

## CATHARINE AXLEY • DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Bellisario College, Penn State, State College, PA  
Assistant Professor, Department of Film Production & Media Studies, Fall 2021-current  
Spelman College, Atlanta, GA  
Visiting Instructor, Department of Arts and Visual Culture, Spring 2021  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
Filmmaker in Residence, Department of English, 2018-2020

### EDUCATION

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA  
MFA: Documentary Film & Video, 2015  
Yale University, New Haven, CT  
BA: History / Ethnicity, Race, and Migration (Honors), 2010

### AWARDS & SELECT SCREENINGS

PBS' Independent Lens National Broadcast, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
*Selection for the 2020 American Film Showcase (ATTLA)*  
*Best Documentary*, 44th Annual American Indian Film Festival, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
*Best Indigenous Feature*, BendFilm Festival, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
*Jury & Audience Award for Best Made in Alaska Feature*, Anchorage International Film Festival, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
American Film Showcase, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, 2021 (*ATTLA*)  
October Exhibit, Frazier History Museum, Louisville, 2021 (*The Way Forth excerpt*)  
Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, NYC, 2020 (*ATTLA*)  
Santa Fe Film Festival, 2020 (*ATTLA*)  
Vision Maker Film Festival, 2020 (*ATTLA*)  
Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, 2020 (*ATTLA*)  
Wasatch Mountain Film Festival, 2020 (*ATTLA*)  
Native Spirit Film Festival, 2020 (*ATTLA*)  
Ottawa Adventure Film Festival, 2020 (*ATTLA*)  
Centre Film Festival, 2020 (*ATTLA*)  
Heard Museum, Phoenix, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
Alaska Federation of Natives, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
BANFF Mountain Film and Book Festival, 2019, and BANFF World Tour, 2021-2023 (*ATTLA*)  
Alaska Public Media Screenings, Anchorage, Bethel, Juneau, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
Anchorage Museum, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
Anchorage International Film Festival, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
Heartland International Film Festival, 2019 (*ATTLA*)  
Kentucky Center, The Louisville Orchestra, 2019 (*The Way Forth*)  
The Witching Hour, Iowa City, 2019 (*The Way Forth*)  
Big Ears Festival, 2019 (*The Way Forth*)  
FilmHouse Resident, San Francisco Film Society, 2015-2017 (*ATTLA*)  
*Best Documentary Short Director*, Tulsa American Film Festival, 2016 (*In Attla's Tracks*)  
*Golden Gate Award*, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2016 (*In Attla's Tracks*)  
*Nominee*, David L. Wolper Student Award, International Documentary Association, 2015 (*In Attla's Tracks*)  
Smithsonian Native Cinema Showcase, 2016 (*In Attla's Tracks*)  
*Regional Finalist*, Documentary for Student Academy Awards, 2014 (*Counting the Dead*)  
*Editor's Pick*, The Atlantic, Spring 2016 (*Counting the Dead*)  
*Editor's Pick*, The Atlantic, Fall 2015 (*Balancing Act*)  
DOC NYC, New York, NY, 2014 (*Counting the Dead*)

Mill Valley Film Festival, 2014 (*Counting the Dead*)  
United Nations Association Film Festival, 2014 (*Counting the Dead*)  
International Film Festival of the Cinematic Arts, Los Angeles, 2014 (*Counting the Dead*)  
BendFilm Festival, 2014 (*Counting the Dead*)  
Real to Reel International Film Festival, 2014 (*Counting the Dead*)  
Bay Area Student Film Festival, Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA, 2014 (*Counting the Dead*)  
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, 2015 (*Counting the Dead*)  
Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival, 2015 (*Counting the Dead & In Port*)  
Black Maria Film Festival, 2015 (*Counting the Dead & In Port*)  
NewFilmmakers New York, 2014 (*In Port*)  
San Francisco Black Film Festival, 2014 (*Balancing Act*)  
Harlem International Film Festival, 2014 (*Balancing Act*)

