

ABOUT

SOSENA SOLOMON

Sosena Solomon is an Ethiopian-American social documentary film and multimedia visual artist whose work explores cross-sections of various subcultures and communities in flux, carefully teasing out cultural nuances and capturing personal narratives through arresting visual storytelling.

Solomon has worked for many years in the commercial and nonprofit sectors as a director and cinematographer on many short film projects, including *Dreaming of Jerusalem*, a Discovery-plus original documentary about the Ethiopian Jewish community in Gondar, and *MERKATO*, filmed on location in one of Africa's largest open-air markets and exhibited internationally as an audio, visual, and sensory installation. She has exhibited work at the Sundance Film Festival, Cinema Africa, Tribeca, and DOC NYC. She earned her BA in Television Production from Temple University and her MFA in Social Documentary film from The School of Visual Arts.

She is currently lecturing in the Fine Arts Department at the University of Pennsylvania's Stuart Weitzman School of Design and working with The Metropolitan Museum of Art to create new digital and permanent in-gallery content that will reframe the Museum's African art galleries.





SOSENA SOLOMON

FILMMAKER

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PORTFOLIO

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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EXPERTISE

- Direction
- Photography
- Cinematography
- Pre/Post Production
- Client Management
- Instructor

PROFILE

Highly skilled documentary filmmaker with 15+ years of experience in all aspects of video production. Executes vision with fine attention to detail on multiple projects simultaneously and delivers focused quality and superior visual imagery to client projects.

EXPERIENCE

Director/Cinematographer/Editor

2010 - PRESENT

- Work on various independent short film projects and works-for-hire, generating cultural heritage, fashion, food, music, and film culture-focused visual content for commercial, nonprofit, and independent clients.

Recent Clients & Projects:

- BlackStar Film Festival, Festival juror and selection committee, 2023
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, Arts of Africa, 2022
- World Monuments Fund, Director & Filmmaker, 2022
- MTV, 16 & Released, Cinematographer, 2022
- Living While American, Director & Cinematographer
- BBC Studios, Faith Ringgold documentary, Segment Director, 2019
- Discovery Channel, Dreaming of Jerusalem, Director & Cinematographer, 2021
- Monument Lab, Director, & Filmmaker, 2021
- Africa Channel, Africa Everywhere Series, Cinematographer, 2018
- National Geographic, Expedition Explorer and Filmmaker, 2018
 - Full client list available upon request

Metropolitan Museum of Art

2023 - 2024

Director /Filmmaker

- Directed and filmed twelve documentary films, three of which will form a permanent installation in the new exhibit of African art at the newly redesigned Rockefeller Wing.

University of Pennsylvania

2017 - PRESENT

Lecturer

- Developed core syllabus and lecture criteria for Video 1/ Advanced Video/ Documentary Ethnography for Museums and Exhibitions course.

Temple University School of Communication

2014 - 2016

Adjunct Instructor/Lecturer

- Developed core syllabus and lecture criteria for the following courses:
 - History of Electronic Media
 - Future of Television Media & Culture
 - Media Images & Analysis

WORKS

- DOUBLE GOLD | 2017
- MIZAN | 2015
- MERKATO | 2013
- LOST IN A DREAM | 2010
- iPRAY | 2010
- MITZVAH TANK | 2010
- MING | 2009
- SOLE | 2008

HONORS

- 2015 | Niteroi Encontro com Africa Fellow
- 2014 | Leeway Foundation Lifetime Transformation Award
- 2013 | Leeway Foundation Art and Change Award
- 2013 | Best Short Documentary, Prize BSFF Festival
- 2012 | HOTDOCS Forum Lab Fellow
- 2008 | MiND TV, Philadelphia Stories, Six Documentary Grantee
- 2008 | Best Documentary Prize, Temple University

SKILLS

- Sony FX3/FX6
- Canon C300/C100/EOS 7D
- HVXS00 Sony PMW-EX3
- GoPro
- Final Cut 7/ Final Cut X AVID
- Premier PRO
- Media Composer Adobe
- Creative Suite Compressor
- Microsoft Office
- DVD Studio Pro Mac OSX

EDUCATION

2011

SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS, NY
MFA Social Documentary Film

2008

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
BA Television Production

EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

University Of The Arts

2015 - 2017

Adjunct Instructor/Lecturer

- Developed core syllabus and lectured criteria for the following courses:
 - Film 124
 - Documentary(pre College program) Experimental (Pre-College Program)

SOTU Productions

2008

Art Director

- Worked with creative director to complete projects including photo shoots, set design, and event design. Responsibilities also included assembling presskits and promotional materials.

