

Kalimah Abioto

Filmmaker, Writer, Editor

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Video & Film, 2010

Hollins University, Roanoke, VA

Projects

September 2018 - **I AM: A Constellation** is a film installation commissioned by the STAX Museum and installed at Crosstown Concourse in Memphis, TN. The project was inspired by the WattSTAX concert and poem recitation: *I Am Somebody*. (Producer, Writer, Filmmaker)

March 2018 - **From Maxville to Vanport** project encompasses two short films: *Marjorie* and *Water*. These shorts were set to new music by the Portland Jazz and Composer's Ensemble and tell the story of Vanport, OR and Maxville, OR, two diverse communities in the 1920s and 40s that no longer exist. (Producer, Writer, Filmmaker)

June 2017 - December 22, 2017 **Black Genius** is a documentary exploring the universe and connection of the lives, passions, and voices of Black Memphians. Apart of Southern Documentary Film Fund's Fresh Docs Program at Indie Memphis Film Festival. (Producer, Writer, Filmmaker)

March 2017 **Sight (installation)** is a short sci-fi docu-fiction that follows three young gifted girls as they travel to different dimensions. An art and social practice film made in collaboration with artists throughout the Portland community (Producer, Writer, Filmmaker)

February 2016 **Vulnerable Portraits: Street Interviews**

When have you been most vulnerable? When did you choose to be most vulnerable? Vulnerable portraits is a compilation of street interviews about the most vulnerable times in our lives. A compilation of these videos was shown at *Race Talks* at the Kennedy School Theater in Portland, OR. (Producer, Writer, Filmmaker)

2008 **In Dreams** A Young philosopher explores questions of freedom through daily practices of donut consumption, bubble baths and enjoyment. Filmed in Memphis, TN with an Honorable mention from the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio and Apple Inc. (Producer, Writer, Filmmaker)

2007- 2009 **The People Could Fly Project** Served as producer, editor and videographer for the documentary aspect of The PCFP: a multimedia project documenting dreams of people in the African Diaspora. Filmed in New York, Los Angeles, Cairo, Egypt; Djibouti, Djibouti
Premiered the documentary at the Dumas Arts Festival, opening at Zilkha Gallery and publicized via *NPR Studio Virginia* Interview, *We. All. Be Radio* Interview, *The Tri-State Defender*, *Urban Science*, and *Carla Girl!* (Co-Producer, Co-Writer, Filmmaker)

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Freelance Production Works

April - June 2019 **Flowers for Hallie: Assistant Director (Theater)**

Served as Assistant Director on Southern Repertory Theater's (New Orleans, LA) play based on the life of Mahalia Jackson. <http://www.southernrep.com/flowers-for-halie/>

July - October 2017 ***The Fiercest Athletes of All Time*: (Director, Cinematographer and Editor)**

A short documentary on the making of a mural to commemorate amazing women athletes. The documentary chronicles the making of the mural by portrait artist Jeremy Okai and producer Zoe Piliafas. The video is currently showing at The Living Room Theater in downtown Portland, OR.

June 2016- Aug 2016, **Vox Siren, Produced by Her film Program (Mentor & Teaching Artist)**

Kalimah taught filmmaking and documentary skills to 11 girls ages 12-17 in a 5 week period. 4 documentaries were produced and shown at the Hollywood Theater in Portland, Or
Special editing, video and production credits for "We Are Black Women" film.

2016 **Oak Leaf Mobile Home Park Housing Rights Video (Videography, Editing, and Production)**

Videography, Editing, and Production for Housing Rights Video to protect a mobile home park from being sold to private developers in Portland, OR

2016 **Unchaste Readers Series Video (Director, Cinematographer and Editor)**

Produced Poetic Video for *Unchaste Readers Series*: An all women's reader's series that shares the writings and art of women writers, performers and spoken word artists in Portland, OR.

2014 **The Black Portlanders Video (Videographer, and Editor)**

Created the indiegogo video of *The Black Portlanders*, a photojournalistic project documenting Black people in Portland, OR.

2014 **The Distance Music Video: Producer, (Director and Editor)** for rap artist Rasheed Jamal's music video, *The Distance*.

June 2010-February 2011 **Afropop: (Videographer & Editor)**

Shot, edited, and co- produced videos for AfroPop Worldwide: a Not for Profit radio show and website devoted to World Music. Interviewed World Music Artists: Salif Keita, Cody ChesnutT, and others.

Oct. 2005 – Nov. 2005 **Ernest C. Withers, Civil Rights Photographer (Apprentice)** Memphis, TN

Learned photojournalism techniques, and invaluable history from legendary civil rights photographer Ernest Withers. Assisted in cataloguing photos and organizing studio.

Jan. 2008- Jan. 2008 **Miracle at St. Anna- A Spike Lee Film** (Production Assistant) Received on set experience working on a major film set as a production assistant on the New York shoot. Daily duties included locking down the set, running errands, and issuing call.

Awards and Honors

June 2017 Community LIFT Art and Social Practice Residency/ Grant

Kalimah Abioto was awarded a 3 month residency and \$10,000 through Community Lift and The National Endowment of The Arts to work with the residents of South Memphis. During that time, Kalimah began work on a docu-series and facilitated house shows and open mic nights called *The 1st and 15th*. These gatherings brought together artists and community members throughout Memphis to share their artforms. Kalimah is working on a documentary called *Black Genius* which is now in post production.

March 2017 Artist Residency and Grant

Kalimah was awarded a four month residency at Open Signal and a Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) Grant Award of \$5,000 to complete an experimental film work to be screened on a 75'x75' wall in the Night Lights series on March 2nd and again on March 22nd.

May 2008 Nicole Kohn Film Award

Hollins University: Given to exceptional filmmakers.

July 2008 Apple Inc. & Freedom Center Video Competition

Honorable Mention & Top 5 Finalist

Film Displayed on Apple Site and Freedom Center Website

Jan. 2008 Do-gooder Video Competition

Finalist of Fresh Focus Video Contest

Film featured on Website and Blog. Invited to premier film at their annual tech conference.

Film References

- **Leni Stoeva**

Community LIFT Creative Placemaking Grant Manager

Leni managed the Grant and Residency in Memphis

leni@communitylift.org 901 - 277-7573

- **Barbara Diamond**

Attorney/Film Producer at Diamond Law Portland, OR

Worked as a videographer and editor on a short video production in 2014

Email: Barbara@diamonddlaw.org, (503) 750-0244

William Glasspiegel

- Producer /Writer for Afro Pop Radio Segments New York, NY

Worked with William on the Shangaan Electro Afropop video in 2010.

Email: William.glasspiegel@gmail.com, (312) 636-779