

Ryan Watson, MFA

www.ryanawatson.net
www.watstowerfilms.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Award winning film/video director who has a passion for learning and educating students about the multiple genres and techniques in the TV/Film industry.
- Well-versed background in producing and directing narrative & documentary style productions, covering sports and news stories, as well as producing promotional videos for entertainment venues and professional musicians.
- Proficient in multiple-camera shooting styles, lighting techniques, audio recording and non-linear editing software.
- Advanced knowledge of cinematography and post-production for cinema.
- Retains professional qualifications as a freelance, director/videographer/editor to keep students up-to-speed on the latest trends and technical innovations of the industry.

ACADEMIC/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Instruction

University of South Florida
School of Mass Communications
Fall 2021 – Present

Vũ Studio at USF Teaching Fellow

University of South Florida
School of Mass Communications
Fall 2021 – Present

Instructor I

University of South Florida
School of Mass Communications
Fall 2019 – 2021

Visiting Instructor

University of South Florida
School of Mass Communications
Fall 2016 – Spring 2019

ACADEMIC/TEACHING EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Adjunct Instructor

University of South Florida
School of Mass Communications
Spring 2014 – Spring 2016

Adjunct Instructor

University of Tampa
School of Communications
Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Freelance Instructor

Connecticut School of Broadcasting
Spring 2012 – Spring 2016

Lead Instructor

Seminole Media Productions Workshop
Summer 2009 – Summer 2014

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts	National University , Los Angeles, CA, 2012-2015 Digital Cinema Production and Direction Thesis: Florida State's 1 st Seminole
Bachelor of Arts	University of South Florida , Tampa, FL, 2001-2006 Mass Communication with emphasis in telecommunications/broadcast news

COURSES TAUGHT

University of South Florida

MMC 4936-003 – Vu Studio at USF (10-12 students per section)

<https://www.instagram.com/vuatusf/>

- Fall 2021-Present
- Instruct on the basic principles of shooting video inside an LED virtual studio
- Oversee the completion of UnReal Engine virtual environment modules
- Train students to operate the Sony fx6 cinema camera and Aputure LED lights

COURSES TAUGHT (CONTINUED)

RTV 4320 – Electronic Field Production – 2-3 sections (12-18 students per section)

- Spring 2014 - Present
- Emphasize continuity in shooting & editing.
- Highlight appropriate technique & safety precautions when handling field production equipment (lights).
- Train students to execute proper framing in documentary style interviews.
- Instruct on the importance of quality sound recording in field production.

MMC 4936-001 – Promotional Video Production – 2 sections (12 - 16 students per section)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TNPRHGSVFY>

- Spring 2017 – Present
- Train students to research target audiences for advertisements/promotions/PSA's.
- Instruct on the development of organized creative plans for video production.
- Supervise the execution of filming and editing based on the creative plan within strict deadlines.
- Supervise the creation of student owned video production brands.
- Instruct on the importance of managing client expectations & feedback.

MMC 4936 – Drone Videography – 1 section (16 students per section) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMIeIj1NB4M>

- Spring 2018 – Present
- Emphasize all safety and FAA laws associated with the operation of a drone
- Instruct on the many ethical issues associated with aerial photography
- Supervised organized class fly days
- Teach the importance of proper framing and composition in aerial photography
- Ensure students understand the job descriptions of a drone flight crew

RTV 2100 – Writing for TV and Radio – 1-2 sections (12-18 students per section)

- Fall 2016, Fall 2017
- Emphasize technical esthetics of writing for television, radio and film.
- Instruct on the technical aspects of writing for cinema
- Teach the importance of storyboarding.

RTV 3301 – Broadcast News - 2 sections (13 students per section)

- Spring 2015, Spring 2020
- Introduce students to basic camera functions, framing, and composition.
- Train students in the fundamentals of storytelling for TV.
- Emphasize proper broadcast news writing and non-linear editing

COURSES TAUGHT (CONTINUED)

MMC 4936.011 – Advanced Drone Videography - 1 section (5 students)

- Spring 2020
- Train students on advanced drone videography techniques.
- Supervise various drone operations around the Tampa Bay Community.

