

**Dr Nikki Comninos (SAGE)**  
**Director | Senior Editor | Story Consultant**  
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### **Profile Summary**

**SAFTA-winning documentary director and editor** specialising in premium limited series for Netflix and Showmax. **American Cinema Editors (ACE)** International Partnership member and **South African Editors' Guild (SAGE)** acronym holder. I transform complex narratives into compelling multi-episode series, working across all production phases from story development through final delivery. Expert in archive-driven storytelling, narrative problem-solving, and managing episodic content at the highest broadcast standard.

**Specialisations:** Long-form episodic storytelling | Archive-driven and investigative narratives | Story development through delivery | Narrative problem-solving

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### **Awards + Recognition**

[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*)

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

**SAFTA nominee:** Best Documentary Editing (*Steinheist*)

[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 Différents 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**

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## **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

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## **Film and TV Experience Highlights**

### **Directing**

#### **[2026 - 2023] Director: Idea Candy, Johannesburg**

*Shapeshifters*: 1 episode in 3-part doc series for M-Net

*Unspoken War*: 5-part Limited 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)

### **Editing**

#### **[2024- 2021] Senior Editor: Idea Candy, Johannesburg**

*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)

#### **[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)

**[2022-2017] 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*

**[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)

**[2013] Editor: John Trengove, Johannesburg**

*The Goat/iBhokwe* (short film)

**[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.

**[2007] Editor: Fusion Films, Johannesburg**

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

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**Professional Affiliations**

Executive board member: South African Guild of Editors

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

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**References** (contact details on request)

Wim Steyn, Executive Producer

Jyoti Mistry, Filmmaker/Academic

Enver Samuel, Director

Sara Blecher, Director

Xoliswa Sithole, Director/Producer

Richard Finn Gregory, Director