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Meet the 2012
Digital Video All Stars

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2012

2012 DIGITAL VIDEO ALL STARS

We'd like to congratulate the recipients of the 2012 *Digital Video* All Star Awards. Introduced to recognize video professionals for their passion and creativity, as well as their ongoing commitment to the production community, the *Digital Video* All Star Awards are presented yearly to a select group of individuals or filmmaking teams. The editors of *Digital Video* magazine and DV.com agree that the creative efforts of these pros consistently produce innovative, uncommon results.

It's important to emphasize that these All Stars are immensely generous with their knowledge, expertise and talent. They're active and participatory members

in their community, which is critical as production techniques and technologies are constantly evolving. The All Stars share their experiences, post reviews and sample footage, offer advice, speak at events, and donate their time and talent to worthy causes.

Each of our All Stars demonstrates a dedication to his or her community; you can find Tom Lowe conducting video tours of his 4K editing setup for *TimeScapes*, Tom Guilmette posting the results of various camera tests, Shane Hurlbut tirelessly—and candidly—discussing his use of DSLRs to shoot *Act of Valor*, or Patrick Moreau initiating the "Share" video program that donates time and gear to, as he says, "tell a story that could use our help to

get a wider audience or recognition."

That said, we'd like to introduce you to this year's All Stars, although you may have already met them, seen their work and learned from them:

Cristina Valdivieso and Jon Connor
Tom Guilmette
Shane Hurlbut, ASC
Vincent Laforet
Tom Lowe
Patrick Moreau
Kevin Shahinian

Digital Video All Stars profiles written by Jennifer Wolfe

Marshall Electronics Congratulates Vincent Laforet and the entire Video All Star Class of 2012

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Commitment in the field of
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CRISTINA VALDIVIESO AND JON CONNOR



Jon Connor (left) and Cristina Valdivieso

toolkit

- Canon EOS 5D and 7D
- Miller DS-20
- Lexar Professional FireWire 800 card reader
- Roland R-44 field recorder
- RØDE Microphones NTG-3 shotgun mic
- Lowel Rifa
- ARRI three-piece light kit
- Kessler Crane Pocket Jib
- Kessler Crane Pocket Dolly
- Glidecam HD-4000 camera stabilizer
- Zacuto Z-Finder
- Singular Software PluralEyes
- Leatherman multitools
- Red Giant Magic Bullet Suite
- Kessler Crane iPhone App

Philadelphia-based filmmaking duo Cristina Valdivieso and Jon Connor met six years ago, while Valdivieso was studying photography and Connor was working in the commercial video industry. The couple's work covers many genres, including documentary, commercial and event filmmaking, and they've worked for high-profile clients including NBC, CBS, Showtime and Primetime. In 2011, Valdivieso and Connor were named on *Event DV* magazine's Top 25 list of the hottest and most influential wedding and event filmmakers.

Together, Valdivieso and Connor run ShootEditLearn.com, an educational web site they use to share their knowledge with the filmmaking community. The pair also conducts educational tours across the United States with corporate partners including Kessler Crane and Zacuto; they recently announced a three-day intensive workshop in Austin, Texas, in December with digital cinematographer Philip Bloom, DP Alex Buono and Light Iron colorist Ian Vertovec, among others.

In 2009, the duo was hired by British pay-per-view channel Primetime to shoot a pilot for the

roundtable sports show *World's Greatest Ever* using the Canon EOS 7D camera. Primetime tapped them again in 2011 to shoot a knockout promo for the highly anticipated boxing match between Amir Khan and Zab Judah. Valdivieso and Connor shot the promo with Canon 7D and Canon EOS 5D Mark II cameras, traveling to Los Angeles to shadow Khan and his family for four critical training days before the match.

