Carlos Estrada

Carlosestradafilm.com
carlosestradafilm@gmail.com // Austin, TX // 205.861.7654

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Masters of Fine Arts in Film Production, Dec 2021
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
B.A in Interdisciplinary Studies with Honors; Minor in Creative Writing, May 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer (Full Time), Texas State University Aug 2024 - present

- Courses Taught (4 courses per semester):
  - Advanced Cinematography
  - Cinematography
  - Advanced Film Directing
  - Short Film Development
  - Film Production Practices
- Designed new course in Advanced Cinematography, never before offered at Texas State
- Mentored students as part of thesis committee and overseeing independent study
- Worked in collaboration with other faculty members as part of a team to ensure the program has necessary film equipment that met school budgetary needs
- Contributed as Safety Advisor for student film productions

Lecturer (part time), Texas State University Jan 2022 - Aug 2024

- Courses Taught (2 courses per semester):
  - Cinematography
  - Film Production Practices
- Implemented syllabus, and taught classes in Film Production Practices and Intro to Cinematography.
- Applied a mix of lectures and hands-on practice to build the foundational skills in students
- Created work internship through Pillarboxed Productions to give students opportunity to grow outside the classroom.

Instructor, Austin Film Society for Creative Careers Workshop Sept 2022 - Aug 2024

- Developed instructional courses for students with no prior knowledge on navigating RED Komodo.
- Created on set demonstrations of how each position on set works
- Constructed workshop on how a director can direct more visually through lens/lighting options
- Demonstrated techniques on elevating documentary filmmakers to think more visually and approaching interviews beyond just capturing the sound bites

Film Festival Judge June 2022 - May 2024

- Served on Juries or Selection Committees for the following film festivals:
  - Austin Film Festival
  - Phoenix Film Festival
  - Thessaloniki Short Film Festival

Guest Lecturer, Cinematography & Color Correction May 2022 - Present

- Guest Lecture as a Cinematographer:
  - University of Texas at Austin for Professor Miguel Alvarez
  - University of Texas at Austin for Arturo R. Jimenez
  - Texas State University for Sam Mahoney
- Guest Lecturer as a Colorist:
  - Texas State University for Taniel Kilajian

Summer Film Camp Lead Instructor, University of Texas at Austin June 2020 - July 2020
Cinematography

- Created a new course that transitioned to teaching cinematography virtually
- Taught two summer sessions that gave students skills in visual decision making.
- Managed one Teaching Assistant

Summer Film Camp Instructor, University of Texas at Austin June 2019 - Aug 2019

- Taught summer sessions that gave students skills in storytelling. Techniques taught included decision-making in framing, lighting, color, and movement in order to establish the best look for a film

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin Aug 2018 - May 2020

- Courses as Teaching Assistant:
  - Cinematography
  - Directing Actors
  - Producing
  - Intro to Film Production
- Created technical lectures, in-class activities, and syllabus based off Professor's theory lectures
- Provided students the skills to shoot on 16mm and 35mm film
- Showcased students how to direct the camera in conjunction to actors
- Responsible for teaching groups of students how to conceptualize a story and executing it into a film through the pre-production and production phase
- Oversaw multiple projects from one hundred students in Producing class while managing team of other TAs
- Taught students on how to work as a team towards the same creative goal across all departments
- Covered foundational film skills in: pre-production, story structure, lighting setups, and editing

FILM EXPERIENCE

Freelance Filmmaker, Cinematographer Self-Employed Feb 2019 - Present

- Work as a Director of Photography, leading teams of camera and grip + electric personnel
- Collaborate with Directors to achieve desired visual aesthetic and plan out logistics that go into each creative decision
- Work has been featured at: SXSW, NPR, EnergaCamerimage, Palm Springs Shorts Fest, New Orleans Film Festival, Guanajuato Film Festival, and more.

