



## SALLY McLEAN

An award-winning multi-hyphenate creative, Sally McLean began her work in the entertainment biz in her mid-teens and has since performed lead, guest and supporting roles in numerous Australian, US and UK film, theatre and television productions.

A graduate of The Actors Institute UK, Sally's notable screen acting credits include the lead role of "Angie Powers" in the BAFTA Award-winning BBC miniseries *Bootleg* opposite **Tim Robinson**, lead guest role of "Stacy" in the AACTA Award-winning ABC TV series *Utopia* opposite **Celia Pacquola** and recurring guest roles of "Miss Giddens" in the AACTA Award nominated ABC/CBBC TV series *The Worst Year of My Life – Again!* opposite **Tiarnie Coupland** and "Barb" in the cult hit USA Sony/AMC TV series, *Preacher* opposite **Pip Torrens & Christopher Kirby**.

Sally created her own boutique production business, **Incognita Enterprises**, under the Honorary Patronage of Oscar® nominated actor, Sir Nigel Hawthorne KB, CBE in 1997 – an association that continued until his passing in 2001.

Predominately working on screen, Sally is also an experienced dramatic Shakespearean actor with Musical Theatre roots and has played over thirty lead and supporting roles in theatre in both Australia and the UK. Highlights include roles in the West End premiere of the drama *Annabel's Requiem*, what is believed to be the first all-female production of *Macbeth* in the UK and the professional Australian premier of the hit off-Broadway musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

She is currently the Creator/Director and lead ensemble member of the multi award-winning digital series *Shakespeare Republic* which has been officially selected and screened at over 100 international film festivals, nominated for over 90 awards and won over 50 awards to date including *Best Director*, *Best Web Series*, *Best Actress* (for Sally personally) and *Best Ensemble Cast* in numerous festivals and industry awards. Fellow cast include **Nadine Garner, Michala Banas, Alan Fletcher, Scott Major, Christopher Kirby** and **Dean Haglund**, among others.

A highlight was being named the winner of the prestigious *CINE Golden Eagle Award for Best Digital Series* in the USA in 2017, which saw Sally join the ranks of fellow CINE alumni such as **Steven Spielberg** (the then CINE President) **Oprah Winfrey, Ron Howard, Martin Scorsese, Jim Henson, Mike Nichols, Robert Altman, Spike Lee, Billy Crystal, Robert De Niro, Martin Scorsese** and **Sydney Pollack**, among others. Fellow award winners that year were Christian Slater's *Mr Robot*, *Variety's Actors on Actors* and National Geographic's *M.A.R.S.* series.

Another highlight was winning the *Best Film Award* at the 2020 Falstaff Awards in the USA for *Shakespeare Republic* Season Three, decided by a jury of academics from around the world. Fellow nominees included the UK's **Shakespeare's Globe** broadcast program, Canada's **Stratford Festival** broadcast series, the international hit streaming series *The Show Must Go Online* and the UK's **National Theatre Live at Home** program. Previous winners of this award include the BBC's *Hollow Crown* series, Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, Joss Whedon's *Much Ado About Nothing* and Justin Kurzel's *Macbeth* starring Michael Fassbender & Marion Cotillard.

In December 2021 *Shakespeare Republic* was named the **Most Awarded Anthology Series** of 2021 and listed in the Top 10 Web Series in the world (WSWC, 2021). All three seasons were invited and are now part of the official collection at the **National Film And Sound Archive** in Canberra (NFSA) and the series was mentioned as an "Acquisition Highlight" in the NFSA Annual Report for 2019.

Sally's Shakespeare short film, *Speaking Daggers* (a spin off from the series), which she adapted, directed and played the lead of "Beatrice", was selected for 22 international film festivals, including the Academy Award® accredited St Kilda Film Festival – and won 3 awards, as well as a "Highly Commended" Finalist nod from **Sir Kenneth Branagh** in his role as Jury President for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's Shakespeare Film Festival in the UK in 2017.

Sally's recent acting accolade highlights include being nominated for **Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role (History)** for her "Queen Katherine" in Shakespeare's *Henry VIII* for The Show Must Go Online at the Groundlings Awards in the UK, and winning **Best Actress in a Web Series** for playing "Macbeth" in *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)* at the Unrestricted View Film Festival, also in the UK, as decided by a jury of industry peers including top level production company executives, directors, actors and producers.

Sally's work with *Shakespeare Republic* has been the subject of several academic presentations and plenary panels at Early Modern Literature and Shakespeare seminars and conferences in Australia, the UK and USA from 2016 to now. Her first published work on Shakespeare, an essay exploring her methodology behind *Shakespeare Republic* and Shakespeare performance in general, was published in the USA by Routledge Press in 2020 as part of the academic essay collection, *Playfulness In Shakespearean Adaptations* edited by Marina Gerzic and Aidan Norrie.

The third season of *Shakespeare Republic* has been taught at Syracuse University, USA, discussed in papers presented at the Shakespeare Association of America Conference (USA) and BritGrad Conference (UK) and is also further explored in the *Arden Shakespeare* collection, *Lockdown Shakespeare: New Evolutions in Performance and Adaptation* edited by Gemma Kate Allred, Benjamin Broadribb and Erin Sullivan, published by Bloomsbury Press in the UK in July 2022.

She additionally teaches Shakespeare as an industry guest teacher at various institutions, including the Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia and the Equity Foundation.

Her next project, *Dark Arcadia*, in which she plays the role of "Hecate MacFindlay", as well as writing and directing, is currently in post-production, made with support from Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne, Creative Australia and the British Shakespeare Association.

Sally continues to work as an actor in film & TV while developing several projects – Shakespeare-related and not – for the stage and screen.

