



## **ASHLEY WILLIAMS** - *biography*

Ashley Williams directed, wrote, produced, and starred in MEATS, a short film that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival where it won the Creative Coalition's Spotlight Award. That film sold to Showtime as part of an upcoming series of short films. It was shot by Roman Vasyanov (SUICIDE SQUAD and FURY) and has played 30+ film festivals around the world. Ashley wrote and stars in the short film STUD BOOB which is in on the festival circuit now with director Shaina Feinberg. She's shadowing major television directors, developing a cable series with producer-director Pamela Fryman based on a memoir called KILLING IT. She has a deal at Hallmark, where she executive produced and starred in LOVE ON A LIMB, as well as produced and stars in an upcoming pair of two interconnected movies called SISTER SWAP opposite her real sister, actor Kimberly Williams-Paisley. She made her feature-length directorial debut with CIRCLE OF DECEPTION for Lifetime this past year, and she has set up deals to direct again soon for both Apple and Hallmark.

Ashley is a versatile actress in film, television, and theatre. She's currently shooting an Apple TV+ series with writer/director Bonnie Hunt. She's shot 200+ episodes of television, a dozen tv pilots, and more than a dozen movies. She starred in the limited series THE JIM GAFFIGAN SHOW on Comedy Central, playing Jeannie Gaffigan, based on the comedian's wife. Ashley appeared alongside Jessica Chastain and Oscar Issac in the critically lauded film A MOST VIOLENT YEAR and also starred in the Warner Brothers comedy SOMETHING BORROWED with Kate Hudson and John Krasinski. Other credits include J.C. Chandor's Oscar-nominated MARGIN CALL and SEQUIN RAZE, the acclaimed short film by Sarah Gertrude Shapiro that became the series UnREAL after winning South By Southwest.

As a teenager Ashley played Meg Ryan's daughter, Dani Andropolous, on *AS THE WORLD TURNS*. She later starred alongside Mark Feuerstein in the NBC television series *GOOD MORNING MIAMI* and in Lifetime's *MONTANA SKY* with John Corbett. Ashley also had a memorable, longtime recurring role on the CBS comedy *HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER*, as Victoria, "the baker that got away" for Ted (Josh Radnor). She was so popular on the show that she won a major online poll as to whom fans would most like to see the as "the mother." Her other tv credits include recurring roles on the Holly Hunter TNT series *SAVING GRACE*, SyFy's *WAREHOUSE 13*, Lifetime's *SIDE ORDER OF LIFE*, and Showtime's award-winning *HUFF*, as well as roles on *THE GOOD DOCTOR*, *THE NEW ADVENTURES OF OLD CHRISTINE*, *CSI*, *MONK*, *THE MENTALIST*, *FBI*, *THE GOOD WIFE*, *PSYCH*, *LAW & ORDER: SVU*, and HBO's *GIRLS*, to name a few.

Born in Westchester, New York, Ashley studied at Boston University and RADA in London. She was a member of the acting company at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Her first job out of drama school was understudying both Rachel Weisz and Gretchen Mol in the Off-Broadway play *THE SHAPE OF THINGS*, written and directed by Neil LaBute. During the run, Ashley performed both roles opposite Paul Rudd. She starred with Wendie Malick in Off-Broadway's *BURLEIGH GRIMES* and starred on Broadway with Tom Skerritt in *A TIME TO KILL*, based on John Grisham's novel.

With a natural skill for writing, Williams has penned several moving, personal pieces about her miscarriage and her mother's long battle with Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) and Alzheimer's disease for *People* and *Medium*. Williams is also a birth doula, offering emotional, physical, and informational support to mothers and their partners leading up to labor and through childbirth. Ashley splits her time between Los Angeles and New York with her husband, producer Neal Dodson, and their two young sons.