

# RYAN FENTON-STRAUSS

## EDUCATION

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**Chapman University School of Film and Television**, Orange, CA  
Master of Fine Arts, Production 2001

**Brandeis University**, Waltham, MA  
Bachelor of Arts, Theatre 1996

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**University of Southern California**, USC Shoah Foundation: Institute for Visual History and Education, Los Angeles, CA 2021-2024

### **Interim Director of Media and Archives**

Oversee Collections and Media Curation including the Dimensions in Testimony project for interactive biographical testimonies; acquisition and collection of new testimony collections including the Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 Hamas Attacks on Israel, The Last Chance initiative for recording Holocaust survivor testimonies; and video content creation of educational and promotional videos for advancing the programmatic needs of the institute.

**University of Southern California**, USC Digital Repository and USC Shoah Foundation: Institute for Visual History and Education, Los Angeles, CA

- Oversaw the collection of 400 testimonies from survivors and witnesses to the Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Hamas Attacks on Israel
- Oversaw the collection of 500 testimonies of survivors of the Holocaust
- Oversaw the innovation of the Dimensions in Testimony Interactive systems, leveraging the latest AI developments to enhance user experience and ensure product sustainability
- Lead a content creation team in the development of education and promotional content including immersive technologies
- Initiated a program to modernize the testimony capture, preservation, and indexing infrastructure so that the USC Shoah

Foundation is poised to launching large scale global testimony initiatives

2003-2021

### **Video Archive and Post-Production Manager**

Manage numerous digitization and preservation projects for USC Digital Repository overseeing projects for many clients including the Department of Defense, The Academy Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, Warner Bros, and Go For Broke.

Manage a production and post production team which is responsible for the preservation of and access to a collection of more than 55,000 audio visual testimonies of survivors and witnesses to the Holocaust and other genocides. Develop new processes for acquisition.

- Manage a team of video production and post production professionals and a large team of student workers each semester
- Design workflows and software requirements to integrate testimonies from other genocide related archives
- Design workflows to preserve content acquired by the USC Digital Repository
- Manage software development of physical and digital asset management systems, workflow management tools, and online access tools including the USC Digital Repository Management system (DRMS)
- Oversee systems integration projects to expand throughput of preservation post-production infrastructure
- Oversee numerous projects and ensure project implementation, including reporting on outcomes, budgets, and billing
- Develop procedures and policies related to the preservation of content
- Produce educational documentary shorts to support the mission of the USC Shoah Foundation
- Designed a volumetric capture system for acquiring content for the *Dimensions in Testimonies* interactive testimony project

- Managed preservation project to migrate 235,000 analog tapes to a digital archive
- Developed new restoration approaches to correct improperly recorded video
- Oversaw a mass restoration project of over 13,000 tapes
- Oversee the customer service and fulfillment of access requests for educational institutions, museums, archives, documentary filmmakers, and individuals
- Design and develop audio/visual integration plans for museum exhibitions of the *Dimensions in Testimony* project.

**Chapman University**, Lawrence and Kristina Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, Orange, CA 2006-2008

### **Adjunct Faculty**

#### Courses:

##### *Introduction to Visual Storytelling*

Through production exercises, lectures, and class discussions, students explore the expressive visual and aural elements that comprise narrative motion pictures with an emphasis on creating emotional connections between character and audience. This course helps students learn techniques to create and illustrate involving and dimensional stories. Students learn the art of collaboration, critical skills, and strategies which are necessary for their growth as filmmakers.

##### *Introduction to Editing*

The course introduces students to non-linear picture editing. During the semester, students learn the mechanics and aesthetics of how to tell a story with images and sound. Students discuss the history and basics of editing and learn many of the technical requirements of post-production.

**Joe Biden, 2008 Presidential Campaign,** 2007

Created twelve short videos which were featured on joebiden.com and fund-raising emails.

