

CELESTE ESCALERA

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Award-winning screenwriter and entertainment professional with over a decade of production and finance experience across Netflix, NBCUniversal, Lionsgate, and Disney. Known for emotionally grounded, cinematic storytelling that merges cultural realism, psychological depth, and global perspective. Recognized internationally for original screenplays exploring identity, technology, and transformation, earning multiple “Recommend” ratings and top honors from major competitions, including BlueCat, Bangkok Movie Awards, and ScriptReader.ai.

SKILLS

Creative: Screenwriting (Feature, Short, Pilot), Story Development, Character Arcs, Dialogue, Script Analysis
Technical: Final Draft, WriterDuet, StudioBinder, Movie Magic Budgeting, Cast & Crew PSL+, Smart Accounting
Business: Production Finance, Budgeting, Cost Reporting, Tax Incentives, Data Analysis
Languages: English (Fluent), Korean (Intermediate), Spanish (Basic)

SCREENWRITING PROJECTS & AWARDS

THE A-I “LIES” WITHIN – Feature | Psychological Thriller / Tech-Horror

Logline: When a lonely woman in Jakarta uses AI to digitally embed herself into the life of her favorite Korean livestreamer, their worlds collide in a curated illusion neither can control.

Recognition:

- Gold Screenplay Award – Seoul International AI Film Festival (2025)
- Winner – Bangkok Movie Awards (2025)
- Semi-Finalist – Prague Underground, Seattle Filmmaker, and Wiki Screenplay Contests (2025)
- ScriptReader.ai Coverage: Multiple “Recommend” ratings for cinematic tension and global market appeal
- BlueCat Screenplay Competition (2026): Praised for originality, suspense, and emotional resonance
- WGAW Registration #2301684

EVEN THE MOON KNOWS (달도 아는 사랑) – Short & 1-Hour Pilot | Romance Drama / Cross-Cultural Limited Series

Logline: When a beloved Korean actor's secret romance with a 48-year-old Black American studio executive in Seoul is exposed by his vengeful ex and ruthless tabloids, both must fight collapsing brand deals, family pressure, and public judgment—testing whether love can survive in a world built on image.

Recognition:

Short Script:

- Outstanding Achievement Award – Indie Short Fest (2025)
- Semi-Finalist – Dubai Independent Film Festival (2025)
- Semi-Finalist – Kyoto International Film Festival (2025)

Pilot / Episodic:

- Winner – Bangkok Movie Awards (Episodic Television, 2025)
- Official Selection – New York Film & Cinematography Awards (2025)

Coverage & Themes:

- Multiple “Recommend” ratings for emotional authenticity and cross-cultural storytelling
- BlueCat Competition Analysis: Noted for strong dialogue and universal romantic resonance
- Themes: age, race, culture, and image; love versus public scrutiny
- WGAW Registration #2312713

THE SEED BETWEEN WORLDS AND STARS – Feature | Metaphysical Drama

Logline: Haunted by a lifelong sense of not belonging, a quiet woman unravels cosmic memories that reveal she isn't broken—she's awakening.

Recognition:

- Critics' Award – Bangkok Movie Awards (2025)
- Semi-Finalist – Chicago Script Awards and Seattle Filmmaker Awards (2025)
- Honorable Mention – New York Screenwriting Awards (2025)
- ScriptReader.ai Coverage: Multiple “Recommend” ratings for lyrical writing and emotional power
- BlueCat Screenplay Competition (2026): Described as “one of my favorite scripts to read... a gift—poetic, powerful, and timeless.”
- WGAW Registration #2304417

THE SOUNDLESS ROOM – Short | Psychological Horror / Social Commentary

Logline: An influencer accepts a millionaire's bet to endure two hours in a “soundless” chamber, only to face the ghost of her own digital sins.

Recognition:

- Winner – Bangkok Movie Awards (2025)
- Semi-Finalist – Atlanta Movie Awards and Nashville Independent Filmmakers Festival (2025)
- ScriptReader.ai Coverage: Multiple “Recommend” ratings for festival-ready structure and psychological impact
- WGAW Registration #2315547

RED VEIL – THE LAND REMEMBERS – Feature | Folk Horror / Psychological Thriller

Logline: In a desolate town, a weary caretaker tends to puppets that embody the dead—until outsiders disturb the land and awaken something that remembers every sin.

Recognition:

- ScriptReader.ai Coverage: Multiple “Recommend” ratings for atmospheric world-building and cinematic potential
- Described as “competition-ready” with a unique concept and emotionally grounded lead
- WGAW Registration #2316516

SELECTED WRITING RECOGNITION

- 15+ international screenplay honors across five original projects
- Multiple “Recommend” ratings per script from ScriptReader.ai and BlueCat analyses (2025–2026)
- Consistent praise for originality, emotional depth, and cinematic storytelling
- All scripts registered with the Writers Guild of America West (valid through 2030)

PRODUCTION & ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE

Netflix Studios / Netflix Global – Key & U.S. Production Accountant / E-Learning Developer

Black Barbie (Documentary) | The Decameron S1 (Series) | The Gray Man (Feature) | Pieces of Her (Series)
2021 – 2025

- Oversaw production finance, budgeting, and compliance for Netflix Originals.
- Developed interactive e-learning modules for production finance and payroll teams.
- Collaborated cross-departmentally on international shoots in the U.S., Italy, and Korea.

NBCUniversal / Universal Pictures – Production Accountant / Payroll Accountant
Fast X (Feature) | The Fall Guy (Feature) | Empire of Luxury | Celebrity Escape Room | Strike It Rich
2019 – 2023

- Managed payroll, cost reporting, and incentive filings for major studio productions.
- Supported multi-unit international shoots and coordinated cross-border compliance.
- Assisted in post-production financial tracking and cost reconciliation.

FX / Hulu – Assistant Payroll Accountant | Reservation Dogs (Pilot)

- Supported budgeting and union payroll compliance for pilot production.

CBS Studios / Jax Media – Assistant Production Accountant | Mother Mary (Series)

- Oversaw cost reporting, reconciliations, and payroll coordination across departments.
- Supported accounting operations for multi-unit shoot schedules and cross-union compliance.

Lionsgate – Assistant Production Accountant | American Underdog (Feature)

- Managed cost tracking and reconciliations across production and post-production phases.

ABC / Disney – Payroll Accountant | Everything's Trash (Series)

- Processed SAG-AFTRA, DGA, and IATSE union payroll and reconciled production costs.

Additional Credits: Hummingbird (Apple TV+ / Jax Media) | The Vanishings at Caddo Lake (Blinding Edge Productions) | Lumina (Goldove Entertainment) | Making The Band (EOne)

EDUCATION & AFFILIATIONS

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas – B.S., Accounting
- Everett Community College – A.A.S.
- Netflix Booster Program – Key Lead Accountant Training
- Greenslate Pro Training | EP Accounting Training | SAS Payroll Bootcamp
- Experience with WGA, SAG-AFTRA, DGA, and Teamsters