

# VALERIE BISCHOFF

WRITER / DIRECTOR

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## INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

- “Stu Loves Stu,” New York, New York** 2013
- Directed short narrative film for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation web series “*Here Come the Humans*,” an exploration of the ethics of scientific progress through comedy.
- “Derby Kings,” Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation, Nevada** 2012
- Wrote and directed award winning short narrative film about two Native American brothers who collide at a demolition derby.
  - Initiated successful Kickstarter campaign and won the 2011 Princess Grace Graduate Film Scholarship to finance the film, attached name Native American actors, and directed a crew of 25 during a 6 day shoot through rural Nevada.
  - Official selection 2013 Palm Springs International Film Festival, Athens International Film and Video Festival, New Filmmakers LA, Tacoma Film Festival, San Diego Film Festival, and many others.
  - Won the Las Vegas Film Festival Jury Award, Indie Gathering Honorable Mention, Rural Route Film Festival Best of the Festival, Nevada Film Festival Jury Award, and more.
  - Acquired by the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian’s permanent collection.
- “Veterans,” Reno, Nevada** 2010
- Wrote and directed award winning short narrative film about a day in the life of a woman working as a career prostitute in a Nevada brothel.
  - Official Selection 2012 Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival and 2011 Angelus Student Film Festival.
  - Won the 2010 Adrienne Shelly Best Female Director Award and the 2011 Las Vegas Film Festival Silver Ace Award.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Creative Bionics, Los Angeles, California** 2019 - 2017
- Writer, director, and editor for multiple videos contributing to the NoVo Foundation’s “#MeToo + Philanthropy” landmark summits in New York, London, and Los Angeles.
  - Synthesized NoVo’s nuanced messaging goals and successfully communicated directing plan to a crew of 15 during Los Angeles event.
  - Videos contributed to the success of the initiative, spurring a new \$20 million philanthropic fund to end violence against the most vulnerable women — low-income workers, migrants, women of color.
- NBC Left Field, Tonopah, Nevada** 2019
- Writer, director, cinematographer and editor for “*Rural Hospitals Are Closing — What Now?*” a short documentary about a town in Central Nevada that is reeling from the loss of their only hospital.
  - Earned the trust of emergency service personnel and helped them open up about their difficult experiences.
  - Advocates in the community plan to use the emotionally powerful piece to lobby support for a new medical facility.
- Women’s March, Standing Rock Reservation, North Dakota** 2017
- Writer, director, cinematographer, and editor for “*Standing Rock Youth*,” one of three short documentaries to open the historic 2017 Women’s March on Washington.
  - Established a rapport with Native American youth leaders, listened to their stories, and captured moving interviews about how they inspired people from all over the world to join their protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline.
- Upworthy, Los Angeles, California** 2016
- Produced and directed short form documentaries championing our shared humanity, including a terminally-ill child’s quest to become Darth Vader, a former gang member’s peace keeping project, and how a family of Iraqi refugees found home and safety in Los Angeles.
  - Contributed to the growth of Upworthy’s 11 million member Facebook audience.
  - Video encouraging people to welcome refugees surpassed 15 million views.

## WORK EXPERIENCE (Cont'd)

- Fusion, New York, New York** 2015
- Co-Produced and directed deep dive stories on everything from the California Drought, to protests over Freddie Gray's death in Baltimore, to justice department corruption in Louisiana.
  - Contributed to the video portion of the investigative report "*America's Arrest Capitol*," supported by a Ford Foundation grant.
- MTV, New York, New York** 2014
- Story Producer, Co-director for "*Rebel Music: Native America*."
  - Co-Producer, Co-Director for President Obama's Generation Indigenous launch video.
  - Fostered genuine collaboration with Native musicians, led production crews across the United States and Canada to capture story elements, and ensured characters were being portrayed authentically by guiding a team of editors.
  - Episode became one of MTV's most viewed and shared videos in its online history and resulted in a collaboration between President Obama and MTV.
  - 2016 Webby Award Official honoree.
  - Winner of the 2016 Education and Media Award from the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian.
- "Innocence," New York, New York** 2012
- Assistant to director Hilary Brougher. Produced by Pamela Koffler and Christine Vachon of Killer Films.
- 20/20, New York, New York** 2011
- Production Intern. Researched and developed stories for senior producer Rob Wallace.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

### Production

- Proficient with wide range of camera systems including Sony, Canon, RED, and Panasonic.

### Post-Production

- Adobe Premiere, AVID, Photoshop, After Effects, Illustrator, Indesign, Color, and DaVinci Resolve.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Columbia University School of the Arts, Graduate Teaching Assistant, New York, New York** 2011 - 2008
- Elements of Dramatic Narrative.
  - Fundamentals of Directing.
  - Documentary Traditions.
- Rustic Pathways, Instructor, Udon Thani, Thailand** 2008
- Advanced Photography Workshop.
- Tallinn University, Baltic Film and Media School, Tallinn, Estonia** 2007
- Guest Lecturer.

## EDUCATION

- Columbia University, New York, New York** 2012
- M.F.A. in Film Directing and Screenwriting.
- Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia** 2006 - 2007
- Fulbright Scholar.
- University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California** 2004
- B.A. in Film and Digital Media.
- University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark** 2002 - 2003
- Education Abroad Program.