
ELODIE EDJANG

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Atlanta, GA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lead Video Editor & Mentor 2018 – 2020
Local Legend Films – Chicago, IL

Faculty 2018
National High School Institute at Northwestern University - *Production Core, Hybrid Documentary*
Film and Video Dept. – Evanston, IL

Graduate Assistant 2018
Northwestern University – *Media Construction Lab (Winter & Spring)*
Radio, Television, and Film Dept. (Instructors: Christian Jensen, Ines Sommer) – Evanston, IL

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Filmmaker 2014-

Consulting Producer – Chicago, IL 2020-
Manifold Docu-Series
Rapumentary 2020

Intern 2018
Kartemquin Films – Chicago, IL

Creative Producing Intern 2017
Special Broadcasting Service, *Insight* – Sydney, Australia

C.L.A.S.S. (Continuing the Legacy of African-American Student Success) Advocate 2014-2015
University of Georgia Housing – Athens, GA

◆ Live-in employee that historically catered to African American students by establishing community and promoting academic success within the residence halls

EDUCATION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY – Evanston, IL 2016–2018

Master of Fine Arts, Documentary Media

Thesis: Book of Daniel

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA – Athens, GA 2012–2015

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Advertising

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology

Magna Cum Laude

LANGUAGE

English: Primary Language **French:** Advanced Listener, Advanced Reader, Intermediate-High Speaker, Novice Writing (ACTFL)

COMMITTEES & MEMBERSHIPS

- 2020 – present Mentorship Committee, Alliance of Documentary Editors
Shadow Day Coordinator, BIPOC Doc Editor Database Launch Team
- 2020 Juror, Brico Forward Fund, Milwaukee Film
- 2018 Thesis Screening Coordinator, RTVF, Northwestern University
- 2018 – 2019 Interviewer, Alumni Admissions Council, Northwestern University
- 2017 – 2018 Media Arts Grant Committee, RTVF, Northwestern University
- 2017 – 2018 Shorts Pre-Screener, Chicago International Film Festival, Cinema Chicago
- 2014 – 2015 Publicity Committee, ADPR Connection, University of Georgia
- 2014 – 2015 Safety and Security Committee, University of Georgia Housing
- Memberships
- 2020 – present International Documentary Association
- 2018 – present Red Door Media Collective, Co-Founder
- 2018 – present Experimental Sound Studios
- 2018 – present Mezcla Media Collective
- 2017 – present Brown Girls Doc Mafia

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS

- 2020 Flex Fund Recipient, NeXt Doc, *Queer Christians* (work in progress)
- 2019 NeXt Doc Fellowship
- 2018 Festival Incentive Grant, Northwestern University, *Book of Daniel*
- 2018 Nomination for Hyde Park Art Center Exhibition, *Divided*
- 2016 – 2018 Hoffman Foundation Grant, Northwestern University
- 2017 The Graduate School Career Development Grant, Northwestern University
- 2017 Office of International Program Media Arts Grant, Northwestern University, *Green Card Lottery*
- 2015 Mary L. Betts TV/Radio Scholarship, University of Georgia
- 2014 James Waldo Woodruff, Jr. Journalism Scholarship, University of Georgia

FILMOGRAPHY

Works in Progress

Queer Christians is a feature-length hybrid documentary that melds character-based vérité documentary with experimental filmmaking. It is raw, poetic meditation on the lives of three Christian lesbian women of color untangling how they define themselves from how their communities define them. *Queer Christians* is the recipient of NeXt Doc's inaugural Flex Fund.

Untitled Gordon Quinn Documentary is a short documentary that turns a veteran filmmaker into a film participant. The film peels the curtain on documentary pioneer and Kartemquin Films co-founder, Gordon Quinn as he navigates life, battles COVID, and contemplates his legacy. The project is made through Red Door Media Collective, a five person trans-state collective of underrepresented emerging filmmakers.

Green Card Lottery is a feature-length personal documentary following the trajectory of a Cameroonian

immigrant's journey in France and the United States. It pulls from the personal archives of the filmmaker and her mother. *Green Card Lottery* is the recipient of Northwestern University's Office of International Program Media Arts Grant.

Vilify Media Podcast is an informational podcast where host Elodie Edjang has transparent conversations with documentary insiders to aid others along their creative journeys. Recent interviewees include Diane Moy Quon (*Minding the Gap, Finding Yingying*), Angelo Madsen Minax (*North by Current*), and Cyril Aris (*The Swing*).

Completed Works

Book of Daniel (2018) is a short documentary following an isolated South Sudanese refugee living in Chicago. Daniel enters his home during late hours of the night after having worked a long shift. We learn that Daniel is a painter with an affinity for religious paintings. In addition to practicing faith through painting, Daniel creates his own church by watching Bible DVDs as he attentively follows along. By way of another painting it is revealed that Daniel grew up in a refugee camp in Kenya. Not only are the paintings a way for Daniel to practice his faith, they function as a therapeutic and biographical tool. With films and religious text being one of the few windows out of his studio apartment, it becomes apparent that Daniel's new life in the United States has not been easy. He witnessed the murder of his family and left the only home he knew behind. Though he finds solace in the films, remnants of his wounds appear as prolonged violence on the screen become hard to bare. Through our limited time with Daniel we learn how art and faith are tools that help some overcome unbearable loss but also how easily people can exist in the shadows of the world. *Book of Daniel* world premiered at Tacoma Film Festival (2018) and screened at the Block Cinema (2018) and the Gene Siskel Film Center as a selection for the 2019 Black Harvest Film Festival.

