

SALLY POTTER

Sally Potter is an internationally renowned film-maker: according to the British Film Institute, her work “represents a characteristically British strand of artistically ambitious film-making, while being international in its reach.”

Sally Potter left school at sixteen to become a filmmaker, joining the London Filmmakers Co-op and starting to make experimental short films. She later trained as a dancer and choreographer at the London School of Contemporary Dance, before founding Limited Dance Company with Jacky Lansley.

Potter went on to become an award-winning performance artist and theatre director, with shows including ‘Mounting’, ‘Death and the Maiden’ and ‘Berlin’ (with Rose English). In addition, she was a member of several music bands (including FIG and The Film Music Orchestra) working as a lyricist and singer. She collaborated (as a singer-songwriter) with composer Lindsay Cooper on the song cycle Oh Moscow which was performed throughout Europe, Russia and North America. (Her music work continued later when she co-composed the soundtrack to ORLANDO, and created the score for THE TANGO LESSON. Her most recent music work is as producer and composer of the original tracks for YES.)

Potter returned to filmmaking with her short film THRILLER (1979) which was a hit on the international festival circuit. This was followed by her first feature film, THE GOLD DIGGERS (1983), starring Julie Christie; a short film, THE LONDON STORY (1986); a documentary series for Channel 4, TEARS, LAUGHTER, FEARS AND RAGE (1986); and a programme about women in Soviet cinema, I AM AN OX, I AM A HORSE, I AM A MAN, I AM A WOMAN (1988).

The internationally acclaimed ORLANDO (1992) brought Potter's work to a wide audience. Starring Tilda Swinton, the film was based on Virginia Woolf's classic novel (adapted for the screen by Potter). In addition to two Academy Award nominations, ORLANDO won more than 25 international awards, including the "Felix" awarded by the European Film Academy for the best Young European Film of 1993, and first prizes at St Petersburg, Thessaloniki and other festivals.

Potter's next film was THE TANGO LESSON (1997), (in which she also performed, with renowned tango dancer, Pablo Veron). First presented at the Venice Film Festival, the film was awarded the "Ombu de Oro" for Best Film at Mar del Plata Festival, Argentina, the SADAIC Great Award from the Sociedad Argentina de Autores y Compositores de Musica, as well as receiving "Best Film" nominations from BAFTA and the US National Board of Review.

In 2000 she completed THE MAN WHO CRIED (starring Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci, Cate Blanchett and John Turturro), a story set just before World War II in Paris, in the world of the opera.

In 2005 Potter completed YES, starring Joan Allen, Simon Abkarian and Sam Neill. Written as a response to 9/11, YES is a cross-cultural love story composed entirely in verse.

In the Autumn of 2007, Potter directed CARMEN, for English National Opera.

Potter's new film, RAGE, starring Judi Dench, Jude Law, Steve Buscemi, Simon Abkarian and Dianne Wiest is released in 2009.

You can find out more at www.sallypotter.com, where Sally keeps a blog and an interactive message board.