

# Smadar Vaknin | Location Manager

310-433-0668 | smadar@vaknin.com | vaknin.com | Los Angeles, CA | Local 399

## Professional Summary

**Location Manager and Scout** with **17+ years** leading teams and managing **complex shoots across Los Angeles**, backed by **15 years of experience in production**. I combine **sharp instincts, high energy, and relentless follow-through** to every project—balancing **logistics, budgets, crews, and creative demands** to deliver results under pressure.

My deep familiarity with filming in **Los Angeles**—earned through years of **scouting and on-the-ground coordination**—means **I move fast, solve problems efficiently**, and support every department from **prep to wrap**. I approach each project with **adaptability, urgency**, and a commitment to delivering **standout locations that amplify the project's vision**.

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## Partial list of Credits – Location Management & Scouting (2007–Present)

### Commercial & Branded Content

- **Scouted and managed hundreds of high-profile, large budgets commercials** for leading brands including **Amazon Prime, AT&T, BMW, Chase, Geico, Genesis, H&M, HBO, Nike, Spectrum, Toyota, Uber, Verizon, Walmart** and many others.
- **MasterClass.com** – Scouted and managed shoots for episodes featuring **Christina Aguilera, Hans Zimmer, Gordon Ramsay, Shonda Rhimes, Frank Gehry**, and others.

### Television

- **Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars** – FOX (1 season)
- **MasterChef & MasterChef Junior**– FOX (4 seasons)
- **Next Level Chef** – FOX (1 season)
- **Flirty Dancing** – FOX (1 season)
- **MMYD** – HBO Max (1 season)
- **Death by Magic** – Netflix (1 season)
- **America's Next Top Model** – CW (10 seasons)

### Feature Films (2007-2008)

- **Barry Munday** - Key Assistant Location Manager (Starring: **Patrick Wilson, Judy Greer, Cybil Sheppard**)
- **The Informers** - Assistant Location Manager (Starring: **Billy-Bob Thornton, Kim Basinger, Winona Ryder**)

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## Production Experience (Up to 2006)

- **Successfully production managed and produced 100+ commercials, election campaigns, and TV shows across diverse international locations, including Israel, South Africa, Morocco, India, China, Hungary and Romania.**

## Key Skills & Certifications

- **Extensive knowledge of Los Angeles locations, permitting, and neighborhood relations.**
- **Leadership in crew management, site planning, and day-of logistics.**
- **Budget oversight, scheduling, and contract negotiation.**
- **Solutions-first approach** in high-pressure environments.
- **Strong communicator**; experienced in **public speaking** and **stakeholder coordination**.
- Trusted to work with **high-profile talent** and maintain **strict confidentiality**.
- Collaborative with **law enforcement, city officials, and production teams**.
- **Licensed Real Estate Agent** (CA BRE #01972207)
- **Safety Certifications – Location Safety, Hazard Communication, Environmental Safety.**
- **Union member – Teamsters Local 399**

## Education

- **Beit Zvi School of Stage and Cinematic Arts - Israel**  
Film And Video Production
- **Camera Obscura School of Art - Israel**  
Film And Video Production