

## LILIANA KOMOROWSKA

Accomplished actress and promising filmmaker Liliana Komorowska went behind the camera in 2009 to shoot what would become her directorial debut with the powerful, touching and poignant award-winning documentary film *BEAUTY AND THE BREAST*. This compelling feature offers an intimate insight into the devastating realities of breast cancer through the eyes of nine female survivors. Shortly after making its festival debut at the World Film Festival in Montreal in 2012, the film went on to achieve high honors including the coveted Public Award (most popular) at the Fest and later snagged the Grand Jury Prize for the Best Feature Documentary and Best First-Time Director awards at the London Film Awards that same year. The film continues to garner awards around the world including the prize for Best Feature Documentary at the Women's International Film & Arts Festival in Miami, the Royal Reel Award for the Best Canadian Film at the Canada International Film Festival and an honorable mention at the New Jersey Film Festival and Santa Monica Independent Film Festival in 2013.

Komorowska hails from a strong artistic family with her mother and father both prominent dance artists and choreographers under the Communist regime in her home country of Poland. Her passion for the arts led her to achieve a Masters Degree of Fine Arts with honors from the State Theater Academy in Warsaw. Shortly thereafter she made her debut performance in a Masterpiece Theater production of *The Crucible* as Abigail, winning the Best Debut Award by an Actress from the Polish Television Academy. When martial law was declared in Poland on December 13, 1981 it virtually banned the young artist from further developing her promising acting career. A feature film opportunity with Academy Award winning director Moshe Mizrahi was her ticket to freedom.

After a year of struggles with authorities to procure her passport and visa to the States she arrived to star alongside Kyra Sedgwick in *WAR AND LOVE*, after which she obtained a number of film and television credits including roles on *THE COSBY SHOW* and *HIGHLANDER* and feature films including *THE ART OF WAR* with Wesley Snipes. Komorowska has worked with Academy Award winning director Bruce Beresford (*Her Alibi*),

Academy Award nominated director/producer Ridley Scott and Golden Globe award winning producer Tony Scott( *Hunger* TV Series) while also collaborating with Hollywood's A-listers including Aidan Quinn, Donald Sutherland and Sir Ben Kingsley.

Mentored by Academy Award winning film producer Denise Robert and inspired by the work of Alains Obomsawin, a proficient documentary filmmaker, Liliana discovered a passion for directing. In 2007 Komorowska took her efforts behind the camera to produce under her production company, QueenArt Films her first documentary short titled PARADIS PERDU, PARADIS RETROUVE which was subsequently broadcast by TV Polonia in 2012. Around the same time a unique yet close to home opportunity presented itself to Komorowska. Her husband Bernard Poulin introduced her to a breast cancer patient in need of professional advice on video material which chronicled her journey of the last days of her chemotherapy. Touched by the intimacy of her confessions, the courage and the need to speak freely about it in front of the camera, Komorowska was compelled to follow her story. Touched by the depth she was able to portray, Komorowska expanded the project, reaching out to eight other women suffering the same struggles to vividly portray their inspiring stories which became the film BEAUTY AND THE BREAST.

Komorowska is respected for the tireless work of her *Foundation Liliana Komorowska for the Arts* in promoting her Polish cultural heritage in America. She continues her acting career in French, Polish and English while living in a reconstituted family with her husband Bernard, raising the two children of her own. Currently residing in Montreal, Komorowska will soon travel back to her home country of Poland to direct a documentary on the Master of Polish Cinema Andrzej Wajda. She starred also as the Capitan of Polish Army, Ewa Wolainska a Thriller - series "The Cobweb" ([www.player.pl](http://www.player.pl)).