

MATT SZYMANOWSKI

Filmmaker + Content Creator

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FILM + COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE

FOUNDER & LEAD CREATIVE @ WOLVES FILMS

2012 – present

Lead producer and creative working with brand clients, startups, and production companies to offer creative video production services and strategy.

PROLONGED CAMPAIGNS

Eventbrite (as producer)	10 promo videos with budgets between \$2.5k and \$40k	2013 – 2017
PillDrill	8 promo videos with budgets between \$5k and \$40k	2015 – 2017
Storytellers for Good	7 promo social doc videos with budgets between \$4k and \$10k	2013 – 2015

SELECT CLIENTS

HTC, CBS, Stanford University, SF Chronicle, Bosch, Edelman PR
Palantir, William Morrow Publishing, Penguin Books, Eventbrite

CREATIVE PRODUCER, BRANDED ENTERTAINMENT @ STORIES INTERNATIONAL

Feb 2016 – Oct 2016

Expanded branded entertainment division, acquired new business, managed existing clients. Developed, pitched, and produced campaigns for various global clients. Worked with creative management clients and creator network to pitch and execute campaigns.

PRODUCER @ CBS INTERACTIVE

Sept 2011 – Sept 2012

Worked on webby award winning video team, handling all video production aspects, including delivery for distribution ready channels across affiliate networks.

WEB + MEDIA ADVISOR @ HARMONY PROJECT SF (MUSIC TEAM)

Sept 2014 – Jan 2016

Harmony Project SF changes the lives of underserved children by engaging them in an intensive, multi year after school program of music education and performance based on the highly acclaimed international music education system called El Sistema. I oversaw, advised, and implemented all media related content (photos, videos, web), outreach and design related matters.

FEATURE FILMS

GLORIOUS EMPIRE (2019)

In development | dramatic thriller
Executive Produced by Andre Gaines
Produced by LAVA FILMS
Writer | Director

What begins as a modern-day love-story, turns into a psychodrama about a duplicitous psychopath wreaking unthinkable deception on her unassuming partner.

THE PURPLE ONION (2015)

75 minutes | dramatic comedy

Distributed by Cinemation Studios

Writer | Director | Producer | Editor

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/movie/the-purple-onion/id1226275977>

Inspired by the standup acts of real life Chinese American comedian Edwin Li, a young man in San Francisco spirals downward into disappointment until he finds solace in a brief sexual encounter with an older woman to whom he may or may not be related.

Screenings + Awards

World Premiere - Cinequest Film Festival 2014

Asian American International Film Festival in NYC 2014

Austin Asian American Film Festival 2015

Seattle Asian American Film Festival 2016

Long Beach Indie Film Festival 2016

The Indie Gathering Film Festival 2016 - Best Comedy Drama Feature Film Award

Underground Film Festival in Italy 2016

Comedy Cluj International Film Festival in Romania 2016

Laugh or Die Comedy Fest 2017 – Nomination for Best Lead Actor Award to Edwin Li

SELECT SHORT FORM

SLOVAKIA (2009)

22 minutes | RED camera

Writer | Director | Co-Editor

<https://vimeo.com/13403234>

A woman on the verge of a crisis is captivated by the charm of a young and attractive home appliance salesman in spite of her seemingly stable home life.

Awards + Festivals

Gdynia Festival of Polish Film 2009 (Premiere National Polish Festival in Poland)

Kino Polska – Polish National Distribution on National Television Channel

The Seventh Eurochannel Short Films Tour - Program 7

HISTORY OF SOLITUDE (2008)

32 minutes | 16mm

Writer | Director | Producer | Editor

<https://vimeo.com/8726504>

“The ache of a relationship slowly disintegrating is honestly and vividly captured in this road movie with no clear destination.” – Audrey Change | San Francisco International Film Festival 2010

Screenings + Awards

Gdynia Festival of Polish Film 2009 (Premiere National Polish Festival in Poland)

Warsaw International Film Festival 2010

The Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival 2010

San Francisco International Film Festival 2010

Tirana (Albania) International Film Festival 2010

ÉCU – The European Independent Film Festival 2010 – Won Special Jury Audience Award

SILENTIUM DEI (2015)

15 minutes | RED Epic

Producer | Actor

<https://vimeo.com/134808115>

Silentium Dei is a single and continuous long take film about ritual, chauvinism and human brutality. Inspired by true events, the film sets forth after a country wedding where a group of men take part in a strange celebration.

