

Ken Simpson - Director

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Summary of Qualifications:

Broad based knowledge of all phases of film / video production. Experienced lighting technician, camera operator and sound recordist. Advanced Final Cut Pro / Adobe Premiere editor and intermediate compositor.

Relevant credits:

Director / Editor : “The Trouble With Dying” - 50 minute documentary (2013 -2014)

- ⤴ Directed and edited a 50 minute documentary about the ongoing debate over assisted suicide & euthanasia in Canada.
- ⤴ Narrated by Christopher Plummer

Writer / Director / Editor : “Headcase: A Look Inside” - 12 part web series (2013)

- ⤴ Devised and executed a 12 part (5 hour long) web series detailing the making of a micro-budget feature film.

Director/Editor: “Directed By Ken Simpson” Ongoing weekly web series (2013-Present)

- ⤴ Write/produce/direct/edit weekly tutorial series for filmmakers.

Director / Editor / Compositor: “Headcase” feature film (2013)

- ⤴ Directed an 88 minute feature film that showcases comedy, action and drama with a unique visual aesthetic and high production values despite it's modest \$50,000 budget.
- ⤴ Staged complex blocking and camera moves / angles with limited resources and crew.
- ⤴ Oversaw the casting, rehearsing, crewing, shooting, editing, visual effects and sound mix.

Director / Editor: “From The Archives of Castro's Lounge” web series (2012-Present)

- ⤴ Co-created the ongoing series profiling Toronto based singer/songwriters
- ⤴ Developed a format that engages the audience by getting to know the musician as a person first, musician second.
- ⤴ Implemented an “archival look” for each episode giving them a unique brand while maintaining an overall cohesive look.
- ⤴ Camera operated and lit the interview and live performance segments.

Director/Editor: “Birthday Girl Blues” Mini-doc/music video (2012)

- ⤴ Directed a 2 minute music video featuring the Hall of Fame Rockabilly artist, Ronnie Hayward
- ⤴ Was selected as a top 10 finalist for the Rode Rockumentary contest

Judge: TIFVA (Toronto International Film & Video Awards) - (2012)

- ⤴ Served as one of six judges for the prestigious international film festival
- ⤴ Viewed 60 films in 8 categories and submitted feedback for “best of” categories.

Camera Operator: Canada's Got Talent, season 1 (2011-2012)

- ⤴ Shot B-roll, interviews, and re-enactments of show contestants with an emphasis on human interest / inspirational angle.
- ⤴ Responsible for gathering, transferring, archiving and shipping all of the shows footage from city to city.
- ⤴ Supervised up to 16 production assistants in filming the contestants for first round.
- ⤴ Collaborated with producers to develop a spreadsheet for enabling the judges to keep track of contestants with corresponding footage.
- ⤴ Worked long consecutive hours with minimal supervision across the country.

Editor/Composer: “The Polar Explorer” feature film (2011-2012)

- ⤴ Worked closely with the Producer to develop the over all structure and story of the film which balanced themes of climate change and the explorer's journey.
- ⤴ Wrote and edited voice over narration with an emphasis on character development.
- ⤴ Sourced b-roll and stock images.
- ⤴ Shot minor cutaways and inserts to help flesh out the story.
- ⤴ Designed the graphics including the opening / closing titles, lower thirds and created and maintained the general aesthetic associated with third party vendors.

Director / Editor: “The Fall and Rise of Mickey” 20 min. narrative short (2010)

- ⤴ With a budget of only \$1,200.00, I conceived, cast, shot, edited and screened a powerful 20 minute short film for the 3rd Viewpoint Film Challenge.
- ⤴ Edited, sound designed and provided a half dozen visual effects all by myself under an extremely tight deadline.
- ⤴ This film figured heavily in an article written by Chris Jones, author of “The Guerilla Film Makers Handbook” about how to achieve jaw dropping production values.