University of Tampa

COM - 241 – Sound, Image and Motion – 2 sections (14- 18 students per section)

- Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016
- Emphasize continuity in shooting & editing.
- Highlight appropriate technique & safety precautions when handling field production equipment (lights).
- Train students to execute proper framing in documentary style interviews.
- Train students in the basic principles of cinematography.
- Instruct on the importance of quality sound recording in field production

Connecticut School of Broadcasting

Final Cut Pro/Premiere Pro Editing – (Spring 2012 – Spring 2016)

- Emphasize the importance of file organization when editing.
- Highlight fundamental concepts of non-linear editing.
- Discuss troubleshooting techniques of Final Cut Pro software.
- Discuss how to use Final Cut Pro in collaboration with other media applications

Videography/Editing for Commercials (Fall 2012 – Spring 2016)

- Emphasize fundamental camera moves & techniques
- Discuss the importance of maintaining continuity in editing choices
- Highlight the relationship between music and the commercial's pacing
- Instruct students on implementing client feedback into final product

Newscast Studio Production (Fall 2012 – Spring 2016)

- Examine the importance of accurate communication during the production of a newscast
- Discuss troubleshooting techniques during a live broadcast
- Instruct students on the basic jobs of a newscast: director, technical director, teleprompter operator, graphics operator, camera operator, floor director.
- Proctor Final skills exam during a live news broadcast.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- University Film & Video Association (UFVA) 2014 to Present
- National Association of Black Journalists – 2017 to Present

ACADEMIC SERVICE COMMITTEES

- College of Arts and Sciences Technology Committee, **August 2021 - Present**
- Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Comm Strategic Planning Committee, **August 2022 - Present**
- Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Comm Diversity Committee, **2019-2020**
- Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Comm Faculty Evaluation Committee **August 2020 – Present**

ACADEMIC HIRING SEARCH COMMITTEES

- Instructor I of Integrated Public Relations and Advertising, **2019**
- Instructor I of Integrated Public Relations and Advertising, **2020**
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Integrated Public Relations and Advertising, **2021**
- Assistant Instructor of Digital Media, **2021**
- Teaching Laboratory Specialist, **2021**
- Visiting Instructor of Video Production, **2021**

FILM PROJECTS

Producer/Director/Editor –*PAPER LINE: BRAGGING RIGHTS, 2024*

MEDIA

- <https://blexmedia.com/paper-line-bragging-rights/>

Producer/Director/Editor –*PAPER LINE, 2022*

MEDIA

- <https://www.wtsp.com/article/features/great-day-live/paper-line-big-on-martial-arts-action-and-brotherhood-paperlinemovie-great-day-live-tampa/67-20c9c066-44ee-4ef4-84af-810df52caca5>
- https://www.wfla.com/daytime/local-short-film-with-all-black-cast-slated-for-juneteenth-weekend-screening/?fbclid=IwAR3b5fbcnNLXEsDCEc-ijqH07wBxwN_bvSCvGutVDzEYFZaJmQZExImCfn1I
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm1PXa4sAuk>

FESTIVALS – *PAPER LINE, 2022*

- **Baltimore International Black Film Festival 2022 (Winner Best Film & Oscar= Micheaux Award)**
- **AfroComicCon International 2022**
- **Black Feedback Film Festival 2022**
- **Gasparilla International Film Festival 2023**
- **Sunscreen Film Festival 2023**

FESTIVALS Continued – *PAPER LINE*, 2022

- **Micheaux Film Festival 2023**
- **Charlotte Black Film Festival 2023**
- **North Carolina Black Film Festival 2023**
- **Independent Shorts Awards Festival April 2023**
- **BEA Festival of Media Arts 2023**
- **Black Film Festival Atlanta 2023**
- **Baltimore Next Media Webfest 2023**
- **Urban Action Showcase international Action Film Festival 2023**

AWARDS

- **Best Narrative Film - Baltimore International Black Film Festival, 2022**
- **Oscar Micheaux Award - Baltimore International Black Film Festival, 2022**
- **Best Director – Black Feedback Film Festival, 2022**
- **Gold Award, Best Action Short - Independent Shorts Awards Festival, April 2023**
- **Gold Award, Best TV Pilot - Independent Shorts Awards Festival, April 2023**
- **Silver Award, Best Sound Design - Independent Shorts Awards Festival, April 2023**
- **Bronze Award, Best Original Story - Independent Shorts Awards Festival, April 2023**
- **Best Urban Short, Baltimore Next Media Webfest, 2023**
- **Best Urban Short Director, Baltimore Next Media Webfest, 2023**
- **Best Urban Action Short, Urban Action Showcase Action Film Festival, 2023**

Producer/Director/Editor – *THE IVORY LEAGUE: CONFESSIONS OF A BLACK FACULTY*,
2021

