

# P. Sam Kessie

sankofapicturesllc@gmail.com  
www.psamkessie.com

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## EDUCATION:

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

**M.F.A.**, Film and Video Production

May 2019

American InterContinental University, Atlanta, GA

**B.F.A.**, Media Production Studies (Magna Cum Laude)

May 2005

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS:

- *Recipient*, Graduate Student Senate Research Grant, University of Iowa, IA (2019)
- *Recipient*, Graduate Diversity Summer Fellowship Award, University of Iowa, IA (2018)
- *Fellow*, Film Lounge and Iowa Arts Council, Iowa, IA (2017-18)
- *Selected Participant*, Creative Capital Workshop, Iowa Arts Council/Produce Iowa, Des Moines, IA (2017)
- *Talent Participant*, Berlinale International Film Festival, Berlin, Germany (2016)
- *Selected Participant*, Durban FilmMart co-prod lab, Durban, South Africa – *Unbalanced* (2015)
- *Selected Participant*, Locarno Film Fest. Open Doors co-prod. lab, Locarno, Switzerland – *Unbalanced* (2014)
- *Selected Participant*, Athena Film Fest, AFI's Directing Workshop for Women, New York, NY (2013)
- *Participant*, 1st Produce au Sud Script Studio, Durban, SA – *Unbalanced* (2012)
- *Talent Participant*, Durban Talent Campus, Durban, South Africa (2012)
- *2nd Place Award*, Urban Media Makers Film Festival, Atlanta, GA - *Life 101: Angel's Secret* (2006)
- *1st place Student Film Award*, American InterContinental University, Atlanta, GA - *Sales Day* (2005)
- *Recipient*, The Outstanding Student Award from Media Production Department, AIU, Atlanta, GA (2005)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

University of Iowa Department of Cinematic Arts, Instructor/Teaching Assistant

2016 - 2019

CINE:2864 - Alternative Forms: Introduction to Hybrid Filmmaking,

Spring 2019

- Designed syllabus/curriculum for 15 undergraduate students which included assigned readings and videos on film theories and essays from domestic and international experimental filmmakers, visual artist, philosophers and scientists.
- Encouraged students to think outside the box of traditional filmmaking techniques as they created their own works.

CINE: 1834 - Modes of Filmmaking,

Fall 2016 – Fall 2018

- Taught and led sections of 15 undergraduate students biweekly.
- Sat in weekly lectures of introductory film history, theory and production practices for bi weekly discussion topics from weekly lecture with student sections.
- Prepped and graded students for short video assignments, midterms and final video project.
- Assisted students with learning camera, editing techniques and software.

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

### Sankofa Pictures

Producer/Filmmaker/Video Artist

2006 – Present

Sankofa Pictures creates quality fiction, nonfiction and experimental projects to travel the globe. We produce film, video, movement and photography content to rival the best. Our exceptional work depends on observational skills and developing stories by combining aesthetics, wit, intelligence, science, empathy and imagination.

### Green Screen Instructor

Belkin-Blank Center, College of Education, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Summer 2018

- Created a new 6-hour, one-week course description and syllabus for a group of 3-5 graders.
- Became familiar with the Packet of Information for Professionals, developed to assist precollege program staff in their work with twice exceptional students.
- Introduced class of 15 students to Green Screens, for use of digital storytelling and media creation.
- Taught students to discover how to use their imagination to tell a story, explain ideas, and express themselves in creative and unique ways.
- Coached students to write/develop scripts, act, record and edit their own green screen creation and presented to friends and family.

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## Dance Videographer

University of Iowa Dance Department, Iowa City, IA

2017 - 2018

- Organized the dance video library for archival use.
- Helped students create DVD recordings of their choreographic and performance portfolios in filming and editing.
- Helped undergraduate and graduate students with technology related problems.
- Videographer for Department of Dance events, auditions, rehearsals; made digital copies of performance clips for use in later projects or student portfolios.

## Cinematographer

*On Monday of Last Week*, Akosua Adoma Owusu, Brooklyn, NY

2016

## Assistant Director

*Kwaku Ananse*, Akosua Adoma Owusu, Kumasi, Ghana

2013

*Dance of the Dead*, Gregg Bishop, Rome, GA

2007

## FILMOGRAPHY

2019	<i>A Mirror Perfected</i> (post production) Fiction Hybrid – HD Video
2018	<i>Mother of All Time</i> (4 mins) Experimental Dance – HD video <i>moving in tongues</i> (5 mins) Experimental Dance – HD video <i>bodyshutter</i> (5 mins) Experimental Movement Piece– 16mm film to HD Video
2017	<i>transplanted</i> (10 mins) Hybrid – HD video
2016	<i>body &amp; form</i> (2 mins) Experimental Movement Piece – HD video
2014	<i>A Letter from Adam</i> (106 mins) Fiction – HD video <i>Routine</i> (14 mins) Fiction – HD video
2013	<i>Pen to Paper</i> (5 mins) Fiction – HD video <i>The Last Summer</i> (3 mins) Fiction – HD video
2012	<i>The Samaritan</i> (7 mins) Hybrid Docufiction – HD video
2010	<i>ZOOM ZOOM: The Professor</i> (53 mins) Documentary – HD video
2009	<i>LIFE 101: Angel's Secret</i> (55 mins) Hybrid Docufiction – HD video
2005	<i>Sales Day</i> (7 mins) Fiction – Analog to HD video