Earlier in 2011, Valdivieso and Connor spent a week in Kivalina, Alaska, some 80 miles above the Arctic Circle, to document the impact of climate change on the indigenous Alaskans faced with moving their entire village to higher ground because of rising sea levels and storm-related erosion. Shot with the 7D, the project was included in the February debut issue of the Episcopal Church's Wayfarer iPad app, which tells compelling stories through video, photographs and words.

According to Valdivieso and Connor, the ongoing success of their filmmaking partnership is based on their ability to be honest and open with one another. "When you work with someone you don't know very well, you feel limited about

how honest you can be," says Valdivieso. "That's what I love about working with Jon—we can be completely open with each other."

Connor urges aspiring filmmakers to stay hungry. "You have to constantly put yourself out there and work really hard," he says. "Nothing in this industry is going to come easy, and if you just sit around and wait for an opportunity to present itself, it's never going to happen. Work hard and don't get too discouraged when you fail, because it will happen, but you have to learn from those mistakes and keep going."

"When people feel like they've already learned everything they need to learn, that's when they are at their weakest and that is when they fail," Valdivieso adds. "Stay humble, and never stop learning." **dv**

online

shooteditlearn.com/blog

[@shooteditlearn](#), [@jonconnorfilms](#),
[@cristinavaldivi](#)

vimeo.com/canonfilmmakers

TOM GUILMETTE



Tom Guilmette



toolkit

Sony PDW-F800 and PMW-F3 cameras with AJA Ki Pro drive

RED ONE Mysterium-X camera with Super 16mm to B4 lens adapter

Canon EOS 5D Mark III camera with BeachTek DXA audio adapter

Kessler Crane Stealth slider, ORACLE motion control system and KC-12 crane

Sony UWP wireless systems with TRAM Microphones TR50 mics

Vinten Vision, Vision blue and Vector tripods

Kino Flo Diva-Lite 400 and ARRI 150, 300, 650 Fresnels

Anton/Bauer HyTRON 140 NiMH and Bebob 190

lithium ion batteries

GoPro HD HERO2 POV cameras

Letus Shane Hurlbut Master Cinema Series DSLR kits

Fujinon HDTV zoom and Carl Zeiss Compact Prime CP.2 lenses

Vocas MB-325 mat-box with Tiffen and Schneider filters

Apple Mac Pro and MacBook Pro with Adobe CS6

G-Technology hard drives

Pelican hard cases and Petrol bags

Boston-based director of photography and documentary filmmaker Tom Guilmette became a proponent of the DSLR movement in 2009, when, inspired by Philip Bloom's work with the Letus 35mm still lens adapter, he began to use the Canon EOS 5D Mark II for short film and music video projects.

Guilmette began his career as a sports television camera operator and has worked in the professional sports market for more than 10 years, covering nearly 1,000 games for the Boston Red Sox and many other sporting events throughout the United States, including the Olympics, Super Bowl and World Series.

Attracted by the DSLR camera's large sensor and low-light capabilities, Guilmette quickly discovered other advantages to capturing video with a still camera body. "Most people have no idea I am recording video, which allows me to shoot in tight or restricted places," he says. "DSLR technology has completely changed how I shoot documentaries. These inexpensive cameras are more light-sensitive than the human eye and they

help me tell a story using shallow depth of field."

Most recently Guilmette teamed up with National Geographic for its new web series, *Beyond the Puck*. The 10-episode series, shot entirely on the 5D Mark II, offers a glimpse into the sustainable lifestyle of eco-warrior and NHL hockey player Andrew Ference.

Guilmette also recently started experimenting with high-speed cameras from Vision Research. His 2011 video "Locked in a Vegas Hotel Room with a Phantom Flex" went viral when it was posted online, generating more than three million views on Guilmette's Vimeo channel alone.

"I shoot professional sports and follow fast-moving objects, so 30 frames a second is not enough," Guilmette says. "I started working with the Phantom Flex camera shooting at 2,500 fps in full HD. It's mind-blowing. You can see the bend of a hockey stick as it connects with the puck, or bits of dirt suspended in air as a bike tire rips through a berm."

