

Ava Lowrey

documentary filmmaker & film instructor

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Profile

Ava Lowrey is an award-winning filmmaker and film instructor from Alabama. She created PeaceTakesCourage.com where millions have viewed her work. She has been featured in national media such as The New York Times, Rolling Stone Magazine, and CNN. Ava was awarded a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar by New York University. She recently completed her master's in Experimental and Documentary arts at Duke University. Ava has directed and produced numerous films including both documentaries and narrative productions and has edited multiple films.

Education

MFA	Duke University	2015
BFA	New York University with highest honors	2013

Creative Experience

<i>Alabama Women Artists</i> (working title) Documentary web series, digital	May 2015
<i>Mothers and Daughter</i> Documentary film, digital	March 2015
<i>The Button King</i> Documentary film, digital	January 2015
<i>(car) Hypnophobia</i> Experimental Documentary, 16mm	December 2014
<i>Byron's Story</i> Audio documentary	December 2014
<i>The Pianist</i> Audio Documentary	November 2014

<i>Fred: The Town Dog</i> Documentary film, digital	August 2014
<i>That Thing I Love the Most</i> Experimental documentary, digital	April 2014
<i>The Genius of the Crowd</i> Experimental film, digital	February 2014
<i>Wright's Funeral Home</i> Documentary film, digital	May 2011
<i>You've Come a Long way, Baby</i> Documentary film, digital	March 2011
<i>Floyd Bennett Airfield, Brooklyn</i> Documentary film, digital	February 2011
<i>Spin Cycle</i> Documentary film, 16mm	December 2010
<i>Fallout: Coming Home from the War in Iraq</i> Documentary film, digital	August 2009
PeaceTakesCourage web series Documentary video series, digital	2005 – 2009

Screenings/Exhibitions

Full Frame Theater	April 23, 2015
The Carrack Modern Art	March 30 - April 12, 2015
AMI Student Film Awards	March 30, 2015
Black Warrior Film Festival	February 14, 2015
Montgomery Film Festival	January 30, 2015
Southern Screen Film Festival	November 16, 2014
Cucalorus Film Festival	November 13 - 14, 2014
Fairhope Film Festival	November 8, 2014
Heartland Film Festival	October 19 - 22, 2014
Sidewalk Film Festival	August 23, 2014
Fusion Film Festival	March 8, 2013
Sight & Sound Showcase	February 17, 2011
NewFilmmakers Summer Series	July 4, 2009
Democratic National Convention	August 28, 2008

Professional Experience

Editing –

- Cali Freeman Documentary December 2014
Dir. Marco Williams
- *Murders that Matter* Op-Docs pitch trailer November 2014
Dir. Marco Williams
- Anais Aida Promotional Documentary May 2013
Dir. Anais Aida
- *Batoto Yetu* November 2012
Dir. Tori Gene McCarthy
- *Fish With the King* May 2012
Dir. Tori Gene McCarthy

Commercial Direction/Production –

- Alive in the Kitchen Promo Documentary November 2014
Client – Elsewhere Museum
- Day in the Life Documentary: Ashantai Ewing March 2014
Client – Morris, Haynes, & Hornsby
- Day in the Life Documentary: Brittany Hallmark December 2013
Client - Morris, Haynes, & Hornsby
- 2008 Democratic National Convention August 2008
Blogger and videographer with Alabama delegation
Director/Producer/Editor of delegation's MLK "I Have A Dream" anniversary video

Teaching Experience

Duke University –

ENERGY 396-03: Energy and Peace-building through Film

Teaching Assistant Fall 2013 – Spring 2015

- Scheduled in-class screenings and lectured on short documentary film form and narrative structure
- Led Adobe Premiere editing techs
- Lectured classes on storyboarding and scripting
- Lectured on writing film proposals
- Lecturing on film pitching
- Assigned written work and storyboarding exercises
- Led class critique of film projects
- Met individually with students and student groups to workshop proposals, films, storyboards, and scripts

Durham School for Creative Studies – Audio Documentary Class

Assistant Instructor Spring 2015

- Introduced and instructed students on Hindenburg audio editing
- Lectured on story telling techniques and brainstorming ideas
- Instructed students on recording techniques
- Lectured on interviewing styles and preproduction
- Assigned recording exercises to students
- Workshopped student work and critiqued individual projects