#### **GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS / PROGRAMS**

ITVS Co-Production Grant, 2023-ongoing (*Untitled Cruise Tourism Project*)  
Gotham Week Spotlight on Docs Participant, 2025 (*Untitled Cruise Tourism Project*)  
Hot Docs Deal Maker Program, 2023 (*Untitled Cruise Tourism Project*)  
Ji.hlava New Visions Forum: US Docs, 2022 (*Untitled Cruise Tourism Project*)  
Logan Nonfiction Fellowship, 2021 (*Untitled Cruise Tourism Project*)  
ITVS Special Projects Development Grant, 2020-2022 (*Untitled Cruise Tourism Project*)  
ITVS Co-Production Grant, 2016-2019 (*ATTLA*)  
Vision Maker Media Co-Production Grant, 2016-2019 (*ATTLA*)  
Alaska Humanities Forum Grant, 2015, 2016 (*In Attla's Tracks*, *ATTLA*)  
Enersen Foundation Grant, 2015 (*In Attla's Tracks*)  
Caucus Foundation Grant, 2015 (*In Attla's Tracks*)  
Diane C. Christensen Fellowship, 2013-2015 (*Stanford Tuition support*)

#### **ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY FILM WORK**

*(Unless otherwise noted, I am credited as the director, producer, cinematographer, and editor for each of these projects)*

*Untitled Cruise Tourism Project*, feature-length  
(in development & early production)

*Untitled PA Project*, short  
(in production)

*Attla*, 60 minutes, digital (2019)

Spanning his fifty-year dogsled racing career, *ATTLA* explores the life and persona of George Attla, from his childhood as a TB survivor in the remote Alaskan interior, to his rise as a ten-time world champion and mythical state hero, to a village elder resolutely training his grandnephew to run his dog team one last time.

*The Way Forth*, 65 minutes, digital, *cinematographer + editor* (2019)

Inspired by a treasure trove of family photos, documents, and letters, *The Way Forth* is a folk opera

and film that weaves through voices of generations of Kentucky women from 1775 to today.

Directed +

composed by Rachel Grimes

*In Attla's Tracks*, 23 minutes, digital (June 2015)

An aging Alaska Native dogsled champion trains his grand-nephew to carry on a century-old village tradition and compete in the world's largest dogsled sprint race.

*In Port*, 11 minutes, digital (June 2014)

With a few hours leave from their container ships, seafarers from around the world reflect on their lives away from home.

*Balancing Act*, 9 minutes, digital (March 2014), co-director

A portrait of an Oakland-based circus performer who tries to find his place historically, professionally, and personally.

*Counting the Dead*, 7 minutes, 16mm b&w (December 2013)

A former city librarian makes it her fifty year-long mission to account for those who died in the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire.

*Living in Paradise*, 40 minutes, digital, (2010)

Funding from John E. Linck III and Alanne Linck Summer Fellowship, Mellon Forum

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

COMM 242 - Basic Film and Video Production (Fall 2021, Spring 2023)

An introductory film production course in narrative, documentary, and alternative filmmaking

COMM 337 - Intermediate Documentary Production (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024)

An intermediate course for students to develop, produce and edit short documentaries

COMM 342W - Media Writing (Fall 2024)

AFS Bahrain Workshop - Part 1: Researching & Developing your Documentary Film Concept;

Part 2: The Documentary Film Proposal (November 2022)

A four-hour workshop for 18 Bahraini filmmakers sponsored by the US Embassy

AFS Ukraine Workshop - Shooting and Editing an Observational Documentary Scene (April 2021)

A masterclass designed to introduce both casual film viewers and aspiring filmmakers to the components of a strong observational scene in documentary filmmaking.

SAVC 242 - The Art of Video Editing (Spring 2021)

A post-production course where students learn to construct stories for documentary films through editing. The hands-on course covers in-depth knowledge of various editing styles, preparing a workflow, adding sound, music, and visual transitions. Lab-based assignments allow students to develop their skills outside of the class hours.

