# ELA BAŞAK ATAKAN

# eatakan@ku.edu.tr (+90) 532 245 0449

## EDUCATION

1993-1996 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY** New York, NY

**MFA** in Film. Double major in directing and screenwriting.

Thesis screenplay Albatross, Come Home! Nantucket Film Festival finalist.

1988-1992 **AMHERST COLLEGE** Amherst, MA

**BA,** *magna cum laude*.

Double majorin English and Film.

Fall 1990 **SAN FRANCISCO ART INSTITUTE** San Francisco, CA

Film Studies.

1985-1988 **LYCEE FRANÇAIS PIERRE LOTTI**  Istanbul, Turkey

Baccalaureat in Economics, *Mention Assez Bien*.

**ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

2011-*present* **KOÇ UNIVERSITY** Istanbul, Turkey

* Full time lecturer at theMedia and Visual Arts (MAVA) Department.
* Classes taught: “ASIU 101: Film and the Visual,” “MAVA 206: Writing for Media,”

“MAVA 213: Film Analysis,” “MAVA 332: Script Writing,” “MAVA 414: Film Criticism,” “MAVA 433: Directing” and “MAVA 444: Thesis Project”

2008-2011 **KOÇ UNIVERSITY** Istanbul, Turkey

* Part time instructor at the Department of English and Comparative Literature, College of Social Sciences and Humanities.
* Classes taught: “LIT 102: Film and the Visual,” undergraduate level required (core) course, “ARTS 351: Women In Film”

2005-2009 **BOSPHOROUS UNIVERSITY**  Istanbul, Turkey

* Part time film instructor at the Western Languages and Literatures Department.
* Classes taught: “Film Analysis” and “Film History”

2006-2007 **KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY** Istanbul, Turkey

* Part time instructor at the Film and Drama Program, Graduate School of Social Sciences
* Class taught: “Screenwriting”

2005-2006 **BAHCESEHIR UNIVERSITY**

* Part time instructor at the Cinema and Television Department, Faculty of Communication
* Class taught: “Screenwriting”

## INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

1998-present **FREELANCE SCREENWRITER – DIRECTOR**  New York-Istanbul

* Co-screenwriter of Kalbim Ege’de Kaldı, Episode 1, Limon Yapım, Kanal D, 2015
* Head of story, Gelecek Gelecek, Otto Productions, National Geographic TV, in development, 2014-2015
* Collaborated on Kadınlar Mektebi, play for comedian Okan Bayülgen, 2013
* Directed and produced Anaokulunda Bir Gün, play for Enka Okulları 2013
* Head writer of sit-com, Kısmetim Otel, produced and aired, 2007
* Additional dialogue and polish work on the screenplay of The Net 2.0, Sony Pictures
* Screenplay work for Hırsız Var, Medyapım/ United International Pictures, 2004
* Screenplay Kısmet, Massachusetts 2003 Sundance Screenwriters Lab finalist
* Screenplay Albatross, Come Home! 2002 Sundance Screenwriters Lab finalist and 1996 Nantucket Film Festival finalist
* Screenplay Ölümün El Yazısı, adapted from Osman Aysu’s best seller “Cellat,” produced for Kanal D, Medyapım, 1999
* Directed a short film, “Beeswax/Balmumu” with the support of Fuji Film, shown at New York Turkish Film Festival, 2003 and Nurnberg Film Festival, Germany, 2004
* Directed and produced over a dozen music videos for various artists including:

“Skalonga” Athena, “Holigan” Athena, “Baharda Kuşlar Gibi” Özdemir Erdoğan,

“Laubali” Özlem Tekin, “Babasız Kızlar Balosu” Babazula, “Sensiz Yıllarda” Bumerang.

Fall 2001 **NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY** New York, NY

*Assistant to the Director*

* Helped promote the academy through advertising, mass mailing and publicity events.
* Lead prospective filmmakers through the door and introduced them to the world of film. Conducted one-to-one advisory and informational sessions with film students.

1992-1993 **CHANTICLEER FILMS** Hollywood, CA

##### Office PA, in the Hollywood office of Chanticleer Films.

##### Set PA, in various feature films.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SEMINARS**

Spring 2012“Creative Writing” (Yaratıcı Yazarlık) Workshop at Bosphorous University,

instructor Murat Gülsoy

March 2012 Creative Writing Symposium 23-27, Sabancı University

CIAD Writing Center, instructor Valerie Miner

Fall 2011 “Personal Narrative/Creative Non Fiction” Workshop, Koç University

instructor Elif Batuman

Spring 2011 Project accepted into Yapımlab (Proje Projelendirme Semineri with Zeynep Özbatur.)

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Video Art exhibited in Mary Ogilvy Gallery, Oxford University, England, March 2000.

MacDowell Fellowship, MacDowell Colony, New Hampshire. 1993.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

U.S. and Turkish Citizen. Fluent in French and Turkish. Conversational Spanish.

Member of SENDER, (Senaryo Yazarları Derneği, Turkish Screenwriters Association)

Member of *Films Fatales* (Network of Female Filmmakers, http://www.filmfatales.org )

PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors, Diver Certificate)