

JES THERKELSEN

therkelsen@sensorymediaarts.com

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts. Film and Media Arts, American University, Washington, D.C. Thesis Project: "The Clean Hands Project: A Social Media Venture in a new Nepal." Documentary film, website, book and photography exhibit. Advisors: Maggie Stogner, Dr. Pat Aufderheide. 2008

Bachelor of Arts. Geology, Magna Cum Laude, Amherst College, Amherst, MA. Dissertation: "Shock induced changes in redox state of experimentally shocked plagioclase, pyroxenite and olivine", 98 pp., Amherst College Archives, Goddard Space Flight Center. Advisor Board: Dr. Darby Dyar, Dr. Peter Crowley. 2002

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor. Film, Video, Audio and Visual Media

Lecturer, American University, Washington D.C.	2008 – present
Adjunct Professor, The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.	2009 – present
Part-time Faculty, Arts Institute of Washington, Washington, D.C.	2007

At American University, teaching Film and Video I to undergraduate students in the School of Communication. This course provides hands-on opportunities for students to familiarize themselves with basic visual storytelling skills, including story development, production planning, digital videography, directing, lighting, non-linear editing, and sound design. Also taught video editing practicum. At Catholic University, teaching undergraduate thesis class, advising student productions. At Arts Institute of Washington, developed and taught Listening & Analysis, an undergraduate audio media course that analyzes the styles, sounds, and concepts of aural design in popular music, audio for film, as well as sound effects and sound design in film, video and multimedia.

Owner/Founding Director

Sensory Media Arts LLC	2008 – present
Wise Guise Productions LLC	2005 – 2008

Sensory Media Arts is a Washington D.C.-based media production company committed to works of powerful immediacy and influence through visual and auditory media. SMA provides a range of videography, editing and consultation services to individual, non-profit or corporate clients.

Media Consultant

Advocacy Project, Washington D.C.	2009 - present
Jagaran Media Center, Kathmandu, Nepal	2008
Center for Teaching Excellence, American University, Washington D.C.	2006 - 2008
Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.	2005 - 2006

Developing methodology currently in use by Advocacy Project fellows in 34 countries to use information and communication technology to raise awareness of social issues. Consulted iNGO Jagaran Media Center and initialized the Clean Hands Project as a media tool to be used for advocacy

for social inclusion in new Nepali Constitution. Provided consultation and supervision with CTE for video and new media projects for undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff. Designed and taught seminars on multimedia software applications to members of the American University community. Oversaw the Washington College of Law's audio/visual system, troubleshoot, assisted professors, and conducted yearly instructional seminars.

Photography Instructor

National Geographic Student Expeditions, Ecuador 2009
 Jagaran Media Center, Nepal 2008
 Teaching Assistant, American University, Washington D.C. 2005 – 2006

Led National Geographic high school students On Assignment Photography course for six weeks through Ecuador and Galapagos Islands. Developed, funded and organized one-on-one photography sessions with Dalit journalists throughout Nepal as part of the Clean Hands Project. Advised students in developing and printing photography, lectured and demonstrated various techniques of printing, evaluated students' work.

Teaching Fellow

Hellenic American Educational Fellowship Athens College, Athens, Greece 2002 - 2003

Taught English and Literature classes to Greek students in high school classes which included curriculum development, daily lessons plans, and grading students work. Supervised Model United Nations Club – conference held at The Hague, Netherlands. Held private tutor sessions.

Teaching Assistant

Amherst College Geology Classes, Amherst, Massachusetts 2000 - 2002

Helped supervise lab classes for Physical Geology and Environmental Science classes. Held scheduled study sessions.

FILMOGRAPHY

Four Minutes 2008

Funded in Part by the DC Commission of the Arts and Humanities, 4 minutes, HD Video

Producer, Writer, Co-Director & Editor. Four minute segment of *I Shaved My legs for This?!*, a feature length documentary film about the modern day durdgeries of dating. "Four Minutes" explores the concept of speed dating.

