

SHELLEY ILYSSA DAVIS, M.F.A. CANDIDATE

Storyteller, Documentary Filmmaker, Teaching Fellow, Lab Instructor & Graduate Student

Documentary Production and Studies, Department of Media Arts
College of Liberal Arts and Social Science, University of North Texas

Phone: 1 (407) 256-6826, Email: Shelley@shelleydv.com

Website: www.shelleydv.com

EDUCATION

-
- 2024** **Master of Fine Arts, (M.F.A.) University of North Texas, USA.**
Major: Documentary Production and Studies
Minor: Media Industries
Cumulative GPA 4.0
- 2018** **Bachelor of Fine Art in Studio, School of The Art Institute of Chicago**
Major: Film, Video, New Media & Animation
Minor: Sound Art
Cumulative GPA: 4.0

EXPERIENCE

Academic Experience

- 2023 – 2024** **Teaching Fellow**, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2021– 2023** **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2021 – 2023** **Lab Instructor**, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2023 – 2024** **Equipment Room Student Assistant and Instructor**, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2023 – 2024** **Student Diversity and Inclusion Council**, Department of Student Affairs, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2022 – 2023** **Media Arts Graduate Student Council 2nd Year Representative**, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2022** **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Music Composition, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2022** **Postproduction Sound Workshop Instructor**, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2018** **Lead Orientation Leader**, Office of Campus Life and Department of Student Affairs, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

- 2016 – 2018** **Film Equipment Instructor**, Department of Film, Video, New Media and Animation, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2016 – 2017** **Orientation Leader**, Office of Campus Life and Department of Student Affairs, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Industry Experience

- 2022 – 2024** **Documentary Director, Producer and Editor**, *Saba and Savta*, Shelleydv Productions, USA.
- 2022 – 2024** **Documentary Producer**, *Means*, Department of Media Arts, Saja Sunuwar Productions, USA and Nepal.
- 2023** **Voiceover Recordist**, *Portal/Portales*, Eugene Martin Films, USA.
- 2023** **Documentary Cinematographer**, *Carrier*, Saja Sunuwar Productions, USA.
- 2023** **Documentary Editor, Sound Recordist and Sound Designer**, *Leave Only Footprints*, Jaelene Ramirez Films, USA.
- 2022 – 2023** **Documentary Producer**, *Videsh*, Teja Ginnela Films, USA and India.
- 2022 – 2023** **Documentary Director, Producer, 2nd Editor and Sound Designer**, *Gatekeeper*, Shelleydv Productions, USA.
- 2022 – 2023** **Director and Editor**, *Choose Camp* Campaign and commercial, JCC Dallas and Glitter Sparkle LLC, Dallas, Texas.
- 2022** **Sound Recordist**, *American Underground*, Alexander Russel Productions, USA.
- 2022** **Documentary Editor, Sound Designer and Distribution Producer**, *Facing Fistula*, Fistula Foundation, USA.
- 2022** **Documentary Director, Producer and Editor**, *Stories Garments Tell*, Shelleydv Productions, USA.
- 2022** **Documentary Cinematographer**, *Preserving Roots*, Saja Sunuwar Productions, USA.
- 2020 – 2021** **Lead Storyteller and Documentary Filmmaker**, Software Built by Design, Dallas, Texas.
- 2020** **Video Editor and Social Media Coordinator**, Pure CBD Solutions, Dallas, Texas.
- 2020** **Assistant to The Director of Student Activities**, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, California.
- 2019 – 2020** **Editing and Sound Fellow**, *Life for My Family*, The Outdoor Film Fellowship, USA.
- 2019 – 2020** **Editor and Sound Designer**, The Lulus and Sesame Workshop, Los Angeles, California.
- 2018 – 2019** **Sales Team Lead**, Ann Taylor Loft, Los Angeles, California.
- 2019** **Screenwriting Internship**, StoryFit, USA.
- 2017** **Documentary Film Internship**, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Washington D.C.
- 2017** **Jewish Engagement Internship**, Metro Chicago Hillel, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2016** **Art and Film Education Internship**, ID Tech, Miami, Florida.

MAJOR FIELDS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

- Research** Building connections between lost histories, the land, and our everyday lives.
- Teaching** Principles of narrative and documentary filmmaking, film production techniques, postproduction editing, sound recording techniques for film and television, postproduction sound editing and film foundation teaching.