ENG 395 - Independent Study: Intermediate Documentary Study & Production Intensive (Fall 2019)

Working with two students to analyze an array of documentary films from around the world while working to produce documentary shorts of their own.

ENG 380 - Film and Genre: Appalachia through Documentary Film (Spring 2020)

Using Appalshop's films as a base to explore place-based filmmaking, course in collaboration with the 2020 Appalachian Studies Conference at UKY and working with archives & oral histories housed on campus

ENG 380 - Film and Genre: Documentary Shorts (Spring 2019)

An examination of documentary film shorts from around the world with an eye towards film techniques and structures. Concurrent with this study, students produce doc shorts of their own.

ENG 280 - Introduction to Film: Childhood in Cinema (Fall 2018, Fall 2019)

Introduction to formal film techniques through the examination of cinematic representations of childhood

"In Attla's Tracks - Production Process and Lessons," (April 2016, March 2017, October 2018)

Oakland Public School

Belmont Public Library's documentary film club

San Francisco State University undergraduate film class

"Case Studies of Language and Cultural Revitalization in Alaska" Lecture, (October 2014)

Lecture to Stanford undergraduate course on Decolonization

"Serge Daney and the Ethics of the Aesthetic" Lecture, (March 2014)

Lecture to Stanford undergraduate and graduate Film Theory class

"Unconventional Use of Narration in Documentary Film" Lecture, (February 2014)

Lecture to Stanford graduate class of MFA students

Guest Lecturer with Camp Reel Stories, Oakland, Summer 2016

Media Camp for girls and young women to promote female representation in front of and behind the camera in media

President of BOLD (Bilingual Tutoring Group) 2008-2009. Tutor, 2006-2010

Group of 40 Yale tutors for ESL students in New Haven Public Schools

CLS Spanish Tutor for Yale students, 2008-2010

Tutored 5 Yale undergraduate students in intro + intermediate Spanish classes

### **MENTORING: STUDENT AWARDS & SCREENINGS**

*Audience Award & 2nd Place Best Overall Award* at the UKY Film Festival, Fall 2019

-*Versailles, KY* by Nick Volosky

Selection at the UKY Film Festival, Fall 2019

-*Carts* by Jacob Reynolds

Filmslang Screening at the Lexington Public Library, July, 2019

-*The Band* by Nick Volosky

-*Impressions* by Jacob Reynolds

Selection at the UKY Film Festival, Spring 2019

-*The Band* by Nick Volosky

-*Impressions* by Jacob Reynolds

## **DOCUMENTARY FILM WORK EXPERIENCE**

Field Producer for Jamie Meltzer's *not even for a moment do things stand still*, premiered SXSW 2022

Additional Gimbal Cinematography for Melissa Langer's *In Excess*, 2025

Cinematographer & Editor for *The Way Forth*, March 2017-2019

A visual album for composer Rachel Grimes' new folk opera, *The Way Forth*, premiered in 2019 with continued performances in 2020-2022

Fine Cut Editor & Cinematographer for *True Conviction* by Jamie Meltzer, Fall 2015

Observational scene work & The Guardian excerpt editor

Editor & Cinematographer with Owsley Brown Productions, June 2015-February 2016

Editor & 2nd Shooter for PBS Digital Webseries, *Music Makes a City Now*

Line Producer/Associate Producer/ Assistant Editor with Dog Green Productions, Jan 2011-Sept 2013

*Underfire: The Untold Story of Pfc. Tony Vaccaro*, HBO 2016

*Morgenthau*, PBS 2014, New York Emmy Winner 2015

Post-Production Assistant with FOUR CORNERS MEDIA, June 2010-December 2010

Assistant editing work on feature documentary, *The Road to Nasiriyah*

Assistant editing/producing 3 news videos for Newsweek.com on 2010 elections

Assistant Editor Internship with Film@11.tv, November 2010

Post-production assistance for series on Haiti and Post-Earthquake aid funds

Assistant Editor/Production Internship with filmmaker, Stephanie Johnes, Summer 2010

Editing "webisodes" for promotion of feature documentary on underground art project

