

NIKKI COMNINOS, Phd, SAGE

Documentary Director | Editor | Story Consultant

[LinkedIn](#) | www.nikkicomninos.com | [IMDB](#)

+27 83 270 8767 | nikkicomninos@gmail.com

PROFILE

Award-winning documentary director and editor specialising in premium factual series for broadcast and streaming platforms such as Netflix, Showmax and M-Net. An **American Cinema Editors (ACE)** International Partnership member and recipient of the **South African Guild of Editors (SAGE) Acronym** for distinguished editing, I work across development, edit and delivery on archive-driven, investigative and character-led projects. Over two decades, I have helped shape some of South Africa's most acclaimed documentary series, crafting nuanced African stories for global audiences. Experienced in archive strategy, narrative structuring and the development of multi-episode documentary series.

SELECTED CREDITS

DIRECTOR

• Tracking Thabo Bester (Showmax) • Unspoken War (Showmax/M-Net) • Convict Conman (Showmax)

EDITOR

• Senzo: Murder of a Soccer Star (Netflix) • Devilsdorp (Showmax) • Steinheist S1 & S2 (Showmax) • Rosemary's Hitlist (Showmax) • Station Strangler (Showmax)

AWARDS

[2025] **SAFTA nominee:** Best Made for TV Doc (*Tracking Thabo Bester*)

SAFTA nominee: Best Made for TV Doc + Best Doc editing (*Steinheist S2*)

[2024] **SAFTA nominee:** Best Made for TV Doc (*Convict Conman*)

SAFTA nominee: Best Made for TV Doc (*Rosemary's Hitlist*)

INPUT Africa Selection: *Truth Be Told*

No. 1 African Film Award: Ann Arbor - Film Festival (*Loving in Between*)

Best Experimental Film: Marienbad International Film Festival (*Loving in Between*)

[2023] **SAFTA Winner:** Best Made for TV Doc (*Senzo: Murder of a Soccer Star*)

SAFTA nominee: Best Documentary Editing (*Steinheist*)

Filmmaker Jury Prize: Milano Filmmakers Festival (*Loving in Between*)

[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*)

Audience Award for Best Experimental Short: Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival (*Cause of Death*)

[2020] **Golden Berlin Bear Nominee:** Bernie International Film Festival (*Cause of Death*)

Jury Prize: Festival Des Cinemas Différents Et Experimentaux De Paris (*Cause of Death*)

Nominee: Off Limits Award, Annecy International Animated Film Festival (*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*)pat

- 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**

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

DEVELOPMENT | STORY CONSULTING

- [2026]** R+D Story and Edit consultant, doc series, Untitled, Netflix
[2026- 2023] Encounters + SAGE Rough Cut Lab story consultant and jury
[2025] R+D, **NDA until release in August, doc series, M-Net
[2024] Story consultant, *The Hour After Midnight*, doc feature, Pat van Heerden
[2023] Story and Edit consultant, *The Trials of Winnie Mandela*, 6-part doc series, Indelible Media

DIRECTOR

[2026 - 2023] Director: Idea Candy, Johannesburg

Shapeshifters - Ray McCauley: M-Net (documentary), *Unspoken War:* 5-part historical series for Showmax + M-Net (documentary), *Tracking Thabo Bester:* 4-part limited series for Showmax (documentary), *Convict Conman:* 2-part limited series for Showmax (documentary)

[2015] Director + Editor: Self produced, Johannesburg

Fraternal (doc, Cambridge African Film Festival)

[2014] Director: Fireworx, Johannesburg

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

[2014] Director + Editor, VWV, Johannesburg

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

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

Triptych of Her (short film, DIFF)

[2008] Director + Editor: High Rotation, Johannesburg

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

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

Director+editor *Do Girls Want It?* 48min doc, Encounters+SABC 1. 24-min doc, Zulu Nation, eTV. 5x25min docs, Cato Manor Museum – 5min film, AIDS Foundation (advocacy)

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

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

EDITOR

[2026- 2021] Senior Editor: Idea Candy, Johannesburg

**NDA until release in August: M-Net (documentary), *Shapeshifters - Ray McCauley:* M-Net (documentary), *Steinheist S2:* 2-part limited series for Showmax (documentary), *Station Strangler:* feature doc for Showmax (documentary), *Rosemary's Hitlist:* 4-part limited series for Showmax (documentary), *Steinheist:*

3-part limited series for Showmax (documentary), *Devilsdorp*: 4-part limited series for Showmax (documentary)

[2025-2017] Editor: Blackboard Trust, Johannesburg

The God That Destroys (2026, short doc), *Loving In-between* (2023, short doc - 28 festival selections), *Cause of Death* (2020, short doc, 28 festival selections), *When I Grow Up I Want to be a Black Man* (2017, Two screen projection for the Eye Institute, 7 festival selections)

[2023-2014] Editor: EMS Productions, Johannesburg

Truth Be Told (doc series - ep 1+2), *Murder in Paris* (2-part doc - SABC, festival release) *Someone to Blame* (54min doc - SABC, festival release), *Indians Can't Fly* (48min doc, SABC)

[2022] Editor: Plexus films

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

[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 *Dialogue* (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)

[2013] Editor: John Trengove, Johannesburg *The Goat/iBhokwe* (short film)

[2013] Editor: Freeway Productions, Johannesburg

Finishing editor on a five part series for M-Net entitled *The History of Film in Africa* (doc)

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

News editor and team leader for eNews, 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

Kyket: *Formidabele Vroue*, 2x48min, *Celeb se Kind*, Editor/insert producer *Robinson Regstreeks* (current affairs), *Sewe Sakke Sout* (doc-reality). M-Net: *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

[2007] Editor: Fusion Films, Johannesburg

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

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

ACADEMIA AND TRAINING

[2026-2007] Supervisor, Lecturer, External Examiner: Open Window, WITS, AFDA

Course convenor: MA 'National Cinema and Fiction Film' (2018), MA 'Introduction to Production' (2013)

[2025-2021] Training: Botswana IgniteEdit, Multichoice Talent Factory - Zambia, Newzroom Africa

[2020-2022] NFVF Education & Training board

[2016-2015] Training Manager: Big Fish, Johannesburg

Masterclasses, Conferences and Papers

[2026] Encounters Documentary Festival, Crossing Boundaries, Crossing Borders

[2026] Film O'Clock International Film Festival, Film Heritage Across African and European

Perspectives: Archives, Circulation and Transnational Dialogue

[2025] Adobe x Tempo, Editors as Creators" & Best Practices for Non-Scripted Productions

[2024] FAME week MIP Africa, Behind the Lens of True Crime Documentaries in South Africa

[2024] Encounters Documentary Festival, Crossing Boundaries, Crossing Borders

[2024] Botswana Ignite, Editing Masterclass

[2020] PARSE Journal, Summer, Recollect: Snippets of Self

[2018] Journal for African Cinemas, Practice-led research: Home video and the autobiographical self

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

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

'The Politics of Dissemination: Personal Archive and Memory'

EXTRACURRICULAR

Executive board member: South African Guild of Editors

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

References available on request