

Zichen Zhao

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New York, US

EDUCATION

Columbia University **Sept 2023 - Present**
Master of Fine Arts in **Creative Producing**, School of the Arts

Beijing Film Academy **Sept 2017 - June 2021**
Bachelor of Fine Arts in **Screenwriting**, Department of Screenwriting and Film Studies

WORK EXPERIENCE

International Film Sales & Marketing Internship at EST N8 Studios, LA, CA **Janu 2026 - May 2026**

- Supported film acquisitions through festival research and evaluation of potential titles
- Conducted buyer research and assisted with sales outreach and industry communications
- Helped prepare marketing and sales materials, including screeners and market presentations

Film Acquisitions and Sales Internship at Echelon Studios, Los Angeles, CA **Sept 2025 - Dec 2025**

- Researched film festivals, talent, and market trends for sales and acquisitions
- Built and maintained databases on filmmakers and market data
- Evaluated film submissions and screeners for quality and market potential

DMC/Dodge Tech Support at Columbia University, New York, NY **Sept 2025 - May 2026**

- Provide technical classroom support for the Film, Writing, and Theater departments
- Troubleshoot and provide level one support in Avid, Premiere, and Resolve
- Assist technical staff with general maintenance and upkeep of technology in facilities

Directing Actors Assistant at Columbia University, New York, NY **Sept 2024 - May 2025**

- Set up cameras and props as requested, managed prop closet during class, and reset room
- Prepared class materials and assisted the instructor in demonstrating acting direction

Film Course Tutor at Cinema Hougong International Film Center, Beijing **April 2023 - Aug 2023**

- Guided beginners in filmmaking and provided hands-on practice on set
- Assisted students in learning film and preparing for admission to film academies in China

Screenplay Consultant Internship at Hishow Entertainment, Beijing **April 2022 - July 2022**

- Analyzed and evaluated screenplays and wrote coverages for the development executive
- Recommended suitable directors and writers for projects and coordinated with producers
- Researched and adapted IP with potential and designed and made film pitch decks

Co-Founder of Mingshan Art Supply and Marketing Cooperative, Dunhuang **2020 - 2022**

- An experimental art community on the edge of the desert, which provided art residents
- Curated themed film exhibitions and organized local screening events

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Director, Producer, Editor, "The Kalgan Horse" (2026) Short Film

- Columbia University 5-12 Project - In Festival Run
- Selected by 32nd Palm Springs International ShortFest - Official Selection

Producer, "Through Our Eyes" (2026) Short Film

- Columbia University Thesis Film Project - In Production

Producer, "How to Prepare Your Home for Sale" (2026) Short Film

- Columbia University Thesis Film Project - In Festival Run
- Represented and Distributed by Travelling Distribution, Canada

Producer, Post-production Supervisor, "A Room with a Sea View" (2026) Short Film

- Columbia University Thesis Film Project - In Festival Run
- Represented and Distributed by Lights On, Italy

Co-Producer, Post-production Supervisor, "The Math Teacher" (2025) Short Film

- Columbia University Thesis Film Project - In Post-Production

Producer, Post-production Supervisor, "The Monkey King Is a Girl" (2024) Short Film

- Represented and Distributed by Parallax Films, China
- Selected by 18th FIRST International Film Festival, Xining, China - First Frame Section
- Selected by Oscar-qualifying 49th Cleveland International Film Festival - FilmSlam Program
- Selected by 30th Japan Aichi International Women's Film Festival - Film Competition Section
- Selected by 36th St. John's International Women's Film Festival - Shorts Program
- Selected by 4th Sohu Youth Film Festival, Beijing, China
- Selected by 6th Chongqing Avant-Garde Art Film Festival...

Script Consultant, "Flee" (2022) Feature Film, Hishow Productions

- Adapted from the French film *Custody* (2017) and *Just Before Losing Everything* (2012)

Script Consultant, "Boiling Life" (2022) Feature Film, Hishow Productions

- Adapted from the Japanese film *Hula Girls* (2006)

Cinematographer, Producer, "Scalpel Garden Show" (2021) Musical Video

- Shot for George Zachary's Album *Journey to the West*

Screenwriter, "The Kalgan Dream" (2021) Feature Film Script

- The Nomination Award for Best Feature Screenplay at the 17th Beijing Film Academy Golden Word Awards

Director, Screenwriter, "The Sculpture of Night" (2018) Short Film

- Selected by the 15th Beijing Film Academy Golden Word Awards

AWARDS

Indian Paintbrush Film Production Grant	2025/2026
The Michael Hausman/Buffalo Mike Filmhaus Foundation Award	2025
Dean's Travel Grant	2025

SKILLS

- Fiction and non-fiction film production (directing, producing, screenwriting, editing)
- Post-Production Supervising
- Film festival strategy & Film sales and distribution
- Software: Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, DaVinci Resolve, Movie Magic Budgeting & Scheduling
- Language: English, Chinese

VOLUNTEER

Screeener - Santa Fe International Film Festival	2026
The 6th Art Book in China Fair	2021