More information:

[www.sallymclean.com](http://www.sallymclean.com)

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#### AWARD HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Winner: "Best Actress"** – 2022 Andromeda Film Festival (Turkey) for "Macbeth" in *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Creator Amets (Best Independent Creator/Showrunner)"** – 2021 Bilbao Seriesland (Spain) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Best Actress in a Web Series"** – 2021 Unrestricted View Film Festival (UK) for "Macbeth" in *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Best Director"** – 2021 Seoul WebFest (South Korea) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Best Ensemble (International Narrative)"** – 2021 New Zealand WebFest (NZ) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Best Director (International Narrative)"** – 2021 New Zealand WebFest (NZ) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Best Writer of a Dramatic Series"** – 2021 Baltimore Next Media Web Fest (USA) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Best Screenwriting"** – 2021 Green Mountain International Film Festival (USA) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Best Ensemble Cast (Drama)"** – 2021 British Web Awards (UK) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "Best Dramatic Series"** – 2021 Minnesota WebFest (USA) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: "The Michael Ajakwe Award for Innovation"** – 2021 Digital Media Festival (Italy) for creating/writing *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*

- **Winner: “Best Film”** – 2020 Falstaff Awards for Excellence in Shakespeare (USA) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: “Michael Ajakwe Jr Award For Innovation”** – 2020 Sydney WebFest (Australia) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: “Best Web Series of All Genres”** - (Grand Jury Award), 2020 Asia Web Awards (Korea) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: “Best Director”** – 2020 New York City WebFest (USA) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Winner: “Best Director”** – 2019 Côte d’Azur Webfest (part of the 72nd Festival de Cannes Marché du Film program, Cannes, France) for *Shakespeare Republic #LoveTheBard*
- **Winner: “Best Ensemble Cast (Series)”** – 2019 London International Motion Picture Awards (UK) for *Shakespeare Republic: #LoveTheBard*
- **Winner: “Best Web Series of All Genres” (Grand Jury Award)** – 2019 Asia Web Awards (Korea) for *Shakespeare Republic: #LoveTheBard*
- **Winner: “Ensemble Amets - Best Ensemble Cast”** – 2017 Bilbao Seriesland (Spain) for *Shakespeare Republic: #LoveTheBard*
- **Winner: “Best Digital Series: Director – Sally McLean”** - 2017 CINE Golden Eagle Awards (USA) for *Shakespeare Republic: #LoveTheBard*
- **Winner: “Best Original Idea”** - 2017 Rio WebFest (Brazil) for *Shakespeare Republic: #LoveTheBard*
- **Winner: “Best Short Film”** - 2017 Peak City International Film Festival (USA), for *Speaking Daggers*
- **Awarded: “Highly Commended: Best Film Inspired By Shakespeare”** by Jury President, Sir Kenneth Branagh - 2017 Shakespeare Birthplace Trust “Filming Shakespeare” Festival (UK) for *Speaking Daggers*
- **Winner: “Best Director”** - 2016 Indiepossible International Film Festival (USA) for *Shakespeare Republic*
- **Winner: “Best Shakespeare Short”** 2016 British Council Short Film Competition (UK) for *Shakespeare Republic*– Sally performing “Sonnet #18”
- **Winner: “Best Webisode or Web Short”** - 2016 Peak City International Film Festival (USA) for *Shakespeare Republic* – Sally performing “Sonnet #18”
- **Winner: “Best Web Short”** - 2016 Stonefair International Film Festival (Romania) for *Shakespeare Republic* – Sally performing “Sonnet #18”

#### NOMINATIONS:

- **Nominated: “Outstanding Actor in a Principal Role (History)”** - 2021 The Groundlings’ Choice Awards (UK) for “Queen Katherine” in Henry VIII
- **Nominated: “Best Supporting Performance”, “Best Director in a Drama”, “Best Original Premise” & “Outstanding Drama”** – 2021 New Jersey Web Fest (USA) for acting, creating, directing & writing *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated: “Best Ensemble”** – 2021 T.O. Web Fest (Canada) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated: “Top Amets” & “Ensemble Amets”** – 2021 Bilbao Seriesland (Spain) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Finalist: “Best Director”** – 2021 SceneSaver Birthday Honours Awards (UK) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated: “Best Screenplay”, “Best Ensemble Cast” & “Best Concept”** – 2021 Seoul WebFest (South Korea) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated “Best Director”, “Best Screenplay/Writer” & “Best Producer”** - 2021 Australian Screen Industry Network Awards (Australia) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated: “Best Original Script”** – 2021 Montréal Digital WebFest (Canada) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated: “Best Director”, “Best Ensemble Cast” & “Best Creator”** - 2020 Asia Web Awards (Korea) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated: “Best Director”** - 2020 Sydney WebFest (Australia) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated: “Best Directing” & “Best Screenplay”** – 2020 International Online WebFest (UK) for *Shakespeare Republic: #AllTheWebsAStage (The Lockdown Chronicles)*
- **Nominated: “Best Actress” & “Best Director”** - 2019 Asia Web Awards (Korea) for playing “Beatrice” & directing *Shakespeare Republic: #LoveTheBard*
- **Nominated: “Best Lead Actress” & “Best Director”** - 2018 Web Series Festival (USA), for playing “Beatrice” & directing *Shakespeare Republic: #LoveTheBard*

#### EARLY NOTABLE AWARDS:

- **Winner: “Best Supporting Actress”**, Cheevers Awards (Australia) for *Murdered to Death*
- **Winner: “Presenter of the Year”**, Radio 3RPP-FM (Australia)
- **Nominated: “Best Supporting Actress” & “Best New Talent”**, MTGV Awards (Australia) for “Ado Annie” in *Oklahoma*