Freelance Filmmaker, Gaffer, AC, Editor, Self-Employed 2015 - 2021

- Worked as a Gaffer, leading grip + electric team, creating lighting setups and maintaining lighting gear.
- Worked as a 1st Assistant Camera, leading camera team, pulling focus, ensuring camera is built out properly, and troubleshooting all technical issues
- Worked as an Editor, focused on documentaries . Editing work focused on English-Spanish content.
- All freelance work includes experience in a broad spectrum of fields, including: Narrative, Documentary, Music Video, Commercial, and Live Events.
- Select production companies worked for include: Netflix, HBO, HGTV, Arts and Labor, Revelator, The Bear, SwngProductions, Texas Monthly
- Selected Commercial Brands include: ACLU, PBS, Dunkin Donuts, Church's Chicken, JCPenny, Roto-Rooter, Topo Chico

Managing Editor, Voces Oral History Center at UT Aug 2020 - Jan 2021

- Managed video, audio, transcription files, and still images of interviewers and interviewees.
- Responsible as liaison between a team of undergraduate interns and a growing team of interviewers across dozens of universities throughout the country.
- Maintained database of hundreds of interviewees.
- Taught personnel how to conduct and record interviews virtually.

Production Tech Team Proctor, Moody College of Communications at UT Jan 2018 - May 2020

- Taught and assisted students and professors with technical issues across the board.
- Advised on the use of the following software and technical areas: Avid Media Composer, Premiere Pro, After Effects, Pro Tools, codec conversions, media access issues, classroom setup, and others.

Lead Media Productions Coordinator, IMPACT ALABAMA August 2013 - July 2014

- Editor on all promos/commercials and short documentaries highlighting work of the non-profit
- Main camera operator; experience in interviewing subjects for documentary style film shoots
- Extensive work in organizing/converting footage files and archiving older footage
- Managed team of production assistants, taught students unfamiliar with filmmaking in the basics of camera work.

FILMOGRAPHY - *DIRECTOR*

2022 "Green Water," Narrative Short, Drama
Available through Short of the Week - https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2023/08/22/green-water/
College bound Erik must learn to take care of his younger sister Nora after their undocumented mother goes missing.

New Orleans Film Festival, Montclair Film Festival, ***Cinequest (WINNER)****,* ***Dallas International Film Festival (Best Texas Short),*** *New York Latino Film Festival,* ***Austin Film Society (Grant Winner)****, New Orleans Film Festival South Pitch Competition Winner, Phoenix Film Festival,* ***Houston Latino Film Festival (Winner)****, Official Latino Film Festival, Philadelphia Latino Film Festival, Light Reel Film Festival, Over-the-Rhine Film Festival*

2020 "Ángelito," Narrative Short, Drama
Distributed on Film Shortage in the US and ShortsTV in South America - https://filmshortage.com/dailyshortpicks/angelito/
After his father's death, Ángel seeks reconciliation and the chance to learn more about his family through the help of his Grandfather and Day of the Dead.

El Paso Film Festival, Indie Grits Film Festival, ShortsTV Worldwide Film Festival, Film Shortage Daily Pick, Deep in the Heart Film Festival, LETNetworks AmLatino Film Festival, ***Festival de Cine Latino Americano (Winner)****, Longhorn Creators Foundation Grant Recipient*

2018 "The Country Priest," Documentary Short
Distributed on PBS.com through Reel South - https://www.reelsouth.org/documentaries/country-priest
When a chapel along the U.S.-Mexico border is threatened by the impending wall construction, a local priest and the surrounding community fight back.

Sidewalk Film Festival (Reel South Film Award)*, Sandpoint Film Festival, PBS Online Film Festival, Houston Latino Film Festival, West Texas Film Festival*

FILMOGRAPHY - *CINEMATOGRAPHY*
with select honors

2025 "The Night We Met," Narrative Short, Horror, directed by Fumiya Hayakawa
Guanajuato International Film Festival, New Orleans Film Festival, New/Next Film Fest, Bogota Shorts, Macau International Film Festival, Carrboro Film Fest, Nippon Connection

2025 "Rooftop Lempicka" Narrative Short, Drama/Coming-of-Age, directed by Hang Nguyen
Distributed as part of omnibus feature film "Playlist Asia"
New York Asian Film Festival, Asian American International Film Festival, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, Rhode Island International Film Festival, ***Austin Asian American Film Festival (WINNER)***

2025 "The Good Boy" Narrative Short, Drama, directed by Esmerelda Hernandez
Cine Las Americas, ***Cinefestival (WINNER)****, San Antonio Film Festival*

2025 "It's Never Over, Jeff Buckley" Documentary Feature, directed by Amy Berg
Magnolia Pictures, HBO Documentary Films
Additional Photography

2024 “Los Mosquitos,” Narrative Short, Drama, directed by Nico Chi Amen
Focus Features - https://youtu.be/sD1mL8649EM?si=toQRJG6qOEgnAi6g
SXSW, New Orleans Film Festival, Holly Shorts, LALIFF, Guanajuato International Film Festival, ***Gotham Awards (Winner)***

