

Karen Chapman's 2020 Biography

Born to Guyanese parents, award-winning filmmaker Karen Chapman is committed to honing her craft as a storyteller. She is an alumna of Emily Carr University, the Banff Centre, Women in the Director Chair, the CaribbeanTales Incubator, the HotDocs Accelerator, TIFF Talent Lab and the TIFF 2020 Accelerator.

Chapman's CBC Short Doc, *Walk Good* won WIFT - Toronto's 2017 Audience Choice Award at their annual Showcase and her short, *Lesson Injustice* won the Best Screenplay Award the year after.

In 2018, she completed the Cineplex Film Program - Directors' Lab at the Canadian Film Centre and was named one of the "5 Filmmakers to Watch" by Playback Magazine. Chapman's love story, *Essequibo Rapture*, won the Caribbean Film Academy's International Screenplay Competition and it received funding from Bell Media's, Harold Greenberg, Shorts to Feature Fund.

Her VR experience, *They Should be Flowers*, premiered at HotDocs 2019 and was nominated for the Canada Screen Award for Best Immersive Non-Fiction.

And her short, *Measure* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2019, where it won the International Hollywood Foreign Press and Residency Award at the 2020, Golden Globe Awards. *Measure* also went on to win CineFilm's Best Overall Film and Karen was awarded Best Directing at the 2020, Women In Film and Television - Toronto Showcase.

Chapman recently joined Director X and Taj Critchlow at Fela, a newly launched music video, commercial and film production company, where she directed the 2020 International Global Goals Campaign for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which was filmed virtually in Mumbai, Namibia and Toronto.

And most recently, Chapman directed her first television episode for PBS's, *Odd Squad Mobile Unit*. She is also creating a feature film, through Telefilm Canada's Talent Program. Years of work and 43 short films later, Karen is proud to be the recipient of the 2020 ReelWorld Trailblazer Award.

Karen Chapman

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Awards

2020	Best Overall Film - CineFilm Film Festival
2020	Best Directing - Women In Film & Television - Toronto Showcase
2020	ReelWorld's Trailblazer Award
2020	Hollywood Foreign Press Award - <i>Measure</i>
2019	Best Screenplay Award - WIFT-T Showcase - <i>Lessons Injustice</i>
2019	Harold Greenberg Shorts to Feature - <i>Essequibo Rapture</i>
2018	Telefilm's Talent to Watch - Village Keeper
2017	WIFT-T Showcase – Viewers' Choice Award - <i>Walk Good</i>
2015	Caribbean Film Academy - Script-writing competition Winner
2013	National Film Board - Filmmakers Assistance Program - <i>Stain</i>
2013	Vancouver Short Film Festival - Best Visual Effects - <i>Patriarchy</i>
2013	TIFF - Caribbean Tales Pitch Winner - <i>Cocoon</i>
2008	Knowledge Network BC Perspectives Award - <i>Beauty Lies</i>

Television Directing

2021	Holly Hobbie – Hulu/Family Channel
2020	Odd Squad Mobile Unit – PBS

Screenings

Project Everyone

2020	Global Goals - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
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Measure

2020	CBC GEM, CBC National Short Film FaceOff
2019	Toronto International Film Festival

They Should be Flowers (VR film / Experience)

2020	Canadian Screen Award Nomination
2019	Hot Docs - DocX

Lessons Injustice

2020	CBC GEM, CBC Absolutely Canadian
2018	TIFF Youth / Community Initiatives in Toronto Hospital Series
2018	Festival LIBRES//ÉMOIS
2018	Weengushk Film Institute at TIFF
2018	Not Short on Talent - Festival du Cannes
2018	University of Guelph - Cultural Diversity Programs
2017	Reel World Film Festival

2017 Edmonton International Film Festival
2017 Calgary International Film Festival
2017 TVO Broadcast - In The Name of All Canadians

