

Member Spotlight: Maria Juranic



How did you get your start in the Industry? What influenced you to enter into the Entertainment world? I was involved in the arts since I can remember. I started being interested in photography in High School but didn't have the resources at my school to explore it, so I went to college and studied film and photography. After graduation I started reaching out to anyone and everyone who may want help on shoots and films. My first few crew jobs were as a grip and I learned a lot. Later I went into the camera department and along the way collaborated with other eager filmmakers to make our own films and videos. I Directed enough videos to make a reel and was able to get more Directing and Editing jobs.

I was mainly influenced by music. Music is freedom to me. I realized what I finally should do after watching my musician friends suffer to make their art, I realized what an artist, or filmmaker is and should be.

What is your educational background? I went to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design for a BFA in Filmmaking. I also did a semester in Czech Republic at FAMU. Going to FAMU was probably the best choice I have ever made for my future career.

What are you currently working on? I am finishing up a 3D music video I shot this winter for a local Minneapolis band, Father You See Queen. It's almost finished and I can't wait to show it! It has been a very long and educational experience since I have never shot anything in 3D before.

What is your favorite story to tell about working in this industry? I had the pleasure to work on "A Serious Man" by the Coen Brothers. Roger Deakins shot it. I was the camera PA on it. Roger is the nicest human and a great cinematographer. He allowed anyone to share their films and projects with him for feedback. I immediately of course showed him one of mine, and he actually told me he liked it. He encouraged me to be a cinematographer and just all around made my life at that moment. That's a hard one to beat.

What is your most memorable/favorite project? I learned a lot when I did a short film called "King Tales". It was my first out of school project and took 2 years to make. But it was most memorable because I did it slowly and with love, for myself first and in hopes someone will like it. It was unique because it was kind of like a painting I painted for 2 years, having fun exploring and trying new things, without caring if it will ever screen anywhere. Those projects are SO rare these days.

What inspires you? My friends but mainly other art, whether it's music or a picture on the wall.

What are some of your hobbies and interests? I love dancing. I used to be a break dancer back in the day. I like being active so I pick random hobbies all the time, like yachting or motorcycle classes. As long as it makes me experience something new I'm in!

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? In ten? In 5 years I hope to keep making videos and have made a few short films, but mainly to still love making art. I have no idea what 10 years will bring, life is strange. I love teaching so I often imagine myself as a part time teacher and a part time writer. So maybe I'll be on the West Coast with a sun hat in a big villa writing my features.

What advice would you offer to a young female looking to get into this industry? Never think that you can't do something. Always challenge yourself and your limitations. Start anywhere, you learn from anything you do and just never lose sight of the goal. Make stuff!!! Just like a writer you have to keep making films to get better, we're not supposed to be all portages. And of course, love what you are doing and surround yourself with people who like to do it too.

If you could work with anyone (dead or alive) who would it be and why? A big fan of Emir Kusturica. I would've loved to be around when he did his old films and watch him direct non actors. It was brilliant how he captured gypsies in his films so naturally. Stanley Kubrick, Darren Aronofsky, David Lynch, Fritz Lang and Terry Gilliam are also a few. The list is pretty big.....

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