

GEORGE SIKHARULIDZE

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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- 2017 Columbia University, M.F.A. with honors, Film Directing/Screenwriting
- 2011 New York University, B.S. *summa cum laude*, with honors in Media, Culture and Communication

EMPLOYMENT

- 2023 – present University of Notre Dame, Department of Film, Television & Theatre:
Associate Professor
- 2021 – 2023 Columbia University, Graduate Film:
Adjunct Professor
- 2021 – 2023 Montclair State University, Film and Television
Adjunct Professor
- 2019 – 2023 New York University, Undergraduate Film and Television
Adjunct Professor
- 2017 – 2020 William Paterson University, Film, Television and Audio
Adjunct Professor
- 2017 – 2018 Hunter College, Department of Film & Media,
Adjunct Professor
- 2015 Columbia University, Undergraduate Film and Media Studies
Instructor
- 2014 – 2019 National High School Institute at Northwestern University, Film
Instructor
- 2014 – 2016 Columbia University, Undergraduate Film and Media Studies
Teaching Assistant

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2026 WISH I DIDN'T KNOW NOW, WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW THEN
(100 min, written, directed and produced)
In Post-Production
- 2024 PANOPTICON (95 min, written and directed)
World Premiere: Karlovy Vary Film Festival (main competition)

2019	A NEW YEAR (14 min, written, directed and produced) World Premiere: Toronto International Film Festival (main competition)
2018	FATHERLAND (15 min, written, directed and produced) World Premiere: Sundance Film Festival (main competition)
2016	RED APPLES (15 min, directed) World Premiere: Toronto International Film Festival (main competition)
2016	SUBMARINE (15 min, edited) World Premiere: Cannes Film Festival (Cinefondation Official Selection)
2014	THE FISH THAT DROWNED (14 min, written, directed and produced) World Premiere: Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival (International Shorts)

FILM AWARDS/RECOGNITION

PANOPTICON

2025	<i>Panopticon</i> – Official Submission for the Academy Awards for the Best Foreign Language Film from the Republic of Georgia for 2026. Best Actor Award for Data Chachua at Eliso Awards (Georgian Film Awards) Best Production Design Award for Ketí Nadibaidze at Eliso Awards (Georgian film awards)
2024	Prize of the Ecumenical Jury (Commendation) at Karlovy Vary Film Festival, Czech Republic Best Film Award at Palic Film Festival (Parallels and Encounters section), Serbia Best Film and Best Actor Awards Special Mention at Batumi International Art House Film Festival, Georgia Best New Performer Award at Asia Pacific Screen Awards, Australia Critics' Prize at Cinemed Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival, France
2018	Cinemed Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival Pitching Award, France Arras Film Days Pitching Award, France
2019	Odessa Best Pitch Award, Ukraine

FATHERLAND

- 2019 Best Film Award at Tbilisi International Film Festival, Georgia
- Best Film at International Film Festival Innsbruck, Austria
- 2018 Special Jury Award at New Orleans Film Festival, USA

RED APPLES

- 2016 National Board of Review Student Grant, USA
- Best Short Film Award at Florida Film Festival (Oscar Qualification), USA
- Best Film Award at Columbia University Film Festival, USA
- Audience Award at Austin film festival, USA
- Artist Award at Odense International Film Festival, Denmark
- Best Student Drama at Et Cultura

FILM GRANTS

PANOPTICON

- 2022 National Film Center Fund, Georgia
- 2020 MiBACT (Ministry of Culture Fund), Italy
- 2020 Center of National Cinematography Fund (CNC), Romania
- 2019 Aide aux Cinémas du Monde (CNC - Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image Animée), France

RED APPLES

- 2015 Columbia University Katharina Otto-Bernstein Thesis Grant, USA

INTERNAL UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME GRANTS

- 2025 Franco Institute Expanding Research Access Grant for *Wish I Didn't Know Now*, *What I Didn't Know Then*, post-production sound design and mixing, \$10,000
- Franco Institute Small Creative and Performing Arts Grant for *Wish I Didn't Know Now*, *What I Didn't Know Then*, color correction and grading, \$4,000.

Support from the Arts and Letters Dean's Office for Oscar Campaign for *Panopticon*, \$4,000.