Guilmette plans next on taking his talents into nature documentary filmmaking, hoping to

capture stunning high-speed footage of wildlife.

Guilmette is dedicated to sharing the results of his experimentation, and his web site, tomguilmette.com, is a rich resource that offers filmmaking tutorials, webcasts, equipment reviews and ongoing documentation of his work experiences. "It's important to post your work on the web—everyone in this business should do it—but it's more than that; it's about participating in conversations that are online, feeding off inspiration, hooking up with companies to improve products and contributing to the global filmmaking community."

Guilmette's best advice: "Stop trying to buy the newest camera—get out there, shoot with what you've got and tell the world a story." **dv**

online

www.tomguilmette.com

@tomguilmette

vimeo.com/letus

SHANE HURLBUT, ASC



toolkit

35mm film
ARRI Alexa
Canon Cinema EOS-1D C
Canon EOS 5D
Canon EOS 7D
Canon Cinema EOS C300
Letus Shane Hurlbut Master Cinema Series DSLR kits
SmallHD DP6 monitor and DP4 EVF
Tiffen WW ND filters
Panavision Primo lenses
Leica R lenses
HP DreamColor LP2480zx professional monitor
OConnor 1030HDs fluid head and 2610 ball mount
Anton/Bauer DIONIC 90 battery
BarTech Engineering remote follow focus
Duclos Cine-Mod still lenses
Zacuto EVF
Kino Flo lighting
Blackmagic Design DaVinci Resolve
Blackmagic Design external recorder
GoPro camera



For Shane Hurlbut, storytelling always trumps technology. But he's no slouch when it comes to trying out new things—the renowned cinematographer's latest film, *Act of Valor*, is the first HD/SLR-shot full-length feature to be released by a major studio. Directed by Scott Waugh and Mike McCoy of Bandito Brothers, nearly 70 percent of the narrative film, which details the covert operations of a group of U.S. Navy SEALs, was shot with Canon EOS 5D Mark II cameras.

Hurlbut works with a contagious level of passion and excitement. Always seeking new challenges, he isn't afraid to try new things. He pushes boundaries and seeks to inspire the community of his peers, fans and readers to do the same. "When I told people I was shooting a feature on a 5D, everyone said that was impossible," he laughs. "That's when I knew I was going in the right direction."

About *Act of Valor*, Hurlbut says the goal was to reinvent the action genre. "I don't like to do the same thing twice," he comments. "I had already done a big action blockbuster with *Terminator*

Salvation, so I really didn't want to do another action picture unless I could reinvent the style. I think this film did that. It feels immediate, it feels visceral, it feels immersive. You become emotionally invested in the characters and their journey. You are one of the SEALs on that mission."

In 1998, Hurlbut was recognized by the American Society of Cinematographers for his work on the HBO film *The Rat Pack*, directed by Rob Cohen. Over the next decade Hurlbut lensed 17 additional features, including *Terminator Salvation* and *We Are Marshall* (both directed by McG), *The Greatest Game Ever Played* (Bill Paxton director) and *Drumline* (Charles Stone III director). Hurlbut also shot the soon-to-be-released crime thriller *Deadfall*, directed by Stefan Ruzowitzky and starring Eric Bana, Olivia Wilde, Charlie Hunnam, Sissy Spacek and Kris Kristofferson.

A member of the ASC and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Hurlbut is also among a select group of cinematographers recognized by Canon as an Explorer of Light and

by the Tiffen Company as an ImageMaker. A passionate speaker, he has been sharing his filming experiences for years on the HurlBlog, where he details the lessons learned from *Act of Valor* in order to inspire young filmmakers. "These are very exciting times, and it's wonderful that we have these tools that enable filmmakers who would otherwise never have a voice."

