TRACY BACENAS

FILMMAKER | TELEVISION EDITOR | EDUCATOR

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Award-nominated television editor, writer, director, and educator with more than 25 years of professional experience in film, television, documentary, and media production across Canada and the United States.

Two-time Primetime Emmy Award nominee for Outstanding Picture Editing in Nonfiction Programming, with an extensive background in high-profile television productions, documentary filmmaking, nonfiction storytelling, and post-production leadership.

Currently a college-level Film & Media professor specializing in documentary production, film editing, and film theory. Combines extensive professional industry experience with a commitment to developing emerging filmmakers through practical, engaging, and industry-informed instruction. Experienced in creative collaboration, curriculum development, student mentorship, scriptwriting, and the evaluation of creative work.

ACADEMIC & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor – Creative and Interdisciplinary Studies

Algonquin College | Ottawa, Ontario | 2024–2026

- Teach documentary film production, film editing, and film theory within the Film & Media Production program.
- Develop and deliver hands-on instruction that integrates professional production practices with creative and technical skill development.
- Guide students through the filmmaking process, emphasizing visual storytelling, narrative structure, editorial decision-making, pacing, rhythm, and sound design.
- Introduce students to professional post-production workflows and industry-standard editing software.
- Evaluate student work and provide constructive feedback to strengthen creative development, technical proficiency, and storytelling abilities.
- Connect classroom instruction to contemporary film and television industry practices.

Workshop Creator & Leader – Scriptwriting Program

Algonquin College | Ottawa, Ontario | 2015-2023

- Developed and facilitated scriptwriting workshops for emerging writers

Scriptwriting Advisory Committee Member & Critique Panelist

Algonquin College | Ottawa, Ontario | 2015-2023

- Contributed professional industry perspectives to scriptwriting program development.
- Participated in script evaluation and critique, providing constructive feedback on story development, structure, and writing.

Jury Member – Digi60 Filmmakers Festival | 2019, 2021, 2023

- Evaluated independent film submissions and recognized creative achievement in emerging filmmaking.

Panelist – Careers in Hollywood | 2016
Grady College of Journalism, University of Georgia

- Shared professional experience and industry insights with students pursuing careers in film and television.

PROFESSIONAL FILM & TELEVISION EXPERIENCE

Editor – NZK Productions. Burbank, California | 2021–2025
Full-time editor on major unscripted television productions, including:

- The Bachelor
- The Bachelorette
- Bachelor in Paradise
- The Golden Bachelor

Writer, Director, Producer, Editor – Freelance | Ottawa & Montreal | 2009–2021
Created, developed, and delivered television, documentary, and media productions for Canadian production companies and media organizations.

Selected clients:

- Gusto Worldwide Media
- Mountain Road Productions
- Affinity Production Group
- Title Entertainment
- Those Canadians Media Group
- Rezolution Pictures
- e.d. films
- National Film Board of Canada

Supervising Editor / Editor – Survivor | Mark Burnett Productions | Los Angeles | 2003–2009

- Served as Supervising Editor and Editor on the internationally acclaimed television series Survivor.
- Collaborated with creative and production teams to develop compelling narrative structures from extensive documentary-style footage.
- Applied advanced editorial storytelling techniques, including character development, dramatic construction, pacing, and narrative continuity.
- Contributed to award-nominated television programming recognized by the Television Academy.

Freelance Television Editor | Los Angeles | 2002–2008

Selected production companies and projects:

- Next Entertainment – The Bachelor, The Bachelorette
- MTV – Pimp My Ride
- Shapiro/Grodner Productions – Big Brother
- 3 World Race Productions – The Amazing Race
- Lions Gate – No Boundaries
- Nash Entertainment – Meet My Folks

AWARDS & PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Primetime Emmy Award Nominee – Outstanding Picture Editing in Nonfiction Programming
2007 | Survivor
Primetime Emmy Award Nominee – Outstanding Picture Editing in Nonfiction Programming
2005 | Survivor
Taste Awards – Best Series Pilot
2020 | DNA Dinners
Lead Editor
Canadian Screen Award Nominee – Best Reality Series
2015 | The Ultimate Fighter Nations: Canada vs. Australia
Senior Story Producer
Association for Media Technology in Education in Canada – Award of Merit
1997 | Alternate Route – National Film Board of Canada
Researcher, Writer, Editor
Ottawa-Hull Film & Television Association – Reel Award Nominee, Best Documentary
1995 | Harvesting the Seas
Writer, Producer, Director, Editor

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Studio Art
Emily Carr University of Art & Design
Vancouver, British Columbia | 2001

Electronic & Film Media Residency
The Banff Centre for the Arts
Banff, Alberta | 1990–1992

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Broadcast Journalism
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia | 1990