

KRISTINA CHOTAI

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EDUCATION

Pope John XXIII Regional High School <i>Sparta, NJ</i>	Expected Graduation: June 2027
Syracuse University <i>Pre-College Film Program, Rising Junior</i>	Summer 2025
Fairleigh Dickinson University <i>Pre-College Film Program, Rising Senior</i>	Summer 2026
• Completed college-credit coursework	
Montclair State University <i>Animation Program</i>	Summer 2026

CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

Melon (Short Film) <i>Writer & Director, Montclair Film</i>	2025–2026
BuyMyBuddy.com (Short Film) <i>Co-Writer & Co-Director, Montclair Film</i>	2026–2027
Filmmaking, Screenwriting & Directing Classes <i>Montclair Film</i>	2024–2026
• Completed coursework in filmmaking fundamentals, screenwriting, indie production, Adobe Premiere Pro editing, and directing technique (camera, lighting, sound)	
• Acted in several short films, while focusing primarily on screenwriting and directing	
Montclair Film 2026 Junior Jury <i>Junior Juror</i>	2026
• Selected through a competitive application process to evaluate festival films, participate in jury deliberations, and help select the Junior Jury winner	
Film Review Club <i>Participant, Montclair Film</i>	2025–2026
• Watched and critiqued recent independent films; analyzed acting, design, sound, and camera work	
Kubert School of Comic Art <i>Comic Book Art</i>	2023–2024
• Developed character design and visual storytelling skills	

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Melon (Short Film)
• Film: Best Short Film, Student Awards; Best Science Fiction Short, NY Sci-Fi & Horror Film Festival; official selections at On The Rise and NJ Horror Con Film Festivals (2026)
• Screenplay: Semi-Finalist, <i>On The Rise Student Screenplay Competition</i> ; Finalist, <i>Montclair Film Emerging Screenwriters Competition</i>

LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

New Jersey Arts Education Council <i>Student Advisory Board Member (paid stipend)</i>	2024–2025
• Selected as one of 12 students from more than 200 applicants statewide	
• Moderated a "Careers in Filmmaking" panel featuring NYU Tisch film students and a veteran playwright/actress/director	
• Co-developed the "Art Isn't a Limit" podcast series, including interviewing an art therapy expert	
• Served as a Youth Arts Ambassador advocating for greater recognition of the arts in New Jersey high schools; proposed an extracurricular art club and school art Instagram page	

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sparta United Methodist Church, Sparta, NJ <i>Children's Program Volunteer</i>	Summer 2026
• Assisted instructors with a safety training program for young children; photographed the sessions for the organization's social media	
YMCA Youth Summer Camp <i>Counselor Assistant</i>	Summer 2026
• Guided young children through arts and crafts activities, encouraging creativity, confidence, and self-expression	
St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, Randolph, NJ <i>Parish & Confirmation Service Volunteer</i>	2024–2025
• Assisted with parish and Confirmation-related service activities, including event hospitality, setup, and cleanup	
Resurrection Parish, Randolph, NJ <i>Vacation Bible School Volunteer</i>	Summer 2026
• Supported instructors with classes and activities for children	

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

- **School Debate Club** — 2025–2027: developed skills in persuasive argument
- **Vocal Music, Back2 Rock** — 2023–2025: performed at concerts three times a year
- **Track & Field, Short-Distance Runner** — 2023–2024
- **Independent Creative Writing & Sketching** — 2023–2027: original screenplays (horror, sci-fi, fantasy) and character sketches