



MAX BESSMERTNY (MAXIM BESSMERTNYI) 貝馬善

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BIO

Max grew up in Macau, where the clash between East and West inspired his storytelling. His body of work includes his debut feature, "The Violin Case", the screenplay for "Foreign Cop" and numerous other feature screenplays and over 20 short films, which include narrative shorts, documentaries, music videos and silent films. Max's multicultural and artistic upbringing (his father is an accomplished painter and his mother a classical pianist) add depth and humor to his storytelling which has evolved into a unique style that has resonated with film festival audiences.

Max completed his debut feature film, "The Violin Case" with very little resources when the city in which he shot, Macao, was still under strict quarantines and lockdowns due to the then ongoing pandemic. The film was shot over the course of 21 nights and follows a struggling artist as he breaks free from his manipulative gallery and sets off on a one night odyssey to locate his artwork accidentally forgotten in a taxi.

Another project in development is "Foreign Cop", a feature film selected by the Torino Film Lab to take part in its extended and creative producing workshops. It was selected for both the 4th IFFAM Film Market and Fantastic 7 Cannes Marché du Film in 2020. Other projects Max wrote, directed and produced include the noir short "Tricycle Thief" which was the first Macau made film to World Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2014, winning the 2015 Kodak Gold Award, "Dirty Laundry" which premiered at We Are One (Tribeca x Youtube Film Festival in 2020) and "The Handover", a 30 minute comedic black and white short which won best local entry at the Macau Int'l Short Film Festival.

Selected Narrative and Documentary Filmography

The Violin Case - feature film (completed) | Comedy | Macau, 2024 | Writer, Director, Producer

A painter goes on a surreal one-night odyssey in search of his lost artwork after he leaves it in the back of a taxi in Macau.

<https://vimeo.com/pontusmaximus/violincaseteaser>

The Handover | Comedy | Macau, 2020 | Co-Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

On the day they move apartments, a couple struggles to get everything in order before their landlord arrives for a final inspection.

<https://vimeo.com/pontusmaximus/thehandover>

Dirty Laundry | Comedy | Macau, 2019 | Writer, Director, Co-Producer, Editor | We Are One Global Festival Tribeca 2020

Two gweilos (foreigners) try to get rid of an old washing machine in the village of Coloane in China.

<https://vimeo.com/pontusmaximus/dirtylaundry>

Douro Boys | Documentary | Portugal, 2018 | Writer, Director, Producer, Cinematographer, Editor

In the Douro, five winemakers get together with the aim of exporting Portuguese wine to the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE0fOQCo70k>

What's Your Art? | Pilot Docu-Series | Macau, 2017 | Co-Writer, Director, Co-Producer, Editor | CCIF 2017 | Best Supporting Actress

A 64 year old cardboard collecting grandmother and a Brazilian bodybuilder reveal the identity of Macau.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDQ8wLkE4Lk&t=2s>

Sampan | Drama | Hong Kong, 2017 | ARRI 416 | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor | World Premiere Pacific Meridian IFF 2018 |

Now on Amazon Prime Video US, UK and RoW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIGJ47LQ0JE>

The Great Debt | Comedy | Macau, 2017 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VL9xDa3Lm_k

A bank note travels through different hands and returns to its original owner, clearing everyones debt even though nobody produced/ earned anything.

Tricycle Thief | Noir Thriller | Macau, 2014 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor | World Premiere TIFF 2014 | Kodak Gold Award 2015

After discovering his eviction notice, a rickshaw driver goes on a desperate hunt for money.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQQSzFrrRIM>

Wonton | Drama | Singapore, 2012 | ARRI 16mm | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor | Shanghai Museum Special Screening 2012

A laundry cleaner falls into temptation when he sees a prostitute.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b77iuMkdgaU>

Selected Commercials and Music Videos

Brazilian Device | Music Video | Singapore, 2015 | ARRI ALEXA | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor | Sound and Image Challenge 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcLXs2vtwQk>

Tasting Room City of Dreams Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvzPltVt6ZA>

Wave, City of Dreams Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC30pW94M3aq1Hvr70Ct61eA/videos>

Shinji, City of Dreams Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN4EnB6-HZQ>

Jade Dragon, City of Dreams Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDIYR-8tY6g>

T for Tapas, City of Dreams Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSVLw8k6j3I>

Jin Ying, City of Dreams Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCbApkSkW-Y>

Tenmasa, Altira Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC30pW94M3aq1Hvr70Ct61eA/videos>

Ying, Altira Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMwNRq4AOI0>

Aurora, Altira Macau | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUo3zevE4Ac>

Southern Comfort, Whatever's Comfortable | 2015 | RED | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor | Creative Review UK 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVbk6mKOGaM>

Media and Film Reviews

Radio France Internationale | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc-c05SsXVg>

TDM Talk Show | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYahEkBnjG8&list=PLLC2I3H4K7M4zbzpo4I5gmPqRi0HwEoi5&index=9>

Macau Daily Times | <https://macaudailytimes.com.mo/film-max-bessmertnys-works-explore-themes-of-sin-and-misfortune.html>

Macau Closer | <http://macaucloser.com/en/magazine/short-tales-life>

CINETALK.NET | <https://cinetalk.net/2017/09/25/cciff-2017-short-films-and-vr/>

KODAK IndieWire | <http://www.indiewire.com/2015/08/kodak-announces-winners-of-2015-scholarship-program-59486/amp/>

Tricycle Thief Film Review | <http://jaredmobarak.com/2014/09/02/tricycle-thief/>

Hong Kong Apple Daily | <https://hk.entertainment.appledaily.com/entertainment/daily/article/20140818/18835355>

Work Experience

Freelance Filmmaker | 2012-Present | Cinematographer, Editor, Writer, Director Producer | Film, Video, Adverts, Corporate Videos

Pontus Maximus Productions | 2013-Present | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor | Film Development, Screenwriting and Production

Wynn Macau | 2010-2012 | Specialist Creative Projects | Writer, Director, Producer, Editor, Cinematographer

Liquidity | 2010 | Rock Band | Founding Member, Producer, Songwriter and Lead Guitarist

Education

Master of Fine Arts Film Production | NYU Tisch School of the Arts | Singapore

Bachelor of Arts Joint Honours Management and Philosophy | University of Leeds | United Kingdom

Languages

Fluent in English, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish. Intermediate Italian. Beginner level Cantonese and Mandarin.

Citizenships

Portugal (E.U.), Macau (Permanent Resident), Vladivostok USSR (birthplace)