Screenings + Awards

THESS International Short Film Festival 2016 - Won Cinematic Achievement Award
Los Angeles Film and Script Festival, US 2016 - Won Festival Prize Best Experimental Film
Raindance Film Festival 2015 - Nominated Jury Prize Best Short Film
Brooklyn Film Festival 2016 - Nominated Festival Award Best Experimental Film
Busho, Budapest International Short Film Festival 2016 - Nominated BuSho Award
Eindhovens Film Festival 2016 - Nominated Golden Wing Best Cinematography
Fargo Film Festival 2017 - Nominated Best Student Film Student Film
Oakland International Film Festival 2017 - Nominated Jury Award Best Short Film
Tirana International Film Festival 2016 - Nominated Best Student Film Best Student Film

SELECT MUSIC VIDEOS

- 2013 *DO YOU REMEMBER* – DELTRON 3030
5 minutes 25 seconds | Producer
"Deltron 3030's New Video for "Do You Remember" Is a Beach Party Featuring a Wheelchair Rocketship"
Premiered on Noisey
https://noisey.vice.com/en_us/article/mgdx6/deltron-3030-do-you-remember-video-premiere
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54l0aJH7r0A>
- 2010 *SUMMERTIME BABY* – THE HOLDUP
4 minutes 5 seconds | Director, Producer, Editor
Premiered on MTV & VN
https://wn.com/the_holdup_summertime_baby_official_music_video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZCeMHHcmY0>
- 2014 *SADIE* – ASTRONAUTS, ETC
3 minutes 24 seconds | Director, Producer, Editor
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOSANnchRs>
- 2015 *SKELETONS* – TRAILS & WAYS
4 minutes | Director, Producer, Editor
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0KqoIG4lCo>

SELECT COMMERCIALS

- 2017 PillDrill Brand Anthem | Spot
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6Aj_0UDQZ8
Director, Producer, Editor
- 2017 PillDrill Demo | Spot
<https://vimeo.com/221850013>
Director, Producer, Editor
- 2017 PillDrill Series | Docu-style Promo
<https://vimeo.com/227819205>
Director, Producer, Editor
- 2016 Eventbrite Organizer App | Spot
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqrhMcxU8K0>
Producer
- 2015 Eventbrite – Where Are My Tickets? | Spot
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WA8HZ8Lycno>
Producer

- 2014 Eventbrite Donnie Disco Case Study | Spot
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqrhMcxU8K0>
 Producer
- 2015 Daughter of Deep Silence by Carrie Ryan | Book trailer
<https://vimeo.com/130722901>
 Director, Producer, Editor
- 2014 StarMaker Interactive Brand Anthem | Spot
<https://vimeo.com/99464057>
 Director, Producer, Editor
- 2014 The Cherry Harvest a novel by Lucy Sanna | Book Trailer
<https://vimeo.com/131108720>
 Director, Producer, Editor
- 2013 SF Gate Mobile App Launch | Spot
<https://vimeo.com/85322625>
 Director, Producer, Editor
- 2013 Larkin Street Youth Services Agency Video | Docu-style Promo
<https://vimeo.com/144828479>
 Director, Producer, Cinematographer, Editor
- 2010
 SELECT CBS INTERACTIVE | CHOW.COM / CHOWHOUND
 Cooking With Grandma - Chinese New Year with Grandma Ruby
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PvgpDexwlg>
 Cinematographer, Editor
 Cooking With Grandma - Making Jam with Grandma Kathy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8rv07ueE68>
 Editor
 You're Doing It All Wrong - How to (Properly) Eat Sushi
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-fYp_N9kX4
 Editor
 The Perfect - Ricotta Cheese
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xGpBxY5mTo&t=11s>
 Editor

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL OF DIGITAL FILM – San Francisco, CA

Instructor

Sept 2011 – Nov 2015

<http://www.sanfranciscofilmschool.edu>

A nationally accredited educational institution specializing in the training and development of film and media professionals. I taught at every level, in each program, from the flagship 18 month program as core teacher, down to all the smaller programs, including: 12 month, six month documentary track, three month, five week, and one day workshops.

