

# **Dr Nikki Comninos S.A.G.E.**

*Editor-Director-Ad hoc lecturer*

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I have been in the industry for 12 years. In that time I have worked in genres ranging from documentary, drama, reality, advertising, news, corporate, lifestyle, wildlife and shorts. I have 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. Many of the projects I have worked on as an editor have also been awarded local and international prizes. 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 I was selected for the Sithengi Talent Campus. To add to my professional experience, I also 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 worked for a year as the Head of Training at Big Fish School of Digital Filmmaking, I also lecture and examine at various academic institutions. I am a swift and collaborative editor, earning the nickname comrade supercuts :)

## **Education**

### **[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 - documentary and fiction. Final film - *Triptych of Her*: Durban International Film Festival, 2008

### **[2001-2004] BA with Honours, University of Cape Town**

Film Theory and Practice. Final film, *Algemeen Befokte Afrikaans* - Official selection DIFF and NYIFVF, 2005

## **Awards**

**[2016]** SAFTA nominee: Documentary Short editor (*Indians Can't Fly*)

**[2016]** Best Documentary Short SAFTA (*Indians Can't Fly*)

**[2015]** SAFTA winner: Drama editing (*End Game*)

**[2015]** Best Short - Slamdance Fusion Doc Challenge, NYC (*I am Juli*)

**[2014]** Best doc short at the California International Film Festival (*Hyena Boys*)

**[2014]** Best Post Graduate Student, Film & TV division, Wits University

**[2014]** Best Short Film award at the Independent Mzansi Short Film Festival (*iBhokwe*)

**[2013]** South African Editors Guild (S.A.G.E.) acronym for distinguished editors

**[2013]** 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

**[2007]** 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)

## **Academic and Research Experience**

### **[2018-2013] Lecturer and Course Convener: WITS, Johannesburg**

4th year + MA 'National Cinema and Fiction Film' (2018)

MA 'Introduction to Production' (2013)

### **[2018-2015] External Examiner: WITS, AFDA, Johannesburg**

External examiner of essays, MA dissertations and final film exams

### **[2016-2015] Training Manager: Big Fish, Johannesburg**

Course convener and lecturer for 2nd years (2015-2016), project manager for Gauteng Film Commission training course (2016) and wider managerial and operational duties including creating and implementing training programs, evaluating and overhauling curriculum g

### **[2011- 2007] Lecturer and Tutor: Various academic institutions, Johannesburg**

Ad-hoc lecturer and tutor: Wits, AFDA

## **Conferences and Papers**

### **Journal for African Cinemas Special Edition, 2018**

Comminos, N. (2017), 'Practice-led research: Home video and the autobiographical self', Journal of African Cinemas, 9:2+3, pp. 203-18, doi: 10.1386/jac.9.2-3.203\_1

### **CiILECT-CARA The Politics and Poetics of the Practices of Film, 2018**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Es'kia Mphahlele Postgraduate Colloquium and Arts Forum, Wits, 2011**

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

## **Film and TV Experience**

### **[2018-2014] Editor: EMS Productions, Johannesburg**

*Someone to Blame* (54min doc, 2018), *Indians Can't Fly* (48min doc, 2014)

### **[2018] Editor: Full Circle productions, Johannesburg**

Negotiated Settlement (3x50min doc series)

### **[2018-2014] Editor: TIA productions, Johannesburg**

Various: Carte Blanche (investigative journalism), MTV Shuga IRL (TV doccies), *MTV 16 and Pregnant Nigeria*, *Miss Trans Diva* (24min doc), *Timelines* (feature doc), Guardian news, *Hyena Boys* (short doc), *I am Juli* (short doc), MTV inserts, Talk with Kwangu SE1+SE2 (talkshow)

### **[2017] Editor: Blackboard Trust, Johannesburg**

*When I Grow Up I Want to be a Black Man* (Two screen projection for the Eye Institute)

### **[2017-2011] Editor: Uhuru, Johannesburg**

*Everything Must Fall* (feature doc), Centre for Diversity short films (advocacy), Various doc pitch teasers, Trailer for TriContinents Film Festival

