



RITA CIOLEK, MFA, CPA



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Rita Ciolek immigrated to the United States from Poland in 1995. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce with High Honor from DePaul University's College of Commerce 2001, at the same time as earning her certification as a CPA. Rita then joined the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers where, over the next nine years, she worked in the tax group, and was eventually promoted to Director of International Tax. In that position, she assisted multinational corporations with global restructuring efforts, international and domestic tax compliance, and income tax audits. In 2012, Rita took on a similar role at Abbott Laboratories where she worked until she started Kazia Productions. Driven by a desire to combine her entrepreneurial spirit with her creative side, Rita went back to DePaul University, and in 2015 earned a Master of Fine Arts in Cinema from its School of Cinematic Arts.

At Kazia Productions, Rita combines her passion and training in storytelling with the knowledge and skills she earned from her thirteen years of experience working with major corporations. Her boutique media production company creates interesting and exciting digital media, which helps businesses and non-profits visually showcase their services or products thereby strengthening their brand image and safeguarding long-term success.

Rita's notable film works include *Jax*, which won a Best Documentary award at the 2014 DePaul University Premiere Film Festival. For her MFA thesis work, Rita wrote, directed and produced *Growing Strong*, which won an International Award of Excellence – Newcomer at the International Film Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia. Currently, Rita is producing *A Desert Calling* – a new docuseries that follows individuals suffering emotional and physical pain on a spiritual journey of healing into the Sonoran desert, led by a renowned Yaqui Indian shaman.