While Hurlbut recognizes the democratization of filmmaking that DSLR cameras enable, he urges aspiring filmmakers to thoroughly learn their craft. "Going to film school teaches many life lessons," he says. "Become a responsible adult first, a filmmaker second." **dv**

online

www.hurlbutvisuals.com/blog

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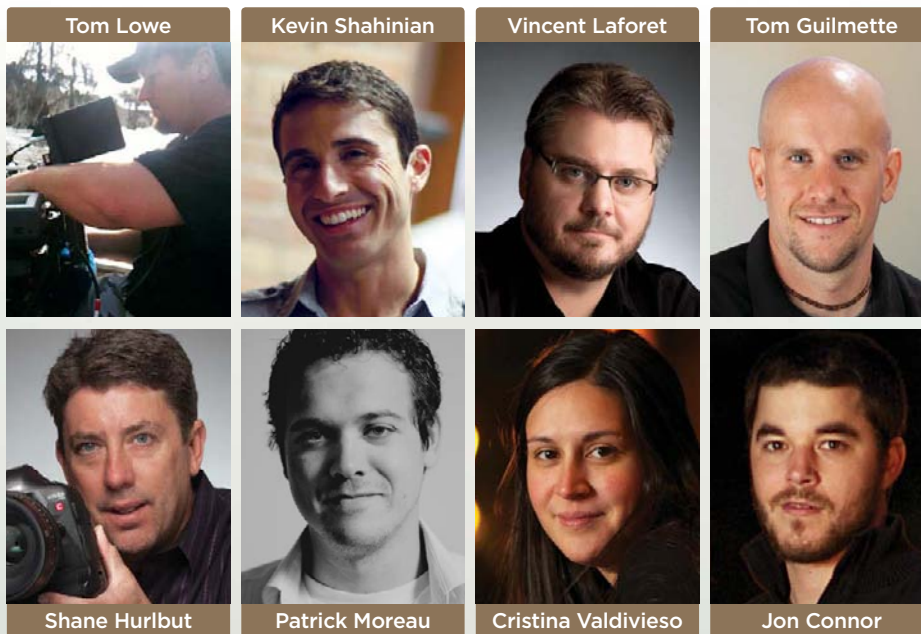
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VINCENT LAFORET



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Canon Cinema EOS C300	Canon TC-80N3 Timer Remote Controller
GoPro HD Helmet HERO	LPA Design
Canon EF lenses	PocketWizard MultiMAX wireless triggering system
Carl Zeiss Compact Prime CP.2 lenses	Schneider Optics 4" x 5.6" HD ND set (0.3-1.8)
Litepanels 1x1 Bi-Focus LED	Petrol Bags PD510 DSLR Plus Rain Cover
Litepanels Sola 6 Fresnel	G-Technology G-DRIVE mobile (500 GB)
Litepanels Croma	Lexar Professional UDMA Dual-Slot USB Reader
Sekonic L-758Cine DigitalMaster light meter	G-Technology G-SAFE RAID-protected storage system (2 TB)
Cinevate Atlas 30 camera slider	AJA Ki Pro Mini compact field recorder
Cinevate Atlas 200 camera slider	Adobe Creative Suite 5 Production Premium
Kessler Crane Stealth slider	Red Giant Magic Bullet Suite
Kessler Crane CineSlider	Singular Software PluralEyes
Kessler Crane Pocket Jib	Squared 5 MPEG Streamclip video converter
Porta-Jib Explorer by Losmandy	Kenyon Laboratories/Aerial Exposures ATM Gyro Stabilizer
Zacuto Z-Finder EVF Pro	Glidecam HD-4000 camera stabilizer
Marshall Electronics V-LCD651STX-HDA	Glidecam X-10 support vest
Marshall Electronics V-LCD70XHB-HDIPT	Manfrotto Magic Arm
Redrock Micro micro-MatteBox	Manfrotto 501HD head
Redrock Micro microFollowFocus v2	Manfrotto 546B tripod
Redrock Micro micro-LensGears	OConnor 1030HD fluid head
OConnor O-Box WM set	VBag camera support pad
OConnor O-Grips	
16x9 Cine Lock mount	
View Factor Studios Contineo 5D/7D Powered Cage	
View Factor Studios Origo start/stop switch	

Awards and accolades underscore the career of director, DP and photographer Vincent Laforet, who is renowned for his groundbreaking use of tilt-shift techniques and aerial photography, as well as for his pioneering work shooting HD video with DSLR cameras.