MEDIA

- <https://www.wfla.com/news/for-the-culture/usf-professor-tackles-issues-minority-teachers-and-students-face-in-new-film/>

FESTIVALS

- **Sunscreen Film Festival - 2021**
- **Gasparilla International Film Festival - 2021**
- **Dunedin International Film Festival - 2021**

- **The Micheaux Film Festival - 2021**
- **Urban Film Festival – 2021**
- **Short Film Slam – 2021**
- **Sunscreen Film Fest West - 2021 (Semi-finalist)**
- **Independent Shorts Awards – 2021**

AWARDS

- **Best Florida Film 2021 Sunscreen Film Festival**
- **Silver Award First Time Director Independent Shorts Awards February 2021**

Director/Producer – *UNWILFUL TRUTH, 2020*

FESTIVAL

- Tampa 48 Hour Film Project

AWARDS – UNWILFUL TRUTH, 2020

- Best Film
- Best Director
- Best Editing
- Best Sound Design

Director/Editor – *REAL HOUSE HUSBANDS OF QUARANTINE - 2020,*

FESTIVAL

- Stay Home 60 Second Film Festival - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3eXt_JqSIE
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Drone Videographer – *ST. PETE UNFILTERED, 2018*

FESTIVALS

- Gasparilla International Film Festival 2018
- Sunscreen Film Festival 2018

AWARDS

- Audience Selection Best Florida Production

Associate Producer/Photographer – *THE TAMPA TECHNIQUE: RISE, DEMISE & REMEMBRANCE OF CENTRAL AVENUE, 2018 [Collaboration with Travis Bell PhD].*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHZyTGGI3QA>

Photographer – *T'S UP: BRANDING TEAM TAMPA, 2017 [Collaboration with Travis Bell, PhD]*

FESTIVALS - Sunscreen Film Festival 2017

Director/Editor – *FLORIDA STATE'S 1ST SEMINOLE, 2015*

FESTIVALS

- **Gasparilla International Film Festival 2015**

AWARDS

- **Audience Choice Award**

Director of Photography – Short Film - *HOW ABOUT LIFE? 2013 (MFA RESIDENCY)*

<https://vimeo.com/293830491>

Executive Producer/Videographer - *Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival 2019 - Present Video Catalog*

Drone Videographer – *2019 – Present, Gasparilla Pirate Festival*

TECHNICAL SKILLS & LICENSE

Camera Proficiency

- Sony fx6 Cinema Camera
- Sony Mirrorless A7 Series
- Canon DSLR EOS Series
- RED Digital Cinema Camera (One & Scarlet series)

Lighting Proficiency

- LED Aputure illumination
- Cinematography illumination
- Studio/Green Screen illumination

Post Production Proficiency

Adobe Premiere CC – Expert Level

AVID Media Composer – Intermediate Level

- Final Cut Studio - Expert Level

Aerial Photography/Videography

- DJI Quadcopter series
- FAA licensed Unmanned Aircraft Pilot

Virtual Production Proficiency

- UnReal Engine
- LED Video Wall

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner/Executive Producer,

January 2019 – Present

WatsTower Films/Agent of Video Inc. Tampa, FL

- Director, videographer and drone videographer.

Director,

December 2014 – Present

Motlow Production, Inc. Tampa, FL

- Responsible for the invoicing, scheduling, creative planning and execution of all video production projects for Seminole Hard Rock Tampa and other Seminole Gaming clients.

Production Coordinator,

March 2009 - Present

Seminole Tribe of Florida Tampa, FL

- Responsible for the scheduling, creative planning and execution of all video production projects for Seminole Tribe of Florida culture events and department seminars located on the Tampa reservation.
- Producer of segments for the Native Driven Network as well as writing feature stories for the Seminole Tribune.
- Responsible for the training and supervision of department interns as well as maintaining detailed equipment and activity logs.
- Coordinator/Videographer/Editor of promotional videos for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa.

Creative Services Producer

March 2008 to March 2009;

WTTA Tampa Bay - Tampa, FL

- Responsible for the production of daily promotional spots and news topicals
- Aided production manager in the scheduling, writing, shooting and editing of local ad commercials/infomercials;
- Responsible for the censoring of obscene material as well as training creative services interns.

Master Control Operator

August 2006 to March 2008;

WTTA Tampa Bay – Tampa, FL

- Responsible for the playback of programming and commercial / promotional material as reflected by the operating log;
- Entered taped material and playback information into the master control system
Recorded satellite feeds as scheduled.