2024 “So, That Happened,” Narrative Short, Romantic/Comedy, directed by Neha Aziz
Nashville Film Festival, YellowSprings Film Festival, Cinema Columbus, VC Film Fest

2024 “Soft Breath,” Narrative Short, Drama, directed by Fumiya Hayakawa
Cine Las Americas, Lost River Film Festival, Endora Film Festival

2023 “Julie Baby,” Narrative Short, Drama, directed by Emily Grooms
Portland Film Festival, Flickers Rhode Island, Tokyo Shorts, Tacoma Film Festival

2023 “Maria!,” Narrative Short, Drama, directed by Sebastian Valdivieso
Bogota Shorts, Dallas International Film Festival, El Paso Film Festival, Houston Latino Film Festival

2023 “Roto-Rooter Christmas Spot” Commercial, Stop-Motion, directed by Roh Rao
WINNER, Gold Addy, Best Commercial, Austin

2023 “The Third Bedroom,” Narrative Short, Drama/Horror, directed by Kathryn Van Buren
Distributed online through Film Shortage - https://filmshortage.com/dailyshortpicks/the-third-bedroom/
Austin Film Festival, Dances with Film, Tacoma Film Festival, DIFF Shorts

2023 “Supermarket Affairs,” Narrative Short, Comedy/Drama, directed by Hang Nguyen
Palm Springs ShortsFest, Cinequest, Nashville Film Festival, CAAM, Dallas International Film Festival, Osaka International Film Festival, Seattle Asian American Film Festival, Hill Country Film Festival

2023 “Black Magic” Narrative Short, Comedy/Drama, directed by Cristin Stephens
Austin Film Festival, *Bronzelens Film Festival, Indie Memphis Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival, Maryland Film Festival, Toronto Black Film Festival*

2023 “Cats Don’t Sleep at Night,” Narrative Short, Drama, directed by Beibei Xu
Oak Cliff Film Festival, Tacoma Film Festival

2023 “Flowers,” Narrative Short, Horror, directed by Tania Cattebeke Laconich
Distributed as part of omnibus feature film “Dark Cuts: A Thriller Anthology”
Lisbon International Horror Film Festival

2023 “Breaking the Code,” Documentary Feature, directed by Michael Flanagan
(Cinematographer for Houston section of film)
Dallas International Film Festival, Thin Line Film Festival

2021 “El Fantasma,” Narrative Short, Drama, directed by Arturo R. Jimenez
EnergaCamerimage, Palm Springs International ShortsFest, Oak Cliff Film Festival, San Antonio CineFestival, Dallas International Film Festival, Flickerfest Rhode Island Film Festival

2020 “Edwin”, Documentary Short, directed by Ya’ke Smith
Dallas International Film Festival, Thin Line Film Festival, Literally Shorts Film Festival

COMING SOON

In Post-Production*:* “Loretta” (Dramedy short), “The Evangelist” (Horror short),
“A Future of Nostalgias” (Documentary short), “SIDES (Drama short), “Seventh Valley” (Drama short

In Pre-Production:) “Thelma Saved My Life (Drama short),
“Wagha” (Documentary Short”, “Tell Me How You Feel” (Rom Com Short),
“Untitled Forestry Documentary” (Documentary Feature)

OTHER SELECTED HONORS

- **ENERGACamerimage Cinematography Panaroma,** 2025
- **Sundance Labs**, *Semi-Finalist,* 2024
- **Short of the Week,** Green Water, 2023
- **Hola Mexico Film Festival,** Filmmaker of Tomorrow, 2023
- **National Association of Latino Independent Producers,** Emerging Content Creator Fellow, 2022
- **American Society of Cinematographers,** Heritage Award Nominee, 2022
- **ENERGACamerimage Cinematography Panaroma,** 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Digital: Arri Alexa Line; Sony Fx series & A7 series; Canon C series; RED series (DSMC 2 & 3); Blackmagic Ursa and Pyxis; Panasonic Varicam LT
Film: Super 8mm, 16mm, and 35mm motion
Editing: Avid 101 Certified, Adobe Premiere, Final Cut X
VFX and Graphics: Adobe After Effects
Color: DaVinci Resolve Studio
Language: Fluent in Spanish
General: Production Budgeting, Interviewing, Research, Decision Making, Team Building, Teaching Diverse Audiences