

Alexander J. Spiess

Documentary Filmmaker & Journalist

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BIO:

Alexander Spiess is an independent filmmaker and journalist with experience directing, producing, shooting and editing short and feature length documentary, narrative film and branded content. Area of focus is investigative documentaries surrounding global conflict, human rights, culture and politics. A multi-talented, “Predator”, splitting equal parts producing, shooting and editing to develop and complete stories from pre-to-post.

EXPERIENCE:

DIRECTOR: [Birchbox](#) | Branded Video Campaign: *Joy Cannot Be Contained* | Aug-Sep. 2022 |

- Directed storyboard, shot, edited branded video campaign for international makeup company Birchbox, called “Joy Cannot Be Contained”, featuring women across the world experiencing joy.
- Directed and produced shoots in NYC, Chile, Argentina.
- Deliverables: 7 assets for web and social. (1) minute master sequence, and (6) 15 second-length socials

PRODUCER: [TSMC](#) | Industrial Documentary | Sep-Dec. 2022 |

- Lead producer on internal documentary for the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company.
- Coordinating and conducting interviews & shoot schedules in the U.S. and Taiwan.
- Scripting and storyboarding. Managing deliverables to client, 15-minute TRT

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: [CNN+](#) | Documentary Series, *Flashpoints* with Fareed Zakaria | Jan-July 2022

- 6-part doc-series hosted by Fareed Zakaria about geopolitical flashpoints around the globe. Episodes developed included, Ukraine, Iran, Taiwan, North Korea.
- Developed, storyboarded, shot and scripted with lead story producer for Iran episode.
- Scripted up to first edit until CNN+ was cancelled including the show Flashpoints.

PRODUCER: International Documentary Association ([IDA](#)) | *The Missing* | Documentary Feature | Nov. 2020 - Present

- Feature length investigative documentary covering the Yazidi genocide committed by ISIS in Iraq, Kurdistan, Northern Iraq, Syria, exposing human rights violations and war crimes.
- Lead Producer, filming, editing, and supervising post-production workflow with editors, translators and fixers between the United States and Iraq.
- Coordinating fundraising campaign, budgeting, grant writing, pitching investors & donors.

SECOND CAMERA OPERATOR/GRIP GAFF: Branded & Commercial | Various |

- [Bombay Gin](#) | 2nd Cam op for Bombay Bramble Dinner Series With Chef Omar Tate in Support of Black Farmers | June-July 2022
- [Row NY](#) | 2nd Cam op for promo doc series for Row NY | Aug. 2022
- [Thrillist](#) | 2nd Cam op for web-series featuring black owned restaurants in Harlem | June-Aug. 2021

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: [NBC Peacock Productions](#) | *Hell of a Cruise* | Documentary Feature | Oct. 2020 - Aug. 2021

- Feature length documentary investigating the cruise industry and its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. Exposing corruption
- Scouting, scheduling, filming and conducting interviews with experts and subjects across U.S.

- Building and developing project for offline edit. Coordinated and supervised remote edit workflow for multiple editors between NYC and Europe.
- Sourced and licensed footage from cruise passengers and news outlets across the world.

FIELD PRODUCER: [Channel 4 News UK](#): Correspondents Desks | *Proud Boys Leader Has A Message for Biden* | News Special | Nov. - Jan. 2021

- Gained access to leader of Proud Boys, Enrique Tarrio, and profiled him for the two months leading up to his arrest the day before the capitol riot of January 6th, and shadowing him following release from jail, vacating D.C. and returning to D.C to cover the events of January 6th.
- Filmed, interviewed, and assistant edited for Channel 4 News UK segment which was released digitally on their platform and youtube.

