

Ava Lowrey

documentary filmmaker & educator

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Profile

Ava Lowrey is an award-winning filmmaker and educator 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 named a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar by New York University, and completed her Master's in Experimental and Documentary arts at Duke University. Ava has directed and produced over 35 documentary films. Since 2015 she has served as the Southern Foodways Alliance's Pihakis Foodways Documentary Filmmaker at the University of Mississippi where she also teaches documentary film production as an Assistant Instructional Professor and directs the documentary internship program.

Education

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

Screenings/Exhibitions

SFA Summer Field Trip	June 14, 2019
Indie Grits Film Festival	March 28, 2019
Avondale Towne Cinema Short Docs Festival	February 11, 2019
Oxford Film Festival	February 6, 2019
Southern Studies Conference	February 2, 2019
Indie Memphis Film Festival	November 4, 2018
River's Edge Film Festival	November 3, 2018
SFA Fall Symposium	October 11, 2018
Sidewalk Film Festival	August 25, 2018
Sidewalk Salon: Activism & Filmmaking	August 7, 2018
AFHVS/ASFS Conference	June 16, 2018
Atlanta History Center: Barbecue Nation	May 5, 2018 - September 29, 2019

Indiegrits Film Festival	April 13-15, 2018
Nashville Public Library	February 24 - May 1, 2018
Indie Grits Festival	April 13-15, 2018
Oxford Film Festival	February 9, 2018
21c Museum Hotel, Parts and Labor Exhibit	February 8, 2018
Cucalorus Film Festival	November 10, 2017
Duke DEMAN Conference	November 3, 2017
Sidewalk Film Festival	August 26, 2017
Food and Farm Film Festival	August 21, 2017
Birmingham Shuttlesworth Airport Installation	July - October 2017
Nashville Film Festival	April 20-24, 2017
Oxford Film Festival	February 17-18, 2017
Cucalorus Film Festival	November 10, 2016
Birmingham Museum of Art, Art on the Rocks	August 19, 2016
Fall SFA Symposium	2016, 2017, 2018
Summer SFA Symposium	2016, 2017, 2018
Winter SFA Symposium	2016, 2017, 2018
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

Selected Teaching Experience

University of Mississippi –

SST 697: Thesis Hours
Instructor Spring 2019, Summer 2019

SST 538: Advanced Documentary Storytelling
Instructor Spring 2018, Spring 2019

MFA Seminar
Co-Instructor Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Summer SFA Documentary Video Workshop
Instructor Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Summer 2019

SST 598: Documenting Southern Foodways
Instructor Spring 2017

Duke University –

Visiting Artist Lecture: Documenting the American South
November 3, 2017

ENERGY 396-03: Energy and Peace-building through Film
Editing Instructor 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
Teaching Assistant Spring 2014

Creative Experience

Untitled Travis Somerville film
Documentary film, digital
October 2019

Untitled Alice Gray Stites film
Documentary film, digital
October 2019

Man on the Moon
Documentary film, digital, 16mm
September 2019

Untitled Egerton Award film
Documentary film, digital
August 2019

Tang's Asia Market Documentary film, digital	June 2019
One Stop Documentary film, digital	February 2019
Marcie Cohen Ferris Does the Work Documentary film, digital	October 2018
Collection & Collage Documentary film, digital	October 2018
Plated Prose Documentary film, digital	October 2018
A Gift: The Neighbor's Field Documentary film, digital	August 2018
From The Ground Up Documentary film, digital	August 2018
Souped: The Pinto Bean Story Documentary film, digital	June 2018
Dol Documentary film, digital	February 2018
A Visible Tapestry: In the Studio with Lina Puerta Documentary film, digital	October 2017
Siler City Documentary film, digital	October 2017
Hugo Documentary film, digital	September 2017
Yellow Hammer Profiles: Littia Thompson Documentary film, digital	July 2017
All Fried: Carolina Fish Camps Documentary film, digital	June 2017

Johnny's Greek And Three Documentary film, digital	February 2017
Spicer Documentary film, digital	January 2017
Gifts from the Good Land Documentary film, digital	December 2016
The River Bottom Documentary film, digital	October 2016
Shea Hembrey: An Artist At Work Documentary film, digital	October 2016
Ira Wallace: A Seed With A Story Documentary film, digital	October 2016
Little Kurdistan Documentary film, digital	May 2016
Otha Turner Documentary film, digital	March 2016
Mothers and Daughter Documentary film, digital	March 2015
The Button King Documentary film, digital	January 2015
(car) Hypnophobia Experimental Documentary, 16mm	December 2014
Byron's Story Audio documentary	December 2014
The Pianist Audio Documentary	November 2014
Fred: The Town Dog Documentary film, digital	August 2014

That Thing I Love the Most Experimental documentary, digital	April 2014
The Genius of the Crowd Experimental film, digital	February 2014
Wright's Funeral Home Documentary film, digital	May 2011
You've Come a Long way, Baby Documentary film, digital	March 2011
Floyd Bennett Airfield, Brooklyn Documentary film, digital	February 2011
Spin Cycle Documentary film, 16mm	December 2010
GO ARMY? Radio Docudrama	May 2010
The Red Hunter Radio Drama	April 2010
Fallout: Coming Home from the War in Iraq Documentary film, digital	August 2009
PeaceTakesCourage web series Documentary video series, digital	2005 – 2009

Selected Press and Awards

Gravy Magazine, Summer 2019 - "East by Northwest"

AL.com, February 20, 2019 - "The story behind the Alabama gas station with the amazing food"

AL.com, August 23, 2018 - "Meet Ava Lowrey, an Alabama filmmaker who's introducing the world to Southern food"

AL.com, March 1, 2018 - "Alabama pastry chef Dolester Miles featured in new documentary film"

Eater, December 14, 2017 - "Hugo Ortega's Journey From Dishwasher to Head Chef"

The Chronicle (Duke), November 8, 2017 - Guest lecture write up and interview
The Charlotte Observer, June 29, 2017 - "The culture behind Carolina fish camps"
The Daily Mississippian, April 20, 2017 - "Oxford filmmaker shows immigrants through new lens"
Eater, April 4, 2017 - "Southern Cooking With Greek Style"
Oxford Film Festival - Best Mississippi Short Film, February 2017
The Clarion Ledger, February 28, 2017 - "Mississippi barbecue: Out of the shadow of Memphis"
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"

Recent Work Experience

11/2015 - current

Southern Foodways Alliance, The University of Mississippi
Pihakis Foodways Documentary Fellow, Instructional Assistant Professor

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
Instructor, Graduate Assistant, TA

08/13 – 12/13

North Carolina Community Action Association
Media & Communications Fellow

Areas of Expertise

- Documentary 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