

# Mary Kuryla

**Clinical Assistant Professor of Screenwriting at Loyola Marymount University**

Los Angeles, CA, US

School of Film and Television

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## Biography

Mary Kuryla's collection *Freak Weather: stories* was selected by Amy Hempel for the Grace Paley Prize in Short Fiction and was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2017. Her novel *Away to Stay* is forthcoming with Regal House Press in 2021. Her stories have received The Pushcart Prize and the Glimmer Train Very Short Fiction Prize and have appeared in *Conjunctions*, *Pleiades*, *Agni*, *Witness*, *Epoch*, *Shenandoah*, *Denver Quarterly*, *The New Orleans Review*, and *Strange Horizons*, *Greensboro Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and elsewhere. Kuryla co-authored a series of children's books with Newbery Honor winner Eugene Yelchin, including *The Next Door Bear*, *The Heart of a Snowman*, and *Ghost Files: The Haunting Truth*, all with Harper Children's Books. As a filmmaker, Kuryla's feature film, *Freak Weather* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and was in competition at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. Her award-winning short film *Memory Circus* premiered at Sundance. Several of Kuryla's short stories have been adapted into award-winning films. She is in preproduction on her second feature film, *Jorie Lee Crosses the Line*. In screenwriting, Kuryla has written screen adaptations, including *Gordon Lish's Dear Mr. Capote* for John Malkovich to direct, as well as screen adaptations for Mr. Mudd Films, United Artist and MGM, among others. Her first feature, *Bunny Girl* was optioned by Generation Films. She has written a screen adaptation of her novel, *Away to Stay* for the actor John Carroll Lynch to direct. Kuryla was a consulting story editor for the WGN TV one-hour serialized drama, *Salem*.

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## Industry Expertise

Media - Print, Motion Pictures and Film, Publishing

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## Areas of Expertise

Film Studies: Horror Genre and International Cinema, Children's Book Writing, Independent Film Directing and Producing, Screenplays, Fiction Writing: Novels and Short Stories, Journalism

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## Affiliations

WGA-West, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Associated Writer's Program

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## Education

University of Southern California, School of Cinematic Arts  
M.F.A. Film Production

**Boston College**  
B.A. Film and English

**University of California, Irvine**  
Creative Writing Fellow

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Wrote and Directed Feature Film Freak Weather**

Freak Weather is a 35mm feature, written and directed by Mary Kuryla, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and was in competition at the Rotterdam Film Festival, Tiger Awards. ?Freak Weather was selected for the Tiger Awards Competition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2000 in light of its adventurous approach to the potential of cinema and for the authentic treatment of its subject.? ?? Simon Field, director of International Film Festival Rotterdam

### **First Collection of Short Stories won Grace Paley Prize**

Freak Weather was published by University of Massachusetts Press. ?There is a feral quality to these stories, an attitude that is truly startling. The language is perfectly matched to the not-so-conflicted women. The treatment of people in over their heads is both tough and surprisingly moving. The ?action? resides as much in the brisk, fresh language as in what these people conjure in a crisis. Ultimately, the author delivers stories unlike anyone else?s.? ? Amy Hempel, Grace Paley Prize judge

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