PRODUCER: Independent | [Higher Love](#) / Documentary Feature | Jan. 2017 - Nov. 2020 | World Premiere, Slamdance Film Festival (Grand Jury Winner) | Intl. Premiere, Krakow Film Festival

- Produced, developed, filmed, edited 8-time award winning feature length documentary about America's opioid epidemic.
- Procured distribution deal with Gravitas Ventures for worldwide distribution. Released Nov. 2020
- Edited and story produced long-form storytelling cinema-verité.
- Post-production coordinator, staffing, scheduling, and deliverables to platforms.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: [A+E Networks, Six West Media](#) | *Unidentified: Inside America's UFO Investigation* | Limited Series 8-Episodes (Season 2) History Channel | Oct. 2019 - June. 2020

- Research & Development through pre-production.
- Produced, scheduled and conducted remote interviews throughout production. Covid-19 Compliant.
- Archival producer, overseeing licensing & clearance through post-production to online.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: [National Geographic Documentary Films](#) | *Blood On The Wall* / Documentary Feature | Directed, Nick Quested & Sebastian Junger | Premiere AFI Doc Fest 2019 | Feb. 2019 - Nov. 2019

- Feature doc re. Mexico's cartels, migration struggles, and history of political and criminal corruption.
- Lead archival producer, overseeing team of foreign fixers, journalists and archivists to procure rare and unseen footage from Mexico's narco-trafficking history, and political and cultural history.
- Researching and scheduling interviews, R&D, storyboarding.
- Assistant editing for large team of editors at Goldcrest Post.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: [National Geographic Documentary Films](#) | *Hell on Earth: The Fall of Syria and the Rise of ISIS* | Premiere Tribeca Film Festival 2017 | Jan. 2016 - Jan. 2018

- Alfred I. du-Pont Columbia Award for Excellence in Journalism and Investigative Reporting | 2018
- Scheduling filming and conducting interviews, assistant editing
- Research & Development, field producing for non-fiction narrative and documentary Film and TV.
- Offline Editor; documentary, scripted and unscripted narrative film, industry sizzles, trailers.
- Archival Producer; R&D, acquisition and licensing rights, broadcast & theatrical

PRINT JOURNALISM:

[USA Today](#) | Contributing Collegiate Writer | April. 2013 - Jan. 2016

- Pitched and wrote stories on higher education, including covering the Keene State College Pumpkin Festival Riot of 2013, student loan debt, net neutrality, and minimum wage.

[Poughkeepsie Journal](#) | Freelance Writer | October 2015 - January 2016

- Pitched and wrote story covering the new changes to the SAT, and its impact on college admissions.

[Motif Magazine](#) | Staff Writer, Photographer, and Videographer | June 2015 - January 2016

- Pitched shot photography, filmed and wrote for the Hip Hop beat for the acclaimed alt-weekly arts and culture magazine Motif Mag, in Providence, RI

- Covered artist shows, and arts festivals across the state.

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS:

Editor

Page 102	Shawn Regruto	Narrative Short	2020
The Timepiece	Karan Choudhary	Narrative Short	2019
Life Like	Lionsgate Entertainment	BTS Photo & Video Editor	2018
Jazz In Wakanda	Djaka Souare	Narrative Short	2018
Hell on Earth - Web	National Geographic	Web-Series	2017

First Assistant Director

Jazz In Wakanda	Djaka Souare	Narrative Short	2018
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On-Set DIT

Life Like	Lionsgate Entertainment	Narrative Feature	2018
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Post Production Assistant

Biography: I Want My MTV	A+E Documentary Films	Documentary Feature	2016
Word Is Bond	Showtime	Documentary Feature	2016

Affiliations & Awards:

Alfred I. du-Pont Columbia Award for Excellence in Journalism and Investigative Reporting | 2018

Overseas Press Club |

PADI Open Water Dive Certified |

Society of Professional Journalists |

Education:

Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY | 2011-2015 | B.A. Communications; Journalism, Political Science

President | The Society of Professional Journalists | Marist College Chapter | January 2014-March 2015 |

Region 1 (Northeast) Campus Chapter of the Year, 2015

NCAA Division I Athlete Academic Honor Roll | Football | Marist College | 2011-2015

Technical:

Owner of Sony FX3 Cinema Line | Full Documentary Run & Gun Kit.

Cameras: RED Cameras, Arri Cameras, Sony Alpha Series, Sony F Series, Sony Venice, Black Magic Pocket Cinema Series, Canon C Class, Canon EOS, Panasonic GH, Fuji X series.

Software: Avid Media Composer, Davinci Resolve, Premiere Pro, Adobe CC, Final Cut Pro 7/X, Silverstack, Shotput, Catalyst Browse, Celtx, Final Draft, Annotation Edit/Transcriber, Slack, Microsoft Office, Airtable.

References On Request Please: