

ROLAKE BAMBOSE WHITAKER

FILM AND TELEVISION

WESTBROOK STUDIOS / CONFLUENTIAL FILMS / REI CO-OP STUDIOS & SHANGO LIGHT FILMS

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER, *UNTITLED FULL CIRCLE EVEREST DOC* | April 2021 – present

With directing and producing partner, secured access to film characters, self-financed written and visual development package for independent film. Pitched & secured financing & production partners. Documentary feature follows nine athletes as they shift the legacy in a white-dominated sport.

SHANGO LIGHT FILMS

FOUNDER | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER | DIRECTOR | January 2015 – present

Utilizing the knowledge from over 15 years of experience as a journalist and filmmaker I founded Shango Light Films. Through Shango Light I produce and direct compelling documentaries and short films that shine light on moments in cultural shifts, and varying experiences throughout the African diaspora and other marginalized communities. Member of the DGA, Producers Guild of America (PGA) and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS).

THIS MACHINE FILMWORKS for YouTube Originals

DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, *SUPREME MODELS* | January 2022 – November 2022

Director and executive producer for six-part series inspired Marcellas Reynolds' book *Supreme Models: Iconic Black Women Who Revolutionized Fashion*.

HAPPY STREET ENTERTAINMENT

SHOWRUNNER / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & CO-DIRECTOR | September 2020 – December 2022

Showrunner and creative collaborator with director and editorial team for fully authorized untitled 4-part documentary, chronicling 25 years of American history through the lens of The Oprah Winfrey Show, and Oprah Winfrey herself. | Directed by Kevin MacDonald

IMAGINE DOCUMENTARIES for HBO

PRODUCER, *THE DAY SPORTS STOOD STILL* | April 2020 – January 2021

Producer and creative collaborator with director, talent and editorial team for feature documentary chronicling the impact COVID 19 had on sports around the world. | Directed by Antoine Fuqua *2021 Critics Choice Awards Nomination: Best Sports Documentary*

IMAGINE DOCUMENTARIES for ESPN FILMS

SUPERVISING PRODUCER, *D. WADE LIFE UNEXPECTED* | July 2019 – February 2020

Creative collaborator with director and talent for feature documentary about 3x NBA Champion and All-Star, Dwyane Wade. Oversaw archival team and research and created editorial and production guidelines for shoots. Directed and managed crews in the field and simultaneous edits.

THE NEW YORK TIMES & LEFT/RIGHT TV for FX and HULU

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER, *THE WEEKLY* | November 2018 – July 2019

Directed and produced a one-hour film (broadcast special) for New York Times' debut documentary series. *2020 News & Documentary Emmy® nomination – Director/Producer, Outstanding Continuing Coverage of a Story in a Newsmagazine: "Connecting the World"*

VICE MEDIA for HBO

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR (FEATURES), *VICE NEWS TONIGHT* | August 2016 – November 2018

Founding producer and director for Vice News Tonight on HBO. Directed, developed, produced and wrote short films. Directed on-air talent, supervised and directed edit sessions. Managed budgets, multi-camera crews, APs and PA's. B-cam shooter on multi-camera shoots. *2017 News & Documentary Emmy® Nomination – Producer, Outstanding Feature in a Newscast: "Friday Night Lights" (Stand Up and Kneel)*

BRICK CITY TV / BLOWBACK PRODUCTIONS for PBS

PRODUCER, RIKERS | May 2015 – November 2016

Managed pre-production through film delivery for 70-minute feature. Identified and cultivated relationships with the social justice community in New York over 18 months. Conducted over one hundred interviews (casting & final), fact-checked individual stories, directed and field produced shoots and directed edit from start to completion. Film Premiere: 2016 DOCNYC Film Festival, Television Premiere: PBS

2017 Robert F. Kennedy Media Advocacy Award | 2016 DOC NYC Nomination: Metropolis Grand Jury Prize

ABC PRIMETIME SPECIALS

PRODUCER / WRITER | October 2014 – April 2015

Wrote and produced two two-hour primetime pop culture current affairs specials: “The Year: 2014 – Hosted by Robin Roberts”; “Countdown to Oscars: 15 Movies that Transformed American Cinema”

NBC NEWS / PEACOCK PRODUCTIONS

FIELD PRODUCER & ASSOCIATE PRODUCER | August 2011 – October 2014

Produced documentaries, investigative reports and current affairs specials for award winning network and cable clients. Wrote, researched and fact-checked scripts. Booked talent and conducted on-camera interviews, field produced multi-cam shoots.

ABC NEWS (NEW YORK BUREAU)

ASSIGNMENT EDITOR - NATIONAL & FOREIGN NEWS DESK | May 2010 – August 2011

Identified stories, executed coverage plans worldwide for all platforms. Monitored feeds, dispatched sat trucks.

OFF-AIR REPORTER / FIELD PRODUCER - NATIONAL NEWS DESK | June 2008 – November 2010

Coordinated and produced Good Morning America live shots, contributed to booking efforts for breaking news. Researched and booked interviews for day of air and future pieces, monitored feeds for World News Tonight.

EDUCATION

HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC

MASTER OF THE ARTS, MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA STUDIES – May 2008

EMORY UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA, GA

BACHELOR OF THE ARTS, SOCIOLOGY – May 2004

Study Abroad: University of Sussex (Brighton, England), Spring 2003

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

2021 CRITICS CHOICE AWARD NOMINATION

BEST SPORTS DOCUMENTARY, “THE DAY SPORTS STOOD STILL”

2020 NEWS & DOCUMENTARY EMMY® NOMINATION

OUTSTANDING CONTINUING COVERAGE OF A STORY IN A NEWS MAGAZINE

“CONNECTED TO THE WORLD” (FX / The New York Times)

2017 NEWS & DOCUMENTARY EMMY® NOMINATION

OUTSTANDING FEATURE STORY IN A NEWSCAST, “STAND AND KNEEL” (HBO / Vice Media)

2017 ROBERT F. KENNEDY AWARD

MEDIA ADVOCACY, “RIKERS”

2016 DOC NYC NOMINATION

METROPOLIS GRAND JURY PRIZE, “RIKERS”

ROLAKE BAMBOSE - SELECTED CREDITS

UNTITLED FULL CIRCLE EVEREST DOC (Documentary Feature) <i>**in post</i>	Director & Producer	Westbrook Studios/Confluent Films REI Co-op Studios Shango Light Films 2024
UNTITLED OPRAH WINFREY DOC (4-part Documentary) <i>**in post</i>	EP / Showrunner & Co-Director	Happy Street Ent 2024
SUPREME MODELS (6x30, Documentary Series)	Director & Executive Producer	YouTube Originals 2022
THE DAY SPORTS STOOD STILL (Documentary Feature) <i>2021 Critics Choice Nomination</i>	Producer	HBO 2021
D. WADE LIFE UNEXPECTED (Documentary Feature)	Supervising Producer	ESPN Films 2020
CONNECTING THE WORLD (Doc Series, S1, EP 7) <i>2020 News & Documentary Emmy Nomination</i>	Director / Producer	FX / Hulu & NYT 2019
LIFE AFTER CLEMENCY (Doc Series, S2, EP 86)	Director / Producer	HBO / Vice Media 2018
NO PLACE LIKE HOME: ADOPTEE DEPORTED (Doc Series, S1, EP 141)	Producer	HBO / Vice Media 2017
STAND AND KNEEL (Doc Series, S1, EP 20) <i>2017 News & Documentary Emmy Nomination</i>	Producer	HBO / Vice Media 2016
SOUTHSIDE TRIAGE (Doc Series, S2, EP 86)	Director / Producer	HBO / Vice Media 2016
RIKERS (Documentary Feature) <i>2017 Robert F. Kennedy Media Advocacy Award</i> <i>2016 DOCNYC Metropolis Grand Jury Nomination</i>	Producer	PBS / DOC NYC 2016
COUNTDOWN TO OSCARS: 15 MOVIES THAT CHANGED AMERICAN CINEMA (Television Special)	Producer & Writer	ABC Television 2015