Laforet has directed and shot numerous commercials and short films, including "Reverie," the first movie to be shot in 1080p with a still photo camera. Widely recognized as one of the films that helped launch the HD/SLR movement, "Reverie" received more than two million views within the first week of its release online in 2009.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, Laforet has been commissioned by just about every important international publication, including *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *Life*. In 2005, *American Photo* named him one of the 100 Most Influential People in Photography, and his work has been recognized in the *Communication Arts* and *PDN* annuals and by the World Press Photo Awards, the Pictures of the Year Competition, the Overseas Press Club and the National Headliners Awards, among others.

Laforet began his photography career at the age of 15. He started as a photojournalist, honing his abilities by landing internships with newspapers such as the *Los Angeles Times* and with Reuters. By the time he was 25, he had established himself as

the youngest staff photographer for *The New York Times*; by the time he left, he had a Pulitzer Prize for feature photography under his belt.

His combination of candor and expertise has made him highly sought after as a consultant for companies including Apple, Canon, Manfrotto, Lexar, X-Rite and Carl Zeiss. In 2010, as the director on the groundbreaking *The Story Beyond the Still* competition, which he spearheaded with Grey Advertising to promote Canon's EOS 7D and 5D Mark II DSLR cameras, Laforet was honored with gold, silver and bronze awards in the titanium category at the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival.

In 2011, Canon tapped Laforet for the launch of the company's first cinema camera. Using the Canon Cinema EOS C300, Laforet shot and directed the short film "Möbius," which premiered at Paramount Studios for an exclusive filmmaking audience that included Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard, Robert Rodriguez and J.J. Abrams.

Laforet speaks to the importance of striking the proper balance with technology: "One very important point is that toys should never eclipse content. While I can at times become obsessed with *how* something is done, I never lose sight of the fact that the main goal should be *why* it is done. I come from a pretty strict journalism background where we were taught that content and ideas are king. I'm a firm believer in that." **dv**

online

blog.vincentlaforet.com

[@vincentlaforet](https://twitter.com/vincentlaforet)

vimeo.com/laforet

TOM LOWE

PHOTO BY CHRIS MIERZWINSKI



toolkit

RED EPIC-M
Canon EOS 5D Mark II
ARRI Master Prime 16mm
Kessler Crane CineSlider
camBLOCK three-axis motion control dolly
Manfrotto 536 CF sticks
Manfrotto 535 CF sticks
Kessler Crane KC-12 12-foot crane
Kessler Crane Shuttle Pod
Kessler Crane Pocket Jib
Manfrotto RC4 quick-release plate
Tamrac Adventure 9 backpack
SanDisk 90 MB CF cards
Kendrick Astro Instruments Firefly lens warmer
Budweiser Light Lime

Named the 2010 Astronomy Photographer of the Year by the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, Tom Lowe is an acclaimed time-lapse shooter, cinematographer, photographer and director. His latest work, *TimeScapes*, is an exquisite portrait of our planet shot in 5K resolution and the first movie available to consumers at 4K. The stunning 48-minute documentary is available on iTunes in 1080p or can be downloaded from Lowe's web site, timescapes.org, in 1440p. To see the film in its full 4K glory, the 160 GB Cineform 4:2:2 format file is available for purchase on a USB drive.

"4K resolution is super important to me," says Lowe, a former writer and veteran of the U.S. Army who served in the first Persian Gulf War. "Everything that I did in this film was done in a way so I could shoot, edit, color correct, finish and play the film in 4K."