To Steal A Bicycle 2006

Independently Produced, 13 minutes, Digital Video

Producer, Writer, Director & Editor. Told through the voices of real victims, this surprisingly touching documentary film explores bicycle theft in Washington, D.C. and asks the questions: how easy is it to get away with bicycle theft? This film is entering the film festival circuit.

Screenings/Awards Include:

- Bicycle Film Festival, New York City, NY, May 2007
- Politics and Prose, Washington D.C., April 2007

- American University Production Theater, May 2006
- Wechsler Theater, Washington D.C., May 2006
- Visions Film Festival, Abramson Theater, April 2006 - Honorary Mention Best Documentary

Missed Connections

2006

Independently Produced, 8 minutes, Digital Video

Co-Producer, Director, Co-Editor. This piece explores the fears many people have of meeting new people and the regrets of a missed opportunity.

Screenings/Awards Include:

- D.C. Shorts Film Festival, Washington D.C., September 2007
- Politics and Prose, Washington D.C., April 2007
- International Documentary Challenge: Best of D.C., March 2006
- AFI Theater, Silver Springs, August 2006
- Warehouse Next Door, June 2006

Portrait of a Painter

2005

Produced through the Vander Zee Gallery, 16 minutes, Digital Video

Producer, Writer, Director & Editor. Managed a crew of 4 for this portrait of a local artist balancing business and art.

Screenings Include:

- Vander Zee Gallery, January 2006

The Best Part of Everything

2004-2005

Produced through the Scholar Research Grant, 39 minutes, Digital Video

Producer, Writer, Director & Editor. A family faces their hopes, dreams, ambitions, and regrets as the parents prepare for retirement and an empty nest while their 20-something children get ready for the real world. This personal film explores the difficulties associated with adapting to the changing roles and responsibilities of a typical American family.

Screenings/Awards Include:

- CINE Golden Eagle, Best Student Production, Washington D.C., 2008
- D.C. Peer Award, Best Student Production, Washington D.C., 2007
- San Francisco Documentary Festival, Women's Building, San Francisco, CA, May 2006
- Docs-in-Progress, Morton Auditorium, Washington, D.C., September 2005
- Communication Fair, Luedeke Theater, Trenton, NJ, April 2005

FILMS IN PROGRESS

The Clean Hands Project

Work-in-progress, HD Video

Producer, Writer, Director & Editor. Within Nepal's current tumultuous backdrop, the Clean Hands Project provides a group of Nepali activists and journalists, who are part of the Dalit "untouchable" caste, the opportunity to use professional video and photography equipment and the training to learn how to use it.

A House of Mud

Work-in-progress, Digital Video

Producer, Writer, Director & Editor. Currently in development stages, this film will be the collaboration of American University, Center for Social Media, Center for Environmental Filmmaking, and Wise Guise Productions.

Seize This!

Work-in-progress, Digital Video

Producer, Writer, Director & Editor. Currently in production stages. Funded in part through the Eagle Endowment Grant.

EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

The Clean Hands Project. Photographs, Washington School of Photography, Washington, D.C. 2009
The Clean Hands Project. Photographs, Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C. 2009
The Clean Hands Project. Photographs, Tryst Café, Washington, D.C. 2009
The Clean Hands Project. Photographs, Healing Arts Gallery, Washington, D.C. 2009
Subcontinental Drift. Juried Show, Healing Arts Gallery, Washington, D.C. 2009
Digital Image Gallery. Group Show, New Media Center, American University, Washington DC 2007

FELLOWSHIPS

Artist Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington D.C. 2009
Advocacy Project Peace Fellow, Kathmandu, Nepal 2008
Flaherty Film Fellow, New York 2007
Center Teaching Excellence Graduate Fellowship, American University, D.C. 2007, 2008
National Gallery of Art Film Fellowship, National Gallery of Art, D.C. 2006
Film & Fiction Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies 2007, 2008
Roland Wood Fellowship, Amherst College 2005, 2006, 2007
Hellenic American Educational Fellowship, Athens College, Greece 2002-2003

