

DOMINIK RAUSCH BIO

"I have been called a 'Cynical Dreamer,' because while I often process daily life with a dose of sarcasm, I approach life on screen with a sense of wonder and conviction in the belief that, ultimately, we can all find beauty and love."

CURRENT WORK

Dominik Rausch is a director / producer based in Los Angeles. Recent directing work includes 10 episodes of branded content for Bridgestone Tire's 2017 NFL Rookie Premiere campaign as well as 58 episodes of Ownzones' "Celebrity Mentor" series featuring Chloe Lukasiak (Lifetime's "Dance Moms"), Pharrell protégé Yuna (Recent Single: "Crush ft. Usher"), and Kelli Berglund (Disney's "Lab Rats"), to be released on Amazon Prime in 2018.

As a producer, Dominik is developing branded content with Phil Conserva (Producer, "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation") and co-creating a half-hour animated series with Walt Becker (Director, "Van Wilder," "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip") and Starburns Industries (Production Company, "Rick and Morty").

PAST WORK & BACKGROUND

Rausch grew up in a small village in Germany, where he was trained as a nationally-ranked classical pianist. "I remember seeing a short film my dad recorded on his 8mm camera. The shots of breathtaking landscapes were accompanied by classical music, which he put on in the background. The music was so stunningly in sync with the motion of the river water, that it changed how I viewed the world," recalls Dominik when asked about the moment he knew he wanted to become a filmmaker. He was eight years old.

In his teens, he frequently borrowed his father's camcorder to make his own movies – both scripted and documentary – in school, on class trips, and whenever time allowed. All of his films explored different aspects of life and relationships, which culminated in a feature adaptation of Goethe's "Faust" featuring performances by his classmates.

After graduating from high school, Dominik didn't waste any time and immediately applied to film schools in Los Angeles, where he ended up moving only eight months later. He received a scholarship from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and, while still in college, was offered an assistant director position on a feature film.

Dominik then launched into a career in digital media with a focus on pioneering branded entertainment. He is best known for producing "Easy To Assemble" (sponsored by IKEA and starring Illeana Douglas, Jeff Goldblum, Jane Lynch, Ed Begley Jr., as well as Keanu Reeves in a spinoff), which with over 17 million views world-wide was ranked by Ad Age among the Top 5 Branded Deals of 2009 – alongside blockbuster movie "Transformers" and NBC's "Chuck."

Other brands Dominik has worked with include Trident Gum, Ace Hardware, Party City, and Walmart. Platforms and companies that his projects have been distributed on or developed for include Amazon Prime, Sony Crackle, 20th Century Fox Digital, Netflix, Hulu, Horizon Media, YouTube and Funny or Die.

In 2009, the Producers Guild of America invited Dominik to join the guild, where he was mentored by Bill Fay, then President of Production at Legendary Pictures. Shortly after, in 2011, Rausch was nominated for "Variety's Digital 25" and his work, by then, had received Streamy Awards and a NATPE Digital Luminary Award in addition to being a Webby Award Honoree.

Rausch enjoys sharing his experiences as a guest speaker at public events both in the US and overseas, such as the IPTV World Summit in London and Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, as well as classes at the Producers Guild of America, Arizona State University, New York Film Academy, and General Assembly in Santa Monica.

After gathering experience as a producer, Dominik returned to his directing roots and is now focused on becoming a director in one-hour TV. In addition, he is passionate about writing-directing a series of "based on true events" short films that capture real, human stories designed to inspire non-polarized conversations in the mainstream media around subject matters affecting minorities in an effort to champion diversity both in front and behind the camera.