Post Production Supervisor: “Gadget Girlz” lifestyle episodic series (26 x 22min) (2010)

- ⤴ Created and maintained a post workflow solution which required large volumes of third party footage and stock images for the lifestyle show about empowering women in the technology fields.
- ⤴ Worked closely with the composer to provide the main theme song and various stingers throughout.
- ⤴ Outsourced and communicated with a graphics supplier to animate the shows graphics package including the opening titles and lower thirds.
- ⤴ Responsible for quality control and maintaining strict broadcast guidelines and worked closely with the story producer to maintain accuracy.
- ⤴ Managed three other full time editors under tight deadlines.

Writer / Director / Producer / Editor: “Worked For Me” narrative short film (2009)

- ⤴ Conceived and executed an award winning, short film with minimal budget (\$800.00)
- ⤴ The short won “Honourable Mention” from the NSI (National Screen Institute) online web festival 2010.
- ⤴ The short was picked as a “Vimeo, Staff Pick” and has since been viewed over 90,000 times.

Director/Editor “Ri-sip-ruh-key” narrative short film (2009)

- ⤴ Directed & edited the 7 minute short narrative film for the “Viewpoint Film Challenge”

Director/Editor “Happenstance” narrative short film (2009)

- ⤴ Directed & edited the 9 minute short film for the “Viewpoint Film Challenge”
- ⤴ This short is widely cited as the FIRST EVER short film shot with an iphone (3g)

Post Production Supervisor: “Body Fuel” cooking episodic series (13 x 22min) (2009)

- ⤴ Worked closely with the producer in hiring the crew, developing the post schedule and post production pipeline.
- ⤴ Instrumental in creating the overall aesthetic of the show along with it's pacing and general format.

Post Production Co-Ordinator: “Positive Living TV” lifestyle episodic series (2008-2009)

- ⤴ Transitioned into the post co-ordinator position and quickly implemented a highly efficient and comprehensive methodology for getting the series organized, edited and delivered under extremely tight deadlines.
- ⤴ Oversaw and managed other contract editors and supplied story editing feedback on all of their cuts.
- ⤴ Packaged the episodes for international broadcast.

2nd Unit Director / Editor: Soccer Dreams reality show (10 x 22min) (2007)

- ⤴ Wrote interview questions and conducted interviews of 20+ soccer contestants with an emphasis on human spirit, drama and personal motivation.
- ⤴ Camera operated with various crews across the country.
- ⤴ Wrote final narration, story edited and video edited 4 episodes.

Education

FXPHD – Online Training Courses

FXPHD offers high end training of 10 week courses in video editing, visual effects, colour science, camera optics and 3D software. I routinely take terms to brush up on my skills in these fields as they are ever evolving. Verification of my enrolment in these terms as well as the description of the courses themselves can be found here: www.fxphd.com/verify by typing in this code: FUD3FTC35R6UEVHL

July 2011 Term

January 2011 Term

January 2010 Term

October 2009 Term

O.S.S.D. – Wexford Collegiate | School for the Arts - 1995

Press and Additional Resources

To read a guest article I wrote for the Glocul Group about marketing and distribution for DIY filmmakers, go here: <http://www.thegloculgroup.com/mag/making-films-on-a-budget-tips-and-insights-into-the-process/>

To read a guest article I wrote for Chris Jones' website about attaining high production values on micro budgets, go here: <http://www.chrisjonesblog.com/2012/05/top-ten-microbudget-tips-with-a-crew-of-2-and-budget-of-500-what-can-be-achieved-jaw-dropping-work.html>

To listen to a 2 part podcast with me on “That Post Show” discussing how I made my \$50,000 feature film, go here:

PT.1 <http://www.scruffy.tv/thatpostshow/2012/1/12/headcase-part-one-1.html>

PT.2 <http://www.scruffy.tv/thatpostshow/2012/2/4/even-more-headcase.html>

To listen to a podcast of “DSLR Video Shooter” with my Cinematographer and myself discussing our workflow for making high quality short films, go here:

<http://dslrvideoshooter.com/episode-007-interview-with-ken-simpson-and-alex-dacev/>

To read an online article citing my short, “Happenstance” as being “possibly the first ever narrative film shot on an iphone” go here: <http://smartmoviemaking.com/is-this-the-worlds-first-iphone-film/>