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# Don Starnes

*Director of Photography*

I've been shooting features, commercials, documentaries, and music in 2D and 3D on digital, film and tape for over 25 years.

My work has won many awards, including Emmys, Addies and CINE Golden Eagles, and gotten high honors at many film festivals, including the Austin, New York, San Francisco and Montreal film festivals. I own lots of great gear (packed for travel, which I do a lot).

I believe that movies can reveal our common humanity and ennoble us. This subtly influences every frame that I shoot.

## **Selected Recent Work**

### **Sound of Redemption: The Frank Morgan Story**

*Green Garnet Productions*

2nd Unit DP. We staged a tribute concert in San Quentin Prison, where jazz great Frank Morgan had been an inmate.

### **First Position**

*Sundance Selects*

Feature documentary; B camera and 2nd unit DP. First Position follows six talented young ballet dancers on their way to one of the most prestigious youth ballet competitions in the world.

### **Mill Valley Film Festival Trailers**

*Mill Valley Film Festival*

Two trailers, featuring Metallica's Lars Ulrich and actor Peter Coyote.

<http://youtu.be/iWho7J9Vy5g>, <http://youtu.be/M9q7EAa5b90>

### **Red Ice**

*HRW Productions*

Feature.

[http://youtu.be/FI\\_aCbb3d3Q](http://youtu.be/FI_aCbb3d3Q)

### **Free Spirit**

*Hyperion*

Book Trailer. Narrative scenes from "Free Spirit: Growing Up On the Road and Off the Grid" by Joshua Safran.

<http://youtu.be/pY4EJYv9lXY>

### **Prison Wives**

*Investigation Discovery*

Juli Cummings episode.

<http://youtu.be/7RzRsBjmWGA>

**Pinball Donut Girl**

*Anna Newman Group*

Short. Featuring Jane Wiedlin (The Go-Go's).

<http://youtu.be/SsmSzGxjjFw>

**Doggie B**

*Doggie Boogie Productions*

Feature. 2nd Unit DP.

[http://youtu.be/-ngnJSc-T\\_c](http://youtu.be/-ngnJSc-T_c)

**Charlie Musselwhite**

*Musselwhite Music*

Concert. The blues legend in a live concert featuring songs from his new album Juke Joint Chapel.

**All-Star Celebrity Bowling**

*Nerdist Channel,*

(episode): Nerdist vs. Mythbusters.

**Selling The Credit Card**

*Williams-Sonoma*

Corporate; narrative scenarios demonstrating how to sell credit cards.

**Johnny Otis - Every Beat of My Heart**

*Bruce Schmiechen Productions*

2nd Unit DP: Interview with musician/songwriter Dave Alvin.

<http://youtu.be/L34FFo-Da98>

**Broncho Billy and the Bandit's Secret**

*Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum*

Short (2nd Unit). Hand cranked silent film photographed in the same streets and hills where silent film star Broncho Billy Anderson made his films.

**Fire and Spirit: The Sculpture of Jack Kamesar**

*1000 Threads Films*

2nd Unit DP. I photographed large steel sculptures and the artist at work.

**Mindfulness and The Triune Brain**

*Lightly Held Films*

Short. Wes Nisker, author and Buddhist meditation teacher, explains the Triune Brain theory, how it describes our reality and how, with mindfulness, we can learn to ignore ourselves.

<http://youtu.be/2rj9fPfCRNU>

**Nothing In A Rectangle Is True**

*Lightly Held Films*

Feature. Your life is being digitized with a lossey codec and you don't necessarily know it. "Rectangle" is a docu-comedy about mediated life and the end of reality.

<http://youtu.be/Uoo2bigVdEs>

**Moving Planet**

*350.org*

Segment Director/DP. Worldwide anti-global-warming rally; I photographed the demonstration at the UN in NYC, edited a 3 minute piece and uploaded it that night to the 350.org web site for their immediate global coverage.

<http://youtu.be/chsmmNGyUbc>

**Hartfordtown 1944**

*Laurie Lewis*

Music Video.