AMI 301S-01: Moving Image Practice

Teaching Assistant Fall 2014

- Weekly critique of student work
- Presented documentary work and lectured on documentary production
- Instructed students working with Final Cut Pro
- Provided hands on lesson on a working film set
- Assisted students with camera techs and test shoots

DOCST 290S.01/790S.01 Documenting Personal Narrative

Teaching Assistant Fall 2014

- Weekly critique of student work
- Prepared class projection of screenings
- Met with students to assist with shooting and editing troubleshooting and tech
- Scheduled screening times and critiques

ARTSVIS 498: Senior Capstone in the Visual Arts

Teaching Assistant Spring 2014

- Weekly critique of student work
- Met individually to workshop exhibition projects
- Critiqued project books
- Critiqued and work-shopped artist statements
- Graded midterm and final project websites
- Lectured on social media and art practice
- Lectured on presenting artwork online
- Worked hands on with students to install final exhibition projects

Areas of Expertise

- Documentary and narrative film production
- Digital filmmaking and tech on cameras, audio, and lighting
- Proposal and grant writing for film
- Research and development for documentary film
- Fundraising and crowdfunding strategy
- Post-production workflow and editing with Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere, and Avid Media Composer

- Audio documentary production and editing with ProTools and Hindenburg Journalist
- Analog filmmaking with 16mm film including shooting, developing, and digitizing
- Web development for film and media (both new and traditional)
- Documentary and nonfiction film history and criticism
- Critique of student work and ability to workshop both video and written work

Selected Press and Awards

Black Warrior Film Festival - Special Jury Award for Documentary Film, February 2015
 Montgomery Film Festival – Audience Choice Award, January 2015
 B-Metro Magazine – Best of Sidewalk Film Festival, August 2014
 L’Actu, January 2014 – interview and profile
 Fusion Film Festival – Best Documentary Pitch, Best Doc in the Works, March 8, 2013
 Huffington Post Live – You’re Never Too Young to Change the World, January 22, 2013
 AL.com, Birmingham News, January 16, 2013 – *Fred: The Town Dog* write-up and director interview
 The Huffington Post, March 18, 2010 – “7 Young People Making a Difference”
 US News and World Report, January 2010 – 2009 Young Leaders
 Yes! Magazine, June 23, 2008 – interview feature
 The Nation Magazine, June 15, 2008 - This Brave Nation Series
 CNN, March 17, 2007 – “CNN Saturday Morning”
 Nick News with Linda Ellerbee, November 2007 - "Rebels With a Cause"
 MTV News, July 3, 2007 - "Teen Blogger-For-Peace: You Need To Know Me"
 Chicago Tribune, Apr 4, 2007 - "Make Videos, Not War"
 Mother Jones Magazine, March/April 2007 issue – “Are You There, George? It’s Me, Ava.”
 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 27, 2007 – “Teen’s anti-war Web site draw 2 million a month”
 The Mobile Press Register, January 28, 2007 - "Waging Peace"
 Rolling Stone Magazine, January 2007 - “The Year’s Greatest Mavericks”, Yearbook 2006 edition
 National Organization for Women 2007 Woman of Action Award
 Featured Speaker at 2007 AFSCME National Leadership Conference
 Rolling Stone Magazine, July 2006 – “Mixed Media” feature
 CNN, June 18, 2006 – “Blog Buzz”
 The New York Times, June 14, 2006 “Could a 15-Year-Old With a Laptop Be the New Campaign Media Guru?”
 Featured Speaker, Netroots Nation Convention, June 2006
 Fox News Radio, The Alan Colmes Radio Show, May 05, 2006
 Progressive Magazine, April 24, 2006 - "Animation Producer Gets Ugly Slurs"

General Work Experience

09/13 – current
 Duke University Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies
 Duke University Program in the Arts of the Moving Image
 Duke University Center for Documentary Studies
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant

09/13 – 05/2014

BorderWork(s) Lab, Duke University Franklin Humanities Institute
Graduate Assistant, TA

08/13 – 12/13

North Carolina Community Action Association
Media & Communications Fellow

07/11 – 08/13

New York University ITS
Student Network Technician

09/11 – 12/11

ABC News
Long-form Documentary Department Postproduction Assistant

08/11 – 09/11

MTV Docs
Postproduction Assistant

09/10 – 07/11

Stern IT Help Desk
IT Help Desk Assistant

09/10 – 12/10

kNow Productions
Production Assistant

05/10 – 08/10

Click3X
Editing Intern

2006 – 2010

PeaceTakesCourage
Web Administrator/Viral Video Producer

References available upon request