Walk Good

2018 The National - CBC
2017 TIFF Bell Lightbox - Black Star
2017 Timehri Film Festival - Guyana
2017 Julien Dubuque International Film Festival
2017 WIFT-T Showcase - Viewers Choice Award
2017 Reelworld Film Festival / Kuumba Screening
2016 Citizen Jane Film Festival
2016 Doc NYC Film Festival
2014 CBC Canadian Reflections Broadcast

Filmography

2020 **Goal Keepers 2020**

An international short film dedicated to the volunteers and acts of kindness during the COVID-19 epidemic, filmed in Toronto, Nairobi and Mumbai commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

2020 **Essequibo Rapture** *Bell Media - Harold Greenberg*

Elise and Ryan are tired of keeping their love a secret but tensions are high between their very segregated Afro and Indo Guyanese communities. Ryan must decide if he will abandon his traditional family for true love and risk becoming an outcast and Elise must decide if she is willing to live with that burden.

2019 **They Should Be Flowers** - HotDocs / CSA Nomination

Woven together with toys, figurines and narration, this multi-layered experience uses the latest VR technology to examine Canada's long standing history of policing black bodies told through the eyes of a child.

2018 **Measure** *Canadian Film Centre - Director Lab*

A young boy's journey through grief.

2017 **Lessons Injustice** *Hot Docs: In the Name of All Canadians Series*

Commemorating Canada's 150th year of Confederation is confusing for black criminal lawyer, Danardo Jones. He struggles to find advice for his 16 year old son that will keep him safe from anti-black racism.

2017 **Shelley Niro** *Governor General Awards Series Commission*

A touching short film honouring talented mohawk artist Shelley Niro, recipient of the Governor General Awards for Media Arts.

2017 **LAL - Find Safety** *CBC Arts*

A music video-esque short about Toronto-based band/collective LAL who have used their music as a rallying cry for marginalized communities for the past 20 years.

2016 **Walk Good** CBC's Digital Documentary Short Film
Walk Good is a stirring portrait of a grieving mother left to reconcile her life after each of her three children are murdered in three separate and unrelated shootings.

Education/Training/Panal Speaker

January 2020	Hollywood Foreign Press Residency
September 2020	TIFF Talent Lab / TIFF Accelerator
July - Dec 2018	Canadian Film Centre - Directors Lab
July 2018	Telefilm Talent to Watch Funding Bootcamp
May 2018	HotDocs - After the Me too Movement HotDocs - Short Documentaries and Music
May 2017 Toronto, ON	Virtual Reality/360 Certificate training - Raindance Toronto
September 2016 Toronto, ON	CBC Development Workshop for Diverse Creators
May 2015 Toronto, ON	HotDocs <i>documentary</i> Channel Doc Accelerator Fellow
November 2012 Toronto, ON	CONVERGENT MEDIA PROGRAM (WIFT)
May 2011 Vancouver, BC	EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY <i>Bachelors of Media Arts (Film and Video)</i>
March-April 2011 Banff, AL	THE BANFF CENTRE <i>Self Directed Film Residency</i>
January 2011 Banff, AL	WOMEN IN THE DIRECTORS CHAIR - BANFF CENTRE

Video Art Installation

October 2018 *The After Came Before* - Royal Ontario Museum x Alterna x DOC

The After Came Before is a continuous rumination on these safe spaces through a collection of reimagined footage based in the world of Patriarchy.

Reviews

Now Magazine

<https://nowtoronto.com/movies/reviews/in-the-name-of-all-canadians-isn%E2%80%99t-short-on-content/>

POV Magazine

<http://povmagazine.com/articles/view/review-in-the-name-of-all-canadians>

HYPERLINK "https://www.cbc.ca/shortdocs/m/shorts/walk-good"

Featured Articles

2018 5 to Watch: Karen Chapman

<http://playbackonline.ca/2018/08/27/2018-5-to-watch-karen-chapman/>

17 for '17: These are the Great Canadian Filmmakers of the Future: Karen Chapman

<https://www.cbc.ca/arts/the-filmmakers/17-for-17-these-are-the-great-canadian-filmmakers-of-the-future-1.4212952>