Shot with Canon EOS 5D Mark III and RED EPIC cameras, *TimeScapes* is the culmination of Lowe's experiments with time lapse that he has conducted since 2006. Inspired by night skies while camping near California's Mt. Whitney, Lowe began to develop his time-lapse technique using a Canon EOS 350D camera before moving on to the 5D and RED EPIC cameras once they became available.

"When the 5D came out, it was a complete game-changer," Lowe says, referring to the camera's 3200 ISO image sensor. "I took it out to Joshua Tree National Park and mounted it to the windshield, put the car in low gear and starting driving through the desert. It was the first time anyone had done this type of astro drive-lapse, and it only worked because of the camera's high sensitivity."

The short films caused a sensation when they were released on the web, and since then Lowe's work has appeared in international television commercials as well as various BBC, History Channel and Discovery Channel shows. Lowe has collaborated with Terrence Malick, shooting time-lapse footage of starry night skies for the celebrated director's *Tree of Life*, and served as second unit director and director of photography on Godfrey Reggio's forthcoming *The Holy See*.

Lowe's work with time-lapse cinematography has completely changed the field. "When I started doing this in 2006, you could count the number of time-lapse photographers on one hand," he comments. "There were no off-the-shelf systems you could buy. I had to build



Tom Lowe

everything from scratch, and I even hired a local blacksmith to help me make the dollies and other gear I was using. Fast-forward to 2011 and 2012 and now I know five or six people who are full-time time-lapse photographers, traveling around the world shooting everything from feature films to ESPN tennis matches, music videos and reality shows." **dv**

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timescapes.org

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vimeo.com/timescapes

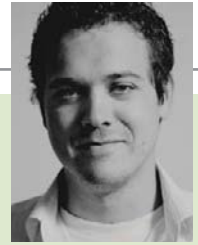
facebook.com/timescapes

PATRICK MOREAU



toolkit

Manfrotto 561BHDV-1
fluid video monopod
Cinevate Atlas 30 camera
slider
Kessler Crane Stealth (with ORACLE controller)
Steadicam Zephyr
Cinevate Simplis HDSLR rig
Zacuto Z-Finder
RØDE Microphones VideoMic Pro
Triplt trip planner app
Sun Seeker sun direction app
SMAPP
Profoto ProDaylight Air HMI (with Cine Reflector)
Kino Flo 4Bank Select
Litepanels 1x1 Bi-Color LED
Canon 14mm f/2.8 lens
Canon 24mm f/1.4 lens
Canon 35mm f/1.4 lens
Canon 50mm f/1.2 lens



Patrick Moreau is part of stillmotion, a creative collective whose goal is meaningful storytelling. Based out of Mountain View, Calif., and Toronto, the stillmotion team includes Patrick and wife Amina Moreau, along with Justin DeMers, Joyce Tsang, Ray Tsang, Paul Los, Evan King and Alicja Parlak. While stillmotion got its start years ago in wedding videography, their journey has taken them all over the world, including the sidelines of the Super Bowl and behind the scenes with the Army and Navy football teams for a feature-length documentary with CBS and Showtime that recently won three Sports Emmy Awards.

In 2010, stillmotion caught the attention of the NFL for its 12-episode series *The Season*, an unprecedented view of the NFL season, from the first kickoff to the final whistle. While a team of wedding filmmakers might not seem like the logical choice, it was stillmotion's storytelling approach using HDSLR cameras that got them the job.

"When we choose tools, we're thinking about not only about the story we're telling but the experience [the cameras] provide and the way they

allow us to tell these stories," Moreau comments. "People know about DSLR technology because of the image quality, but what we are really drawn to is the intimacy and how, as a camera operator, you can disappear so that the subject has no awareness of the camera."

