

JUSTIN THOMAS

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Mission-driven independent filmmaker and producer with 10+ years' experience coordinating assets and communications across productions. Expert in video editing and production from preproduction through distribution and marketing, including web maintenance and film festival coordination. Strives to foster hope, resilience, and empathy through the powerful medium of Film, and to provide a space for education, reflection and open dialogue on issues and movements that are critically important in our turbulent times.

Professional Experience

John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY) | New York, NY

Video Producer | September 2021 to Present

- Film documentary-style content and interview student/faculty subjects to use in promotional videos for the school's Marketing & Communications department
- Lead video producer on the 2022 Champions of Justice campaign, scheduling and conducting interviews with scholarship donors and recipients for awards gala.
- Upload marketing videos and live events to the school's YouTube channel, and produce viral content for the John Jay social media team

The Black Independent Filmmaker App | New York, NY

Founder | September 2020 to Present

- Created and launched mobile app startup, the first virtual platform to connect filmmakers of color in the independent film community and to consolidate resources into a single app
- Maintain website, including updating email lists, producing graphic design marketing posters, and communication through related social media
- Collaborate with numerous partners to power a community for filmmakers of color everywhere who wish to channel their ambitions and talents to produce powerful content and share their stories with the world

Independent Filmmaker | New York, NY

Director/Producer/Editor | January 2008 to Present

- Traffic and catalog multiple production assets, including master files, art, stills, b-roll, and outtakes
- Execute all production needs, including updating and editing reels and formatting media assets in a dynamic, fast-paced environment
- Leverage vision, strong communication, film, and organizational skills to produce projects selected for film festivals and received awards for films

And Now Media | New York, NY

Cinematographer/Editor | October 2014 - October 2016

- Operated various prosumer cameras for award ceremonies and competitions, as well as for individual and group interviews to convey information to the public with journalistic integrity
- Adjusted positions and controls of multiple cameras, printers, and related equipment to change focus, exposure, and lighting
- Assembled highlight reel of videos for the annual Dupont Journalism Awards and 2-3 minute teacher profiles for Council for Economics and Education to improve professional environment

USA Today Sports | New York, NY

Video Production | January 2014 - February 2014

- Conferred with directors, sound and lighting technicians, electricians, and other crew to discuss assignments and filming sequences, desired effects, camera movements, and lighting requirements

- Covered live reactions to Super Bowl & filmed several talking head interviews with business insiders to garner reflection on the impact of the Super Bowl commercial industry
- Edited vérité footage and interviews into 2-3 minute videos for distribution on USA Today Sports website

PBS/Firelight Media | New York, NY

Assistant Editor | April 2013 - June 2013

- Organized and strung together multiple hours of raw footage into a continuous whole according to scripts or the instructions of directors and producers
- Assisted Chief Editor on the PBS documentary *Your Voice, Your Story* by selecting and combining the most effective shots of each scene to form a logical and smoothly running story
- Digitized footage, ran editing systems, read scripts, previewed scenes and ensure sound synchronization to produce final product

Arvato Systems, North America | New York, NY

Director/Editor | June 2013 - October 2013

- Conceived and pitched six 2-3 minute promotional videos for marketing department
- Coordinated the activities of several directors, managers, and other personnel throughout the production process
- Planned details such as framing, composition, camera movement, sound, and actor movement for each shot or scene

Filmography

Director/Editor/Producer | Documentary - *Sophia Dawson: Purpose* | 2019

Music Video Director/Editor/Producer | Independent artist: Intercontinental Kint | 2019

Director/Editor/Producer | Documentary - *Truth Through a Lens* | 2014

Cinematographer/Editor | Haiti's Emergency Management System (EMS) | 2012

Associate Producer | Documentary - *The Grey Movie* | 2008

Core Competencies

Filming, Editing, Ideation, Web management, Social media, Video distribution, Team-oriented, Detail-oriented, Self-motivated, Mission-driven

Technical Skills

Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Pro, Preproduction, Digitization, HDSLRs, SONY EX, Sound, Grip, Lighting, Multi-camera events. **Certified as a COVID-19 Compliance Officer** for Music Video, Commercial, Television and Film Production Sets.

Education

Master of Fine Arts in Social Documentary Film-making, The School of Visual Arts

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Communication, SUNY Purchase College

Relevant Organizations

Jury Member | Worker's United Film Festival | 2021

Partner & Film Festival Coordinator | NYC Screening | The Socially Relevant Film Festival, Image Nation, and The Black Independent Filmmaker App | 2021

Founder | The Black Independent Filmmaker App | 2020 | www.blackindependentfilmmaker.com/

Award Winner | Best Documentary Feature Prize | Workers Unite Film Festival | New York | 2014