

# 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, the environment and politics. Alex owns a Sony FX3 Cinema kit. As an editor he is proficient in avid and premiere. He is a passionate documentary archivist, with a background in broadcast-theatrical post-production.

## **AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS:**

[PGA](#) (Producers Guild of America) Nominee, *Mediha* 2024 | [2025 News and Doc Emmy Nominee: Outstanding Current Affairs Documentary](#), 64 Days | [IDA Awards](#), Nominee Best Writing, *Mediha* 2024 | Alfred I. [du-Pont](#) Columbia Award for Excellence in Journalism & Investigative Reporting, Hell On Earth, [WINNER 2018](#) | [Bend Film](#) Basecamp Fellowship, 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 Montclair State University, Film Department

## **FEATURE DOCUMENTARY:**

**ARCHIVAL PRODUCER:** | *UTP. VIETNAM FILM* | [Imagine Documentaries](#) | .....2025

- Lead archival producer for feature length Vietnam War documentary. Leading research, development, and licensing for all third party archival material for a period-film covering war crimes committed during the Vietnam War.
- EPs: **Ron Howard**, Dallas Rexer, Meredith Kaufers, Christopher St. John

**PRODUCER:** | [MEDIHA](#) | DOC NYC 2023 ([Winner Grand Jury Prize](#)), [PGA Award](#) Nominee, [IDA Awards](#) Nominee | 21 Festival Awards | Sales: Together Films | .....2024

- 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 story producer, post-supervisor, 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...
- EPs: **Emma Thompson**, **Nisha Pahuja**, Joyce Pierpoline, Rick Dugdale, Stephen Nemeth.

**CO-PRODUCER:** | [64 DAYS: INSURRECTION PLAYBOOK](#) | Goldcrest Films, Saboteur Media | [2025 News and Doc Emmy Nominee: Outstanding Current Affairs Documentary](#) | .....2025

- Cinematographer and producer for investigative documentary embedding with the proud boys, election officials, politicians, and investigators of the Jan 6 Committee, detailing the 64 days of seditious conspiracy between the 2020 election and the January 6th insurrection. Filmed and covered January 6<sup>th</sup> riot, and criminal trials.
- 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 archival producer securing access to subjects like sequestered-at-sea crew members, passengers in litigation, to book 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 social media engagement. Hit budget goals in production & post. Distribution | **Dist. Gravitas Ventures** Nov. 2020

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

- Feature documentary unraveling the history of Mexico's political and criminal corruption, cartels, migration, indigenous rights, and history of US / Mexico relations.
- Lead archival producer, managing team of foreign fixers & journalists to procure rare and unseen footage from Mexico's narco-trafficking history. Working with local archival researchers and specialists in Mexico and Lat-Am, digitizing taped archives in Mex. National archives and TV.
- Directed by Nick Quested & Sebastian Junger U.S. Festival premiere | **AFI Docs**

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER:** | [\*HELL ON EARTH: THE FALL OF SYRIA & 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. sourcing footage from network of fixers in Syria and Iraq, and ISIS propaganda in multiple languages, licensing news and special reports for worldwide broadcast and theatrical rights.
- 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 & COMMERCIAL:**

**DIRECTOR:** | [\*GHOSTS OF THE STEPPE\*](#) | .....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.

**DIRECTOR:** | [\*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/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.

**EDITOR:** | [\*HARRIS WALZ CAMPAIGN\*](#) | Backroads Pictures | .....2024

- Editor for series for climate action campaign segments produced by Backroads Pictures for the Kamala Harris / Tim Walz for president Elect Campaign 2024.
- [\*Pennsylvania Farmer Rick Telesz\*](#) | Cable TV Broadcast, 30 sec.
- [\*Green Building: IRA Bill\*](#) | Social Media and Web 30 & 60 sec.
- [\*Extreme Weather Stories: Hurricane Helene\*](#) | Social Media and Web 30 & 60 sec.

**PRODUCER/DP/EDITOR:** | [\*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. Booked talent interviews, coordinated hiring crews across nation, delivered on tight deadlines.
- **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

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

- Short film series highlighting the work of global carbon credit lender, Verra and their work in recycled plastic waste in Senegal and Pakistan.

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

- American political road show documentary series hosted by journalist Mohammed Othman Al Anjari, for Middle East's 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.

**CO-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.

**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.

**FIELD DPRODUCER:** | [\*BREAKING NEWS SPECIAL: JAN 6, 2021\*](#) | Channel 4 News (UK)  
2025 News and Doc Emmy Nominee: Outstanding Current Affairs Documentary | .....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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.
- 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

#### **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.....2024
- [GREENPEACE USA](#) | Fundraising campaign by Greenpeace USA | .....2024
- [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](#) | 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

#### **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.