

Dr Nikki Comninos S.A.G.E.

Editor - Director - Ad hoc lecturer

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I have been in the industry for 15 years, working in genres ranging from documentary to drama, reality, advertising, news, corporate, lifestyle, wildlife and shorts. Many of the projects I have worked on as editor have been awarded local and international prizes and have screened all over the world. Most recently, in January 2021, I won best editing at the Beirut Shorts Film Festival for *Cause of Death*, an experimental short about femicide. The film was also awarded Best Film at the Vienna Shorts Film Festival qualifying it for the academy awards. I have also been personally awarded two South African Film and Television Awards for editing (one in documentary in 2011 and one in drama in 2015) as well as a third nomination for documentary short editing in 2016. In 2014 I was awarded the South African Editors Guild (S.A.G.E.) acronym for distinguished editors. I was selected as one of 6 directors for the Encounters Documentary Filmmaking Lab in 2007. In 2006 I was selected to attend the Berlin Talent Campus and in 2005 for the Sithengi Talent Campus. To add to my professional experience I have a strong academic background giving me a critical thinking approach to my work. In 2015 I completed my Ph.D. focusing on home video, personal history and memory. I have worked at various academic institutions including Wits, ADFA and as the training manager for Big Fish School of Digital Filmmaking. I am a swift and collaborative editor, earning the nickname comrade supercuts :)

Education

[2019-2020] Psychology undergraduate, University of South Africa

[2018] Sediba Spark, NFVF 6 month screenwriting course

[2011-2015] PhD, University of the Witwatersrand

Creative Arts - written thesis + 60-min documentary, *Fraternal*: Cambridge African FF, 2015

[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

Awards

[2021] Best Short - Vienna Shorts Film Festival (*Cause of Death*) - Academy Awards qualifying
Best Editor and Best Experimental Short - Beirut Short Film Festival (*Cause of Death*)

[2020] Jury Prize: Festival Des Cinemas Differents Et Experimentaux De Paris (*Cause of Death*)
SAFTA nominee: Best Youth Programme (*MTV Shuga IRL Season 2+3*)

[2019] Best Documentary: Zanzibar Film Festival (*Someone to Blame*)

Best Documentary: Jozi Film Festival (*Someone to Blame*)

Best Documentary: 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 Post Graduate Student: Film & TV division, Wits University
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*)
[2011-2014] Mellon Postgraduate Mentoring Award
[2011] SAFTA winner: Best documentary editor (*Fish Out of Water*)
[2009] South African Academy for Science and Art: Medal of Honour (*The Heart is Beautiful*)
[2007] Selected director for the Encounters Documentary Filmmaking Lab
Postgraduate Merit award for MA degree (academic merit)
[2005-2006] Selected for the Berlin Talent Campus and Sithengi Talent Campus
[2004 - 2001] Graduated with a First Class pass in Honours, Class medal - Video Production,
Class medal - Media studies, Placed on the Dean's List for undergraduate degree, Scholarship
for undergraduate and Honours degrees (academic merit)

Academia and Training

[2020-2007] **Lecturer, Tutor, External Examiner, Supervisor: WITS, AFDA, Johannesburg**

Edit Lecturing, external examiner of essays, dissertations and final film exams

[2020-2019] **Talent Factory Mentor: Multichoice, Zambia**

Edit training

[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 including creating and implementing training
programs, evaluating and overhauling curriculum

Conferences and Papers

PARSE Journal, Summer 2020

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

Journal for African Cinemas Special Edition, 2018

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

CiLECT-CARA The Politics and Poetics of the Practices of Film, 2018

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

Presented paper - The Politics of Dissemination: Personal Archive and Memory

Film and TV Experience

[2021] **Senior Editor: Idea Candy, Johannesburg**

Devilsdorp: 4 part Limited series for Showmax (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, California International Shorts Film Festival, Flickerfest, Indie Karoo Film Festival, Mzansi Women's Film festival, Independent Filmmakers Showcase) , *I am Juli* (short doc, Big Sky, Slamdance, Indie Karoo Film Festival), MTV inserts, Talk with Kwangu SE1+SE2 (Zambezi Magic)

[2020-2017] **Editor: Blackboard Trust, Johannesburg**

Loving In-between (short doc in progress), *Cause of Death* (short doc: Berlinale, IDFA, and many others), *When I Grow Up I Want to be a Black Man* (Two screen projection for the Eye Institute + Wintertur, Rotterdam, Gothenburg Film festival, DIFF)

[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), Various doc pitch teasers/trailers

[2020-2014] Editor: EMS Productions, Johannesburg

Dulcie September (3 part doc series, SABC) *Someone to Blame* (54min doc - Encounters, Input, Zanzibar film festival), *Indians Can't Fly* (48min doc, DIFF, Toronto South African Film Festival, 13th Cinemas de Afrique)

[2020-2009] Editor: Pulp Films, Johannesburg

Takalani Sesame SE11+SE12, Various corporates, Editor and script-editor of 7x 23-min documentaries about soccer and social issues surrounding the game, *My Beautiful Game*

[2020] Editor: Blue Zone Media

Triologue (talkshow)

[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), SAMRO film about Music Rights with Sara Blecher (doc), Episode 3 BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* (doc)

[2016-2014] Editor: Fireworx, Johannesburg

The Jews of Madagascar (doc), *Sticks and Stones* (13 ep 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

Docseries *Formidabele Vroue*, 2 x 48min eps: Emily Hobhouse & Tibbie Steyn, kykNET, lifestyle series *Celeb se Kind*, Editor/insert producer current affairs show *Robinson Regstreeks*, kykNET, E3x 24 min doc eps *Sewe Sakke Sout*, kykNET. 4x50min doc episodes, *The Heart is Beautiful*

[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** 48min doc for the Encounters documentary filmmaking lab + SABC 1 and Encounters Documentary Film Festival, *Elles Tournent* entitled *Do Girls Want It?*
- **Director, researcher, editor** for 24-min documentary, *Zulu Nation*, for e.tv
- **Director-editor, production manager, researcher** for 5x25min docs for the Cato Manor museum, *eThekwini municipality as well as Mentor under MAPPSETA for two interns (DIFF)*
- **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 of the South African Guild of Editors - Portfolio: Treasurer. Member of the Documentary Filmmakers Association. South African Film and TV Awards Judge

References (contact details on request)

Tarryn Crossman, Director/Producer at TIA Productions

Wim Styen, Executive Producer at Idea Candy

Jyoti Mistry, Filmmaker and Academic at Valand, Sweden

Enver Samuel, Director at EMS Productions