

Dr Nikki Comninos (SAGE)

Senior Editor, sometimes Academic, occasional Director

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Profile Summary

- Experienced Senior editor - South African Editor Guild (**SAGE**) acronym holder, recognised by the American Cinema Editors (**ACE**) in the International Partnership
 - Excellence awarded multiple times at local and international film festivals and craft awards
 - Well-versed across a range of genres: documentary, drama, reality, advertising, shorts etc.
 - Swift, collaborative and critical thinking
 - PhD and published author
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Specialisations

- Deeply engaged narrative and visual editor
 - Adept story doctor, narrative problem solver
 - Content management in long form and across series episodes
 - Extensive documentary experience
 - Experience with international streamers, broadcasters and festivals
 - Deep knowledge of working with archive
 - Support across all phases of production: conceptualisation, technical workflow planning, shooting for edit, offline editing, and storytelling troubleshooting
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Awards

- [2022] Recognised as part of the **American Cinema Editors** (ACE) International Partnership
SAFTA Winner: Best Made for TV Doc (*Devilsdorp*)
SAFTA nominee: Best Documentary Editing (*Devilsdorp*)
SAFTA nominee: Best Documentary Editing (*Murder in Paris*)
- [2021] **Best Short:** Vienna Shorts Film Festival - Oscar qualifying (*Cause of Death*)
The Eileen Maitland Award: Ann Arbor Film Festival (*Cause of Death*)
Best Editor and Best Experimental Short: Beirut Short Film Festival (*Cause of Death*)
Best Documentary: WRPN Women's Int Film Festival, Festival Napoleon on Champs-Élysées, Africa Human Rights Festival, Impact Docs Award, Docs without Borders, Durban International Film Festival, Jozi Film Festival, Paris Film Awards (*Murder in Paris*)
- [2020] **Jury Prize:** Festival Des Cinemas Differents Et Experimentaux De Paris (*Cause of Death*)
SAFTA nominee: Best Youth Programme (*MTV Shuga IRL Season 3*)
- [2019] **Best Documentary:** Zanzibar Film Festival, Jozi Film Festival, Coalition of South Asian Film Festival (*Someone to Blame*)
INPUT Africa Selection: *Someone to Blame*
SAFTA Winner: Best Documentary Short (*Someone to Blame*)
- [2018] **SAFTA nominee:** Best Current Affairs (*Life Esidemeni*)
SAFTA Winner: Best Youth Programme (*MTV Shuga IRL Season 2*)
- [2016] **SAFTA nominee:** Documentary Short editor (*Indians Can't Fly*)
SAFTA Winner: Best Documentary Short (*Indians Can't Fly*)
- [2015] **SAFTA winner:** Drama editing (*End Game*)
Best Short: Slamdance Fusion Doc Challenge, NYC (*I am Juli*)
- [2014] **Best Documentary Short:** California International Film Festival (*Hyena Boys*)

Best Short Film: Independent Mzansi Short Film Festival (*iBhokwe*)
[2013] **South African Editors Guild** (S.A.G.E.) acronym for distinguished editors
ATKV Feather Award (*Tibbie Steyn*), ATKV nomination (*Emily Hobhouse*)
[2011] **SAFTA winner:** Best documentary editor (*Fish Out of Water*)
[2009] **Medal of Honour:** South African Academy for Science and Art (*The Heart is Beautiful*)
[2007] Selected director for the **Encounters Documentary Filmmaking Lab**
[2005-2006] Selected for the **Berlin Talent Campus** and **Sithengi Talent Campus**

Education

[2011-2015] **PhD, University of the Witwatersrand**
Creative Arts - written thesis + 60-min documentary, *Fraternal*: Cambridge African FF, 2015
[2011-2014] Mellon Postgraduate Mentoring Award
[2007] **MA, University of the Witwatersrand**
Intensive theory and practice, *Triptych of Her*: Durban International Film Festival, 2008
[2001-2004] **BA in Film + Media with Honours, University of Cape Town**
Final film, *Algemeen Befokte Afrikaans* - Official selection DIFF and NYIFVF, 2005
First Class pass in Honours, Class medal - Video Production, Class medal - Media studies,
Dean's List for undergraduate degree, Scholarship for undergraduate and honours degrees