Divided (2018) is a fragmented interactive media piece that explores colorism in the Black community. Colorism uplifts and rewards people with skin color and features with proximity to whiteness. These standards of beauty not only affect self-image but have real economic consequences. Not only do external or periphery communities uphold these barriers but the internalized ideals of white supremacy (passed through media, socialization, etc.) are then reinforced by people of color. This creates a divide. Colorism, particularly in rap music also objectifies and hyper-sexualizes lighter skinned women, placing high value in their physical appearance and seldom acknowledges other qualities of value they may possess which further shapes a woman's self-worth. *Divided* appropriates popular rap songs containing lyrics that describe lighter skinned Black women. The term *redbone* is slang used by men to describe a lighter skinned, typically "attractive" Black woman. In this iteration of the work two stock images, a dark skinned Black woman and a light skinned Black woman, are juxtaposed to showcase the misogynoir that occurs within colorism. On the darker skinned woman, negative depictions of Black women in television and film are overlaid (i.e. trite slave films, reality tv fights, etc.). The lighter skinned woman recites the lyrics which are then intercut with the source material. *Divided* is one of three films to be nominated by Northwestern University faculty to apply for the 2018 Hyde Park Exhibition, an annual showcase of top Chicagoan MFA talent.

The Days Are Growing Longer (2018) features women performance artists as they float on a bed of appropriated poetry written by satirist Marietta Holley. This experimental short mixes 16mm in camera effects with digital post effects to build upon the concept of collage as trans-temporal collaboration. The film screened at the Dittmar Gallery in 2018.

Mami Makala (2018) is a slice of life short documentary featuring Martine, a street vendor in Cameroon. *Mami Makala* was made possible through the support of Northwestern University's Office of International Program Media Arts Grant.

WORKSHOPS, SCREENINGS, & PANELS

- 2/2020 OpenTV x Mezcla Media Collective, Paper to Pilot Workshop, *Grapefruit Chronicles*, Chicago, IL
- 6/2019 Doc Talk Show x Mezcla Media Collective, Decolonizing the Screen, *Queer Christians* (Work Sample), Chicago, IL
- 8/2019 Black Harvest Film Festival, Color Me Creative, *Book of Daniel*, Chicago, IL
- 10/2018 Tacoma Film Festival, A World Without Borders, *Book of Daniel*, Tacoma, WA
- 6/2018 Block Cinema, NU Docs: Borders/Edges/Frames, *Book of Daniel*, Evanston, IL
- 4/2018 Dittmar Gallery, Producing the Bedroom Artist, *The Days Are Growing Longer*, Evanston, IL
- 3/2020 Firelight Media x IDAx ITVS, Applying for Federal Coronavirus Relief as a Filmmaker (Session 3), [Panelist]

INTERVIEWS & PUBLICATIONS

Alkhateeb, N. (2021). *A toolkit universal design: Best practices for physical production & post production*.
https://www.canva.com/design/DAEXb9w_uUM/view [Contributed through survey]

Bowman, M., & Scrimmager, L. (2020). *Illinois coronavirus unemployment benefits tip sheet*. International Documentary Association. https://itvs-website.s3.amazonaws.com/filmmakers_resources/97155fbe-17cc-4a2d-8dff-7984800d4b36/Illinois%20Coronavirus%20Unemployment%20Benefits%20Tip%20Sheet.pdf

Edjang, E. (2020). *Illinois unemployment insurance 2020*.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Eipz3gs9oYO7W9gNI2ba_25kt8I8xNPvbbj1IevoybQ/edit?usp=sharing

Lanctot, M. (2018, August 8). Northwestern's Documentary program is producing some serious storytellers: BTN LiveBIG. *Big Ten Network* [Interview]. <https://btn.com/2018/08/08/northwesterns-documentary-program-is-producing-some-serious-storytellers-btn-livebig/>

Lockwood, Cara. (2017, May 16). *Late Night Comedy Writers (and Alumni) Slay During Panel Discussion* [Interview]. <https://communication.northwestern.edu/2017/05/late-night-comedy-writers-and-alumni-slay-during-panel-discussion/>

Monteyro, V. (2021, June 26). *Ida member spotlight: Elodie Edjang* [Interview].
<https://www.documentary.org/blog/ida-member-spotlight-elodie-edjang>

Nissen, Samantha. (2017, November 14). *It's complicated: Exploring identity and belonging through filmmaking* [Interview]. <https://www.northwestern.edu/international-relations/news/2017/filmmaking.html>