2024 Notre Dame Research and Scholarship Program Regular Grant for *Metaphora*, a fiction feature film, \$100,000

ISLA Large Grant for *Hromada*, a documentary short film, \$15,000

Ukrainian Studies Hub Research Grant for *Hromada*, \$15,000

FILM DISTRIBUTION

PANOPTICON

2026 USA – online distribution nationwide. (distribution company CINEVERSE, USA)

2025 France - Theatrical distribution in France in several cities including Paris, Montpellier, Marseille, Lyon, Nantes and Nice. (distribution company LES ALCHEMISTES, France)

Georgia – Theatrical distribution in Tbilisi, Georgia. (distribution company INDEPENDENT FILM PROJECT, Georgia)

FATHERLAND (distribution company OUAT MEDIA, Canada)

2020 - Kanopy Streaming Platform

2019 – 2029 Criterion Collection Streaming

2018 – 2019 Festival Scope Pro Online Platform

2018 – 2019 Sundance TV/AMC Networks

A NEW YEAR (distribution company OUAT MEDIA, Canada)

2023 - Criterion Collection Streaming

2020 – 2023 Amazon Prime Streaming

RED APPLES (distribution company OUAT MEDIA, Canada)

2017 - Kanopy Streaming Platform

2017 - Short of the Week Online Platform

2017 – 2018 Ale Kino+ (Canal+ Poland TV)

2017 Shorts TV (North American)

2016 France 3 (French TV)
Virgin Atlantic
Air Canada

FILM FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

PANOPTICON

2024 Karlovy Vary Film Festival, Main Competition, Czech Republic
Giffoni Film Festival, Generation +18, Italy
Palic Film Festival, Parallels and Encounters, Serbia
London Georgian Film Festival, England
Cinemed Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival, France
International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg, On the Rise, Germany
Cineast Film Festival, Luxembourg
Stockholm Film Festival, Discovery, Sweden
Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Youth Program, Estonia
International Film Festival of India, India
Tromsø International Film Festival, Norway
Festival International Music & Cinema Marseille

FATHERLAND

2019 Sundance Film Festival, Main Competition, USA
Tbilisi International Film Festival, Georgia
Columbia University Film Festival, USA
New Orleans Film Festival, USA
Les Arcs Film Festival, France
International Film Festival Innsbruck, Austria
Split Film Festival, Croatia
Encounters Film Festival, England

RED APPLES

2016 Toronto International Film Festival, Canada
Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France
Palestine Cinema Days Festival, Palestine

Columbia University Film Festival, USA
 San Francisco International Film Festival, USA
 Odense Film Festival, Denmark
 Austin Film Festival, USA
 Golden Apricot Film Festival, Armenia
 Calgary International Film Festival, Canada
 Uppsala Short Film Festival, Sweden
 Interfilm Berlin Short Film Festival, Germany
 Newport Beach Film Festival, USA
 Filmets Badalona Film Festival, Spain
 Santa Fe Independent Film Festival, USA
 Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival, Brazil

A NEW YEAR

2018 Toronto International Film Festival, Canada
 Cinemed Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival, France

THE FISH THAT DROWNED

2014 Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, USA
 Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France

FILM LABS AND WORKSHOPS

PANOPTICON

2018 – 2019 Cannes Film Festival Cinéfondation Residency, Paris, France
 2019 Torino Script Lab, Greece, Italy
 2020 Torino Feature Lab, (Online)

PITCHING PLATFORMS

PANOPTICON

2019 Cannes Film Festival Cinefondation Pitching Forum
 Cinemart Meetings at Rotterdam International Film Festival
 Sofia Meetings Pitching Sessions
 Torino Script Lab Pitching

PUBLISHED WORK

- 2012 “Rethinking Russian Ark.” *Film International* (16516826), vol. 10, no. 4/5, Sept. 2012, pp. 101–08
- 2011 “Rediscovering *You Are Not I*: An Interview with Sara Driver.” *Senses of Cinema*, 61, (December): <http://www.sensesofcinema.com/2011/feature-articles/rediscovering-you-are-not-i-an-interview-with-sara-driver/>

INVITED TALKS/EVENTS

- 2025 Oscar’s campaign tour in Los Angeles for *Panopticon* (Georgia’s submission to the Oscars)
- Promotion tour for *Panopticon* in France through Paris, Montpellier and Marseille.
- “Georgian Cinema, Present and Future: A Conversation and Film Screening of ‘Panopticon’” at the Program of Georgian Studies, Harvard University.
- 2024 Screening of *Panopticon* and conversation with students at *First Features/Carla Kuhn Speaker Series*, Columbia University.
- 2022 “A Focus on Georgian Cinema: Panel Discussion” *Cinemed Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival*
- 2020 “The Future of Georgian Cinema” *Bozar 2019: East of West Film Days*

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND PEER ORGANIZATIONS

- 2024 Asia Pacific Screen Academy, Australia
- Berlinale Talents of Berlin Film Festival, Germany

FILM REVIEWS

- 2025 *PANOPTICON: Self-Surveillance and the Masculinity Crisis of a Young Man in the Republic of Georgia* by Robert St. Martin for *The Hollywood Times*: <https://hollywoodtimes.net/panopticon-self-surveillance-and-the-masculinity-crisis-of-a-young-man-in-the-republic-of-georgia/>
- Data Chachua is an Extraordinary Discovery in the Prickly Coming-Of-Age Portrait* by Debanjan Dhar. *High On Films*: https://www.highonfilms.com/panopticon-2024-karlovy-vary-movie-review/#google_vignette