Employment

Academia and Training

[2020-2007] **Supervisor, Lecturer, External Examiner: Open Window, WITS, AFDA**
Edit Lecturing, external examiner of essays, dissertations and final film exams
[2020-2022] **NFVF Education & Training board**
[2020-2019] **Talent Factory Mentor: Multichoice, Zambia**
Edit training and post-supervision of final films
[2019] **Newzroom Africa: Nala Media**
Edit training
[2018-2013] **Course Convener: WITS, Johannesburg**
4th year + MA 'National Cinema and Fiction Film'(2018), MA 'Introduction to Production' (2013)
[2016-2015] **Training Manager: Big Fish, Johannesburg**
Course convener and lecturer for 2nd years, project manager for GFC training course (2016)
Wider managerial and operational duties: creating and implementing training programs

Conferences and Papers

PARSE Journal, Summer 2020

'Recollect: Snippets of Self' <https://parsejournal.com/journal/#intersections>

Journal for African Cinemas Special Edition, 2018

Comminos, N. (2017), 'Practice-led research: Home video and the autobiographical self'

CiILECT-CARA The Politics and Poetics of the Practices of Film, 2018 - round table

3rd Es'kia Mphahlele Postgraduate Colloquium and Arts Forum, Wits, 2011

'The Politics of Dissemination: Personal Archive and Memory'

Film and TV Experience

[2023- 2021] Senior Editor: Idea Candy, Johannesburg

**** (NDA withheld until release): 4-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

Steinheist: 3-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

Devilsdorp: 4-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

[2023-2014] Editor: EMS Productions, Johannesburg

Truth Be Told (doc series - *in post-production), *Murder in Paris* (2-part doc series, SABC, various international film festivals) *Someone to Blame* (54min doc - various international film festivals), *Indians Can't Fly* (48min doc, SABC, various international film festivals)

[2022] Editor: Plexus films

We Will Not Die Quietly (documentary) (*in post-production)

[2022-2017] Editor: Blackboard Trust, Johannesburg

Loving In-between (short doc), *Cause of Death* (short doc: Berlinale, IDFA, and various international film festivals), *When I Grow Up I Want to be a Black Man* (Two screen projection for the Eye Institute and various international film festivals)

[2021] Editor: Ten10 films, Johannesburg

Senzo: Death of a Soccer Star: 5 part Limited series for Netflix (documentary)

[2020-2014] Editor: TIA Productions, Johannesburg

Various: *Carte Blanche* (investigative journalism), *MTV Shuga IRL SE1-3* (TV doccies), *MTV Young Moms Nigeria*, *Miss Trans Diva* (eTV, 24min doc), *Timelines* (feature doc, Durban International Film Festival, Jozi Film Fest, Indie Karoo Film Festival), *Guardian news*, *Hyena Boys* (short doc, various festivals), *I am Juli* (short doc, Big Sky, Slamdance, Indie Karoo Film Festival), *MTV inserts*, *Talk with Kwangu SE1+SE2* (Zambezi Magic)

[2020-2011] Editor: Uhuru, Johannesburg

RedFish stream (short doc), *How To Steal A Country* (feature doc, editing team - IDFA, Showmax, Africa in Motion, Encounters, Doc Edge, Sydney South African Film Festival) *Everything Must Fall* (feature doc, editing team: IDFA, various other film festivals), Various short films (advocacy)

[2020-2009] Editor: Pulp Films, Johannesburg

Takalani Sesame SE11+SE12, 7x 23-min docs series *My Beautiful Game*

[2020] Editor: Blue Zone Media

Triologue (talk show)

[2019] Editor: Nala Media

Loved Like Crazy (46 min doc, Lifetime channel)

[2019-2018] Editor: Full Circle Productions, Johannesburg

Negotiated Settlement (3x50min doc series), shorts for Con Hill museum

[2018] Editor: The Swank Group, Johannesburg

Lagos to London (online, 22min doc)

