

**SARA BARGER**  
Documentary Filmmaker & Professor  
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**Summary:** Academy Award-recognized filmmaker with 20+ years of experience creating short, unscripted video content. I have worked with a wide variety of clients producing, writing, shooting & editing videos for projects all over the world. I have taught film at the university level since 2017.

### **Recent Speaking Engagements**

- Guest Speaker, National Student Leadership Conference for Film & Journalism
- Panelist, State Department event for Visiting Filmmakers from Senegal
- Women's History Month Keynote Speaker, North Carolina State Human Resources
- Guest Lecturer, Harvard University
- Networking in Film Panelist, Wheaton Film Festival
- Panelist, Richmond International Film Festival

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **President**

**July 2019 – Present**

Women in Film & Video, *Washington, DC*

- Executive board member for Washington, DC's largest nonprofit serving over 900 media professionals in the Mid-Atlantic Region.
- Responsible for the basic operations, programming, benefits, fundraising and other key areas that support the organization.
- Founder and host of the monthly Local Filmmakers Night that features short films by local filmmakers, followed by a Q&A discussion after each screening.
- Represent WIFV at numerous events across the region.
- Judged films for the Washington West film festival & the Bethesda Film Festival.
- Worked with the Membership Committee to recruit new members and engage with existing members.
- Implemented WIFV's "Filmmakers We Admire" initiative, which recognized the achievements of outstanding media-makers in the Mid-Atlantic Region.
- Mentor and provide networking opportunities for young filmmakers in the region.

#### **Senior Video Production Lead**

Department of Defense Health Agency, Avantis Federal

**December 2021 – Present**

- Lead a team of four video production professionals to create compelling short documentaries for one of the largest health care systems in the world.
- Completely re-vamped video products to make them more compelling for social media and online consumption.
- Pitch story ideas, film and edit videos, give feedback to the video team, schedule shoots, and work with the client to ensure videos are the highest quality and timely.
- Regularly work with high-profile interviewees such as Surgeon Generals and 3-star generals.

**Freelance Video Production Consultant****May 2004 – Present***Producer, Writer, Editor, Director of Photography*

- Manage a wide range of productions from conception to completion, which includes shooting, writing, editing and producing high quality videos for various platforms.
- Create budgets that work within each client's needs while tracking cash flow and production schedules throughout the entire production process.
- Hire and manage freelance writers, cameramen, editors and graphic designers that fit each project.
- Live-stream events for clients using social media platforms.
- Clients include the Writebrain Films, the Energy Storage Association, Viva Creative, U.S. State Department, USAID, and DC Lawyers for Youth.

**Video Editor, Videographer & Photographer****Nov. 2014 – Dec. 2017**

Creative Associates International

- Film interviews, set-up lighting and edit short documentaries for an international development company specializing in executing contracts throughout the developing world.
- Videographer for shoots in Honduras, El Salvador, China and Tibet.
- Worked with the communications team to create high quality videos that tell compelling stories which highlight project success stories and supplement bids.

**Senior Video Producer/Editor****May 2014 – Nov. 2016**

The Federalist Society

- Launched the national organization's video production department, including purchasing equipment and working with the founders to develop appropriate messaging.
- Collaborated with the head of digital marketing to create video content relevant to a wide range of constituents from law students to legal experts.
- Conceptualized videos, set-up lighting, filmed interviews, wrote scripts, created motion graphics and edited videos using the Adobe Production Suite.
- Interviewed high-level officials including senators, federal judges and attorneys general.

**Communications Specialist****April – June 2013**

State Department, The Borlaug Institute – Democratic Republic of Congo

- Created a series of compelling documentaries by identifying human-interest stories that highlighted the successes of the FARDC Agricultural Development Program based in Kisangani, DRC.
- Acted as the sole videographer, writer, producer and graphic designer for all videos produced in both English and Lingala.
- Conducted media training for the Chief of Party.

**Video Producer/Editor****August – Dec.2012**

USAID, Louis Berger Group – Iraq

- Produced, wrote, shot and edited documentaries in both English and Arabic for the USAID-*Inma* Agricultural Program based in Baghdad, Iraq.
- Filmed footage and interviewed Arabic, Kurdish and English speakers throughout the country, including local farmers, government officials, and private sector

employees.

- Worked with local staff and State Department employees to identify compelling stories that helped explain the broader mission of USAID-*Inma*'s overall impact on the region.
- Trained local Iraqis how to shoot and edit basic videos, use Photoshop, and write scripts using good story-telling techniques.

### **Senior Video Producer/Editor**

**August 2010 - July 2012**

The American Enterprise Institute

- Launched the national organization's video production department, working with the Vice President of Communications to develop video content and messaging.
- Conceptualized and designed video products with innovative and creative elements for the web, such as special reports on breaking news stories and topics of global significance, as well as promotional materials.
- Performed all duties as the in-house videographer, producer, editor & engineer.
- Worked with AEI scholars and senior management to develop new and creative video content, while supporting all existing videos needs for the organization.
- Managed all events in AEI's production studio, acted as technical director utilizing 3 robotic cameras, and live-streamed over 140 public events a year.

### **Video Producer/Editor**

**July 2009 – 2010**

Discovery Communications, Digital Media Department

- Created captivating new media content to publicize shows for TLC, Investigation Discovery, Animal Planet, Military Channel, and Science Channel.
- Worked with a digital publicist to create compelling viral content that created earned publicity from blogs, online news sources, and other online platforms.

