

VALERIE BISCHOFF

Director / Writer / Producer - Los Angeles, CA

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SUMMARY

Award-winning filmmaker with 12+ years crafting character-driven narratives that have reached millions through PBS, MTV, NBC, and major platforms. Skilled at applying narrative techniques to documentary storytelling and translating complex concepts into accessible content. Fulbright Scholar and Princess Grace Foundation recipient whose work has been showcased at the United Nations, featured in the Smithsonian, and supported by Women In Film and the International Screenwriters' Association.

DOCUMENTARY EXPERIENCE

STREET SYMPHONY

Producer, Director, Cinematographer, Editor | 2016 - 2023

- Produced documentaries with Street Symphony, following musicians creating performances with people recovering from addiction and homelessness, including "Messiah Project" livestreamed to the Kennedy Center
- Documented Midnight Strings guitar program and Music For Change initiative, capturing transformative impact of music while creating videos that directly increased organization's funding, expanded public profile, and helped recruit volunteers

SECOND PENINSULA

Editor | 2021 - 2024

- Edited nationally syndicated PBS series *Tell Me More with Kelly Corrigan*, featuring Dr. Francis Collins (former NIH Director) and author Michael Lewis on resilience
- Shaped *PeaceTalks* film (premiered at UN Geneva) and Salesforce+'s *Connections with Sarah Franklin* series, including an episode featuring Olympic champion Shaun White
- Transformed interviews into compelling narratives featuring subjects from Air Force veteran turned baker James Edwards to NAACP CMO Trovon Williams

HUG STUDIO FOR HELENA

Director, Cinematographer, Editor | 2024

- Directed "America in One Room: The Youth Vote," capturing 400+ first-time voters engaging in civil dialogue across political divides
- Collaborated with Stanford's Deliberative Democracy Lab to create character-driven visual narrative showcasing democratic engagement

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DOC EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

CREATIVE BIONICS/KASHIF INCUBATOR

Director, Cinematographer, Editor | 2017 - 2023

- Directed NoVo Foundation's "#MeToo + Philanthropy" summit video (led to \$20M fund) and "I Am Why" documentary with young women activists from foster care/juvenile justice systems
- Directed "Standing Rock Youth" which opened the historic 2016 Women's March, highlighting indigenous youth environmental activists and garnering 500K+ views in first week

NBC LEFT FIELD

Co-Producer, Director, Cinematographer, Editor | 2019

- Directed "Rural Hospitals Are Closing—What Now?" documenting Nevada healthcare crisis after only hospital within 200 miles closed
- Served as cinematographer for "Dumped: Nursing Home Evictions" with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Katie Engelhart

UPWORTHY

Producer, Director, Cinematographer, Editor | 2016

- Created viral human interest stories including "Being Darth Vader" (following a seventh-grader's transformation from hospital patient to symbol of strength through the For the Win Project); "How Many Refugees to the U.S. Have Carried Out Terrorist Attacks Since 9/11?" (contextualizing refugee facts that garnered 15M+ views); and "Gang Members in L.A. Get Peace Lessons" (featuring former gang member Aquil's work as community peacekeeper)
- Specialized in making complex social issues accessible through personal narratives of resilience and hope

FUSION

Co-Producer, Co-Director, Cinematographer, Editor | 2015

- Co-directed *Arresting America* series on racial disparities in policing (Ford Foundation funded)
- Created five-part California drought series examining water scarcity's community impacts

MTV

Story Producer, Co-Director, Cinematographer, Editor | 2014

- Co-directed "Rebel Music: Native America," documenting indigenous musicians Frank Waln, Inez Jasper, Nataanii Means, and Mike "Witko" Cliff as they addressed critical issues; episode broke MTV records with 4.4M+ views and 410M press impressions
- Episode's success led to collaboration with Obama Administration to produce Generation Indigenous launch video for the White House Tribal Nations Conference, contributing to a major federal initiative supporting Native youth across 566 federally-recognized tribes

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INDEPENDENT SCRIPTED FILMS

HERE COME THE HUMANS | Director | 2016

- Comedic web series funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation exploring complex scientific concepts
- Directed “Stu Loves Stu” episode on the ethics of human cloning, collaborating with writer/producer Jefferson Moneo to translate science into accessible comedy

TRUE PATRIOTS | Writer/Director | 2025

- Narrative feature screenplay dramatizing a rural woman's descent into right-wing radicalism
- Academy Nicholl Fellowship Semifinalist (top 2% of 7,000+ entries)
- Lisa Whalen (CEO of Company X) attached as producer, currently fundraising for production
- International Screenwriters' Association Fellow and “Top 25 Screenwriters to Watch”
- Official Selection: Cine Qua Non Screenwriting Lab and Stowe Story Lab

MASSACRE CREEK | Writer/Director | 2020

- Short narrative horror film exploring the dangers of cult mentality
- Official Selection: Oregon Scream Week Horror Film Festival, Sin City Horror Fest

DERBY KINGS | Writer/Director | 2013

- Short film about Native American brothers who reconcile at a demolition derby
- Winner of Las Vegas Film Festival Jury Award and Rural Route Film Festival Best of the Festival; acquired by Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian; Princess Grace Film Scholarship recipient; official selection at Palm Springs ShortFest and Athens International Film Festival

VETERANS | Writer/Director | 2010

- Short film about an older woman working in a legal Nevada brothel who has a transformative encounter with a young veteran
- Winner: Adrienne Shelly Best Female Director Award, Las Vegas Film Festival Silver Ace Award

EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

M.F.A. in Film Directing | 2012

TALLINN UNIVERSITY, TALLINN, ESTONIA

Fulbright Scholar | 2007

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ, SANTA CRUZ, CA

B.A. in Film and Digital Media | 2004