

# David E. Elkins, soc

Camera Operator

First Assistant Cameraman

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## **Freelance Professional Motion Picture Camera Operator & Assistant Cameraman, 1985 – Present**

- Camera operator and first assistant cameraman on over one hundred twenty five 16mm and 35mm productions; productions included industrial and educational films, documentaries, public service announcements, commercials, music videos, television series and feature films.
- As camera operator worked closely with the director and director of photography to provide the proper composition for each shot. Worked closely with the first assistant cameraman and dolly grip during rehearsals to coordinate any focus or zoom changes and dolly moves required for the shot.
- As assistant cameraman I coordinated the ordering, preparation and testing of all camera equipment prior to filming. Responsibilities also included set-up and maintenance of all camera equipment during filming, supervision of the operation of the camera department and additional camera crew members during production and working directly with camera rental companies regarding the ordering of equipment needed for filming.

## **EQUIPMENT KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE**

Working knowledge of the following: 16mm and 35mm film camera systems - Aaton XTR-Prod, Arriflex I6S, Arriflex 16M, Arriflex 16BL, Arriflex 16SR2, Arriflex 16SR3, Arriflex 416, Arriflex Arricam, Arriflex 235, Arriflex 35-3, Arriflex 35BL, Arriflex 535, Cinema Products CP16, Eclair ACL, Eclair NPR, Leonetti Ultracam, Moviecam Compact, Moviecam SuperAmerica, Panavision Panaflex 16, Panavision GII, Panavision Golden, Panavision Platinum, Panavision Panastar, Panavision Panaflex-X. HD video camera systems – Arriflex Alexa, Panasonic HDX-900, Panasonic HPX-2700, Panasonic HVX-200, Sony PMW-EX3.

## **WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS**

### **Rule Boston Camera Learning Lab – August 2010**

Boston, MA

A two hour workshop on the fundamentals of the job of a first and second assistant cameraman on film productions. Topics included the basics of the job, how and why we do specific things, unions and the interaction between the camera team and other film crew members.

### **Connecticut Film Industry Training Program, July - August 2008, June 2009**

Middletown, CT

The CT FITP was designed to establish a skilled in-state film workforce, in order to provide incentive for producers to select Connecticut as a location for film and television. The state's strengthened production infrastructure will support a range of projects, making it easier for companies to carry out long-term productions in Connecticut. The FITP is designed for individuals who want to learn the basics of feature film and episodic television production and potentially pursue entry-level freelance work in the industry.

- Taught camera workshop, which was an intensive two-week workshop covering all aspects of the job of Director of Photography, Camera Operator, First Assistant Cameraman, Second Assistant Cameraman and Loader. Topics included camera prep and set-up, loading and labeling film magazines, following focus, slating shots, marking actors, filling out camera reports and inventory forms, and much more. Hands-on work using the Panavision Panaflex Gold Camera and Panasonic HDX-900 and HPX-2700 High Definition Cameras. At the conclusion of two weeks of intense training all classes came together to shoot a small production on location and in the studio.

**Boston Film & Video Foundation, July 1997, June-July 1998, July-August 2000,**

**June-July 2001**

Boston, MA

- Taught basic cinematography workshop, which was an introductory, course covering the basics of cinematography and filmmaking. Topics included film stocks, film formats, cameras, lenses, magazines, exposure, basic composition, basic lighting and film crew positions and responsibilities.
- Taught camera assistant workshop, an intensive two-day workshop covering all aspects of the job of first and second assistant cameraman. Topics included camera prep and set-up, supervising the camera department, loading and labeling film magazines, following focus, slating shots, marking actors, filling out camera reports and inventory forms, and much more.

**Panavision, Inc, 1992-1993**

Tarzana, CA

- Assisted in the teaching of a workshop on the setup and use of the Panavision 35mm motion picture camera system; course included instruction on setting up the camera, loading and threading film and troubleshooting problems.

**Panavision – Hollywood, 1991**

Hollywood, CA

- Assisted in the teaching of a basic second camera assistant course; course included instruction on basic set procedures, filling in camera department paperwork and loading film into the Panavision cameras.

**OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**Technical Copywriter/Editor for Canon Cinema EOS Lens Brochure, November 2012 – December 2012**

- Canon Cameras is one of the premier manufacturers of cameras and lenses and has recently introduced digital motion picture cameras. As part of their new camera and lens equipment they have introduced new lenses for use with Canon and all major film & digital film cameras. I was hired to write the technical material for the brochure introducing those lenses.

**Technical Copywriter for Panavision Inc Web Site, November 2010 – January 2011**

- Panavision Inc. is one of the leading manufacturers of motion picture camera equipment in the world. I was hired to write the technical descriptions of all Panavision equipment along with other rental equipment for their newly designed web site which launched in March 2011.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

International Cinematographers Guild (I.A.T.S.E. Local 600)  
Society of Camera Operators (S.O.C.)

## **ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS**

*The Camera Assistant's Manual*, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Editions, 1991-Present  
Focal Press, Boston, MA

*The Camera Assistant's Manual*, Korean Edition, 2009  
Focal Press

*The Camera Assistant's Manual*, Japanese Edition, 2004  
Focal Press & The Japanese Society of Cinematographers

*The Camera Assistant's Manual*, Spanish Edition, 1993  
Focal Press & Escuela de Cine y Video

*The Camera Assistant's Manual*, Spanish Edition, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2012  
Focal Press & Escuela de Cine y Video

*Camera Terms and Concepts*, 1993  
Focal Press, Boston, MA

Contributing writer to *Student Filmmaker Magazine*, November 2006 and March 2007 Editions

Contributing writer to the *Professional Cameraman's Handbook*, Fourth Edition, 1993  
Focal Press, Boston, MA

*Training Tomorrows Professional Filmmakers*, January-June 2002 Issue Operating Cameraman  
Magazine, Society of Camera Operators, Toluca Lake, CA.

