

CHAN C. SMITH

Director | Cinematographer | Photographer

Experienced Filmmaker with background handling docu-style and narrative film productions. Adept at planning and completing high-quality, artistic imagery. Offering 13 years of experience in artistic creations across a diverse range of clientele, including high profile individuals and large-scale companies. Director, Cinematographer, and Photographer. Collaborative and detail-oriented looking to produce dynamic branded content and captivating film and video that inform and impact target audiences. Skilled in cultivating the essence of humanity and intersectional existence through compelling images and story development. Knowledgeable of Social, Digital, Editorial, Broadcast, and Advertorial media.



Work History

2021-01 -
Current

Commercial Director

Tessa Films, Los Angeles, CA

- Directed over 20 films and recordings or non-broadcast programming for public entertainment or education.
- Presented production ideas and determined creative scenarios for production and delivery.
- Oversaw lighting, graphics, audio and camera movements in TV and movie filmmaking.
- Reviewed scripts to determine most appropriate methods to use for directing both actors and crew members.
- Evaluated scripts to identify creative strategies and resource needs.
- Participated in meetings with producers and production crew to keep program in step with creative vision.

2018-02 -
Current

Producer | Filmmaker

Kiliad Films LLC, Chicago, IL

- Producing narrative, documentary and branded content for prospective clients specific to visual marketing, editorial and promotional content, and short and feature length films.
- Creative development and logistics for various kinds of projects, from initial inception phase to final deliverables.
- Managing a small team of independent contractors, as needed, for large scale productions.
- Overlooking visual aesthetics of each project to insure and create impact with target audiences.
- Oversee and manage video production needs for diverse audiences on behalf of direct advertisers and programmatic buyers.
- Interpret scripts to understand overall story and narrative style.
- Creating shot lists, production schedules, proposals that can be shared with clients and crew.

2019-05 -
2020-03

Marketing Manager | Gear Tech

Magnanimous Media, Chicago, IL

- Analyzing audience engagement across multiple social media platforms.
- Creating and sharing content to increase audience retention and interaction.
- Determining functionality of rental camera equipment, testing for damage and inconsistencies, and compatibility with other equipment.
- Following effective guidelines and providing solutions for renters based on their specific needs.
- Executed diagnostics, troubleshooting and evaluations of various types of equipment including camera, lighting, grip and electric, and lenses.

2015-09 -
2017-05

Multimedia Producer

Johnson Publishing Company Inc., Chicago, IL

- Created daily editorial content for EBONY and JET magazines digital and social media platforms.
- Directed and produced limited series content for web such as Fast Forward, Top Coat, Jet Suite, In Our Cities, In My Lifetime.



Contact

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Highlights

Directing
Cinematography
Editing
Writing
Producing
Creative Strategy

- Managed content from contracted video producers and filmmakers globally.
- Wrote and published daily editorial web content.
- Managed video hosting platforms such as Brightcove and YouTube.
- Increased overall audience retention for video content across all platforms for EBONY and JET brands, reaching up to 2.4M views, including viral content.
- Partnered with brands such as Vagisil, AAFCA and Nationwide Financial Services to produce digital advertorial content.
- Captured behind-the-scenes footage and print images of magazine cover shoots such as Ebony's Power 100 cover stars Ava DuVernay, Nas, John Legend and Simone Biles, Kevin Hart, Russell Westbrook, Chance The Rapper, and Jurnee Smollett-Bell.



Education

2004-08 -
2009-05

Bachelor of Arts: Communication And Media Studies, Broadcast Journalism

Northern Illinois University - Dekalb, IL



Affiliations

Young Women's Professional League Inductee 2019
Far'Fallia Girl, Board Member 2015
S.I.S.T.E.R.S. Organization Vice President 2008



Additional Production Experience

2022

- Director, "All In Illinois" Campaign, Tessa Films

2021

- Director, "All In Illinois" Campaign, Tessa Films
- Director, "Chicago: Unspoken" Campaign, Tessa Films
- Director, "Kings and Queens of Karlov", Tessa Films
- DP, "Celebrate/Welcome To" Campaign, Target
- DP, "InnovCares Grows", Google Play
- DP, "American Crime Story: Impeachment" Behind the Scenes EPK, FX Networks

2020

- Director/DP, "America the Beautiful" campaign video, Joe Biden for President
- Director, "Alt_Chicago", Nike Chicago x Gumbo Media

2019

- B Camera Operator, "untitled" Mary J. Blige Documentary, Amazon Studios
- Camera Operator, "Surviving R. Kelly Part II: The Reckoning", Bunim/Murray Productions
- DP, "Sex Is A God Thing", web series pilot
- Director/Producer, "If Cities Could Dance: Chicago", KQED
- DP/Editor, "Black Feminist" documentary

2018

- Director, "Demons", short film
- Director/DP/Editor, "Behind the Silence", short film

2017

- Director/Writer/Executive Producer, "FEAR", short film

2014

- DP/Editor, Unique Outlook
- DP/Editor, JET Magazine