



## Tonya Kay

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### Profile and Coverage

Short film, music video, commercial and live stage and festival director creating provocative, movement-minded work. Seeking funding opportunities to create, collaborative mentorship and paid work.

Coverage this year:

- \* [30 Female Directors You Should Know](#) (Festigious 2018)
- \* [Exceptional Women in Production & Post](#) (StudioDaily 2018, Cablefax Awards Honoree)
- \* [Inside Look at Ridiculously Difficult Single-Take Filming on Drone](#) (SolidSmack Tech)
- \* [Telling Stories Without Words: Film Review](#) (Indie Shorts Mag)

### Experience

#### **RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! CURIOUS CHRISTMAS**

Segment Director, Segment Producer, Host of the Ripley's Believe It Or Not! segment in the Hollywood Christmas Parade tv special (The CW). As director, I had creative reign over this project including writing, casting, line producing, wardrobe design, soundtrack design, choreography, direction and on-camera hosting. I don't know anyone else who can do all of these things - on the same job! Out of 11 performers, 2 were disabled, 5 were POC and 5 were female. We had concert lighting, crane, steady and back-of-house wide cams. I used oddity movement and dialogue to tell a heartwarming story of inclusion and greatness, "Even ordinary people, do extraordinary things!"

#### **THE ASCENSION OF AVA DELAINE**

Director, Producer, Actress of high-concept 5 min short film shot entirely on drone in one continuous shot. I've never seen a vertical continuous-take narrative before and neither had these festivals: we were an Official Selection of AT&T SHAPE and have won BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM (Festigious), BEST DRONE (EyeCatcher Film Fest), BEST ORIGINAL CONCEPT (Free Spirit) and BEST FIRST TIME FILMMAKER (Canada Short Film Fest). Again, I had creative reign as director; initiating concept, line producing, assembling team,

choreography, direction, PR. My 16 person team included 12 women and 5 POC. This project is still at festivals and doing magnificently well. The Ascension of Ava Delaine is a non-verbal, female-empowerment fantasy story directed as a dance between drone and lead actress shot entirely on drone in a single-take. Voyeuristically telling the story of one woman's confidence, value and sexuality increasing as she ages. A story often overlooked in mainstream media.

#### **PACT ORGANIC FASHION INFLUENCER VIDEO SERIES**

Director, Segment Producer, Influencer of social media video collaboration series with popular organic fashion designer, PACT. I shaped this series per client specs by producing segments, selecting locations and dialogue writing. Our shots were largely public and contained beautiful movement including staircase climbs, juice bar dances and farmers market strolls. Our message through this campaign is one of body positivity - "The natural me is the beautiful me."

#### **TONYA KAY'S PINUP POLE SHOW**

Creator, Director, Producer of successful talent-based brand. Branded content includes 75 min stage production, local classic car shows, pinup art shows featuring all-female artists, elaborate magazine photoshoots, extensive promo videos, convention entertainment and now I am creating my first regional festival! This is the second live production I have created, directed and produced from scratch, selling out every seat, every show. I regularly direct 7 talent, 18 classic cars, 3 artists, 3 photographers and an entire crew.

#### **SHADOW**

I'm currently shadowing feature film directors for Cartel Pictures.

## Education

High school Valedictorian who chose not to continue with traditional education. I've been making films since childhood and won BEST ANIMATED SHORT from Blue Lake Fine Arts at 13 yrs for a stop-motion claymation film shot on a non-automated VHS recorder - I'll create with any tools! With an illustrious 26 year career as a professional dancer on Broadway and in blockbusters and a decade-long career as a leading (villainous) actress, I've paid attention on the sets I've performed on, taking the opportunity to guide my own "mentorship". I've also offered a hand on set and on stage wherever needed to learn about other crew members' jobs because I believe knowing and respecting everyone's contribution makes me better and more effective with mine.

## Skills

Libra's inclusiveness and diplomacy. Passion for beauty and teamwork. Life of professional dance informing the flow and physical energy in my films. Family-instilled belief in my value. Gumption is my guide. I need a t-shirt that says "Look what I'll do!"

## References

Pierre David (showrunner Reel One Ent), Dennis Ho (director, owner Digital Jungle Post), Shaula Evans (writer), Andria Chamberlin (DP), SaraAnne Fahey (choreographer), Brian Roberts (producer)