

Sydney Johnson

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EDUCATION

Wake Forest University

Master of Arts: Sports Media and Storytelling

September 2023 - May 2024

Wake Forest University

Master of Fine Arts: Documentary Film

June 2021 - May 2024

The University of Mississippi

Bachelors of Science: Political Science

August 2015 - May 2019

Official Minors in English and History

PROFESSIONAL FILM AND PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Freelance Archival Researcher

July 2024 - Present

Producer, Editor

- Curated and managed archival material. Conducted extensive research to identify, source, and evaluate historical documents, footage, and photographs.
- Collaborated with directors and producers to understand project vision, integrate archival materials seamlessly, and enhance storytelling through precise editing.

Talk Doc to Me Podcast

June 2024 - Present

Associate Producer, Editor

- Managed audio and video editing using a combination of Adobe Audition and Premiere Pro. Secure guest appearances, facilitating interviews and coordinating schedules. Prepare hosts with insightful questions and engaging topics to ensure lively discussions.

Woodthorpe Lane Productions

August 2022 - Present

Founder

- I founded and run a freelance production company that does it all through a one woman band. Ranging in a wide variety of services including but not limited to, project concept and design, producing, directing, videography, editing, and casting. Responsible for recruiting and retaining clients, some listed below.
- **Get in the Game:** A nonprofit founded by Wake Forest head baseball coach, Tom Walter, is designed to build an environment for young people to have a safe place to discuss complex issues such as race, sexuality, and gender identity. Over three years I directed, produced, and edited fundraising videos, promotional videos, training videos, annual events creating various forms of long form content from 7 - 10 minute videos, to short 30 second social media clips, and anything needed in-between.
- **River Run International Film Festival:** Prior to and during the film festival, filmed various festival events and activities such as awards, panels, guest speakers, in locations around Winston-Salem.
- **Carolina Core Football Club:** The most recent MLS NEXT Pro soccer team in High Point, North Carolina. Edited and produced a two minute AD currently airing on Apple TV directly before every Carolina Core FC game and during halftime.
- **Winston-Salem Dash:** A Minor league, High A, baseball team connected with the Chicago White Sox's. Directed, filmed, designed the set, ran sound and cultivated ideas for season long score board content shot at 24fps behind a green screen and on location at the field. Filmed new jersey launch then edited 15 - 30 second social clips for teams distribution.
- **University of North Carolina School of the Arts:** Set designed and interviews 10 people, ranging from students to the president of the university, in various locations for multiple fundraising videos.
- **Carolina Forward:** Wrote, produced, casted and directed a 2 minute and 30 second commercial for a democratic progressive organization Carolina forward, addressing right a woman's right to choose. Aired on Social media with a target ad campaign in the triangle region of North Carolina.
- **Wake Forest University:** Contracted multiple times to cover speakers, events, and special presentations across the university, primarily with the Biology department. Created full event videos as well as recaps of the event.

Out at the Movies International Film Festival

March 2024 - Present

Program Selector

- Watched over 200 entries in the fiction and nonfiction, feature length and short categories. Recommended and deliberated top 40 films to be chosen to air at the 2024 film festival.

PROFESSIONAL FILM AND PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Independent Film: *UpHill Battle*

March 2022 - May 2024

Director, Producer, Editor

- Director, Producer, cinematographer, and editor of a short documentary exploring Dr. Ashley Ward's, climate expert, journey in running for Congress in an unprecedented primary breaking state fundraising records. Diving into the possibility of grassroots campaigns in the microcosm of America, North Carolina.
- Master of Fine Arts Thesis Project for Wake Forest University Documentary Film Program, completed May 2024.

Independent Film *Camogie: The Fastest Game on Grass*

July 2022 - May 2024

Director, Producer, Editor

- Director, Producer, cinematographer, and editor of this short documentary about a traditional Gaelic Game, Camogie. From the results of receiving the Richter Scholarship I was able to travel to Kiltale, Ireland, embed myself with a local Camogie team to capture the spirit of the game and community, while exploring the inequality this amateur women's sport faces.
- Master of Arts Thesis Project for Wake Forest University, completed May 2024.

International Documentary Association

July 2023 - August 2023

Pre-Screener for IDA Awards

- Watched 20 plus feature length Documentaries and made recommendations to jurors on which films should and should not advance in the IDA Awards proceedings.

