

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. Currently she is the Southern Foodways Alliance's Pihakis Foodways Documentary Fellow at the University of Mississippi.

Education

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

Creative Experience

<i>Johnny's Greek And Three</i> Documentary film, digital	February 2017
<i>Spicer</i> Documentary film, digital	January 2017
<i>Gifts from the Good Land</i> Documentary film, digital	December 2016
<i>The River Bottom</i> Documentary film, digital	October 2016
<i>Shea Hembrey: An Artist At Work</i> Documentary film, digital	October 2016
<i>Ira Wallace: A Seed With A Story</i> Documentary film, digital	October 2016

<i>Little Kurdistan</i> Documentary film, digital	May 2016
<i>Otha Turner</i> Documentary film, digital	March 2016
<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
Alternative GO ARMY Mock Ad Radio Docudrama	May 2010

<i>The Red Hunter</i> Radio Drama	April 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

Nashville Film Festival	April 20-24, 2017
Oxford Film Festival	February 17-18, 2017
Cucalorus Film Festival	November 10, 2016
Fall Foodways Symposium	October 13-16, 2016
Summer Foodways Symposium	June 23, 2016
Camp Bacon	June 1, 2016
Charleston Food + Wine Festival	March 3, 2016
Oxford Film Festival	February 19-20, 2016
Cucalorus Film Festival	November 12, 2015
Indie Memphis Film Festival	November 7, 2015
Antimatter [media art] Festival	October 28, 2015
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

Commercial Experience

Editing –

- Cali Freeman Promotional Documentary
Dir. Marco Williams
December 2014
- *Murders that Matter* Op-Docs pitch trailer
Dir. Marco Williams
November 2014

- 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

University of Mississippi –

Summer Documentary Film Internship
Instructor and Internship Director Summer 2017

Summer Southern Documentary Workshop
Instructor Summer 2017

SST 598: Documenting Southern Foodways
Instructor Spring 2017

Summer Southern Documentary Workshop
Instructor Summer 2016

Durham School for Creative Studies –

Introduction to Audio Documentary
Graduate Instructor Spring 2015

Duke University –

ENERGY 396-03: Energy and Peace-building through Film
Teaching Assistant Fall 2013 – Spring 2015

AMI 301S-01: Moving Image Practice
Teaching Assistant Fall 2014

DOCST 290S.01/790S.01: Documenting Personal Narrative
Teaching Assistant Fall 2014

ARTSVIS 498: Senior Capstone in the Visual Arts

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 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

Oxford Film Festival - Best Mississippi Short Film, February 2017

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 Website draws 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

11/2015 - current

Southern Foodways Alliance, The University of Mississippi
Pihakis Foodways Documentary Fellow

09/13 – 05/2015

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