



ELSA VALDEZ

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Dean of System-Wide Programs, Academic Department Director
Digital Cinema & Video Production-Adjunct Professor
AI Hollywood
January 2019 – May 2019
Hollywood, CA

**Dear Director Dean of System-Wide Programs, Academic Department Director
Digital Cinema & Video Production-Adjunct Professor
AI Hollywood
January 2019 – May 2019:**

I am writing to apply for the position of Digital Cinema & Video Production-Adjunct Professor. I am a professional filmmaker with an emphasis on directing, cinematography and editing. As well as a current adjunct professor at Cal Arts University and a certified Kundalini Yoga teacher and Shaman. I am confident that my teaching experience and professional experience as a professional filmmaker make me an ideal candidate for your open position.

Over the past 5 years I have taught a variety of subjects to a vast, variety of students of all ages. I have taught Kundalini Yoga (Yoga of Awareness) which focuses on calming the mind and utilizing the mind to serve us and to manifest our desired results. I teach lighting for film workshops at two different universities. I teach the basics of cinematography to inner city, middle school girls at Bethune middle school in Los Angeles, Ca through the She Sees Film Program. In 2017, I was hired as an adjunct professor at Cal Arts University in Santa Clarita to teach - Intro to DSLR, Sound and Compression (Cannon 5D Mark 2 and 3) recording and in 2018 to teach -Intro to Post production work flow, editing and sound editing with Premier. I pride myself on creating a creative, organic, organized, focused and collaborative classroom setting all the while accommodating the needs of my students. I am currently the fall semester, guest artist in residence at Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Michigan teaching cinematography and post production/editing.



One of my most satisfying experiences as a teacher is watching the evolution of that lump of clay the student starts out with. Whether that lump of clay is lighting a scene, editing a 30 second piece for days on end, or telling a story through the lens it begins with a blank canvas. What's important is to follow through to the end. To express the inspiration, intention, and goal to the end. To witness the process and evolution of creativity, art and higher learning. To tell their story in their words, from their heart.

Not only does my teaching experience suit the needs of your school and department but my professional background as a filmmaker adds real life experience. I began as a wedding photographer, videographer and editor. I am proficient in Adobe Premier and Final Cut Pro as an editor. I am proficient in a variety of camera formats both digital and film. I began as a linear editor and photographer over twenty years ago and worked for several production companies before going to film school. I have a great knack for telling a story. Directors, cinematographers and editors are essentially story tellers. I base the foundation of teaching digital cinema and video production on the fundamental unit of the sequence. The shot. Every shot must incorporate emotion, tone, story point of view, camera point of view, internal, external rhythm, theme and genre. It is from this clear understanding of story foundation that cinema is born and video production can begin as students learn to make equipment choices based on a clear understanding of the story being told. I am a professional cinematographer, gaffer, focus puller and camera operator. I am a professional director. Essentially, I am a story teller as all filmmakers are.

I feel it is essential to start every project by setting an intention, being clear and organized about what your ending is and maintaining ones' vision. I believe my background as a kundalini yoga teacher gives me the ability to accomplish this balance and support that the students will appreciate as they learn who they are through their authentic voices. Patience and perseverance are essential for an artist to be successful as well as an appreciation for one's self and our differences so that we can share our vulnerabilities and strengths with the world through masterful and engaging storytelling.

I am confident that my teaching and professional experience as well as my vast skill level all make me an excellent candidate for the Digital Cinema & Video Production-Adjunct Professor position.

Sincerely,

Elsa Valdez