Independent Film *Fantasy Fútbol*

June 2023 - Present

Director, Producer, Editor

- Currently in the final Stages of post production. This film showcase an organization doing something we have never seen in the women's game before, allowing fans to play fantasy soccer (or football, depending on where you are in the world). This short 25-minute doc will explore the challenges a volunteer-run organization, She Plays, experiences during the biggest tournament in women's football history, the World Cup. Discovering the struggles of data collection in the Women's game, the amount of volunteer manpower required to produce timely updates, and hopefully the growth of the organization and participation in women's fantasy football.

Independent Film *Living Legacy: The Story of AIDS Care Service*

May 2023 - September 2023

Director of Photography, Producer, Editor

- Produced and edited this short film centered around AIDS Care Service, a nonprofit that was formerly in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In it the film explores the story of a survivor, along with volunteer/former employee, understanding the impact this organization had before shutting its doors.
- Premiered at Out at the Movies International Film Festival in 2023.

Out at the Movies International Film Festival

August 2023 - October 2023

Festival Juror

- Along with five other jurors. Watched over 30 films, narrative and nonfiction, feature length and short, to decided the winning pieces in the categories of Best Documentary Feature, Best Narrative Feature, Best Short, Best Director, Best Screenwriting, Best Performance in a Leading Role, Best Performance in a Supporting Role, Best Performance in a Short.

Independent Film *MADHOUSE*

March 2022 - July 2022

Director, Producer, Editor

- In collaboration with flo sports racing, created a short documentary following 4 drivers on opening day at Bowman Gray Stadium, effectively known as the Madhouse. Scouted location, character, and storylines in preproduction. During production directly followed driver John Hollman.
- Currently streaming on Flo sports.

Independent Film *Ebbs and Flows*

November 2021 - December 2021

Director, Producer, Editor

- Directed, produced, shot, and edited this short documentary exploring Two Sisters Adventure Co.'s last kayak paddle of the season, exploring themes of sport, the outdoors, and female empowerment.
- Premiered at Carrboro Film Festival, screened at Wakeville, Wake Forest University's Student-led Interdisciplinary Arts Festival.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Wake Forest Women's Basketball

September 2021 - December 2022

Recruiting Assistant and Office Manager

- Aided coaching staff in scheduling recruiting trips, collecting data, and distributing data to various coaches. Additionally, maintained the front office.

Graduate School Association

September 2022 - May 2023

Professional Development Chair

- Served two terms as the Professional Development Chair on the executive board that oversaw a committee of Graduate Students from all programs in the Graduate School of Arts and Science. Organized and scheduled workshops and guest speakers throughout the year, and maintained a database of past speakers and student survey responses.
- Created opportunities for graduate students to enter post university life prepared by arranging free headshots, updating website database and serving as a liaison to the Assistant Director of Student Experience and Communication. Accepted written concerns and/or grievances of graduate students and connect graduate students with appropriate support resources as needed.

Congressional Office of Josh Gottheimer

July 2020 - July 2021

DC and District Scheduler

- Oversaw all scheduling requests for the Congressman in D.C. and New Jersey. Managed a complex schedule, including the Congressman's position on the Financial Services Committee, Committee of Homeland Security, and the Problem Solvers caucus co-chair. Additionally, coordinated with various parties to ensure the Congressman attended necessary district-wide meetings and events in D.C. and New Jersey.
- Prepare the Member for every meeting and event with discussion topics, meeting attendees, and the coordinating office staffers. While also communicating with said staffers to incorporate essential details and information.
- Arranged travel arrangements to and from D.C. as well as extended trips to the U.S. southern border and Israel. Kept a detailed record of miles, travel receipts and all office expenses for reimbursements.
- Managed all staff's office needs while maintaining the front desk for incoming visitors. Served as a liaison communicating between the Congressman's campaign team and his official office.

Congressional Office of Matthew Cartwright

January 2020 - April 2020

Legislative Intern

- Corresponded with constituents daily via phone, email and physical mail. Wrote and edited form letters. Created memos and bios, Executed long term research project for the Appropriations Committee.

Congressional Office of Joe Kennedy III

November 2019 - December 2019

Legislative Intern

- Drafted briefing materials for the Congressman and staff to prepare for meetings and events.
- Extensively researched Civil Legal Aid leading to the introduction of House Resolution Civil Glidden.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant

January 2023 - May 2023

DOC 726: Advance Sports Storytelling

- Graduate-level Professor of Practice course. Assisted in creating the syllabus and arranged guest speakers and lectures. Taught hands-on practical cinematography and producing while making a short documentary.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2022 - December 2022

DOC 737: Sports, Culture and Society

- Undergraduate and Graduate-level course. Helped create the syllabus, assisted with grading, and mentored students in weekly office hours.
- Guest Lecture: Upcoming Trends in Sports Media relating to our Society.