COURSES TAUGHT

- 101 Intro to producing & directing: Montage & fiction
- 102 Creative writing: Intro to screenwriting
- 103 Intro to digital cinematography
- 104 Intro to the craft of editing
- 202 Advanced creative writing
- 106 Psychology and the creative mind
- 206 History of film
- 301 Commercial producing & directing
- 302 Advanced screenwriting
- 401 Advanced producing & directing
- 402 Business of film

JUNE JORDAN SCHOOL OF EQUITY – San Francisco, CA
Film Instructor

March 2015 – May, 2015

I lead an afterschool film program called “The Film Ensemble” where in a group students created a short film, getting hands on experience in each aspect of the filmmaking process.

ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE SCHOOL – Lodz, Poland
English Language Instructor (all levels of proficiency)

Jan 2005 – June 2009

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

826LA – Los Angeles, CA

Writing Mentor

<http://826la.org>

June 2017 – Present

A Los Angeles-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting students ages 6–18 with their creative and expository writing skills and helping teachers inspire their students to write.

EACH ONE REACH ONE – San Francisco, CA

Playwriting Mentor

<http://www.eoro.org>

Sep 2011 – Oct 2016

EORO is dedicated to divert incarcerated youth from a life in prison to become productive community members. As mentor I worked one-on-one with youth under the guidance of a playwriting instructor to write original, one-act plays. The program teaches youth tools of improvisational acting, sensory exercises, dramatic language and structure.

Bay Area Video Coalition (BAYCAT) – San Francisco, CA

Reach Out Program Creator and Lead Producer

<https://baycat.org>

Sept 2015 – Dec 2015

Reach Out was a pilot video project based on plays written by incarcerated Bay Area youth within the nonprofit Each One Reach One. The goal was to partner incarcerated youth with non incarcerated youth enrolled in the BAYCAT summer programs, and with guidance from professional media makers as advisors and consultants, create an animated online series.

SAN FRANCISCO FILM SOCIETY aka SF FILM | Mentorship Program – San Francisco, CA

Film Mentor

<http://sffilm.org>

July 2014 – October 2014

The now defunct Mentorship program supported aspiring youth filmmakers (ages 16-18) by pairing students with a filmmaker, who provides ongoing mentorship in both filmmaking and career building over the course of several months. As mentor I provided a total of 30 hours of one-on-one guidance to a young filmmaker developing and producing their own short film project.

INTERNING

DAVID E KELLEY PRODUCTIONS – Manhattan Beach, CA

Corporate Intern

Aug 2004 – May 2004

TV Production Company won Emmys for both *outstanding drama series* and *outstanding comedy series*, for *The Practice* and *Ally McBeal*. Other series include *Boston Public* (2000-2004) and *Boston Legal* (2004-2008), which starred James Spader and William Shatner. I aided with administrative tasks for executives and writers.

EDUCATION

Emerson College – Boston, MA MFA Candidate Writing for Film and Television	Aug 2017 – April 2019
National Polish Film School – Lodz, Poland Certificate in Directing for Film, TV, and Theatre	Sept 2005 – June 2007
Loyola Marymount University – Los Angeles, CA BA Humanities (History Emphasis)	Sept 2002 – May 2005
De Anza College – Cupertino, CA AA Cinema	Aug 2000 – June 2002

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS

2018	Sundance Screenwriting Lab Invitation to Apply (invite only session) (<i>Glorious Empire</i>)
2017	New Horizons Studio+ 2017 (<i>Glorious Empire</i>)
2014	IFP Emerging Narrative Labs Shortlist 2014 (<i>The Purple Onion</i>)
2012	Berlinale Talents
2012	MacDowell Artist Colony Fellow
2012	Berlinale Talent Project Market Finalist 2012 (<i>The Purple Onion</i>)
2011	Sundance Screenwriting Lab Finalist 2011 (<i>The Purple Onion</i>)

ORGANIZATIONS

Writers Guild of America West - Independent Writers Caucus
IFP Independent Film Project
San Francisco Film Society (SF FILM)
Film Independent (Los Angeles)

FILM JOURNALISM + CREATIVE WRITING

Filmmaker Magazine Featured Guest Articles

Part 1 – In Pursuit of The Purple Onion

<http://filmmakermagazine.com/61404-in-pursuit-of-the-purple-onion/#.WdRD9xNSwUE>

Part 2 – Five Lessons From a Work-In-Progress Screening

<http://filmmakermagazine.com/85560-five-lessons-from-a-work-in-progress-screening/#.WdRD7xNSwUE>

Part 3 - Just Let Go Already! 12 Takeaways After Making the Microbudget Feature, The Purple Onion

<http://filmmakermagazine.com/100621-just-let-go-already-12-takeaways-after-making-the-microbudget-feature-the-purple-onion/#.WdRD8hNSwUE>

Part 4 - After Letting Go: How Walking Away from My First Film Led to Distribution and then Development on my Next

<http://filmmakermagazine.com/102438-after-letting-go-how-walking-away-from-my-first-film-lead-to-distribution-and-then-development-on-my-next/#.WdRD9BNSwUE>

Film Courage - Sundance Lab American-Chinese-European Co-Production Slated For Shooting. Or Is It?

