

Alexander J. Spiess

Documentary Filmmaker & Journalist

www.alexanderspiess.com | C +1 401.440.8455 | alexspiess22@gmail.com | Reel Spiess Productions, LLC

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. Alex owns a Sony FX3 Cinema kit with light rigging, DJI Ronin, DJI Mavic Mini, and production van. As an editor he is proficient in avid and premiere. He is a passionate documentary archivist, with a background in post-production.

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY:

PRODUCER: | [MEDIHA](#) | DOC NYC 2023, Grand Jury Award Winner |2023

- Feature length investigative documentary covering the Yazidi genocide committed by ISIS in Kurdistan, Northern Iraq, Syria, exposing human rights violations and war crimes against children.
- Lead creative producer on experiential self-filmed female protagonist, leading a ground breaking human rights investigation on the crimes committed against her and her family in captivity.
- Fests: Doc NYC, Big Sky FF, CPH DOX, HRW, Movies That Matter, Thessaloniki...
- Executive Producers: Emma Thompson, Joyce Pierpoline, Rick Dugdale, Stephen Nemeth.

CO-PRODUCER: | [HELL OF A CRUISE](#) | NBC Peacock, Goldcrest Post |2022

- Feature documentary investigating the cruise industry and its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Archival producer, sourcing passenger footage, crew on-record and anonymity, licensing, clearing masters, raw/live news feeds of pandemic for fair use, S&P, and cruise industry historical archives.
- Building offline edit workflow for camera & edit teams between U.S. Asia & Europe.
- Directed by Nick Quested. Co-production between Matte Projects & Saboteur Media.

PRODUCER: | [HIGHER LOVE](#) / Slamdance 2020, Grand Jury Award Winner |2020

- Produced, filmed, and edited, 9-time festival award winning feature length documentary about America's opioid epidemic, and one family's struggle with generational addiction in Camden, NJ.
- Independently financed production & post. Distribution | Gravitas Ventures Released Nov. 2020

ARCHIVAL PRODUCER: | [BLOOD ON THE WALL](#) /National Geographic, Goldcrest Post /....2019

- Feature documentary unraveling the history of Mexico's political and criminal corruption, cartels, migration, indigenous rights, and relationship to the U.S. Festival premiere | AFI Docs
- Lead archival producer, managing team of foreign fixers & journalists to procure rare and unseen footage from Mexico's narco-trafficking history. Directed by Nick Quested & Sebastian Junger

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: | [HELL ON EARTH: THE FALL OF SYRIA AND THE RISE OF ISIS](#) | National Geographic, Goldcrest Post | Tribeca Film Festival |2017

- A feature documentary about the Syrian revolution and civil war, and rise of ISIS in Iraq and Syria.
- Lead Archival Producer and Post-AP, sourcing footage from fixers and local journalists inside Syria and Iraq during Syrian Civil War, and ISIS campaign through Iraq, Syria, the Levant and Maghreb.
- Alfred I. du-Pont Columbia Award for Excellence in Journalism and Investigative Reporting, 2017
- Directed by Nick Quested & Sebastian Junger

TELEVISION & EPISODIC:

CONSULTING PRODUCER: [American Roadmap](#) | **Blinx, Shahid MBC** |2023

- Consulting producer for an American political road show hosted by Kuwaiti filmmaker Mohammed Othman Al Anjari, for Middle East largest streaming platform Blinx Media and Shahid Network.
- Worked with director and team on-site in Dubai on creative editorial & story producing.

PRODUCER/DP: | [Scripps Howard Journalism Awards Show](#) | **Scripps News**.....2023

- Lead producer for 2023 Scripps Howard awards. Produced short-form documentary package segments across 42 nominees, and assembled 90 minute awards show CTC for broadcast.
- DP, established and shot show look for interviews and verite. Scripted & edited 13 of 42 packages.
- Executive Produced by Jon Meyersohn, Sydney Trattner, Mike Canan.

PRODUCER: | [FLASHPOINTS WITH FAREED ZAKARIA](#) | **CNN+** |2022

- 6-part doc-series hosted by Fareed Zakaria about geopolitical flashpoints around the globe. Episodes developed and shot included, Ukraine, Iran, Taiwan, North Korea.
- Executive Produced by Nancy Duffy, Fareed Zakaria & Alan Goldberg.

FIELD PRODUCER: | [BREAKING NEWS SPECIAL: JAN 6, 2021](#) | **Channel 4 News, UK** |2021

- 3 month embedded with leader of Proud Boys, Enrique Tarrio. Filmed and interviewed Tarrio and proud boys for the months leading up to and after Tarrio's arrest the day before the capitol riot of January 6th, shadowing Tarrio the night before Jan 6, and covering the riot at the capitol.
- Footage was used and cited as key evidentiary material in [U.S House Committee Investigation](#) on the seditious conspiracy prosecution trial for members of the Proud Boys and its constituents.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: | [\(S2\) UNIDENTIFIED: INSIDE AMERICA'S UFO INVESTIGATION](#) | **A+E, Six West Media, History Channel** |2020

- 8-part doc series following former intelligence official and UFO whistleblower Lue Elizondo and his team investigating America's national security interest in unidentified aerial phenomena.
- Executive Produced by Anthony Lappé, Michael Stiller, Tom Delonge

COMMERCIAL & BRANDED

DIRECTOR/DP: [Birchbox](#) | Commercial: *Joy Cannot Be Contained* |2022

- Directed, filmed, edited, international branded video campaign for industry leading makeup company Birchbox, focused on women experiencing joy around the world.
- Deliverables: 7 assets for web and social. (1) minute master clip, and (6) 15 second-length socials.

PRODUCER: [TSMC](#) | Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company |2022

- Lead producer on internal industrial [documentary](#) for the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, about the first state of the art FAB being built in Phoenix, AZ.
- Working directly with TSMC's PR & Marketing director Nina Kao. Directed by Alan Goldberg.

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Branded & Commercial | Various |

- [Bombay Gin](#) | Cam-op for Bombay Bramble Dinner Series with Chef Omar Tate |2022
- [Row NY](#) | Cam-op for promo doc series for Row NY |2022
- [Virgin Voyages & Thrillist](#) | Cam-op for promo series of Virgin Voyages Cruise Line.....2021
- [Thrillist](#) | Cam-op and grip/gaff for series ft. black owned restaurants in Harlem |2021

PRINT JOURNALISM:

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

- 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 |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 2015-2016

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

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS:

EDITOR

Page 102	Shawn Regruto	Narrative Short	2020
The Timepiece	Karan Choudhary	Narrative Short	2019
Jazz In Wakanda	Djaka Souare	Narrative Short	2018
Hell on Earth - Web	National Geographic	Web-Series	2017

FIRST AD

Jazz In Wakanda	Djaka Souare	Narrative Short	2018
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ON-SET DIT / PHOTOG / EPK EDITOR

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

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS:

Alfred I. du-Pont Columbia Award for Excellence in Journalism & Investigative Reporting | [2018](#)

Overseas Press Club | PADI Open Water Dive Certified | AIARE I | Society of Professional Journalists | International Documentary Association | Video Consortium |

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

TECH SKILLS:

Owner of Sony FX3 Cinema Camera | Full Documentary Run & Gun Kit with Lighting, gimbal, grip/gaff rigging, DJI Drone

Camera Experience: RED Cameras, Arri Cameras, Sony Alpha Series, Sony F, Z, E 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, Shotgun, Catalyst Browse, Celtx, Final Draft, Annotation Edit/Transcriber, Slack, Microsoft Office, Airtable.