**June Beallor Productions,** Universal City, CA 2003-2005

**Freelance Editor**

Short documentary segments for 2008 and 2004 Democratic National Conventions, 77<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards, and Black Entertainment Television

**Medior Entertainment**, Huntington Beach, CA

2000

**Editor**

## FILMOGRAPHY

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- *Inside Kristallnacht*: Director, an XR exploration of the Night of Broken Glass in partnership with the Claims Conference, UNESCO, Make Me Pulse. Slates to be released October 2024
- *Paint as You Like*, , Producer, Director, and Editor of feature length documentary film. Winner Best Director of Feature Documentary at 2018 Idyllwild Film Festival
- *Rescue*, travelled to Rwanda to film and edit stories of rescuers during the Rwandan Tutsi Genocide, produced by Aegis Trust and USC Shoah Foundation
- *About IWitness*, Director, short supplementary video for distribution with *Schindler's List* Blu-ray
- *Everything in It*, feature screenplay, Screenwriter
- *The Marriage of Figowitz*, Semifinalist for Fade In 2002 Screenwriting Award, Screenwriter
- *Heads Up*, short film, Writer, Director, and Editor
- *Last Laugh*, short film, Writer, Director, and Editor
- *Herman?*, short film, Writer, Director, and Editor
- *Your Wife's Pregnant*, short film awarded \$5000 by Chapman University, Writer, Director, and Sound Designer
- *Vice President Joe Biden*, short video for 2008 Democratic National Convention produced by June Beallor Productions, Second Editor
- *Johnny Carson Memorial Tribute*, short video for 77<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards produced by June Beallor Productions, Second Editor
- *John Kerry: Defender of Equality*, short video for 2004 Democratic National Convention produced by June Beallor Productions, Editor
- *Education Superhighway*, Public Service Announcement for [educationsuperhighway.org](http://educationsuperhighway.org), played at the White House, Writer and Director
- *USC Digital Repository Promotional Video*, Promotional Video Featured on [repository.usc.edu](http://repository.usc.edu), Director and Producer

- *One Voice at a Time*, Public Service Announcement for USC Shoah Foundation to air to on Comcast Channels, Director of Photography and Editor
- *You Only Have What You Give Away*, Promotional Video featured on [usc.edu/vhi](http://usc.edu/vhi), Director
- *IWitness Teaser, What is an Archive?, What is Testimony?, What is Search*, short videos featured on [iwitness.usc.edu](http://iwitness.usc.edu), Producer, Director, and Editor
- *Teaching with Testimony Series (2010, 2011, 2012), Testimony and Scholarship*, short videos for USC Shoah Foundation website, Director and Producer
- *Rwandan Awareness*, short video presented at 2007 Ambassadors for Humanity fundraising event for USC Shoah Foundation, Editor
- *Running for your Life*, 30 second ad that was finalist for Organizing for America healthcare video challenge, Co-Creator
- *Flip Decision*, 30 second ad for Joe Biden Presidential Campaign, aired on Chris Mathew's Hardball, Writer, Director, and Editor
- *Popularity Contest, The Next Great President, A Clear Voice*, 30 second ads for Joe Biden Presidential Campaign, Writer, Director, and Editor
- *New Hampshire, Steak Fry, Changing Course, Education President, Health Care, Joseph Biden: FYI, Iowa*, short videos for Joe Biden Presidential Campaign, Writer, Director, and Editor
- *Love Thy Neighbor*, short film, Editor
- *Bybee*, short film, Editor
- *The Fridge*, short film, Editor
- *From Her Mouth*, short film, Writer, Director, and Editor

## MEDIA COVERAGE

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- *The Jerusalem Post*, *USC Digitally Remasters Holocaust Testimonial Tapes* by Sam Sokol
- *Wired Magazine*, *Video Restoration Innovation Restores Holocaust Testimony*
- *We Are Moving Stories*, *Idyllwild Film Festival Best Director Documentary Feature – Paint as You Like*, *Interview with Writer/Director/Producer Ryan Fenton-Strauss*
- *Picture This Post*, *Paint as You Like Film Review – Ryan Fenton-Strauss' Personal Documentary* by Brent Ervin-Eickhoff