FILMOGRAPHY AND CREATIVE MEDIA WORK

- 2023** *Saba and Savta* documentary film, 55 minutes (Work In Progress)
Writer/Director/Producer/Editor/Sound Designer

Synopsis: *Saba and Savta* is a 60-minute, feature, documentary film about a Jewish-Italian couple, married for 50-plus years, searching for their lost family history while preserving what culture they know, before their memory dissipates. Sheldon and Joan Treibitz, residents of Lake County, FL for 20 years travel back to Brooklyn, New York to visit the Treibitz family cemetery plot for potentially the last time. Joan and Sheldon take viewers and their granddaughter, Shelley, the director of the film, along a familiar route to their homecoming, a drive they've driven for over twenty years. While traveling to New York City, they stop to visit family, who once lived in close quarters with them in Brooklyn when they were a young couple. Throughout their travels they revisit their past lives in Brooklyn and visit their family's first documented history in the United States, Ellis Island, rewriting and sharing their past with the future generation of their family.

- 2023** *Gatekeeper* documentary film, 15 minutes
Writer/Director/Producer/Sound Designer

Synopsis: *Gatekeeper* is a story about the relationship between a natural environment and the rural communities of Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade County, a historically rich county, where generations of families have fished and farmed, cared for the land, and created a blooming multicultural city full of food, music, art, and integration with the surrounding habitats. Known as the "Homesteaders Trail", a major hub to the Florida railroad, residents of Miami-Dade are cultivators of environmental protection and education for the surrounding area, and act as a gatekeeper to enter Biscayne National Park as well as a gateway for migration from the Caribbean islands and Mexico to the United States.

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS:

- 2023** INTERNATIONAL. Florida Environmental Film Festival, Sarasota, FL, August 11th, 2023.
- 2023** NATIONAL. University Film and Video Association Conference, Savannah, GA, July 18th – 20th, 2023.

2023 REGIONAL. Department of Media Arts Second Year Screening, Denton, TX, May 4th, 2023.

PENDING EXHIBITIONS AND AWARDS:

2024 INTERNATIONAL. Discover Film Awards, London, United Kingdom, September 25th, 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL. Athens Short Film Festival, Athina, Greece, August 30th, 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL. San Francisco Frozen Film Festival, San Francisco, CA, July 17th, 2024.

2024 NATIONAL. Florida Film Festival, Maitland, FL, April 12th, 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL. Miami Film Festival, Miami, FL, April 5th, 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL. Women's Voices Now Online Film Festival, Online, March 25th, 2024.

2024 NATIONAL. American Conservation Film Festival, Nevada City, CA, March 7th, 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL. Oceanside International Film Festival, Oceanside, CA, February 20th, 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL. Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Nevada City, CA, February 15th, 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL. Miami Shorts International Film Festival, Miami, FL, February 2nd, 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL. Justice Film Festival, New York, New York, January 12th, 2024

2022 *Stories Garments Tell* documentary film, 12 minutes.
Writer/Director/Producer/Editor/Additional Cinematography

Synopsis: *Stories Garments Tell* is a short documentary film that peeks into the lives of garments. From concept to construction and how garments are an embodiment of culture, identity, and a reflection of society and history. If fashion design is considered an art form, then can it also tell a story?

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS:

2023 NATIONAL. Austin Lift Off Film Festival, Austin, Texas, April 2nd, 2023.

2023 NATIONAL. UNT Media Arts Film Festival, Denton, Texas, April 29th, 2023.

2023 INTERNATIONAL. Student Worldwide International Film Festival, Available online worldwide, June 18th – 26th, 2023.

2023 INTERNATIONAL. 4th Screen – Film Awards. USA. December 2023.

2022 REGIONAL. Department of Media Arts First Year Screening, Denton, TX, April 28th, 2022.

PENDING EXHIBITIONS AND AWARDS:

2023 NATIONAL. Chicago, IL, December 10th, 2023.

2023 INTERNATIONAL. Fashion Film Festival Chicago, Chicago, IL, November 6th, 2023.

2023 INTERNATIONAL. Doc LA. Los Angeles Documentary Film Festival, Festival, Los Angeles, CA October 18th, 2023.

2023 INTERNATIONAL. FAME Film Shorts Festival, Cape Town, South Africa, September 7th, 2023.

2022 *Facing Fistula* documentary film, 8 minutes and 30 seconds.
Editor/Sound Designer/Distribution Producer

Synopsis: *Facing Fistula* is a short documentary about a young woman in Kenya who learns there is a cure for her “curse.” For nearly a decade, Beatrice has been living with a devastating childbirth injury. It has left her incontinent, shunned by her husband, and outcast within her community. Beatrice struggles to care for her homestead and her five children until, one day, the discovery that she is not alone in her suffering sends her on a journey toward hope and healing.

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS:

2023 INTERNATIONAL. Worldwide Women’s Film Festival, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. February 17th -19th, 2023.

2023 INTERNATIONAL. The 20%: A Festival for Women Filmmakers, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. April 25th, 2023.

2022 INTERNATIONAL. Montreal Independent Film Festival, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. November 22nd, 2022.

