

CURRICULUM VITAE

Manfred Becker
Filmmaker & Teacher
Fine Arts, Film & Video York University
School of Image Arts, Ryerson University
(416)998 4903
sumajose@total.net

Degrees:

Doctoral Candidate, Communications & Culture, York & Ryerson Universities, 2010 –
M.A., Graduate Program in Interdisciplinary Studies, York University 2011
B.A. (Pre-), Journalism & Film Studies, Universität Dortmund, West Germany, 1984

Filmography Director/Writer:

2015

Monument

Process Documentary on the creation of the Canadian Holocaust Memorial, designed by Daniel Libeskind, with contribution by Edward Burtynsky. Producer: Julia Rosenberg.

The Bully Project

Feature length documentary on a Liverpool musician who was saved from his bullies by a guitar. Now he rallies popular musicians to embrace the cause. Exec. Producer: Adam Leibzig.

Satanic Panic

Co-director for feature length theatrical documentary on the collective hysteria that gripped North America in the 1980's, sending dozens of innocent daycare workers to jail. EOne.
Banger Films: Scot McFadden and Sam Dunn.

2014

The Polar Sea

Co-director on a 10-part series on the effects of climate change in Canada's North, for ARTE and TV Ontario. <http://future.arte.tv/en/polarsea360>. Producers: Michael and Kevin McMahon.

2013

At Home/Chez Soi

Content creator and creative consultant on interactive website about the 'largest social experiment in the world': <http://athome.nfb.ca/#/athome>.

Nominated for 2013 Webbie and recipient of FWA/Favourite Website Award.

2012

The Photograph

A portrait of the 1942 Hurricanes, which lost more men in WW II than any other professional sports team, part of the 'Engraved in a Nation' series with Bell Media.

Best Documentary Series, Canadian Screen Awards.

2007 – 2008

Dark Tourism

Vérité documentary on the phenomenon of tourists seeking out places of conflict and fear for History Television.

Nominated for a 2010 Golden Sheaf Award (political documentaries), Yorkton. Doc festival in Guangzhou, China. Conference Thanatourism at New York University.

Diamond Road (Co-director)

3x one-hour HD documentary series on the global diamond industry
Discovery Times & DISCOVERY HD, ARTE, ZDF, NHK, Australian TV.
Gemini Award for Best Documentary Series.

2004 – 2006 **Hitler's Children: Germany in Autumn 1977**

Historical documentary on the Baader-Meinhof urban guerilla group that challenged West German democracy, for History Television.
Winner Best Documentary, Directors Guild of Canada, nominated for Best Historical Documentary Gemini Award.

Fatherland

Feature-length personal essay documentary on history, memory and fatherhood, for History Television.

*Donald Brittain Gemini Best Documentary, Doc Fest Munich
Jewish Film Festivals in Toronto, Atlanta, Seattle & Los Angeles, DGC Award nominee, Chris Award, Columbus, screenings at Universities of Toronto, New York and Baltimore.*

2003 – 2004 **The Siege**

Historical documentary on the 1999 siege of a UN compound in East Timor for History Television.
Directors Guild of Canada Awards nominee. Chris Award, Columbus, Gold Camera Award, US Film & Video Festival.

The Life of Me

Vérité documentary following the workshop of a play for the "Madness in the Arts Festival," featuring actors with mental illness for TVO.
Festival screenings in Canada, Brazil and Great Britain.

Neighbours

Historical documentary on the fin-de-siècle Vienna of Sigmund Freud and Adolf Hitler. History TV.
Gemini Nomination for Best Biography and Best Documentary Series, Director's Guild Award Nominee, Winner Best Direction, Hugo Awards, Chicago: World Film Fest Award, Houston: screened at Conference for the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

2001 **Death of a Warrior**

Documentary about the bombing of the Greenpeace vessel 'Rainbow Warrior' by French agents for History Television. *Director's Guild Award Nominee, Best of Festival at World Film Fest, Houston: Talking Pictures Film Festival, Taos: New Mexico, BASC finalist, Australia: Rhode Island Festival.*

Filmography Editor/Writer:

2014 **Before the Last Curtain Falls**

Theatrical documentary on experimental theatre performed by aging gay and transsexual actors.
Director: Thomas Wallner
HotDocs Special Jury Award Best Canadian Documentary. Festivals in Munich and Leuven.