BLACKLILY Film AD Music Festival

2008

Program Coordinator

- Served as a member of the steering and program committee. Accounted for all film submissions and programming. Supported managerial and creative tasks for the festival.

PBS Affiliate, WHUT TV

2004 - 2006

Production Assistant/Intern

- Served as a videographer for various events and transcribed tapes for post-production. Responsible for creating PSAs for the programming department.

FESTIVALS

- SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2023
- BLACKSTAR FILM FESTIVAL 2018
- TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL 2023
- CINEMA AFRICA FILM FESTIVAL 2018
- DOC NYC 2022

WORKSHOPS/ LECTURES

- THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART | NEW YORK | 2023
- *What makes a cultural landmark? Perspectives from Ethiopia, Ghana, Cameroon, and Uganda.*
- PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART | PHILADELPHIA | 2024
- THE BARNES MUSEUM | PHILADELPHIA | 2016
 - *Henri Cartier Bresson the Decisive moment and Documentary Storytelling*
- THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM | PHILADELPHIA, PA | 2017
 - *Ousmane Sembene's Black Girl+ African Cinema*
- STRANGE TRUTH SERIES | HAVERFORD COLLEGE | 2017
 - *A portrait of Jason through an observational lens*
- UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA | AFRICAN CINEMA SYMPOSIUM | 2017
 - *MERKATO Installation*

Sosena Solomon

Documentary Filmmaker/ Visual Artist / Educator, MFA

University of Pennsylvania School of Anthropology

FALL 2023 Documentary Ethnography for Museums and Exhibitions

University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design

SPRING 2021 Video 1a / Video 1b/ Senior Thesis Seminar

FALL 2020: Video 1a / Video 1b/ Senior Thesis Seminar

SPRING 2020: Video 1a / Advanced Video (iii)

FALL 2019: Video 1a / Video 1b

SPRING 2019: Video 1a / Advanced Video (iii)

FALL 2018: Video 1a / Advanced Video (iii)

SPRING 2018: Video 1a / Video 1b

FALL 2017: Video 1a

SPRING 2017: Video 1a

University of the Arts School of Film

SPRING 2020: Perception of Time

SPRING 2017: FILM 124

FALL 2017: FILM 316 - Documentary

FALL 2016: FILM124

Temple University

FALL 2017: Media & Cultural Differences

SPRING 2017: Media Images and Analysis / Media and Cultural Differences

FALL 2016: Media Images and Analysis / History of Electronic Media

SPRING 2016: Future of Television / History of Electronic Media

Solo Lectures / Workshops

- *Intro to Filmmaking, Detroit Media Alliance, 2021*
- *Cinematography + Visual Storytelling", Scribe Video Center, Philadelphia, 2016 / 2021*
- *14-Week Production Workshop, Scribe Video Center 2020 / 2019*
- *Lecture, "Experimental Video", ICA Public Engagement Program Series in Contemporary Art, 2018*
- *Experimental Story Telling with Glaciers: National Geographic Expeditions (Iceland, 2018)*
- *Lecture, "Henri Cartier Bresson the Decisive Moment and Documentary Storytelling", The Barnes Museum, 2017*
- *Artist Talk, "The Black Extra / Ordinary" Symposium, Visual Culture, Arts and Media Center, Haverford College, 2017*
- *Visual Storytelling: Food as a Cultural Heritage and Community Building", Scribe Video Center, 2017*

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Solo Lectures / Workshops continued

- *Lecture, "Ousmane Sembène's Black Girl, Merkato, and African Cinema", African American Museum, 2017*
- *Lecture, "A portrait of Jason through an observational lens", Strange Truth Series, Haverford College, 2017*
- *Digital Filmmaking: Documentary Storytelling", University of the Arts Continuing Education Program, 2016*
- *Experimental Film, University of the Arts Continuing Education Program, 2016*
- *Digital Cinematography + Documentary Film, University of the Arts Continuing Education Program, 2015*
- *Artist Talk, Open Society Initiative for South Africa, OpenForum, Cape Town, 2012*
- *Artist Talk, "The African Gathering Conference: Sharing Ideas For Positive Change", School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, 2011*