## **CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS**

IATSE Local 600 – Red One Camera Workshop  
Wilmington, NC – February 22, 2009

Leading Edge Video – Red One Camera Workshop  
High Point, NC – September 2008

CAPPS – California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools  
Teacher Training Workshop – May 5, 1995

ACCSCCT – Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology  
Professional Development Accreditation Workshop – February 23-24, 1995

Career College Association Management Development Workshop  
January 21, 1995

CAPPS – California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools  
Teacher Training Workshop – November 12, 1993

CAPPS – California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools  
Teacher Training Workshop – April 30, 1993

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

### **University of North Carolina School of the Arts, 1997-Present**

School of Filmmaking  
Winston-Salem, NC

#### **Assistant Dean of Production, January 2004-Present**

- Responsible for student affairs, academic and socialization performance and directing students with disability issues to the proper resources.
- Dean's representative at weekly Production and Post Production meetings.
- Oversee all student productions.
- Principal liaison between the Office of the Dean and the Production Office.
- Assist the Director of Academic Programs in the discipline selection process for second year students.
- Assist the Director of Administration in the updating of policies and procedures in the school's Student Handbook and Safety Handbook.
- Responsible for the design and implementation of all production related forms used by the school.
- Work with the dean, associate dean and assistant deans to enforce and refine existing policies and regulations, including the handling of all student disciplinary matters.
- Serve on various faculty committees including Studio System, Curriculum, Admissions, Web Site, Archives, along with various faculty/staff search committees.
- Serve as Webmaster for the School of Filmmaking internal website.

#### **Interim Dean, September 2006 – May 2007**

- Manage and oversee the School of Filmmaking personnel and budget.
- Oversee all educational programs and curricular development.
- Promote the school locally and nationally.
- Work with the Chief Academic Officer and University Administrative Manager to recruit and maintain a diverse and professional faculty and staff.
- Work with Assistant Deans, faculty and staff to provide a smoothly functioning support system for the students and educational programs.
- Work with Assistant Deans, faculty and staff to administer the policies established for the school.
- Work with the Director of Academic Programs to recruit a student body of the highest caliber.
- Work with the Production Coordinator and Head of Post Production to oversee 200+ student films each year.
- Supervise the planning and maintenance of all School of Filmmaking facilities.
- Represent the School of Filmmaking effectively to the senior administration and the other schools at UNCSA.
- Oversee the planning and maintenance of all School of Filmmaking facilities.
- Serve as a member of the Chancellor's Administrative Cabinet.
- Promote creative collaborations with the Schools of Dance, Drama, Design and Production, Music, and the divisions of Undergraduate, Academic and Graduate Programs and Student Life.

**Cinematography Faculty Member, September 1997-Present**

- Teach introductory film production class to all freshman students; course involves introduction to basic film and video equipment, production techniques, safety and the fundamentals of cinematography.
- Teach advanced cinematography class to cinematography majors; course includes instruction on the setup and use of the advanced 16mm film camera that will be used for their thesis film along with instruction on the job responsibilities of each member of a professional motion picture camera department.
- Advisor/Mentor to approximately 10-15 students each school year. As advisor I meet with the students on a regular basis to discuss their progress in the program. Mentoring involves working directly with cinematography majors in the preparation and shooting of their third and fourth year film projects.
- Taught professional camera workshops on the setup and use of Panavision 35mm Motion Picture Camera.

**Department Chair, Cinematography, January 1999-Present**

- Attend meetings with the dean on behalf of the cinematography faculty.
- Coordinate monthly departmental meetings.
- Develop cinematography curriculum along with other faculty input.
- Approve syllabus and budget for all cinematography courses.
- Recommend new equipment purchases for the cinematography department.
- Prepare yearly budget for cinematography courses and equipment.

**Columbia College-Hollywood, 1988-1995**

Los Angeles, CA

**President, 1994-1995**

- Responsible for management and administration of technical college offering Bachelors and Associates degrees in film and television production.
- Presided over graduations, awards banquets and other official ceremonies.
- Chaired all meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- Officially represented the college at conferences and conventions.
- Communicated with other institutions of higher learning.
- Approved all expenditures involved in the daily operation of the school.
- Hired new staff and faculty as needed Faculty liaison to the dean for revising curriculum and developing new courses
- Coordinated and supervised the preparation of self-evaluation reports for both state and federal accreditation agencies.
- Established new policies and procedures for the school's equipment department. Implemented the change of operating hours and equipment check out times to better serve the students.

**Instructor, Cinematography, 1988-1995**

- Taught introductory cinematography class; course was a basic introduction cameras, lenses, film stock, filters, light meters, f-stops, composition and lighting.
- Designed and taught an assistant camera course which was an in-depth discussion of the job responsibilities and duties of an assistant cameraman on any film crew.
- Initiated and negotiated for the acquisition of professional camera equipment for demonstration and use by the students.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Bachelor of Arts, Cinema, Cum Laude, 1985**

Columbia College – Hollywood  
Los Angeles, CA

### **Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics, 1976**

University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT

## **HONORS and AWARDS**

### **Excellence in Teaching Award, 2001**

North Carolina School of the Arts School of Filmmaking  
Winston-Salem, NC

### **Doctor of Humane Letters (Honorary), 1994**

Columbia College – Hollywood  
Los Angeles, CA

### **Most Distinguished Alumni, 1991**

Columbia College – Hollywood  
Los Angeles, CA

### **Instructor of the Year, 1989**

Columbia College – Hollywood  
Los Angeles, CA