2013 **The Defector**

Feature-length documentary, co-written with director Ann Shin, on the odyssey of North Koreans escaping their country. TVO. *Hot Docs 2013 and 10 add. Festivals. Three Canadian Screen Awards.*

- 2011** **Guantanamo Trap**
Theatrical feature documentary about four people's lives that connect during the War on Terror.
Co-Writer/Director: Thomas Wallner
Hot Docs 2011, Special Jury Award. Nominated for Genie for Best Feature documentary.
- 2001** **Breakaway**
Portrait of two brain-injury survivors. CTV. Director/Co-writer: Mathew Welsh
Winner Donald Brittain Gemini for Best Documentary.
- 1997 – 1999** **Out of Orbit**
Biography of Marshall McLuhan, CBC's 'Life and Times.' Director: Carl Bessai
- 1985 – 1996** **A Place Called Chiapas**
Feature-length documentary about the Zapatista uprising in Mexico. Theatrical release in North America and Europe. Director: Nettie Wild (Co-writer/editor)
Premiere at Berlin Film Festival. TIFF. Genie Award and various.

Filmography Story Editor:

- 2014** **Fractured Land**
A charismatic First Nation Chief in British Columbia takes on the oil- and gas industry and comes of age. CBC. Directors Fiona Rayner and Damien Gillis
- Lost and Found**
Objects swept into the ocean by the tsunami in Japan are washed up on the beaches on the Pacific West Coast and gives beach combers meaning in life. Directors: Nicolina Lanni and John Choi
- Shadow Girl**
A Chilean filmmaker loses her eyesight and needs to redefine her life. Director: Anna Maria Larrain.
- 2013** **Chi**
The story of the actress Babz Chula battling advanced stages of cancer. Director: Ann Wheeler.
NFB Pacific Studio
Hot Docs (2013)
- Spring and Arnaud**
Two artists and the life they share. Director: Marcia Connelly and Katherine Knight
Hot Docs (2013)
- 2013** **Buying Sex** Documentary on the legalization or banning of the sex-trade in three countries. NFB.
Directors: Teresa MacInnes and Kent Nason. *Hot Docs 2013*
- Occupy Love**
Velcrow Ripper's final part of his trilogy. *Audience Favourite 'Planet in Focus' (2013)*
- 2012** **A Sorry State**
Documentary by Mitch Miyagawa for TVO on the true meaning of government-issued apologies.
Winner Writer's Guild Award Best writing in a documentary

Kids in Jail

NFB documentary by Larry Lynn on children who kill.

2008**Fierce Light**

Velcrow Ripper's theatrical documentary on finding spirituality in places of darkness.

That's my Time

Adamm Liley's portrait of comedian Irwin Barker's life with terminal cancer.

Griefwalker

Tim Wilson's portrait of Stephen Jenkinson, the palliative care counsellor at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital.

2007**Dirt**

Meghan Haldar's feature-length documentary on the social history of dirt, NFB Vancouver (2007).

2005**Scared Sacred**

Velcrow Ripper's spiritual search for places of darkness.

2002**Fix**

Nettie Wild's feature-length documentary about drugs and resistance on Vancouver's East Side, for theatrical release.

Filmography/Editor:**2010****Prosecutor**

Feature-length documentary on the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo for TVO, BBC. Director/Writer: Barry Stevens

2008**Biodad**

Follow-up feature-length documentary on the search for the filmmaker's biological father for CBC. Director/writer: Barry Stevens

2000 – 2002**Offspring**

Documentary on the search for the filmmaker's biological father. CBC. Director/writer: Barry Stevens

Lola

Theatrical feature. Toronto, Vancouver. Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals. Director: Carl Bessai

Blue Murder

Prime-time dramatic series for Global Television, on four seasons. Exec. producers: Laszlo Barna, Steve Lucas (Senior picture editor)

Obachan's Garden

Feature-length docu-drama on the Japanese immigrant experience. NFB Pacific Centre. Director/producer: Linda Ohama (Supervising editor)

1997 – 1999

Thin Ice

Biography of Bruce McCall, Canadian-born *New Yorker* magazine illustrator and writer. NFB. Director: Laurence Green. *Gemini Award Nomination Best Editing 1999*

Johnny

Theatrical drama, Toronto, Vancouver and Thessalonica Film Festivals. Director/producer: Carl Bessai

Wrestling with Shadows

Feature-length study of a modern-day hero in the world of professional wrestling. BBC, ARTE, TVO and A&E. Director/Producer: Paul Jay *Gemini Award Best Editing and Best Biography*

Machine Gun

Three-part documentary series for Discovery US and Canada on the history of the 19th and 20th century viewed through the barrel of a machine gun. Discovery US and Canada Director: Steven Silver (Supervising editor)

1985 – 1996

Gerrie and Louise

Feature-length documentary about the relationship between a South African soldier of apartheid and a woman investigative journalist. CBC. Director: Sturla Gunnarsson *International Emmy, Donald Brittain Gemini Award*

Whispers in the Air Biography of the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi. A&E, TVO.

Producer/Director: Tom Perlmutter

Who Gets In?

