programme

2025-26 **Arkadia**
Co-writer, attached to direct

Feature film in development
Developed under the Screen Yorkshire Flex scheme
Co-writer: Rosy Deacon
Producer: Hannah Eugénie Tookey
Winner: Best UK Project at JETS 2026
Selected for JETS Initiative at Berlin Film Festival 2026
Selected for New Wave Genre Lab 2025
Selected for Galway Film Fair 2026

2017 **Just Charlie**
Director
Feature film
Seahorse Films
Winner: Best Film, Cannes Ecrans Juniors
Winner: Audience Award, Edinburgh International Film Fest
Winner: Audience Award, CineHomo
Winner: Audience Award, Univercine Britannique
Winner: Audience Award, Film Fest Ostende
Winner: Youth Award, Schlingel Youth Film Fest
Winner: Audience Award, Mamers en Mars
Winner: Best Film for Youth, Zlin Film Fest
Winner: Europe Generation, Seville Film Fest
Winner: Audience Award, Univercine Nantes
Winner: Audience Award, Valladolid Cine Homo
Winner: Audience Award, Cinepride France
Nominated: Best Film, Cairo International Film Festival
Nominated: Best Film, Guadalajara Film Fest

Just Charlie festival selections: Film Out San Diego USA, Frameline San Francisco USA, Shanghai IFF CHINA, Torino FF ITALY, Bologne Gender Bender, IFF ITALY, Taiwan Queer IFF, Zagreb FF CROATIA, Inverness FF UK, Cork FF EIRE, Festival Piccolo Grande Cinema ITALY, Ljubljana FF SLOVENIA, Noordlijik FF NETHERLANDS, Ale Kino POLAND, Festival de Cine Social de Catalunya SPAIN, Kristiansand FF NORWAY, Buster Copenhagen DENMARK

Short film

2021 **Bebe Ai**
Director, Story by
One People Pictures
Writer: Alexandra Wain
Selected for Oska Bright Film Festival 2022 [BAFTA Qualifying]
Selected for Cinequest Film Festival [Oscar Qualifying]
Selected for Superfest, San Francisco [Oscar Qualifying]
Selected for Phoenix Sci-Fi Film Festival
Selected for Miami Sci-Fi Film Festival
Selected for London Sci-Fi Film Festival
Selected for FilmQuest Festival
Winner: Jury's Certificate of Excellence, Boston Sci-Fi Film Festival
Winner: Best Sci-fi Drama, Rhode Island Film Festival [BAFTA and Oscar Qualifying]
Screening at BFI Southbank as part of 225 Film Club, celebrating female directing excellence
Winner: 225 Film Club competition 2022

Her Majesty
Director
Corbett Productions

Official Selection: LA Shorts Fest [Oscar Qualifying]
Selected for Norwich Film Festival [BAFTA Qualifying]
Selected for San Diego Film Festival
Official Selection Kingston International Film Festival
Nominated for 7 Midlands Movie Awards including Best Short and Best Director
Nominated for Best Drama at Women Over 50 Film Festival
Nominated for Best Drama at San Diego Film Festival
Winner: Best Film and Best Director at Lee Strasbourg Film Festival, New York
Winner: Audience Award, HollyShorts Film Festival 2022
Winner: Best Drama, New Renaissance Film Festival 2022
Screened at BFI London Film Festival 2022 [BAFTA qualifying]

2020 **Pas De Deux**
Director
One People Pictures
Selected for Norwich Film Festival [BAFTA Qualifying]
Selected for Leeds Film Festival [Oscar and BAFTA Qualifying]
Selected for Oska Bright Film Festival 2022 [BAFTA Qualifying]
Selected for Superfest, San Francisco [Oscar Qualifying]

Pennywort
Director
BFI / Lost Eye Films
Writer: Laura Turner
Winner: Best Film, VisAbility Film Festival
Nominated: Best Director, Midlands Movie Awards
Nominated: Best Short Film, Midlands Movie Awards
Selected for Bolton Film Festival [BAFTA Qualifying]
Selected for Oska Bright Film Festival 2022 [BAFTA Qualifying]

2015 **Squidge**
Director
Lumino Films

2014 **Sex Love Other**
Director, co-producer
Armchair Productions

2011 **Something Blue**
Director
Short film
Seahorse Films

Theatre

The Tempest
Director, Tour
Total Arts Theatre / Royal Shakespeare Company

Othello
Director
Riverside Studios

Moll Flanders

Adapting Writer and Director
Southwark Playhouse

An Ideal Husband
Director
Courtyard Theatre

The Provoked Wife
Director
Courtyard Theatre

Broken Blossoms
Writer and Director. Edinburgh Festival & National Tour

Big Boys Don't Cry
Writer and Director, National Tour

Wuthering Heights
Adapting Writer and Director
Brewhouse Theatre & National Tour

Comedy Of Errors
Director, National Tour

Other Awards, Achievements and Labs

Galway Film Fair selected project at Galway Film Fleadh 2026
D-Horror Development Lab participant (104 Films / BFI) 2026
JETS Initiative selected project at Berlin Film Festival 2026
New Wave Genre Lab participant 2025
Cannes Great 8 selected project (British Council) 2025
Screen Yorkshire FLEX scheme participant 2022
Breaking Through the Lens 2022
Edinburgh International Film Festival Talent Lab 2021
Berlinale VFF Award Nominee
MA Classical Acting, BA Acting
BFI Regional Producers Course
Intensive distribution and marketing menteeship with We Are the Tonic
Panel host/guest at EIFF, Glasgow Film Festival/Seville Film Festival/Dublin Film festival plus many others
BAFTA Crew
Mentor for BFI
Member Directors UK/Member of Diectors UK inclusivity committee
Selected for Directors UK Inspire 2020