

ME-LEE HAY

COMPOSER

SCREEN-DANCE-THEATRE

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BIOGRAPHY



Me-Lee Hay resonates with tones that evokes beauty with danger composing for film, TV, dance and theatre. A Malaysian born Chinese-Australian, Hay was been nominated for an AACTA Award for Best Original Score in Film (***Suka***) in 2024.

Hay has had works shown across many platforms including Australian TV channels SBSOne, TEN, and Seven to Netflix Australia, and international planetariums. Off screen Hay has been commissioned by leading arts companies of Australia such as Sydney Dance Company's PPY & Sydney Theatre Company.

Hay is a graduate of the Australian Film Television & Radio School (AFTRS) and is an Associate Composer represented by the Australian Music Centre. With a training in classical piano (A.Mus.A), cello and theory, combined with electronica/pop explorations in the touring live band scene, she is attracted to sounds of classical textures merging seamlessly with sounds and ambience of the modern world to facilitate a story, emotion and creation of worlds. Me-Lee was a Board director and then the Vice President of the Australian Guild of Screen Composers for 5 years.

Screen credits include co-composer for feature film ***A Second Chance Rivals!*** (Netflix top ten children's category in June 2021 release), SBSOne cooking show series ***Luke Nguyen*** and Museum Victoria's dome astronomy documentaries

Starlight and ***Capturing the Cosmos*** (narrated by Sigrid Thornton and Geoffrey Rush respectively). She scored for USA produced documentary ***Finding Her Beat*** which screened at over 40 festivals before being released on streaming platforms..

Me-Lee's score for the multiple award winning fantasy 30 minute film ***Last Tree Standing*** (2017), which premiered at **Sitges Film Festival**, won **Best Music** for a Short Film at Australia's prestigious APRA Screen Music Awards as well as Best Music at Iowa's Motion Picture Awards. Other short film hi-lites include ***Cut Off*** (2018) and ***Golem*** (2021) both premiering at **Monster Fest** whilst Golem featured in opening night at **St Kilda Film Festival** along with a raft of other festivals worldwide.

Additionally, Me-Lee has also worked in the music department of multiple feature films including the Christmas horror film ***Better Watch Out*** (choir arranger, composer assistant) ***Science Fiction Vol.1 The Osiris Child*** (composer assistant) and ***Penelopa*** (additional music to Max Richter).

Pertinent Credits:

Finding Her Beat (feature length, Oscar qualifying documentary) directed by Emmy Awarded Director Dawn Mikkelson and Keri Pickett

Suka (feature length film) AACTA nomination 2024 Best Original Score. Channel9GO and assorted streamers (Umbrella Entertainment distribution)

Capturing the Cosmos (astronomy documentary narrated by Geoffrey Rush, produced by Museums Victoria for planetariums internationally)

Luke Nguyen Cooking Series (SBS One/UKTV) (Greater Mekong 2, France, UK)

Last Tree Standing (30 min) (APRA Best Music Award 2017; Best Music Iowa Motion Picture Awards 2018). Premiered at Sitges Film Festival 2017

Showreel

OVERVIEW PLAYLIST: www.me-leehay.com



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOLADES

- Nominee for AACTA Best Original Score in Film AACTA 2024 (*Suka*)
- Nominee 2024 Sydney Theatre Awards | Best Original Score and Sound Design in Independent Theatre (*Face of Jizo*)
- Winner of APRA Best Music for a Short Film 2017 (*Last Tree Standing*)
- Winner of Best Music Score at Iowa Motion Picture Awards 2018 (*Last Tree Standing*)
- Runners up Best Music at Fiske Full Dome Festival 2015 (*Starlight*)
- Associate Representation by Australian Music Centre
- 2020 to 2023 Vice President of the AGSC (Australian Guild of Screen Composers)
- Participant of Penrith City Council DIG Inter-Disciplinary Arts Program 2018
- Skills and Development Grant recipient (for film composing mentoring) 2013 – Australia Council of the Arts
- Academy qualifying films: Finding Her Beat (USA produced documentary) and Last Tree Standing (Short Film) – directed by David Lynch awarded director Agnes Peel-Mcgregor

FORMAL MUSIC RELATED EDUCATION:

- Screen Music Composition – AFTRS (2011) Graduate Certificate (High Distinction average)
- Associate Diploma in Music – Pianoforte (A.Mus.A) (AMEB)
- C.Mus.A Cello (AMEB)

SCREEN CREDITS:

Feature Film - Composer

Suka (2023): Wise Goat Productions; Channel 9Go Broadcast; Available on Amazon, Apple, YouTube
A Second Chance: Rivals! (2019) – Co-composer distributed by Pinnacle Films
Hidden Peaks (2017) - Independent

Feature Film – Ancillary Roles

Penelope (2010) - *Additional Music to Max Richter*
Infini (2015) – *Composer Assistant to Brian Cachia*
Science Fiction Vol.1 Osiris Child (2017) – *Composer Assistant to Brian Cachia*
Terminus (2015) – *Music Programmer, Musician, Composer Assistant*
Better Watch Out (2017) – *Choir Arranger, Musician, Composer Assistant*

DOCUMENTARY

Finding Her Beat (2022) – feature length USA produced by Emmy awarded director Dawn Mikkelson and Keri Pickett (Academy qualifying); Available on Tubi, Google and Amazon Prime
Capturing the Cosmos (2016) Produced by Museums Victoria (narrated by Geoffrey Rush)
Starlight (2014) Produced by Museums Victoria (narrated by Sigrid Thornton)
Heretic (documentary artist biopic) (2020) - Independent
Before 1770 – in post-production 2024

TELEVISION

Luke Nguyen's UK (SBS ONE / UKTV) - 2015
Luke Nguyen's France (SBS ONE / UKTV) - 2014
Luke Nguyen's Greater Mekong Season 2 (SBS ONE / UKTV) - 2012
Ben's Menu (Channel 10 / Foxtel) - Opening Titles
My Market Kitchen (Channel 10/Foxtel) - Opening Titles
InfoHealth TV Commercial (Australian nationwide commercial stations) (2016 onwards) – Vicks, Panadol, Ostelin, Telfast

SHORT FILM (Pertinent Credits)

Last Tree Standing (2017)
- *APRA Best Music for a Short Film 2017*
- *Best Music Score IOWA Motion Picture Awards Association 2018*

Midnight Stories and Tales from the Dark Web (2022) Dir. Ryan Cauchi
Golem (2021) Dir. Ryan Cauchi – Premiered at St Kilda Film Festival Opening Night 2021
Silenced (2018) Dir. Amy Tuxworth
Cut Off (2018) Dir. Ryan Cauchi
Aware (2013) Dir. Tony Chu
It Will Find You (2024) Dir. Chris Broadbent & Enzo Tedeschi

WEB SERIES

Romp Season 2 – Screen Australia funded; Premiered at Mardi Gras Film Festival Sydney 2022

Greystanes – Screen Australia funded with Tik Tok 2024