Panopticon by Ariel Schweitzer. Cahiers du Cinema:
<https://www.cahiersducinema.com/fr-fr/boutique/magazines/n823-septembre-2025>

Une bataille après l'autre, Panopticon, TKT... Les tops et les flops ciné de la semaine by Stéphanie Belpêche et Baptiste Thion. *Le Journal du Dimanche*:
<https://www.lejdd.fr/culture/une-bataille-apres-lautre-panopticon-tkt-les-tops-et-les-flops-cine-de-la-semaine-162212>

“Panopticon” de George Sikharulidze : l'ado de la coiffeuse by Yannick Vely. *Paris Match*: <https://www.parismatch.com/culture/cinema/panopticon-de-george-sikharulidze-lado-de-la-coiffeuse-257466>

2024

‘Panopticon’ Review: A Starkly Relevant Story of Warped Masculinity in Georgia by Jessica Kiang. *Variety*:
<https://variety.com/2024/film/reviews/panopticon-review-1236059025/>

Cinemed: trois films coups de cœur qu'on a hate de voir sortir by Hélène Marzolf. *Telerama*: <https://www.telerama.fr/cinema/festival-cinemed-trois-films-coups-de-coeur-qu-on-a-hate-de-voir-sortir-7022766.php>

KVIFF 2024: All We Imagine as Light, Panopticon, Three Days of Fish by Robert Daniels. *RogerEbert.com*: <https://www.rogerebert.com/festivals/kviff-2024-all-we-imagine-as-light-panopticon-three-days-of-fish>

KVIFF Review: With Panopticon, a New Georgian Filmmaker Keeps You Watching by Rory O'Connor. *The Film Stage*:
<https://thefilmstage.com/kviff-review-with-panopticon-a-new-georgian-filmmaker-keeps-you-watching/>

PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS

2025

Georgian Oscars Entry ‘Panopticon’ Looks at Modern Surveillance, Censorship by Casey Loving for *The Wrap*: <https://www.thewrap.com/panopticon-georgian-oscars-entry-director-interview-video/>

‘Panopticon’ Director George Sikharulidze On How The Current Regime Has Seized Control Over Georgia’s Film Industry by Frank J. Avella for *The Contending*: <https://thecontending.com/video-panopticon-director-george-sikharulidze-on-how-the-current-regime-has-seized-control-over-georgias-film-industry/>

2024

How Francois Truffaut’s ‘400 Blows’ Inspired George Sikharulidze’s Coming-of-Age Tale ‘Panopticon’ by Nick Holdsworth for *Variety*:
<https://variety.com/2024/film/global/panopticon-francois-truffaut-400-blows-1236057893/>

- 2019 *In the Shadow of the Dictator: A Conversation with George Sikharulidze* by Penelope Bartlett for *Current* at Criterion Channel:
<https://www.criterion.com/current/posts/6537-in-the-shadow-of-the-dictator-a-conversation-with-george-sikharulidze>
- The Return of the Monsters – an interview with George Sikharulidze* by Mathieu Lericq for *Débordements*:
<https://debordements.fr/George-Sikharulidze/?fbclid=IwAR0hZ7ojml66lBnsaHmDjLNAS6msrAAIAaYqbqsFDMiGquRr-O817e2CRMU>

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2025 *Panopticon (Georgia)*. On screen interview by Joe McGovern for *The Wrap*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WMmqgkeGuE>
- ‘Panopticon’ Director George Sikharulidze On Georgia's Current Regime, Control Over Film Industry Frank J. Avella for the *Contending*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWk76Q8SZJM>
- Interview de George Sikharulidze, Realisateur du Film* for the DVD bonus features of *Panopticon*.
- 2024 *George Sikharulidze – Director of Panopticon*. On screen interview by Ana Stanic for *Cineuropa*: <https://cineuropa.org/en/video/464349/>
- Podcast interview on ‘Panopticon’. Hosted by Marcus Mizelle. *Past, Present, Feature*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_FsFKZQygU
- Meet and Greet to the Film Panopticon*, a video interview at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival:
<https://kviff.tv/en/video/3710-meet-greet-to-the-film-panopticon>

ACADEMIC SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

- 2026 Senior Thesis Committee
- 2024 – 2027 Faculty Senate, Committee on Academic Affairs
- 2024 – 2026 Committee on Anti-Racism, Racial Justice, and Equality (CARE)
- 2024 Senior Thesis Committee

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

- 2020 – 2022 Admissions Committee MFA Film Directing and Screenwriting Program