### **Producer/Editor**

**Dec. 2004 – May 2009**

U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs

- Produced, wrote and supervised editing of a 15-part news-magazine style series promoting various medical research programs at VA hospitals across the country.
- Produced video news releases that were distributed nationally for VA's Research Week.
- Produced and edited over 20 videos for the news-magazine show *The American Veteran* on a variety of topics relevant to veterans' and service-members.

### **Head of Production**

**June – Dec. 2004**

LHS Media

- Managed the production department for a fast-paced political ad agency during the 2004 election cycle.
- Produced over 400 ads in less than 4 months with every spot coming in on time and on (or under) budget.

## **TEACHING & OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**Courses Taught:** Introduction to Filmmaking, Production 1, Advanced Video Editing, Documentary Production, Multimedia for PR, & Career Development Seminar

**Adjunct Professor, Film & Video Studies** **Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2021**  
George Mason University, *Fairfax, VA*

- Designed and taught Film Production, Career Development, and Internship courses to undergraduate film majors.
- Use a combination of lectures, guest speakers, and workshops to help students excel at finding jobs and internships in the filmmaking industry after graduation.
- Train and mentor future filmmakers on the real-world applications of their degrees.
- Host Q&As with guest speakers for the Visiting Filmmaker Series, which allowed students to connect with filmmakers during Covid-19 online learning.

**Adjunct Professor, Film & Media Arts** **Jan. – Dec. 2020**  
American University, *Washington, DC*

- Train undergraduate students in the basics fundamentals of filmmaking.
- Combine lectures, hands-on learning, video tutorials, and workshops to ensure every student leaves the course with a solid grasp of video production and editing.
- Successfully adapted the hands-on Production 1 course for online learning.

**Founder & Executive Director** **October 2020 - Present**  
DC Student Film Fest

- Founded the first DC Student Film Festival to showcase local students' work.
- Created the event as a place for high school and college film students to meet each other and network with production companies and other film organizations.
- Wrote a grant, received funding, found a location, organized volunteers and am managing all logistics for the event.
- Organized the event with support from the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, the DC Film Office, The Kennedy Center and Women in Film & Video.

**Adjunct Professor, The Documentary Center** **Jan. – June 2020**  
George Washington University, *Washington, DC*

- Trained graduate students on the technical aspects of documentary filmmaking including camerawork, editing, story structure, sound recording and sound design.
- Co-taught alongside renowned filmmaker Nina Seavey in the 6-month intensive program where students completed award-winning documentary films as the culmination of their semester.

**Filmmaker Fellow** **March – Sept 2019**  
Docs in Progress, *Silver Spring, MD*

- One of 11 filmmakers selected to participate in an exclusive six-month cohort aimed at exploring the current documentary landscape, work-life balance and the creative process.
- Attended film festivals, pitched my film to industry professionals, and assisted other filmmakers through the creative process.

## Visiting Filmmaker & Lecturer

Jan. 2017 - May 2019

Old Dominion University, *Norfolk, VA*

- Taught a full course load for Old Dominion's burgeoning Film Department, as well as offered informal training to community members.
- Developed the curriculum, course materials and lesson plans for the university's first ever Adobe Premiere Editing and Multimedia PR courses.
- Taught practical hands-on instruction and film theory including videography, editing, storytelling, 3-point lighting and all facets of pre-production, production and post-production.
- Mentored students both in and outside of class on internship applications, resume building, study abroad opportunities, and other professional & personal endeavors.
- Faculty Producer for the short narrative film "Hurricane Roads", produced with the Advanced Filmmaking and Cinematography classes.
- Editor for the faculty-produced short film "18 Mornings" that premiered at the Richmond International Film Festival.
- Mentored and assisted students with trouble-shooting problems 24 hours a day.

## FILMMAKING AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### ***DC Arts & Humanities Fellowship, 2020***

- Awarded a DC Arts & Humanities Fellowship Grant for outstanding work as a filmmaker.

### ***Little but Fierce***, 30 min. documentary (2020)

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

- 2020 Student Academy Awards Finalist
- Best Student Short Documentary, 2020 Breckenridge Film Festival
- Nominee for Best Short Documentary, Richmond International Film Festival 2021
- Spotlight Documentary Film Awards Gold Winner
- Independent Shorts Awards Finalist
- New York International Film Awards Finalist
- Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival Semi-Finalist
- Presented at the University Film & Video Association 2019 Conference
- Pitched at the Double Exposure Film Festival and AFI Docs Film Festival

### ***Brothers***, 9 min. experimental documentary (2019)

- Official Selection of the Magikal Charm Experimental Video & Film Fest

### ***18 Mornings***, 30 mins. narrative short (2019)

- Premiered at the Richmond International Film Festival

### ***Joy***, experimental film (2019)

- Premiered at the Suns Cinema Local Filmmakers Night presented by WIFV

### ***The Southern Ladies***, 12 min. documentary (2018)

- Premiered at the 2019 Pittsburgh Underground [Queer] Film Festival
- Screened at the "I Have a Dream" Indie Film Showcase in Arlington, VA
- Official Selection of the 2020 Women in Film Pittsburgh film festival

***Welcome to San Pedro***, 3 min. documentary short (2014)

- Best Interview Video, *PR Daily*

***Alternative to Foreclosure***, documentary series (2012)

- Communicator's Award, International Academy of Visual Arts

## **EDUCATION**

**The Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT**  
MFA, Film

May 2020

**The American University, Washington, D.C.**  
MA, Journalism and Public Affairs, 3.43 GPA

May 2006

BA, Double Major: Visual Media and Public Affairs  
Graduated *cum laude*, 3.67 GPA

May 2005