### **[2017-2009] Editor: Pulp Films, Johannesburg**

Various corporates, Short films for Nandos, Editor and script-editor of 7x 23-min documentaries about soccer and social issues surrounding the game, *My Beautiful Game*

### **[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), 13 Episodes: *Sticks and Stones* (drama), Episode 7: *End Game* (drama)

**[2016] Editor: Good Cop, Johannesburg**

People You Might Know (web-series)

**[2016] Editor: Afrokaans, Johannesburg**

Shoprite Stories (corporate)

**[2015] Director + Editor: Independent Production, Johannesburg**

Fraternal (doc)

**[2015] Editor: Independent Production, Johannesburg**

Documentary on musician Amanda Palmer

**[2014] Director: Fireworx, Johannesburg**

1 Episode: Mzansi Love (drama)

**[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**

Documentary series *Formidabele Vroue*, 2 x 48min episodes: Emily Hobhouse & Tibbie Steyn for kykNET, lifestyle series *Celeb se Kind*, Editor/research/insert producer current affairs show *Robinson Regstreeks* for kykNET, Editor of three in the series *Sewe Sakke Sout* for kykNET. Editor of series of 4x50min documentary 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, 30-sec cut downs and 8x3min internet films for the OUTsurance 'Staff Helping S.A. OUT' campaign (commercials)

**[2005-2007] Director, Editor, Production Manager: Vuleka Productions, Durban**

- **Director+editor** of 48min doc for the Encounters documentary filmmaking lab for SABC 1 and Encounters Documentary Film Festival 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, eThekweni municipality as well as **Mentor** under MAPPSETA for two interns
- **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)*
- **Assistant script development** for feature film directed by Madoda Ncayiyana, *Izulu Lami*
- Coordinating, managing productions and sourcing funding (researching, developing proposals, budgeting films and planning pitches)

## Film Festival Selections

### **When I Grow Up I want to be a Blackman - editor**

Two screen projection for the Eye Institute in the Netherlands. Official selection: Wintertur, Rotterdam and Gothenburg Film festivals, DIFF

### **People You May Know - editor**

2x10min web-series. Official Selection: Series Mania and won OneX Pitch Deal at the New York Television Festival

### **Timelines - editor**

75-min documentary (TIA productions) editor - Durban International Film Festival, Jozi Film Fest, Indie Karoo Film Festival (2016)

### **Fraternal - director-editor**

60-min documentary (self) director - Cambridge African Film Festival (2015)

### **I am Juli - editor**

5 min short (TIA productions) editor - Big Sky Documentary FF, Slamdance, Indie Karoo Film (2014, 2015)

### **Indians Can't Fly - editor**

48-min documentary (EMS Productions) editor - DIFF, Toronto South African Film Festival (2015)

### **Hyena Boys - editor**

Short film (TIA productions) editor - California International Shorts Film Festival, Flickerfest, Indie Karoo Film Festival, Mzansi Women's Film festival, Independent Filmmakers Showcase (2014)

### **The Goat/iBhokwe - editor**

Short film (John Trengove) editor - Berlin, Stockholm, Zanzibar, Toronto, Indie Karoo, Mzansi Independent and other film festivals (2014, 2015)

### **Triptych of Her - director-editor**

Short film (WITS TV) director, editor - Durban International Film Festival (2008)

### **Do Girls Want It? - director-editor**

48-min documentary (Encounters Documentary Filmmaking Lab, SABC2) director, editor, Encounters, Elles Tournent (2006)

### **A Child is a Child because of Other People - assistant editor**

48-min doc (Vuleka Productions) assistant editor - Durban International Film Festival (2005)

### **The History of Cato Manor - director-editor**

4 part doc (eThekweni Municipality) director, editor - Durban International Film Festival (2006)

### **Algemeen Befokte Afrikaans - co-director-co-editor**

Short film (UCT TV) co-director, editor - DIFF, New York Independent Film and Video Festival (2005)

## 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

Jyoti Mistry, Filmmaker and Academic at Wits Film + TV

Bridget Pickering, Producer at Fireworx Media