

Thomas Espenschied

Digital Media Storytelling / Film Production & Editing / Higher Education

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EDUCATION

M.F.A. Documentary Filmmaking, May 2019 *Wake Forest University*, Winston-Salem, NC

M.S. Student Affairs in Higher Education, May 2012 *Miami University*, Oxford, OH

B.B.A. Business Management, Magna Cum Laude, December 2009 *Kent State University*, New Philadelphia/Canton/Kent, OH

A.A. Associates of Arts - General Studies, With Distinction, December 2009 *Kent State University*, New Philadelphia/Canton/Kent, OH

C.T.C. College Teaching Certificate, May 2012 *Miami University*, Oxford, OH

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2021 – 2022 ENG/FMS 211: Filmmaking, Adjunct Professor, Davidson University. This course introduces students to a creative practice using audiovisual materials. Students will learn to compose an image, to sequence images for dramatic effect, and to design an audiovisual story. Students will analyze a variety of film design methods and their practical uses before applying this knowledge to their own projects. Students learn the iterative process of filmmaking by embracing risk, failure, and constructive feedback among peers as necessary to the creative process and to discovering each person's unique voice. (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022)

"This is my favorite course that I have taken at Davidson so far, and I've taken many courses that I've enjoyed. Professor Espenschied is a one-of-a-kind person that has impacted my Davidson experience in more ways than just educating me on Filmmaking. Thomas was the first person to make me feel like a truly belonged here. They created a space where I didn't feel the need to pretend to be someone I wasn't or feel pressured to be academically successful at every moment. Their classroom made me feel okay to be human and vulnerable and make mistakes because that is what it means to learn. I truly not communicate the level of gratefulness I feel toward this course and toward Espy for simply being themselves."

-Student from Film production course Spring 2022

"Thomas has been the most understanding and accommodating professor I have EVER had at this institution. ... He created an environment where students felt safe to discuss truly difficult topics in a way where they both didn't feel judged, but also knew how to articulate their thoughts in a way that didn't create negative feelings for others. ... This is one of the best classes I have ever taken, and I personally attribute that to Thomas and the way they managed the classroom. Professors treating students with dignity and respect is undervalued at this institution and I feel Thomas does both while still creating an environment of learning. I learned not only from him, but from my peers, which often doesn't happen to this high of an extent. I really can't sing my praises for this course, and Thomas as an instructor enough."

-Student from Film production course Spring 2022

2018 – 2020 HIS 455: Filming Southern Legal History, Co-Instructor, Davidson University. Students in HIS 454 work collaboratively to research, write, and produce a documentary film about some aspect of the U.S. South's legal history. The course uses the seminar format to explore, at considerable depth, legal-historical research and writing, as well as historical documentary film production. The result is a collaborative research paper written jointly by all members of the seminar, which we will hope to see published, and an accompanying historical documentary, which we will hope to see exhibited at film festivals and beyond.

2014 -2015 DEP 2921: Stage Management IA, Guest-Instructor, University of North Carolina

School of the Arts. A two-semester introduction to the fundamentals of stage management as related to current productions as well as professional union requirements. The basic techniques of the stage manager are presented, including the prompt book, rehearsal, and performance procedures. In addition, stage management forms and formats will be studied to strengthen organizational skills.

2011 -2012 ART 183: Images of America, Co-Instructor, Miami University Middletown, 2012. Investigating the power and influence of visual art imagery, either about, targeted to, or made by diverse segments of historic and contemporary American society and how this imagery has helped or hindered our coming together as a diverse nation. Explores the use of art stereotypes as a basis for evaluation, how visual components help define culture, the decoding of cultural codes and how the idea of taste and aesthetics influences the way we see ourselves and others.

EDL 110: The University and the Student, Instructor, Miami University, 2011 and 2012. Helps first year students understand how the university operates and how its resources can be used to develop their educational goals. Taught in seminar style; designed to help develop personal relationships among students and instructor.

EDL 100: Career Development for the College Student, Co-Instructor, Miami University, 2011. This course is designed to take students through the process of clarifying career and/or academic goals. Students will do research assignments and activities designed to help them to learn about themselves and how to apply this information to career decision making.

Contact me for a list of the dozens of courses I have co-taught while at Davidson College, 2019-2023; including Digital Storytelling, Podcast Production, and Filmmaking.

PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE WORK EXPERIENCE

Davidson College, Davidson, NC, 2019-present

Digital Media Specialist

Duties as the Digital Media Specialist include: collaborating with faculty to bring digital media projects (storytelling, podcasting, and filmmaking) to their various courses; effectively teaching and supporting students throughout the semester as they work on their digital media projects (storytelling, podcasting, and filmmaking); developing necessary digital media processes and policies with the Digital Learning team.

Wrought Iron Productions (WIP), Winston-Salem, NC, 2017-2019.

Associate Producer/ Creative producer

Duties as the Associate Producer/ Creative producer included: fulfilling the roles of producer, director, editor, and director of photography; effectively light, mic, and record interviews; capturing sufficient coverage during observational shooting scenes; collaborating with fellow staff members during all phases of production; developing necessary pre-production materials, including project proposals, treatments, and storyboards; and managing media as well as exporting final videos.