Production Assistant for *Cool It* with Ondi Timoner, Spring 2010

## **CORPORATE FILM WORK EXPERIENCE**

Editor, Teach For All, 2017

Edit short documentaries highlighting the international work of Teach For All

Video Production Specialist, SIMux, Google, Sept 2015-July 2016

Research, Produce & Edit short internal documentaries on Google projects

FitBit on the Pacific Crest Trail, August 2014

3 minute film filmed & edited to highlight use of FitBit technology

## **OTHER WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

Centre Film Festival 2022-24 - Programmer and Student Videography Coordinator

Anchorage International Film Festival 2020 & 2021 - Juror

Camp Strong - Intro to Film & PSA Production (Summer 2019)

Volunteer filmmaker instruction providing 20 elementary and middle school students in Lexington, KY an intro to filmmaking

Videographer & Mentor at Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Summer 2021 & 2014

Filmed and edited short film highlighting the students and their work during the 4-week long summer 2014 camp in Sitka, AK. Collaborated and mentored interns interested in filmmaking.

Created a film highlighting the 2021 Teacher Institute program training k12 teachers from AK and WI interested in arts integration in their classrooms

Board Member and Coordinator with Yspaniola 2006-2011

Yale student group turned 501c3 providing scholarship fund for higher education for Haitian/Dominican students in the Dominican Republic

State Department internship at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, Summer 2008

Recipient of the John Heinz Government Fellowship

Video Podcast Editor for Yale Entrepreneurial Society, Fall 2007

Center for Children and Families Development Center Spanish Data Collector, Fall '07

Intern at JUNTA, New Haven nonprofit with services for the Latino community, Fall '07

<b>SKILLS</b>	<b>Digital Media</b>	Adobe Creative Suite, Avid, Final Cut, Sound Editing, Color Correction, Video Projection
	<b>Production</b>	4K/HD Camera Cinematography, 16mm Bolex Cinematography, editing 16mm film on a Steenbeck, Dual-system Sound, Lighting
	<b>Languages</b>	Advanced Spanish, Advanced French, Intermediate Haitian Creole

**SELECT PRESS** *(with hyperlinks)*

Alaska Public Media: Attla documentary shows legend's last race, to teach dog mushing before he died

Outside Magazine: The 9 Outdoor Films We Loved Most in 2019

The Boston Globe: With brush, with bow, with sled

Outside Online: 'Attla' Tells the Story of Alaska's Native Mushing Hero

Colorlines: 'ATTLA' Tells the Story of an Alaska Native Dogsled Racing Hero

Indian Country Today: ATTLA: 'The greatest musher of all time'

Anchorage Press: Anchorage International Film Festival: Bringing it Home

The Delta Discovery: Attla: Filmmaker documents life of famed dog musher

KYUK: New George Attla Documentary Brings Together Community And Sled Dog Racing

KTVA: "ATTLA" film documents cultural impact of musher George Attla

Fairbanks Daily Newsminer: Attla legacy carries on in new documentary

Outside Online: The 6 Things You Need to Watch This Fall

Indie Wire: Independent Lens Announces 2019 Fall Lineup of Historical Docs Showing 'How We Got Here'

Anchorage Daily News: Another movie about Alaska mushing icon George Attla set for release next month

Anchorage Press: Heart of a Champion

High North News: George Attla: the greatest sports hero you've never heard of

Native News Online: New short film on George Attla

Alaska Humanities Forum: In Attla's Tracks

KQED Film School Shorts: Filming in 30 Below

Wear Your Voice: Discovering Native Alaska through Dogsledding

Anchorage Daily News: Filmmaker seeks home movies

United Nations Association: Presents SFIFF 59

Athabaskan Woman Blog: Be a Champion for ATTLA

Kickstarter Editor's Pick: ATTLA

Nashville Public Radio: A New Folk Opera Gives Voice to Generations of Appalachian Women

Louisville Magazine: Composer Uncovers Kentucky History Hidden by Prejudice

Leo Weekly: Rachel Grimes' new folk opera 'The Way Forth'