## SCREENINGS, EXHIBITIONS AND FESTIVALS

2019	Danzattack Festival de Danza y CineDanca, <i>Mother of All Time</i> , Canary Islands. Yonkers Film Festival (YoFiFest), <i>Mother of All Time</i> , Yonkers, NY Mexico City Videodance Festival, <i>Mother of All Time</i> , Mexico City, Mexico Alternating Currents Festival, <i>Mother of All Time</i> , Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA Dance on Camera Festival, <i>Mother of All Time</i> , Film at Lincoln Center, New York, NY ADF's Movies by Movers Film Festival, <i>Mother of All Time</i> , Duke University, Durham, NC Snake Alley Festival of Film, <i>Mother of All Time</i> , Burlington, IA Solo Exhibition, <i>inFLUX of sweet dreams &amp; desires</i> , Public Space One, Iowa City, IA Bodies, Boundaries & Borders, <i>moving in tongues</i> , Women's March, FilmScene Iowa City, IA Experimental Films from Iowa, <i>moving in tongues</i> , filmfront, Chicago, IL Breaking Ground Dance Contemporary Festival, <i>Mother of All Time</i> , Tempe, AZ
2018	Engauge Experimental Film, <i>bodyshutter</i> , Seattle, WA Women March/Vertical Cinema, <i>transplanted 2.0</i> , FilmScene, Iowa City, IA Film Lounge Iowa Public TV, <i>transplanted</i> , Iowa City IA
2017	Chaktomuk Short Film Festival, <i>body and form</i> , Phnom Penh, Cambodia Film Lounge Iowa Public TV, <i>body and form</i> , Iowa City IA
2016	Carnegie Museum of Art: 2-Minute Film Festival, <i>body and form</i> , Pittsburgh, PA
2015	Carthage Film Festival, <i>Routine</i> , Tunis, Tunisia Zanzibar International Film Festival, <i>Routine</i> , Zanzibar, Tanzania Pan African Film Festival, <i>A Letter from Adam</i> , Los Angeles, CA
2013	Experiments in Cinema v8.53, <i>The Samaritan</i> , Albuquerque, NM, 1st Francophone Film Festival in Ghana, <i>The Samaritan</i> , Accra, Ghana
2011	Women Hold Up Half The Sky, <i>Zoom Zoom: The Professor</i> , National Geographic Society, Washington, DC

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## OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

### Moderator

*Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu*, Vertical Cinema, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 2019  
Post-screening discussion with filmmaker and producer, Akosua Adoma Owusu

### Panel Member

Bijou Film Forum, FilmScene, Iowa City, IA 2018  
Post-screening discussion of *The Watermelon Woman* with Professor Christopher-Rasheem McMillan

### Talk Moderator

Flyover Fest, University of Iowa, Shambaugh Auditorium, Iowa City, IA 2018  
One-on-one discussion with Production Designer Hannah Beachler (Black Panther, Moonlight, etc.)

### Panel Member

Women's March, FilmScene, Iowa IA 2018  
Post-screening and talk panel for *Portrait of Jason* with Raia Lichen and Shereena Honary

### Advisory Board Member

Women's March, FilmScene, Iowa City, IA 2018  
Month-long program showcasing local, national and international female directed films and panel discussions.

### Volunteer Judge

Office of Outreach and Engagement /Artshare/Cinematic Arts, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 2017 - 2018  
Bettendorf Middle School, Bettendorf, IA

- An average of 150 eighth-graders year made movie trailers for fictional films about very real heroes, combining lessons learned in social studies and language arts classes.
- Spent a day in Bettendorf offering feedback and advice to the middle schoolers as they worked on their trailers.
- Out of about 96 trailers were finished, the eighth-graders voted for their favorite in five categories: best character, storytelling, visual impact, use of audio, and social-historical significance.
- Gathered a team of undergrads and another graduate student to watch the top three videos in the five categories.

### Volunteer Project Coordinator/Instructor

AKOSIA and The Street Academy, Accra Ghana Summer 2011

- Represented the charity AKOSIA, to facilitate a 4-week filmmaking camp, along with 5 other volunteers, teaching 25 underprivileged kids between the ages of 7 and 16 years.
- Explored the concept of storytelling and in small groups performed dramatic representations of oral traditions.
- Explored the importance of storyboarding and sequencing by drawing the scenes of a pre-written story onto a large board, bridging the gap between storytelling and filmmaking.
- Broke down the categories of crew support and explored with the students which of the categories which included writing, acting and directing, operating the camera, light and sound, and set design and costumes they most wanted to be involved with.
- Supported the students as they learned the importance of teamwork and how each role impacted another as they began to bring their stories to life.
- Assisted with editing with some of the children acting as post-production supervisors to help and observe the process.
- Students explored marketing and promotion tools, which involved designing and drawing their very own movie posters and posting them all around the town.
- Celebrated the final films with a community screening outside the Chief's palace and where the students showed their final product to family and friends.

## RELATIVE SKILLS:

Data Entry, Research Proficiency, Advanced Proficiency in Software: Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Premiere Pro CC, Photoshop CC, Lightroom CC, SpeedGrade CC, Working Familiarity in Software: After Effects CC, Audition CC, Audacity; Advanced Proficiency in Cameras: Canon 5D III, Canon C100, Canon XL-1, Panasonic GH4 and GH5; Bolex 16mm, 16 mm B+W Film Development; Advanced Proficiency in Sound: Zoom H4N; Working Proficiency in Production Design: Set decoration, Set painting, Art Decoration; Working Proficiency in movement: Laban Movement Analysis/Bartenieff, Somatics, Qigong/T'ai Chi, West African and Modern Dance.