The Documentary Film Program, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem University, NC, 2018 – 2019
Equipment Manager

Duties as the Equipment Manager included: demonstrating proper use and care of equipment; ensuring students adhere to check out and return policy; and ensuring that the online equipment inventory and checkout system is up to date.

University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC, 2013 – 2016.

Associate Director for Student Conduct & Deputy Title IX Coordinator, August 2013 – August 2016 Duties as Associate Director for Student Conduct & Deputy Title IX Coordinator included: the operation of the Student Conduct system; serving as deputy Title IX coordinator for students and investigating complaints made by students, faculty, and/or staff; and providing direction for major revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and Student Handbook.

Residence Hall Coordinator, High School Residence Life, June 2013 – October 2013

Duties as Residence Hall Coordinator included: providing a safe and secure living environment for all residential high school students; serving as the emergency primary and backup on call; and developing and overseeing programming activities for the high school students.

FILMOGRAPHY

Remembering Willie Earle (2020, 17 minutes; documentary; assistant producer, director, co-editor)

Social media accounts

- <http://instagram.com/rememberingwillieearle>
- <facebook.com/rememberingwillieearle>

Screened at 7 film festivals in USA.

- Best Documentary (History+) at the Longleaf Film festival, 2021
- Finalist at the Freedom Festival International, 2021
- Official Selection at the Real to Reel International Film Festival, 2021
- Official Selection at the Charlotte Film festival, 2021
- Official Selection at the Carrboro Film Fest, 2021
- Official Selection at the Short Sweet Film Fest, 2021
- Official Selection at the Indigo Moon Film festival, 2021
- Community Remembrance Project of Greenville County, SC, 2022
- SCETV/PBS and website, 2022
-

Human Kaleidoscope (2018; 13 minutes; documentary; co-director, editor, producer, writer)

Screened at 6 film festivals in USA.

- Official Selection at the Living Art America Film Festival, 2018
- Best Student Film at the Short Sweet Film Fest, 2018
- Official Selection at the Colony Short Film festival, 2018
- Official Selection at the Black Warrior Film Festival, 2018
- Official Selection at the Longleaf Film festival, 2018
- Official Selection (not in competition) at the IICFF, 2020, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6LiiOqD-Fk>

Homme Alone (2021; 9 minutes; queer horror; executive producer, lighting, acting role)

Social media accounts

- <instagram.com/hommealonefilm>

- [facebook.com/hommealonefilm](https://www.facebook.com/hommealonefilm)
- Current film festival run; screenings so far.
- Short Sweet Film Fest, 2022
 - Official Selection at the Longleaf Film festival, 2022

Conservatory (2018; 78 minutes; documentary; co-director, co-editor, co-producer, co-writer)

Screenings

- Official Selection at the Longleaf Film festival, 2019
- The Culture Mill Lab (with Q&A), 2019
- Multiple educational settings (with Q&A, discussions) over the past 3 years

The Trail of Tears Project (2018; 18 minutes; documentary; producer, director, cinematographer, editor)

Screenings

- Multiple educational settings (with Q&A, discussions), 2018-2020

Berning for Change (2017; 5 minutes; documentary; producer, director, editor, writer)

Screenings

- Produced as part on the *America Heard* web series, which can be found at www.americaheard.com and on their YouTube page, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSF32J9dD1I>

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

2014 – 2016	“UNCSA: Policy of Prohibited Harassment, including sexual Misconduct and Discrimination.” Presenter, UNCSA community. For New Student Orientation, as well as all Design and Production students 2015 and 2016.
2013 – 2016	“Student Conduct Hearing Board Training.” Presenter, UNCSA. Multiple sessions.
2015	“UNCSA: Introduction to Student Conduct.” Presenter, UNCSA. Multiple sessions, “Goal Setting: Based on Kegan and Lahey’s Immunity to Change.” Presenter, UNCSA. Professional development session.
2014	“Introduction to visual Arts.” Presenter, UNCSA. Professional development session.

UNIVERSITY INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE

Stage Managers Wellness Initiative, member/teacher, UNCSA (2015-2016) Search Committee, Police Chief, member, UNCSA (2014 – 2015).
 Search Committee, Assistant Director of College Life, member, UNCSA (2014). Conduct Policy Committee, Chair, UNCSA (2014 – 2016).
 Search Committee, Assistant Director of High School Life, member, UNCSA (2013). Title IX deputy Coordinator and Investigator, UNCSA (2013 – Present)
 Student Government Association’s Conduct Hearing Board representative group, Advisor, UNCSA, (2013 – 2016).
 High School student LGBTQ Alliance, Advisor, UNCSA (2013). High School Peer Leader Program, Advisor, UNCSA, (2013). High School Peer Leader Training, Chair, UNCSA, (2013).
 Annual move-in day for new resident students, volunteer, UNCSA (2013-2015). Search Committee, Assistant Professor, member, MU (2011).
 Search Committee, Assistant Professor, Coordinator, MU (2011).