[2016-2009] Editor: Rapid Blue, Johannesburg

BBC's *Great South African Bake Off: Season2+3* (reality), ITV's *4 Weddings: Season 1* (reality), BBC's *Come Dine With Me: Season 1-3* (reality), Ep 3 BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* (doc)

[2016-2014] Editor: Fireworx, Johannesburg

The Jews of Madagascar (doc), *Sticks and Stones* (13-part drama), Ep 7: *End Game* (drama)

[2016] Editor: Good Cop, Johannesburg

People You Might Know (web-series)

[2016] Editor: Afrokaans, Johannesburg

Shoprite Stories (corporate)

[2015 - 2008] Director + Editor: Self produced, Johannesburg

Fraternal (doc, Cambridge African Film Festival), *Triptych of Her* (short film, DIFF)

[2014] Director: Fireworx, Johannesburg

1 Episode: *Mzansi Love* (drama, SABC)

[2014] Editor + Director, VWV, Johannesburg

Editor *Comedy Central Roast* promos, director-editor for *Debonairs* in-house videos

[2013] Editor: John Trengove, Johannesburg

The Goat/iBhokwe (short film)

[2013] Editor: Freeway Productions, Johannesburg

Second editor on a five part series for MNET entitled *The History of Film in Africa* (doc)

[2013] Editor: Pantareimedia, Johannesburg

Various: OXFAM and Red Cross videos (advocacy)

[2013] Editor: e.News Channel/e.tv Prime Time News/eNCA /eTV, Johannesburg

News editor and team leader for the launch of South Africa's first 24-hour news channel, current affairs show *Africa 360*, obituaries for Mandela

[2012] Editor: Born-free Media, Johannesburg

Docu-reality series *Life's a Stage*, 7 x episodes (doc-reality)

[2012-2008] Editor + insert producer: Foxwood Films, Johannesburg

Kyknet: *Formidabele Vroue*, 2x48min, *Celeb se Kind*, Editor/insert producer *Robinson Regstreeks* (current affairs), *Sewe Sakke Sout* (doc-reality). Mnet: *The Heart is Beautiful*, 4x50min doc eps.

[2011] Editor: Jungle Works, Johannesburg

UN films – older women and discordant couples living with HIV/AIDS (advocacy)

[2009] Editor: Bonngoe Productions, Johannesburg

Editor of 2x26min episodes of a doc series, *Beyond Positive*

[2009] Editor: Dzuguda Productions, Johannesburg

Editor of a 52-min of *Gladiators of Venda* (doc), 1x24 min episode in *Sheroes* doc series

[2008] Director + Editor: High Rotation, Johannesburg

50sec Mother's Day Lentswe Poetry Project Poem for SABC2

[2008] Editor: Road Media, Johannesburg

Editor of 5-min promo of footage of chacma baboons for pitch

[2007] Editor: Fusion Films, Johannesburg

8 x 45sec adverts and other deliverables for the OUTsurance 'Staff Helping S.A. OUT' campaign

[2005-2007] Director, Editor, Production Manager: Vuleka Productions, Durban

- **Director+editor** *Do Girls Want It?* 48min doc for the Encounters doc lab + SABC 1
- **Director, researcher, and editor** for 24-min documentary, *Zulu Nation*, for e.tv
- **Director-editor** for 5x25min docs for the Cato Manor museum
- **Editor, production manager** on 26min doc for SABC 3, *Pasta alla Shaik*
- **Director-editor** of a 5min film for AIDS Foundation (advocacy)
- **Assistant editor** on 52min doc *A Child is A Child (because of other people)* (DIFF)

[2004] Co-director and co-editor, UCT

Algemeen Befokte Afrikaans (short doc) (DIFF, New York Independent Film and Video Festival)

Extracurricular

Executive board member: South African Guild of Editors - Portfolio: Treasurer.

Member: Documentary Filmmakers Association. South African Film and TV Awards Judge

References (contact details on request)

Wim Steyn, Exec Producer

Enver Samuel, Director

Tarryn Crossman, Producer

Jyoti Mistry, Filmmaker/Academic

Sara Blecher, Director

Richard Finn Gregory, Director