Documentary on Canadian immigration. NFB/CBC co-production. Director: Barry Greenwald *Nominated for Best Short Documentary Genies.*

The Journey

14.5 hour Global Peace film. NFB Montreal. Director/producer: Peter Watkins (Co-editor)

Professional Activities:

Ongoing

Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television (2007–) Juror and Jury chair

HotDocs Filmfestival (2011–) Juror

Bishop Marrocco High School Toronto (2010–) Juror

Academy for Lifelong Learning University of Toronto, presenter (2010-)

Rendez-vous with Madness Festival programmer, panelist, presenter (2004-)

Documentary Association of Canada (2005–) including ‘Masters Series’ presenter (2009), & Keynote speaker to open editing conference at U of T (2012)

2015 **Belleville Docfest**, workshop leader

2013 **Docs North Workshop**, presenter and workshop leader, Thunder Bay, <http://docsnorth.ca/> (also 2011)
LIFT Toronto, Panel on New Media, panelist (June)

2012 **Toronto International Film Festival Film Circuit**

- Masters Workshop Kingston Film Festival
Documentary Summit, presenter, Ryerson University, www.documentarysummit.com
Toronto District School Board, Documentary Day
Professional development conference presenter
Centennial College, Culture and Heritage Institute, conference on tourism, presenter
DOC conference on Post Production, keynote speaker, Innis College,
<http://doctortoronto.ca/events/doc-toronto-editors-conference>
- 2011** **New York City Jewish Heritage Museum**, presenter, 'Future of Holocaust Education,' New York,
<http://www.mjhnyc.org/documents/MessagingtoRememberMessagingtoRememberFINAL.pdf>
- Canadian Psychiatric Association** conference, presenter, Toronto
<http://www.cpa-apc.org/browse/documents/92>
- Worldviews Conference on Media and Higher Education**
<http://2011.worldviewsconference.com/>
- 2010** **Filmhaus Bremen**, Germany, lecturer, 'Dokumentarfilm in Kanada,' 'Capturing Reality' panelist at premiere screening, John Spotton Theatre, NFB Toronto
- 2009** 'Capturing Reality' NFB documentary. Featured Filmmaker (among Errol Morris, Werner Herzog), films.nfb.ca/capturing-reality
- New York University**, in flagrante depictor — Law and Film Conference at Cardozo School of Law presenter, symposium on 'Children of Perpetrators'
- Johns Hopkins University**, presenter, symposium on 'The Holocaust: Children of the Perpetrators Confront Their Parents' Nazi Past Through Documentary Films,' Baltimore
- 2008** **Reel Diversity Program**, presenter, National Film Board, Montreal
- 2007** **HotDocs Film Festival**, workshop leader & school presenter
- 2007** **Saskatchewan Motion Pictures Association**, workshop leader, Regina
Inspired Workshop Series, presenter, NFB Atlantic Studio
- 2006** **NIFCO - Newfoundland Independent Filmmakers Cooperative**, 2-day workshop leader, St. John's
- 2005 – 2012** **Documentary Association of Canada**, including 'Masters Series' workshop (2009), and keynote speaker to open editing conference at U of T (2012)
Worldviews Conference on Media and Higher Education, TIFF, Toronto
- 2004** **Edgecodes**, 'The Art of Motion Picture Editing,' documentary, featured interviewee
- 2003** **Ryerson Polytechnic Institute**, guest lecturer, radio and television program
- 2002** **Yorkton Film Festival**, panelist and workshop leader, Yorkton

Moving Images Group, 3-day workshop on story editing, Halifax

1996 **DOC Magazine**, POV, Editor

1992 **Canadian Film Caucus** (CIFC, now Documentary Association),
Member of the Executive Board

Employment History:

2014 – Course Director, IMA, Graduate Program, Ryerson University

2013 – Course Director, IMA, Ryerson University

2011 – Course Director, School of Media Studies, Humber College

2010 – Instructor, Documentary Institute, Seneca College

2005 – Course Director, Fine Arts, Film & Video, York University

2002 – Story editor, lecturer and workshop leader on documentary film, editing and story editing

2000 – Documentary writer and director

1987 – Independent film and video editor

1984 – 1987 Freelance sound editor

Graduate and Undergraduate Courses Taught:

DM 8103 Documentary Media II

(MFA), Ryerson University, winter 2014

MPF 422 Documentary Production

(BFA), Ryerson University, winter 2013 –

FA/FILM 3135, Postproduction (developed course design)

(BFA), York University, 2013

FA/FILM 4130, Picture Editing I & II

(BFA), York University, 2006 –

FA/FILM 4135, Advanced Picture Editing III (developed course design)

(BFA), York University, 2007 –

FA/FILM 3001/4001 Documentary Production

(BFA), York University, 2012 –

FA/FILM 1020, Introduction to Filmmaking

(BFA), York University, 2014 –

FILM 330 – Screenwriting for Film/Media 2

(Diploma Program), Humber College, 2011

Editing for Documentary

(Diploma Program), Seneca College, 2010 & 2014