<http://filmcourage.com/2012/12/29/sundance-lab-american-chinese-european-co-production-slated-for-shooting-or-is-it/>

Cupertino (Novel)

Available on Amazon Kindle <http://amzn.to/2xRNvwW>

Cupertino is a vivid tale of troubled adolescents and misfits. This raw portrait of a lost generation traces the lives of teenagers and their experiments with vices of all kinds, struggles with family and one another, as they succumb to passivity, self destructive and often heartless nihilism.

Short Fiction

2007 Loma Prieta and the Meaning of Everything

<https://smokebox.net/past-issues/2005-2006/loma-prieta-and-the-meaning-of-everything/>

2007 Moving Bodies and Light (Excerpt from novel *Cupertino*)

<https://smokebox.net/past-issues/2007-2009/moving-bodies-and-light/>

SELECT FILM REVIEWS, PRESS & INTERVIEWS

The Purple Onion

Review by David Conrad at FlickChart

<http://www.flickchart.com/blog/ranking-the-austin-asian-american-film-festival-part-2/>

"A perverse, Asian-American Napoleon Dynamite"

Review by Taylor Boswell at Shuffle Online

<https://shuffleonline.net/2015/11/19/aaaff-2015-the-purple-onion-is-masterfully-crafted/>

"Masterfully Crafted"

Review by Frank Scheck <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/purple-onion-film-review-811842>

Podcast by JJ and Greg from Film Geek Army

<http://filmgeekarmy.com/ep-43-the-crater-in-the-front-yard-episode-with-special-guests-matt-szymanowski-edwin-li-from-the-purple-onion/>

Interview by Lights Camera Austin

<http://www.lightscameraaustin.net/matt-szymanowski-november-2015.html>

Review by Ashley Lewis from NY Daily News (online)

<http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/purple-onion-premieres-asian-film-festival-article-1.2298280>

Spot by NY Daily News (print)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1AEOImVd98SUpVXc1XzdxQmFqWjlzc2l6Z2hLb3lSYjFR/view>

Review by Lucky Girl Media

<https://luckygirlmedia.wordpress.com/2015/08/03/film-festival-review-the-purple-onion-aaiff-asian-cinevision-nyc/>

Review by Stephany Bai from NBC News

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/it-s-human-story-purple-onion-play-seattle-film-festival-n514806>

Review by Yayoi Lena Winfrey from the International Examiner

<http://www.iexaminer.org/2016/02/in-review-three-films-spotlight-asian-american-male-angst/>

Press by Jenni Lee on KVUE NBC (TV spot)

<http://www.kvue.com/entertainment/events/asian-american-film-festival-in-austin/28171536>

Review and interview by Michał Kaczoń from FILM.com.pl (Polish language)

<http://film.com.pl/aktualnosci/10021661/The-Purple-Onion-debiut-Matta-Szymanowskiego.html>

History of Solitude

Interview by European Independent Film Channel

<http://euroifc.com/interview-with-matt-szymanowski-director-of-history-of-solitude/>

Review by Aleksandra Jaloszynska from the Gdynia Film Festival Gazette (Polish)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1AEOImvVd98SUpVXc1XzdxQmFqWjlzc2l6Z2hLb3lSYjFR/view>

General

Interview by Eurocircle

<http://www.eurocircle.com/euro/matt-szymanowski-polish-american-filmmaker-currently-based-in-san-francisco/>

SELECT ADDITIONAL FACTS

- DUAL CITIZENSHIP - USA | Poland
- BILINGUAL - Native Speaker English | Fluent Polish
- EXTENSIVE TRAVEL
 - Lived on three continents, traveled throughout Europe, visited 25+ countries
- OPERATIONS MANAGER @ SHANGRI-LA FURNISHINGS, LTD Aug 2003 – Sept 2004
 - Guangzhou, China + Rancho Cucamonga, CA

REFERENCES

Available upon request