

Biography of Cristian Sulser

Cristian Sulser is an award-winning Director and Writer for narrative storytelling in film, theater and television. For over a decade he has written, produced and directed documentaries, commercials, television shows and short and feature films.

Born in the countryside of St.Gallen, Switzerland, Cristian earned a Bachelor's Degree in teaching - followed later by a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the world renown AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE CONSERVATORY (AFI) in Los Angeles.

As a teenager, Cristian started in the theatre, playing numerous leading parts in musicals and plays. Growing up surrounded by theatre people made a big impression on him and shaped his vision of creative collaboration. The creative family around him became his second family – until this day. Cristian is and has always been very connected to music - singing, composing, playing the piano, the drums and a really bad trumpet. He formed his band “The Peaches” and ran a recording studio while being in school.

Ever since Cristian saw “Back to the Future” and “Ghostbusters”, he was obsessed with the world of movie making, watching every “Behind the scenes” he could find. At the age of 12 he convinced his Mom to buy him a VHS Cam. Two years later he shot his first 90minute-long movie, together with his brothers and cousins.

Upon graduating university, Cristian wanted to figure out how to turn his various hobbies into a profession. He worked as First Assistant Director for DIETER KAEGI, a notable Opera Director in France, Switzerland and Ireland. Then, Cristian took several months off to compose and co-direct the musical “24XVII”. He took his first steps into the film industry through an Internship at the television production company REGENCY TELEVISION (20th Century Fox) in Los Angeles, as assistant to the President GAIL BERMAN (“MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE”, “ROSWELL”). He then worked as personal assistant to the film director JULIA JAY PIERREPONT.

Cristian returned to Switzerland in 2001 to host “NICKELODEON SWITZERLAND” for the Swiss National Television Network SRF. There he got to develop his own comedy show “DIETMAR”, and later began the in-house Directing Program. In 2004, he founded his own production company “SECOND UNIT MEDIAPRODUCTIONS” with Sven Epiney. He developed over 30 produced projects including a feature film, three documentaries, two television Pilots, two comedy series and several music videos. Cristian flourished in creating and writing content for comedy, which he sometimes directed, produced or even starred in. His documentary about the most famous Swiss pop singer “DJ Bobo” was a big hit with audiences. His work in television garnered a “Swiss Television Award” and two “Prix Walo's” - the most renowned entertainment award of Switzerland.

After being part of many fantastic productions over these 10 years, Cristian started to focus on story telling again. In 2008, he took writing courses in Munich (Münchner Filmwerkstatt), Los Angeles (UCLA) and graduated from a one-year training for scriptwriting in Berlin. Since then he works as writer and story consultant for productions in Switzerland and Los Angeles. As a story consultant, his work got awarded with a Student Academy Award in 2015.

2013, he was accepted into the DIRECTING CLASS of one the most renowned film schools in the world, the AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE CONSERVATORY in Los Angeles, from which he graduated in 2016. Cristian's first short film SCRABBLE was in the official selection of over 100 international film festivals and, so far, has won over 30 awards. Cristian lives in Zurich, Switzerland and Los Angeles, California.