

HEATHER CASSANO

Documentary Filmmaker & Artist

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EDUCATION

Emerson College (Boston, MA)— M.F.A. Film & Media Arts

AUGUST 2014 - MAY 2017

Studied with John Gianvito, Paul Turano, and Marc Fields.

Elon University (Elon, NC)— B.A. Media Arts & Entertainment

AUGUST 2009 - MAY 2013

Studied with Nicole Triche, Douglas Kass, and Randy Piland.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Assets for Artists Capacity Building Grant Program (MASS MoCA)

2020

ElonDocs Emerging Documentarian Award (Elon University)

2019

LEF Foundation Moving Image Fund (Pre-Production)

2019, THE FATE OF HUMAN BEINGS

Affiliated Faculty Professional Development Grant (Emerson College)

2019, THE FATE OF HUMAN BEINGS

Virgin Unite Social Impact Film Fund (Production & Post-Production)

2016 - 2017, THE LIMITS OF MY WORLD

FILMOGRAPHY (Director & Producer)

The Fate of Human Beings — Pre-Production, feature-length documentary

“The Fate of Human Beings” uncovers the stories of 310 people buried in unnamed graves in Metfern Cemetery, patients who suffered abuses in two nearby mental institutions. Through archival and present-day material, the film explores the depersonalization of disabled people and the collective memory of mental institutions in Massachusetts.

A sponsored project of The Center for Independent Documentary.

PANELS & APPEARANCES

Pluralities Nonfiction Film Conference — Presenter

NOVEMBER 2018

San Francisco State University

Independent Film Festival Boston — Panelist

APRIL 2018

“The Female Gaze: A view from the edit room”

New England Graduate Media Symposium — Presenter

MARCH 2018

Emerson College

PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE

Salem Film Fest — Shorts Program Director

2019 - 2020

Salem, MA

Shorts Selection Committee (2018)

Independent Film Festival Boston — Feature Documentary Jury

2019

Somerville, MA

It's All True Student Documentary Program — Organizer, Selection Committee

2019

Emerson College, Boston, MA

Camden International Film Festival — Pre-screener

2015 - 2019

Camden, ME

The Limits of My World—2018, 70 mins, documentary

An autistic coming of age story exploring what it means to be a nonverbal disabled person in today's society.

Distributed by MVD Entertainment. National release date is 9/17/19.

Awards

JURY PRIZE - Alameda International Film Festival

NOVEMBER 2018

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE - Venice Film Week

AUGUST 2018

BEST DOCUMENTARY - Massachusetts Independent Film Festival

AUGUST 2018

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE - Somerville International Film Festival

JULY 2018

TOP PROJECT AWARD - New England Graduate Media Symposium

MARCH 2018

Screenings

WXXI's Move to Include Initiative - The Little Theater, Rochester, NY

NOVEMBER 2018

Orlando Film Festival - Cobb Plaza Cinema Cafe, Orlando, FL

OCTOBER 2018

Ridgefield Independent Film Festival - Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield, CT

OCTOBER 2018

Reel Independent Film Extravaganza - Angelika Pop-Up Cinema at Union Market, Washington, DC

OCTOBER 2018

Bright Lights Series - Emerson College, Boston, MA

OCTOBER 2018

Awareness Film Festival - LA Live Regal Cinema, Los Angeles, CA

SEPTEMBER 2018

Doclahoma Film Festival - Paramount Theater, Oklahoma City, OK

JULY 2018

Viewpoint Documentary Film Festival - Studio Skoop, Ghent, Belgium

MAY 2018

Bare Bones International Film & Music Festival - Three Rivers Museum, Muskogee, OK

APRIL 2018

Independent Film Festival Boston - Somerville Theater, Somerville, MA

APRIL 2018

OTHER CREDITS

A New Leaf – Editor

PRODUCTION, FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Directed by Emily Hofelich

Inner U Diagnosed – Producer

PRODUCTION, FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Directed by Kathryn Shasha

Dear Georgina – Colorist /
Online Editor

2019, 14 mins, Documentary

Directed by Adam Mazo & Ben
Pender-Cudlip

Oyate – Colorist

2016, 45 mins, Documentary

Directed by Dan Girmus

Jonah Stands Up – Co-Editor &
Colorist

2016, 21 mins, Documentary

Directed by Hannah Engelson

**CAPTIVATED: The Trials of Pamela
Smart** – Production Assistant

2014, 102 mins, Documentary

Directed by Jeremiah Zagar

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Emerson College – Affiliated
Faculty

FALL 2017 - PRESENT

Department of Visual and Media Arts

**Cambridge Community
Television** – Instructor

FALL 2018 - SPRING 2019

University of Tennessee Knoxville
– Guest Lecturer

FALL 2018

Emerson College – Workshop
Instructor

FALL 2015 - SPRING 2017