Following *The Season*, director Pete Radovich tapped stillmotion to shoot the 2011 Showtime/CBS documentary *Game of Honor*, which chronicles a year in the lives of freshmen on the football teams at the U.S. Naval Academy and at West Point, culminating in the celebrated Army/Navy football game. The feature, shot mostly with the Canon EOS 1D Mark IV, was nominated in 2012 for eight Sports Emmy Awards, including Outstanding Camera Work, and won three awards, including Outstanding Sports Documentary.

stillmotion's signature style has drawn the attention of, and sponsorships from, Tiffen, Cinevate and Canon. The stillmotion blog, stillmotionblog.com, provides information to aspiring filmmakers, even answering questions submitted by readers.

Last year stillmotion introduced the "Evolution Experience," a series of three-day

intensive workshops designed to foster a better understanding of the art of filmmaking, and the experience has been such a success that workshops often sell out within the first 48 hours.

This year stillmotion will release an iOS app, SMAPP, chock full of tools and tutorials to help filmmakers understand the choices they make.

Moreau urges aspiring filmmakers to find their voice. "The more you understand yourself, the more you can tell original stories. To us, filmmaking and strong storytelling really comes down to understanding all of the elements. Knowing your audio, lights, lenses, movement and, in turn, what those aspects say, as well as knowing what you're about, and then being able to see what makes your characters different will allow you say anything." **dv**

online

stillmotionblog.com

@stillmotion

vimeo.com/stillmotionfilms

facebook.com/youarenottattle

KEVIN SHAHINIAN



Kevin Shahinian



toolkit

Bogen/Manfrotto carbon fiber tripod and fluid head
Steadicam Flyer
Jimmy Jib Triangle
Glidecam HD-4000 camera stabilizer
Cinevate Ballare dolly
Cinevate mattebox and follow focus
Zacuto EVF
Zacuto Z-Finder
Kessler Crane Pocket Dolly Traveler
Kessler Crane Pocket Jib
Zoom H4n field recorders
Olympus handheld field recorders
Microphone Madness MatchStick lapel mics
FloLight MicroBeam LED light
Lowel Pro-light kit

Kevin Shahinian is an award-winning filmmaker, graduate of the USC School of Cinematic Arts and founder of Los Angeles-based boutique production company Pacific Pictures, which produces live event, corporate and original concept projects for clients around the world. His groundbreaking work has been featured in *EventDV*, *HDVideoPro*, *Videography* and *American Photo* magazines, among others, which has led to partnerships with such companies as Canon, Adobe, Zacuto, Kessler and Cinevate.

Shahinian was featured in Zacuto's original web series *FilmFellas* (discussions with influential and emerging new filmmakers making, creating and challenging the independent film scene), and he has been voted one of *EventDV* magazine's Top 25 most influential event filmmakers in the world numerous times. But perhaps the highest praise of all comes from DSLR proponent Philip Bloom, who

calls him "one talented bastard."

"Flawless," Shahinian's concept film shot with a Canon EOS 5D Mark II, was widely praised when it was presented at the 2011 NAB Show. It continues to inspire HDSLR filmmakers with its high production values and lush cinematography. A bold mix of action and romance, the film's production spanned four nights on location in Los Angeles and included the use of a process trailer, a Porsche Cayenne stunt car and Gemini crane for a police chase scene.

Shahinian attributes his breakthrough work to his deep-rooted ties to storytelling. "It's the medium itself, and my respect for the medium, that drives and inspires me," he says. "The power to capture our dreams and relive memories is what I think film is all about, and exploring those themes is what I try to do in my work."

Combining fiction and documentary filmmaking gives Shahinian a unique perspective as a filmmaker.

"Having come from a traditional production background, it was natural for me to try to infuse fiction into a documentary piece," he comments. "Live events, about real people and things, help me break down the role of fiction to understand which type of narrative best represents an historical event."

It's safe to say that we can continue to expect innovative work from Shahinian. "We try to do something new and different with every project," he says. "Pushing the boundaries with no precedent can be scary, but hugely rewarding when you're successful." **dv**

online

www.pacificpictures.net

[@kevinshahinian](https://twitter.com/kevinshahinian)

vimeo.com/channels/pacificpictures