



## Suree Towfighnia

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### OBJECTIVE

to make media that is powerful and has impact

### VIDEO PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

#### Non-Profit and Organizations, Director and Producer (2004-present)

- Director/DP, *Weight of A Nation Documentary Assessment* [Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children / Dell Foundation]
- Director / Producer, *Railroaders Exhibit* at the Chicago History Museum [Media Monster]
- Media Producer / DP / Editor, *What's Your Calling?* companion videos PBS series *The Calling* [The Kindling Group]
- Director/ Editor *Women For Obama*, Obama for America campaign video [Obama for America]
- Field Producer and Sound Recordist for *Who Needs Sleep?* Chicago Unit [Haskell Wexler]
- DP/Editor, Video series for Healthcare Reform Campaign [Center for Community Change]
- Director/DP, *Chicago Run: A Fast Track to a Healthy Life*, fundraising and educational video [Chicago Run]
- Director/DP, Snow City Arts Foundation videos [Snow City Arts]
- Director/DP *Healthy Co-Parenting for Teens* [Illinois Dept. Human Services]
- Director/DP, *Project AIM: Artists Mentoring Teachers*, arts integration in Chicago Schools [See 3 and CCAP]
- Producer *Silent Crisis: Financial Elderly Abuse* [Illinois Dept. on Aging]

#### Feature Documentaries, Director/Producer and DP (2001-present)

- *Crying Earth Rise Up*, (2015) about the human and environmental impact of contemporary uranium mining [a Prairie Dust Films collaboration w/ Vision Maker Media and distributed by NETA]
- *Four Days in Chicago* (2013), directed by Haskell Wexler about his return to Chicago for the populist mobilizations during the 2012 NATO convention, Producer and Camera
- *Standing Silent Nation* (2007) about a Lakota family's battle to grow industrial hemp on the Pine Ridge Reservation [a Prairie Dust Films collaboration w/Vision Maker Media and broadcast on POV]
- *The Calling* documentary feature, Mexico segment, Director of Photography [The Kindling Group]
- *The Hands of Ricci*, feature on violin prodigy, Director of Photography [Stratavaria Society, Geoffrey Fushi]

#### Corporate, News and Advertising Agency Work (1999-present)

- Camera/Editor Ehtnography [Black Raspberry Consumer Insights, Buchanan Group, Portico Research] • Director/DP/Producer/Freelance Editor, commercials and short videos, Chicago [Coil, Counts, Ford, and Cheney] • News Camera Person, freelance camera and live-truck operator, Chicago 2004-2005 and Sacramento, CA 1997-99 [Univision Channel 66 & 19] • Field Producer, *Objetivo Fama* [Univision and Telefutera] • Multi-camera video recording of live Stratavaria Society violin performances [Bein and Fushi].

#### Documentary Educator: Faculty, Master Classes, Teaching Artist, Artist-in-Residence (1999-present)

- Current Instructor "Introduction to Documentary Writing" [ASU online] • Master Class Instructor, Documentary Intensive Workshop [EICTV, Cuba] • Documentary Curriculum Development Trainer for non-profits [See3] • Adjunct Faculty at Columbia College Chicago, Producing the Documentary, Documentary I, Music Documentary (created) Visualizing the Documentary (created) courses • Technical Coordinator of Michael Rabiger Center for Documentary [Columbia College Chicago] • Media Trainer/Facilitator for Moccasins on the Ground non-violent direct action trainings [Owe Aku] • Director Lakota Media Project, a Prairie Dust Films & Owe Aku mentorship initiative for youth and women on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, 2003-present. • Teaching Artist, collaborated with elementary students/teachers to create short videos [CCAP] • Filmmaking Artist-in-Residence to hospitalized children [Snow City Arts] • Artist facilitator documentary exchange Chicago/Isle of Wight, England [Latino Art Beat].

## EDUCATION

**Columbia College Chicago**, MFA recipient (emphasis documentary film / directing ), **12/2005**  
**University of California, Santa Cruz**, BA History, BA Latin American Studies, **6/1995**

## SPECIAL SKILLS

Spanish fluency, crabbitamera operation [HD, Digital SLR, DV, Betacam, Super 8], lighting, multi-camera productions, writing/storytelling, directing, producing, budgeting and scheduling, interviewing, archival research, digital editing [Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere, Avid Media Composer and Express, basic AfterFX], lgrant writing, sound recording (Shure Mixer/lavs/stereo mics), field producing, and studio directing

## PRESENTATIONS AND DIRECTED EVENTS

- Storytelling Development/ Media Training for Youth, Gila River Indian Community, June 2015, Trainer/Organizer
- “Through the Lens: The Role of the Documentary in Society” presentation by Suree Towfighnia , Perspectives @ East-West University
- Moccasins on the Ground, Frontline Direct Action media trainer, 2013-present
- From Pine Ridge to Chicago: A Celebration of Environmental Activists and Their Work, Creator, 2011
- Environmental Film Forums: A series of screenings and events in New York, Chicago and on the Pine Ridge Reservation to bring community dialogue into the environmental movement, Organizer, 2010-present
- Unite to Fight, Lakota School of Liberation: Teach workshops in “Documenting a Movement from Within the Movement”, “Media Literacy” and “The Role of Media in Social Activism”, Instructor, 2006-present
- Silent Nation Project: Three events to support positive social change and consumer choices, Creator, 2008
- “Lost in Translation” workshop developer to Teaching Artists with Center for Community Arts Partnership. Interactive workshop takes participants through the things that are lost when we don’t speak out language, Creator, 2009
- Sister Cities: Lahore / Chicago Sister Cities, Presenter of film section on diversity, 2012
- Cinema Slapdown, Exit Through the Gift Shop, debated in favor of artist rights, Columbia College Chicago, 2011
- Niles North High School: Regular Guest Lecturer to American Studies and Environmental Science classes and social justice club, WHO, Presenter, 2008-present

## PUBLICATIONS

“Developing a Short Film: From a Humble Concept to the Big Screen”, AIMprint, New Relationships in the Arts and Learning, 2008.

REFERENCES AND LINKS TO WORK AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST