

# EM SHAPIRO

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## ABOUT

Em Shapiro (they/them) is an award winning non-fiction filmmaker and animator with ten years of teaching experience in community engagement and academic settings. They are passionate about empowering learners of all experiences and abilities to participate in filmmaking as a collaborative community-centered experience. Em's filmmaking work often explores stories of artists within LGBTQIA+ and disability communities.

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## EDUCATION

**MFA in Film and Media Production, 2023** | The University of Texas at Austin

Nominated for Yugo BAFTA Award 2024

Nick Cominos Award for Documentary Filmmaking, 2023

**BFA in Animation, 2016** | Massachusetts College of Art and Design

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Lecturer** Spring Semester 2025

*The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Radio-Television-Film* | Austin, TX

- RTF 346: Introduction to Editing. A theory and practice based post-production course.

**Teaching Artist** October 2024 - Present

*Creative Action* | Austin, TX

- Lead instruction of filmmaking and visual arts lessons for K-5th grade students.

**Animation Instructor** June 2020 - Aug. 2024

*The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Radio-Television-Film* | Austin, TX

- Led animation filmmaking workshops for middle and high school students, and adults.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** Sept. 2020 - Dec. 2023

*The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Radio-Television-Film* | Austin, TX

Led weekly filmmaking labs, provided feedback to students for the following courses:

Introduction to Image and Sound | 3 Semesters

Introduction to Editing | 3 Semesters

Documentary Production | 2 Semesters

Introduction to Production Design | 2 Semesters

Virtual Reality Production | 1 Semester

Producing Short Films | 1 semester

Music Video Production | 1 Semester

## Teaching Artist

2015 -2019

*Outside the Lines Studio* | Medford, MA

Led weekly classes in animation, filmmaking, and visual arts for adults with developmental disabilities.

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## SKILLS

- **Language:** Spanish - intermediate proficiency
  - **Software:** AVID Media Composer, Adobe Creative Suite, Da Vinci Resolve, Microsoft Office
  - **Technology:** Sony and Canon camera equipment, audio and lighting equipment
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## DIRECTING FILMOGRAPHY

**Earth to KB**, 2024 - runtime: 18:35 | Documentary Hybrid

### AWARDS:

Austin Film Society Grant for Short Films, 2023

Best Documentary/Hybrid Short Film Jury Award, 2024 TRANS|Lations Film Festival

Honorable Mention Jury Award for Documentary Short Film, 2024 Charlotte Film Festival

**World Premiere** - [BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival](#) - March 2024

[Full list of official selections here](#)

**Class Transitions** 2021 - runtime: 12:39 | Documentary

**World Premiere:** Vancouver Queer Film Festival 2022

[Full list of official selections here](#)

**And You See Me** 2020 - runtime: 07:20 | Documentary

[Full list of official selections here](#)

**Postpartum** 2016 - runtime: 03:50 | Animation

**World Premiere:** Bucheon International Animation Festival 2016

[Full list of official selections here](#)

**Nexus** 2016 - runtime: 03:50 | Fulldome Short Film

Screened internationally at over 50 planetariums and fulldome projection spaces.

[Full list of official selections here](#)

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - PRODUCING:

**Louise** | Documentary Feature in Production | Dir. Isadora Dumont-Harel

**Banned Book Club** | Documentary Short | Dir. Sinead Keirans

### Official Selections:

DOC NYC 2023, Seattle Film Festival 2023, San Francisco Documentary Film Festival, Melbourne Documentary Film Festival, Thin Line Festival 2023, Sidewalk Film Festival 2023, Rhode Island International Film Festival 2023

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - EDITING & ANIMATION:

**Art Spark Texas** 2019-Present

Edited and filmed several short documentary videos covering dance performance.

**Untitled Trans Hairstylist Doc** | Documentary in Post Production | Dir. Rebecca Adler 2024

Editor

**UT Austin Center for Health Communication** 2022 - 2024

Edited a series of educational videos covering health communication topics.

**Estebandido Productions** 2020 - 2021

Created 2D educational animations in Spanish for the People's Community Clinic Austin.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - PRODUCTION DESIGNER:

**TEOTWAWKI** | Narrative Short in Post Production | Dir. Cristin Stephens 2024

**Ick** | Narrative Short | Dir. India Opzoomer 2023

Austin Film Festival Jury Award

**Black Magic** | Narrative Short | Dir. Cristin Stephens 2023

Bronze Lens Film Festival World Premiere

**Comadre** | Narrative Short | Dir. Nicole Chi 2022

Telluride Film Festival