**The Canyon fundraising promo**

*Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum*

Crowdsource fundraising video for the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, which is producing a 35mm silent film to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Niles Essanay Film Company's arrival in Niles, CA.

<http://youtu.be/OsJ3lu64cQM>

**99%**

*Fog City Pictures*

Short. A young school teacher is moved from apathy to activism by our rapidly changing economic and social structure. Features Jessiqa Pace (*Blue Jasmine*), Carl Lumbly (*Grey's Anatomy*) and Prof. Noam Chomsky.

<http://youtu.be/nXMOILisG2s>

**Time Travel Through Music**

*Filmmaker's Collaborative*

Concert. Baroque music played on period instruments.

<http://youtu.be/16ENZJIQ4Mc>

**Wade Krause: Pinball Artist**

*Anna Newman Group*

Documentary Short. Unwilling to let pinball die at the hand of video games, Krause collaborates with pop artists to craft high end restorations of antique pinball machines.

<http://youtu.be/pBtUnILDglQ>

**A Nuclear Family**

*Adam Salkin*

Segment DP. Musicians United for Safe Energy concert; interviews and B roll with Crosby, Stills & Nash, Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, Jason Mraz, Tom Morello, John Hall, Kitaro, and Jonathan Wilson

**Turning Inward: Six Years of Intensive Spiritual Retreat**

*Elgin Productions*

Documentary. Buddhist students embark on a difficult 6 year spiritual journey.

<http://youtu.be/-juu6IIwovg>

## **20 Dates**

*speeddate.com*

Three commercials:

*20 Dates, When Harry Met Sally, Straight Talk - Million Awkward Setups*

<http://youtu.be/QWdzHlIA3Sk>, <http://youtu.be/vW8lj8qaR2I>,

<http://youtu.be/SeaPpQ6LrdE>

## **Mrs. Robinson**

*Sally Hansen*

Spec commercial for Sally Hansen Airbrush Legs. Director/DP.

<http://youtu.be/oYJvV2dexp8>

## **Science and Sacraments**

*Purdue Archive on Psychedelic Research*

Documentary; surveys the history of psychedelic research and its current renaissance.

## **I Want To Get Married**

*Everything Is Going to Be Just Fine Productions*

Feature, 2nd Unit DP.

<http://youtu.be/mvbyXSePXS4>

## **Return Flight: Restoring the Bald Eagle to the Channel Islands**

*PBS*

Segment DP. Interview with Bob Risebrough, a scientist whose work about DDT inspired Rachel Carson to write *Silent Spring*.

## **The Dr. Oz Show**

*ZoCo Productions*

Segment about cell phones and brain cancer.

<http://youtu.be/IVNffhC384Y>

## **Hooked: Extreme Angling**

*National Geographic Channel*

Another segment about catching sharks.

## **A Trip Down Market Street**

*Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum*

Documentary; Director/DP. David Kiehn, film historian, employed amazing forensic research to discover when the famous silent movie *A Trip Down Market Street* was actually filmed.

<http://youtu.be/LXzKQgEWa6E>

## **Designing Spaces**

*Lifetime Television*

Segment DP. *Innovative Ways to Give the Gift of Entertainment*; actors pretending to be a housewife and an entertainment expert, talking about watching Netflix at home.

<http://youtu.be/H3uSWMB3y94>

### **Knowledge Is Power**

*myFICOscore.com*

Three commercials: *Knowledge Is Power*, *Banker*, *Whiteboard*

<http://youtu.be/itmfnjjXZwA>, <http://youtu.be/HW6mqtBGkc>,  
<http://youtu.be/dc7ZbVQcX6s>

### **Undone**

*Blue Yak Productions*

Short. Ron, a mathematician who solves problems with knots, and his wife Laura, search for ways to untangle their family's suspicions, illusions and reality.

<http://youtu.be/pMRiXPjX2M4>

### **Cantonese, Progressive**

*Nava For Judge*

Director/DP. San Francisco lawyer Michael Nava was running an upstart campaign as a California Superior Court judge. He needed to appeal to two wedge voter blocks: progressives and San Francisco's Chinese community. I shot two commercials that spoke to the passions and concerns of each group.

