

GABRIELLA LEONARDI - Writer | Director - 2026

Gabriella Leonardi is known for writing with an intimate, vulnerable, yet explosive exploration of the darker side of humanity, peering into every character's soul - her stories often coming to life through the lens of a female character.

Gabriella is a multifaceted talent whose work spans screenwriting, poetry, acting and modelling, consistently garnering critical acclaim and awards. Her debut screenplay, *THE LITTLE BOY AND THE DUCK ON A CLIFF'S EDGE*, has won multiple prestigious awards, including Best Drama Screenplay at The New York Screenwriting Awards, Best Drama Screenplay and overall Winner at the 2024 Gil International Screenwriting Awards, Best Young Screenwriter under 30 at The Chicago Script Awards, Best First Time Feature at Best Script Awards London and Best Drama Screenplay at the Oxford Script Awards. She has now completed a further three feature scripts, with *WELCOME TO ESCAPATORIA* being her fourth screenplay. She is also a best selling Poet of the series 'THE ART OF A DAMAGED SOUL'.

She has just launched her own production company 'Damaged Soul Productions' with her debut short as slate 1 created with a zero budget - 'THE MIRROR THAT CONSUMES YOU' a neon soaked, poetic exploration of body image, distorted beauty, and the quiet unravelling that happens when chasing a dream in an image obsessed world. This has already won multiple awards including Best Experimental Film, Cannes Independent Shorts 2026; Best Cinematography Hollywood Discovery Awards 2026; Best Woman Filmmaker, Sweden Film Awards, and has been selected for the BAFTA qualifying Festival, CBFF 2026.

A graduate of East 15 Acting School, Gabriella trained in acting, community theatre and circus, further enriching her multidisciplinary approach to storytelling and performance.

Gabriella has published *THE ART OF THE DAMAGED SOUL* and *THE ART OF A DAMAGED SOUL VOL 2 – WHEN TWO SOULS COLLIDE*, which have both topped the British and Irish poetry charts as well as the Women's poetry charts multiple times. These works resonate deeply with readers through Gabriella's raw and reflective explorations of love, loss, and resilience. Her poetry has drawn comparisons to Sylvia Plath, with one critic describing her as "the 21st century Sylvia Plath." She has recently written Volume 3 which is equally as resonant and due for publishing.

Gabriella Leonardi continues to challenge and inspire audiences with her fearless creativity and authentic voice, building a legacy as a groundbreaking storyteller. She has three more feature film scripts ready and in development with her fourth.

Gabriella has 3 disabilities, is neurodivergent and from a working class background.

