

Alexander J. Spiess

Documentary Producer & Editor

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BIO:

Alexander Spiess is an award-winning filmmaker, NCAA Division 1 athlete, and journalist, directing, producing, shooting and editing short and feature length documentary, and branded content. Area of focus is investigative documentaries surrounding global conflict, human rights, sports, culture environment and politics. Alex owns a Sony FX3 Cinema kit with 4x4 production van. He is a leader who isn't afraid to take risks and enjoys the responsibility of managing a team, and creating efficient workflow to tell the most compelling stories possible.

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY:

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

- Feature length investigative documentary reporting the Yazidi genocide committed by ISIS in Kurdistan, Northern Iraq, Syria, exposing human rights violations and war crimes against children.
- Lead story producer, research & development, proposals & fundraising, budget and logistics execution and managing teams between US and Middle East in production and editorial.
- Lead editorial creative lead, managing editing teams, strategic vision, and workflow solutions.
- Fests: **Doc NYC, Big Sky FF, CPH DOX, HRW, Movies That Matter, Cannes Market...**
- Executive Producers: Emma Thompson, Joyce Pierpoline, Rick Dugdale, Stephen Nemeth.

CO-PRODUCER: | [64 DAYS: INSURRECTION PLAYBOOK](#) | Goldcrest Films, Saboteur Media |2024

- Investigative documentary embedding with the proud boys, election officials, politicians, and investigators of the Jan 6 Committee, detailing the 64 days of conspiracy between the 2020 election and the Jan 6th insurrection.
- 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.

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.
- Lead creative team securing access to subjects like sequestered-at-sea crew members, passengers in litigation, to secure on-record & anonymous interviews and footage. Licensing masters, raw/live news feeds for fair use, prepped standards and practices legal, and cruise industry historical archives. Found, contacted, prepped and conducted interviews with subjects around the world and US.
- Lead post production producer, built offline edit for camera & edit teams between U.S. Asia & Europe. Managed and supervised editorial teams' strategy & workflow on multiple continents.
- Directed by Nick Quested. Co-production between Matte Projects & Saboteur Media.

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

- Lead producer, 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.
- Script writer, editor longform, short form derivatives. Lead marketing and viewership social media engagement. Hit budget goals in production & post. Distribution | **Gravitas Ventures** 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 access 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 | **Alfred I. du-Pont Award**.....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.
- Scripted longform narrative with editorial team. Lead Graphics (GFX) and animation coordinator. Assistant editor to creative editorial team. Directed by Nick Quested & Sebastian Junger

TELEVISION & EPISODIC:

PRODUCER/EDITOR: | [*STRONGEST MAN ON EARTH 2024*](#) | Shaw Strength |2024

- Produced, filmed, edited promotional and live event coverage of Strongest Man On Earth 2024, strongman competition. Produced and edited 32 social media packages, Youtube, IG, FB, Tik Tok.

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: | [*GHOSTS OF THE STEPPE*](#) | Reel Spiess Productions |2024

- Developed, pitched, directed, and editor investigative documentary about illegal hunting of wild Andean Pumas between the border of Chile and Argentina. Working with local NGO's, journalists, ecologists to reveal how the beef and wool industry is responsible for habitat loss.
- Securing sensitive character access between provinces. Deep background on local policies, realities on the ground, and logistics in production in harsh terrain.

CONSULTING PRODUCER: [*AMERICAN ROADMAP*](#) | **Blinx, Shahid MBC** |2023

- Consulting producer for an American political road show hosted by Kuwaiti journalist Mohammed Othman Al Anjari, for Middle East largest streaming platform Blinx Media and Shahid Network.
- Worked with director and editorial creative team on-site in Dubai on creative editorial & story producing, establishing show arch across 6-episodic x 45min program. Advised storyline changes in post to meet budget.

PRODUCER/DP: | [*2023 SCRIPPS HOWARD AWARDS*](#) | **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.
- **Director of photography**, established and shot premium look for interviews, verite, b-roll.
- **Scripted & edited** 13 of 42 short-form packages. Deliverables to multi-platform

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.
- Researched, pitched, & developed story and show arc ideas, prep & conduct interviews, crafted writing, shooting and editing style for show look from ground up. Drafted shooting specs and field-post workflow, which CNN longform still uses. Coordinated freelance personnel, crew & talent logistics. Delivered reviews to Vice President Nancy Duffy on time and on budget.

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

- 3-month embedded with leader of Proud Boys, Enrique Tarrío. Filmed and interviewed Tarrío and proud boys for the months leading up to and after Tarrío's arrest the day before the capitol riot of January 6th, shadowing Tarrío 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.
- Pitched and developed show concepts and storylines, coordinated story execution with talent, script writing, deep background and fact checking. Developed self-filmed remote-interview process for subjects during covid-19 pandemic. | EP'd by Anthony Lappé, Michael Stiller, Tom DeLonge

COMMERCIAL & BRANDED

EDITOR: [VERRA](#) | *Deekali Plastic Project* / [WATCH HERE](#) / Backroads Pictures |2024

- Edited short film series for web and social media about carbon credit program in Senegal.

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

- Concepted, Pitched, 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 |

- [DANCING WARRIOR](#) | **Mountain Film 2024**, short film shot on Lakota Badlands Pine Ridge Indian Reservation following native youth competing in "Indian Relay" sport horse racing.
- [GREENPEACE USA](#) | Fundraising campaign by Greenpeace USA |2024
- [BOMBAY GIN](#) | Cam-op for Bombay Bramble Dinner Series with Chef Omar Tate |2022
- [ROWNY](#) | Cam-op for promo doc series for Row NY |2022
- [VIRGIN VOYAGES](#) | 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

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS:

EDITOR

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| Page 102 | Shawn Regruto Foundation | Narrative Short | 2024 |
| The Timepiece | Sky High Films | Narrative Short | 2019 |
| Jazz In Wakanda | Djaka Souare | Narrative Short | 2018 |
| Hell on Earth - Web | National Geographic | Web-Series | 2017 |

FIRST AD

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

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| Life Like | Lionsgate Entertainment | Narrative Feature | 2018 |
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POST PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

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| Biography: I Want My MTV | A+E Documentary Films | Documentary Feature | 2016 |
| Word Is Bond | Showtime | Documentary Feature | 2016 |

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 | 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

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS:

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

Bend Film Basecamp Artist in Residence | Overseas Press Club | PADI Open Water Dive Certified | AIARE I | Society of Professional Journalists | International Documentary Association | Video Consortium | CPR AED Certified 2024 | Guest lecturer for film editing workshops at Montclair State University, Film Department

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 Kit | W/ 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, Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Final Cut Pro 7/X, Silverstack, Shotput, Catalyst Browse, Celtx, Final Draft, Annotation Edit/Transcriber, Trint, Rev, Slack, Microsoft Office, Airtable marketing tools, Meta Business Suite, TikTok Advertising, Google Analytics, Snapchat Advertising, Email Campaigns & Newsletters, Lucid Link.