GRANTS AND SPONSORED WORK

American University Human Rights Grant, \$1200 2009
Ford Foundation Future Public Media Grant, \$3000 2008
Scott Travel Grant, \$1200 2008
American University Greenberg Travel Grant, \$1000 2008
Atlas Foundation Film Grant, \$2000 2008
Small Grant, DC Humanities and Arts Commission, \$1000 2007
American University Eagle Endowment Grant, \$750 2006
Scholar Research Grant Award, Rider University, \$5000 2003

HONORS and AWARDS

CINE Golden Eagle, Best Student Production 2008

Peer Award for Best Student Production (The Best Part of Everything)	2007
D.C. Shorts Film Festival Official Selection (Missed Connections)	2007
NYC Bicycle Film Festival Official Selection (To Steal A Bicycle)	2007
Honorary Mention for Best Documentary (To Steal A Bicycle) Visions Film Festival	2006
San Francisco Documentary Festival Official Selection (Best Part of Everything)	2006
Best of DC – Short Documentary (Missed Connection), International Documentary Challenge	2006
SOC Merit Award , American University, School of Communication	2005, 2006
Sigma Xi Research Society Inductee for distinguished work on senior thesis, Amherst College	2002
Magna Cum Laude graduate with special distinction in thesis dissertation, Amherst College	2002

PUBLISHED WORK

In Publication: **“The Clean Hands Project”** full-sized photography book, 78 pp, published through Vajra Books in Nepal and Mera Publication in India.

COLLECTIONS

Nepal Embassy. Washington DC, “The Clean Hands Project” 20 Photographs. 2009

LECTURES / PANELS PRESENTED

International Commission for Dalit Rights Conference. American University	2009
Friday Forum. School of International Service, American University.	2008
International Social Media and its uses. Kathmandu, Nepal.	2008
Rotary Club Lecture Presentation. San Francisco, California	2008

MEDIA APPEARANCES

American Today. “Small Grant Awarded for Human Rights Work.” By Jon Hussey.	April 3, 2009
Oneworld News. “Digital Photography Giving Voice to Nepal’s Dalit.” By Thomas Phillips and Ida Wahlstrom.	March 2, 2009
DCist. “Photography exhibits a glimpse into Dalit life.” By Sriram Gopal.	February 4, 2009
DC Commission of the Arts and Humanities. “Artist Fellowships 2009.”	November 2008
Washington Post. “The Bicycle Grief: Festival spotlights a director’s take on stealing bikes.” By Joe Heim.	February 1, 2008
Ourstage.com. “Artist of the Month: Jes Therkelsen.”	November 2007
National Gallery of Art Newsletter. “Scholars begin work at the NGA.”	July 26, 2006
Washington Post. “Film Screening Where the Scariest Part is the Audience.” By Teresa Wiltz.	June 18, 2006
Rider University Newswire. “Spotlight On: Jes Therkelsen.”	May 2, 2006
In The Loop. “Student Profile: Jes Therkelsen.”	April 25, 2006

ASSOCIATIONS

UFVA (University Film and Video Association)
IDA (International Documentary Association)
ITVA International Television Association – DC Chapter

Docs-in-Progress, Washington D.C.
Flaherty International Film Seminars, NYC

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Festival Judge for DC Shorts Film Festival	2008
Governing Board , International Commission on Dalit Rights	2008
Juror , ITVA Peer Awards	2006

SKILLS

Photography 35mm, flash, strobe, studio lighting, dark room proficient, digital imaging and manipulation, Adobe Creative Suite

Cinematography Sony XDCAM, HDV, DVCAM; Panasonic AVCCAM, DV Proline, P2 HD series; Canon HD series, SD series

Post Production Proficient in non-linear video and audio editing: Final Cut Studio, Avid Studio, Logic Studio, Pro Tools, Adobe Creative Suite

Digital Media Adobe Creative Suite

Languages Intermediate Spanish - Traveled through Costa Rica, student in Spain at the Colegio de Madrid, 1997; Beginner Greek - worked in Athens and traveled extensively through Greece, 2002-2003; Beginner Nepali – worked in Nepal summer of 2008

REFERENCES

Leena Jayaswal

Professor and Film partner, Seize This!
Tel (202) 885-2662
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Maggie Stogner

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