

Jason Jakaitis, MA, MFA

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SUMMARY

Award-winning filmmaker of poetic, interpersonal documentaries about disability
Fluency with an array of cutting-edge new media storytelling tools
Sustained track record of supporting storytellers across a variety of media platforms
Established success as an administrator working in high-pressure environments
Committed to social justice work supporting the disadvantaged and marginalized

EDUCATION

San Francisco State University	MFA, Cinema	2010
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill	MA, Communication	2001
University of Puget Sound	BA, English	1999

MEDIA

Denisse is Making Lasagna (Documentary, 10 mins, 2020)
Directed fundraising/recruiting video created for Hatlen center for the Blind

League of Women Voters Pro/Con Ballot Measures (12 videos, 60 mins, 2020)
Produced informational series directed and edited by SMC students
10k aggregate views leading up to the 2020 election

The Black Panthers (Geo-located immersive audio tour, 60 mins, 2015)
Former Panthers discuss BPP party during a walking tour of North Oakland, CA.
Producer/Writer; created for Detour.com phone app
Exhibition: Oakland Museum of California, “Black Panthers at 50”

Beyond Bullying (Community storytelling project & sociological study, 2014)
Created mobile storytelling booths and supervised their implementation on high school campuses in San Francisco, Minneapolis, and New York.
Ford Foundation collaboration between SFSU, Columbia Univ, York Univ, and BAVC

Web-Native Filmmaking Toolkit (Interactive video curriculum, 20 min, 2012)
Created for Mozilla’s open-source Popcorn Maker web-based video editing platform.
Distribution: Shared globally via Mozilla’s education outreach – 50k views

Mothersbane (Documentary, 12 min, 2010)

Exploration of the director's relationship to his mother's physical disabilities

Licensed to PBS World, 2012

Selected awards and screenings

2011 South by Southwest Film Festival	<i>Best Short Documentary</i>
2010 Picture This Intl Disability Film Festival	<i>Best Short Documentary</i>
2010 Focus Film Festival	<i>Best of Festival + Audience Award</i>
2010 Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival	<i>1st Place</i>
2011 Fargo Film Festival	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
2011 Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival	<i>Jury Award Finalist</i>
2011 Superfest Intl Disability Film Festival	<i>Merit Award</i>
2011 AFI/Discovery Silverdocs Film Festival	
2011 Telluride Film Festival	
2011 Open City London Documentary Film Festival	
2011 SF Docfest	
2011 Palm Spring International Film Festival	

Minutiae (Narrative, 8 min., 2006)

Selected awards and screenings

2006 Portland International Short Film Festival *Special Jury Award*

2006 Mill Valley Film Festival

Murphy Fellowship, The San Francisco Foundation

Exhibition: San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, 2007

The Merry Widow (Documentary – in post-production)

Personal documentary about visitors to irradiated “health spa” in a Montana mine

Distribution: To be hosted on www.94elements.com

The Cartographer (Documentary – in production)

Portrait of the filmmaker's father – a mapmaker – as he struggles with Alzheimer's

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Independent Media, Bay Area Video Coalition – aka BAVC 2014 – 2015

Managed a \$1.1 million budget and supervised 8 staff members

Served 400 community mediamakers (Public Access TV, documentarians, freelancers)

Raised funds through grant writing, fee-for-service video work, and capital campaigns

Programs supervised

SF Commons – City of San Francisco, Public Access Television station

MediaMaker Fellowships – eight yearlong social justice filmmaker mentorships

SF Stories – a community storytelling outreach program

Manager, BAVC Productions 2012 – 2014

Founded and managed a \$250k/yr fee-for-service production company

Employed local college filmmaking students

Clients included Salesforce, Stanford, Dignity Health, SF Public Library

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, St. Mary's College Department of Communication July 2019 - Present

Courses: Video Production, Advanced Media Production, Documentary Filmmaking
Introduction to Media, Technology, and Culture; Understanding Digital Culture; Science
Fiction & Philosophy

Service: Committee on Educational Technology; Academic Contingency Planning
Workgroup; Advisor SMC Film Club and Cinematic Arts Minor

Full Time Lecturer, San Francisco State University Aug 2016 – Aug 2019

Courses: Introduction to Filmmaking, Intermediate Film Production, Experimental
Filmmaking, Documentary Workshop, Documentary Writing, Explorations in
Interactive Cinema, Advanced Fiction Filmmaking; Art of the Short Film, Writing Short
Films, Workshop in Experimental Documentary; Introduction to Film Studies,
Introduction to Communication Studies, The Science Fiction Film, Art of the Short Film

Service: Advising and Curriculum Committees, "Film Finals" Selection Committee

Lecturer, College of San Mateo 2003 - 2019

Courses: Introduction to Film Studies, Director's Cinema, Film Genre

Instructor, Bay Area Video Coalition 2015 – 2018

Weekend intensive courses on variable topics, including: Interview Techniques, Go Pro
Cinematography, Aesthetics of Editing, Pre-production, and Lighting

NextGen Factory Manager, BAVC 2009 - 2014

Managed advanced after-school filmmaking program for low-income youth in Oakland
Responsibilities included national travel to film festivals, producing annual screenings
Students garnered more than 50 national filmmaking awards during tenure
NextGen was a recipient of a 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award

GRANTS & SPONSORSHIP

Individual Artist Grant, City of Oakland Cultural Funding Commission, 2013

Awarded in support of pre-production work on *Untitled Darius Evans project*

Small Grants in the Arts, Fleishhacker Foundation, 2009

Awarded in support of post-production work on *Mothersbane*

New Filmmaker Grant, Panavision, 2007

Awarded use of a Panaflex Elaine Super 16mm camera package for *Mothersbane*

Personal Works Grant, Film Arts Foundation, 2007

Awarded in support of *Mothersbane*

OTHER AWARDS

Princess Grace Award, San Francisco State University Nominated for national funding award	2008
Leo Diner Memorial Scholarship, San Francisco State University Awarded for innovation and commitment to “new ways of seeing”	2008

PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

Juror, Bay Area Student Shorts Film Festival	2019
Panelist, SFSU Cinema Department Film Finals	2017
Review Committee, ITVS Open Call	2014-2016
Selection Committee, SFSU Cinema MFA program	2009 – Present
Selection Committee Facilitator, BAVC MediaMaker Fellowship	2013-2015
Panelist, ACM & NAMAC “Bridging the Gap: Youth Employment in Media”	2014
Juror, Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival, Best Short Documentary	2012
Co-Keynote Speaker, Media, Freedom & the Web, “Web-Native Filmmaking” Mozilla Foundation, Annual Conference, London, England	2011
Juror, Leo Diner Memorial Scholarship, San Francisco State University	2009
Juror, Young Minds Digital Times Film Competition	2009
San Francisco State University Cinema Studies Conference “ <i>Deadwood</i> and the Contemporary Relevance of the Urban Western”	2006

SKILLS

Cinematography	Super 8mm, 16mm & Super 16mm, HD, 4k
Analog photo/film	Hand processing, Flatbed editing, Hand-drawn animation
Editing	Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro X, iMovie, VideoPro
Sound	Pro Tools, Adobe Audition
Web Design	HTML, Javascript, CSS, Wix, Wordpress, Adobe Muse
Graphics	Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator
DVD Authoring	DVD Studio Pro
Interactive	Storygami, Eko, PopcornMaker, Frametrail