<http://youtu.be/N15rihl-8Ds>, <http://youtu.be/oJ5WsLFiRU>

### **The Forgotten Bomb**

*Halflife\* digital*

Feature documentary. 2nd Unit DP.

### **Super Cars Exposed**

*Speed Channel*

2nd Unit DP. Several shows about, well, super fast sports cars, featuring car mounts, etc.

<http://youtu.be/TmGKCzYN9ew>

### **52 Bands**

*MTV Networks*

Show about Cornell West.

### **My Bad Dad**

*Breakthrough Distribution*

Feature. 2nd Unit DP.

### **Intel Studios**

*Intel*

Corporate magazine show; multi-cam.

### **Fly Boy**

*Transport Worker's Union of America*

Commercial; Director/DP. This was shown during the opening episode of The CW's reality show *Fly Girls*, which is about Virgin America flight attendants. The commercial features real Virgin American flight attendants who ask their fellow workers to join the TWU.

[http://youtu.be/N\\_kpddDEGwk](http://youtu.be/N_kpddDEGwk)

### **Nine Lives Foundation**

*Anna Newman Group*

Commercial; Director/DP. The Nine Lives Foundation provides low cost spay/neuter, rescue, medical, and adoption services for cats.

<http://youtu.be/AaIF6nF7FnE>

### **SmartSkies**

*NASA*

Director/DP. Commercial to publicize NASA's free flight controller simulator game, which aims to teach kids about math and aeronautics.

<http://youtu.be/sAFZvlnw5w8>

### **Monterey 40**

*VH1*

Segments DP. Interviews with Bob Weir and others about the Monterey Pop festival.

### **Register**

*Kucinich For President*

The Kucinich campaign needed a reach disenfranchised, undecided and independent voters in California. I directed and photographed a spot to move people to vote for Kucinich and to instruct them that, in California, they could do so by registering as either Democrat or "Decline To State".

<http://youtu.be/k6n7r2pVzbQ>

### **Daily Planet**

*Discovery Channel Canada*

many segments, including: *War Language, Man-made Exoskeleton, Manta Shrimp, Neuromarketing, Wall Climbing Robot, Auto Helicopter, Cracks Beneath The Surface, Furry Lobster, Crew Exploration Vehicle, Greek Games*

<http://youtu.be/qj98mBdvxGM>

### **Industry Awards**

A number of pieces have won Emmy, Addie, CINE Golden Eagle, Telly, Silver Apple and ITVA Golden Vision nominations and awards.

Many works have gotten high honors at many film festivals, including the USA, Mill Valley, Austin, Charlotte, Cleveland, Ann Arbor, New York, San Francisco, Montreal and Wild & Scenic, Hazel Wolf and EarthVision Environmental film festivals.

### **Education**

I am constantly training in the latest filmmaking equipment and techniques and am an inveterate observer of current culture. I studied stereography at the Sony Studios 3D Technology Center. I am fully accredited in on-set safety through the CSATF Safety Pass Program. I received my BA in Film Production from San Francisco State University.

## **Equipment**

I've worked in 2D or 3D with almost all of the film and digital cameras. Recent work has been done with:

RED Epic Dragon, Arri Alexa, 3ality, Phantom Flex, Sony F55, Sony F3, Sony EX3, Sony EX1, Canon EOS 5D, Canon EOS 7D, Sony F900, Panasonic Varicam, Panasonic HDX-900, Panasonic HVX200, Panasonic AF100, GoPro and other itty-bitty cameras

I own Panasonic HVX200 and AF100 cameras, along with some little GoPro-like cameras (such as the CamOne Infinity). I also own sound equipment and lots of really good lighting and grip equipment.

## **References**

- Kevin White, Full Frame Productions, 415-546-0155, [kwhite@FullFrameProd.com](mailto:kwhite@FullFrameProd.com)
- Phil Hudson, Rhinomotion, 415-602-8998, [phil@philliphudson.com](mailto:phil@philliphudson.com)
- Anna Newman, Anna Newman Group, 650-207-8709, [anewman424@gmail.com](mailto:anewman424@gmail.com)

## **Affiliations**

IATSE local 600