2019 *Life for My Family* documentary film, 8 minutes.
Editor/Sound Mixer

Synopsis: *Life for My Family* tells the story of Mackenzie McGrath and her path to understanding personal wellness, after losing her brother to cancer. It is a beautiful story of how she continues to cope with her loss by finding solace in the outdoors, comfort in community and growth in the continued pursuit to help others. Fueled by the memory of her brother, their shared friendship, and a detailed journal he left behind, Mackenzie spends the last few years visiting some of the world’s most beautiful locations, mountain peaks and places visited by Taurin to spread his ashes and continue their adventures together.

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS:

2020 INTERNATIONAL. Student Awards, Maine Film Festival, Portland, Maine, USA. 2020.

2020 INTERNATIONAL. Student Awards, 5 Point Film Festival, Denver, Colorado, USA. 2020.

2020 INTERNATIONAL. Online Premier, USA. 2020.

2018 *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* hybrid-documentary, 12 minutes.
Writer/Director/Editor/Cinematographer/Sound Designer

Synopsis: *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* is an experimental film about the role of mother from the perspective of a daughter. The film outline and draws attention to what maternal nature is perceived to be and the expectations placed upon women. An Experimental film narrative about the role of a mother from the perspective of a daughter. Viewers are immersed in interstitial sequences of dance performance, spoken word/interviews and reenactment; intertwined to produce a critical observation of motherly or gendered ‘womanly’ tasks.

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS:

2018 REGIONAL. Ex TV Festival, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA. 2018.

2016 *Wake Up* documentary fiction film, 6 minutes.
Cinematographer/Editor

Synopsis: *Wake Up* is a short narrative film depicting a young adults search for clarity in their everyday life.

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS:

2016 REGIONAL. 12-24-48 Film Festival, Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, Illinois. 2016.

AWARDS AND HONORS

International Awards

2023 **University Film and Video Association Graduate Fellow**
University Film and Video Association, USA.

2023 **HR Young Graduate Scholarship**
Goldman- Sachs Foundation, New Jersey, USA. Awarded \$7500.

2023 **Best Documentary Short Quarter Finalist – Stories Garments Tell**
Student Worldwide International Film Festival, International.

2023 **Honorable Mention – *Stories Garments Tell***
Blackbird Film Festival, SUNY Cortland, USA.

2022 **HR Young Graduate Scholarship**
Goldman- Sachs Foundation, New Jersey, USA. Awarded \$7500.

2019 **Documentary Film Editor Fellowship**
The Outdoor Film Fellowship, Colorado, USA. Awarded \$1000.

2018 **Leadership and Art Fellowship**
Metro Chicago Hillel. Illinois, USA. Awarded \$750.

2017 **Judaism and Art Fellowship**
Metro Chicago Hillel, Illinois, USA. Awarded \$750.

University Awards

- 2023 Davis, S.** Melanie Goodwin Graduate Scholarship, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, USA. Awarded \$1000.
- 2023 Davis, S.** Voertman Graduate Scholarship, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of North Texas, USA. Awarded \$2000.
- 2023 Davis, S.** Outstanding MFA Graduate Student Award, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, USA.
- 2022 Davis, S.** Staples Graduate Scholarship, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, USA. Awarded \$500.
- 2022 Davis, S.** Texas Public Education Grant, University of North Texas, USA. Awarded \$1250.
- 2021 Davis, S.** Toulouse Graduate School Tuition Grant, University of North Texas, USA. Awarded \$2,000.
- 2019 Davis, S.** Outstanding Student Leader Award, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA.
- 2018 Davis, S.** School of The Art Institute of Chicago Merit Scholarship, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA. Awarded \$7,500.
- 2018 Davis, S.** FVNMA Alumni Grant, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA. Awarded \$2,500.
- 2017 Davis, S.** School of The Art Institute of Chicago Merit Scholarship, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA. Awarded \$7,500.
- 2017 Davis, S.** FVNMA Alumni Grant, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA. Awarded \$2,500.
- 2016 Davis, S.** School of The Art Institute of Chicago Merit Scholarship, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA. Awarded \$7,500.
- 2016 Davis, S.** FVNMA Alumni Grant, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA. Awarded \$2,500.
- 2015 Davis, S.** School of The Art Institute of Chicago Merit Scholarship, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA. Awarded \$7,500.
- 2015 Davis, S.** FVNMA Alumni Grant, School of The Art Institute of Chicago, USA. Awarded \$2,500.

International Competitive Grants – Project Funding

- 2023 Davis, S.** Application for Catapult Fund Development Grant, USA. Funding will be used to produce thesis film, *Saba and Savta*. Award between \$5000 and \$20000 (Not Accepted).
- 2023 Davis, S.** Application for Jewish Story Partners, USA. Funding will be used to produce thesis film, *Saba and Savta*. Award between \$30000 and \$75000 (Not Accepted).
- 2023 Davis, S.** Application for Roy W. Dean Grant, USA. Funding will be used to produce thesis film, *Saba and Savta*. Award between \$10000 and \$30000 (Not Accepted).
- 2022 Davis, S.** Application for Carole Fielding Grant, USA. Funding will be used to produce thesis film, *Saba and Savta* (Not Accepted).
- 2022 Davis, S.** Application for Catapult Fund Development Grant, USA. Funding will be used to produce second year graduate film, *Gatekeeper*. Award between \$5000 and \$20000 (Not Accepted).

