

CURRICULUM VITAE

HARRIET MEIER

**Writer/Producer for Film and TV, Audio Describer/Trainer, Journalist,
Editor/Sub-Editor, Published Author**
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Harriet has worked professionally as a writer/producer in film and TV for close on 40 years. Born and raised in Windhoek, Namibia, Harriet grew up in a film and radio environment, being involved with productions for German radio, film and television networks from a very early age. After getting a first class matric at the Holy Cross Convent in Windhoek, she joined the SABC in Johannesburg to work in computers and planning just before the launch of television, and then as production secretary in the drama department.

During this time she earned extra money as a freelance entertainment journalist, doing articles for various magazines and newspapers while studying part time for a BA degree in Communication through Unisa and training as an actor at the Johannesburg Academy of Acting. She left the SABC to work for a radio production house, where she learnt the specialised skill of performance writing for audio media. During this period, Harriet contributed to many Springbok radio productions as a writer, presenter and actor, while also acting in theatre productions, films and TV series. She was also one of the original team who launched the translation and dubbing department of the SABC.

With her interests turning more to film and television, Harriet went freelance and gained a thorough knowledge of the "behind the scenes" aspects of the industry by working in as many different positions as possible. These included everything from continuity to props, from make-up to special effects, from camera to sound and lighting, and from writing to editing, directing and finally producing.

She started **DYNAMOTION**, a scriptwriting company, with the late Robert Cheetham in 1988, and worked with Creative Media International, a film and TV production house, as Creative Director/Producer for many years before freelancing again.

She won the **IDEM Award** for Best Television Drama Scriptwriting in 1989, and **ARTES AWARD** and **STAR TONIGHT! TV AWARD** nominations in 1991/2. Her work as head story liner on "Muvhango" was nominated for a **SAFTA AWARD** in 2007, and the WGSA Magazine which she curated and edited for the Writers' Guild of South Africa was honoured with the bronze **PRISM AWARD** for best PR Publication in 2013. Her local comedy feature "MêSH" (Writer/Production Manager) was nominated for the **AA Life/Vita Film Award** and her screenplay "Earth Watch" was a finalist in the 2003 Spec Scriptacular, an international screenwriting

competition. As an author, "The Bushmaster", a novel based on the award-winning TV series, was published in South Africa in 1990.

In 2012, Harriet added to her skills set by learning to do audio description for film and television, a process which makes entertainment accessible to persons who are visually challenged. She was trained by the acclaimed Dr Joel Snyder of Audio Description Associates, LLC, in the USA, and now also trains local audio describers and produces audio description in multiple languages for various broadcasters and producers.

Harriet was elected chairperson of the Writers' Guild of SA in April 2013, after serving two years as the Guild's Treasurer. She also chaired SASFED, the South African Screen Federation, from 2014 to 2016, and is very active in growing the local film and TV industry and bringing accessibility media to SA and Africa as a whole.

Among Harriet's latest writing work is the award winning SABC TV drama series "End Game", where she did story lining and wrote episodes, as well as the SABC2 telenovela "Keeping Score", which is presently on air. She also story lined the TV series "Sticks and Stones" for Fireworx Media, and produced audio description for the series for SABC. She is presently head writer on a TV mini-series called "The Dahomey Warriors" for ELTV in Nigeria, and as a producer she is raising finance for a feature film called "Looking for Love". She is also co-producing a new format television series called "AD Safari" - which she created - with a broadcaster in Canada while continuing her writer training and mentorship programmes with WGSA and serving as a director for the writer collaborative The Pack.

Harriet is 100% proficient in English, Afrikaans and German, and speaks a smattering of French, isiZulu and SeSotho.