University Competitive Grants – Project Funding

- 2023** Davis, S. Summer 2023 CLASS Travel Grant, University of North Texas. Award of \$700.
- 2023** Davis, S. Summer 2023 GREAT Grant (Co-Author), University of North Texas. Award of \$4500.
- 2023** Davis, S. Spring 2023 CLASS Travel Grant, University of North Texas. Award of \$500.
- 2022** Davis, S. Fall 2022 CLASS Travel Grant, University of North Texas. Award of \$500.
- 2022** Davis, S. Fall 2022 Media Arts Travel Grant, University of North Texas. Award of \$500.

COURSES INSTRUCTED

Courses Taught

University of North Texas

- Spring 2024** MRTS 4412.002 Film Production Topics – Contemporary Documentary Filmmaking
MRTS 2210.002 Introduction to MRTS Production – Audio
MRTS 2210.005 Introduction to MRTS Production – Audio
- Fall 2023** MRTS 2210.002 Introduction to MRTS Production – Audio
MRTS 2210.005 Introduction to MRTS Production – Audio
MRTS 3230.001 Film Style Production
- Fall 2022** MRTS 3210.001 Audio Production
MRTS 3210.002 Audio Production
MRTS 3210.003 Audio Production
- Spring 2022** MRTS 3210.001 Audio Production
MRTS 3210.002 Audio Production
MRTS 3210.003 Audio Production
MRTS 3210.004 Audio Production
- Fall 2021** MRTS 3210.001 Audio Production
MRTS 3210.002 Audio Production

MRTS 4412.002 Film Production Topics – Contemporary Documentary Filmmaking:

Introduces students to various methodologies used to study documentary texts and media, bridging the gap between meaning, and making. Focusing on the student's relationship(s) to the real world and telling stories, how to establish a set of documentary ethics and a filmmaker's voice and making contemporary documentary cinema. Students will explore contemporary and experimental developments of documentary approaches, terminology, filmmakers, and concepts of thought.

MRTS 2210.002 Introduction to MRTS Production – Audio: An introduction to basic techniques. Audio, television (studio and location) and single-camera video and film methods are investigated. Includes production exercises and experiments.

MRTS 3230.002 Film Style Production: Basic single-camera production concepts and techniques using small format video cameras and editing equipment.

MRTS 3210.001 Audio Production: Audio production concepts and techniques using audio laboratory studio equipment. Post-production sound editing and sound as a medium of storytelling are explored.

Courses Assisted

University of North Texas

- Fall 2023** MRTS 3230.002 Film Style Production
- Spring 2023** MRTS 3610 Film and Television Analysis
MRTS 4400 Advanced Film Production
- Fall 2022** MRTS 3610 Film and Television Analysis
MRTS 3210.000 Audio Production
- Spring 2022** MRTS 3210.000 Audio Production
- Fall 2021** MRTS 3210.000 Audio Production
MRTS 3615 Understanding Media Industries

PUBLICATIONS

Online Publications

- 2023** **Teaching Fellow – Department of Media Arts**
University Film and Video Association, USA, Published August 2023
<https://facultyinfo.unt.edu/faculty>
- 2023** **Director Shelley Davis – Gatekeeper**
Florida Environmental Film Festival, Florida, USA, Published August 2023

- 2023** <https://www.thefeff.org/florida-environmental-film-festival>
UFVA Graduate Fellows
University Film and Video Association, USA, Published June 2023
<http://ufva.org/2023-graduate-student-fellows/>
- 2022** **Facing Fistula Key Crew Members**
Fistula Foundation, USA, Published September 2022
<https://fistulafoundation.org/facing-fistula-film/>
- 2020** **This Climbing Guide Works with Youth Impacted by Cancer**
Outdoor Magazine, USA, Published December 2020
<https://www.outsideonline.com/video/first-descents-climbing-cancer>
- 2019** **Alumni – Outdoor Film Fellowship**
<https://www.outdoorfilm.org/alumni>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certifications and Training

- 2021** CITI Social & Behavioral Research- Basic/Refresher Training. ID#11476844.
UNT FERPA Training.
Ethics & Standards of Conduct Training.
UNT Policies & Title IX: Preventing Discrimination Training.
Cybersecurity Awareness Training.

Professional Affiliations

- University Film and Video Association, 2022 - Present.
Documentary Editor Alliance, 2023 - Present.
Women in Film, 2022 – Present.