

**Dr Nikki Comninos (SAGE)**  
**Director, Editor, occasional Academic**  
[Linkedin](#) [www.nikkicomninos.com](http://www.nikkicomninos.com) [IMDB](#)  
**+27 83 270 8767    nikkicomninos@gmail.com**

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## Profile Summary

- Experienced Senior editor - South African Editor Guild (**SAGE**) acronym holder, recognised by the American Cinema Editors (**ACE**) in the International Partnership
  - **Directed 2x Showmax limited doc series** in the last year
  - Excellence awarded multiple times at local and international film festivals and craft awards
  - Well-versed across a range of genres: documentary, drama, reality, advertising, shorts etc.
  - Swift, collaborative and critical thinking
  - PhD and published author
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## Specialisations

- Deeply engaged narrative and visual editor and director
  - Adept story doctor, narrative problem solver
  - Content management in long form and across series episodes
  - Extensive documentary experience, deep knowledge of working with archive
  - Support across all phases of production: conceptualisation, technical workflow planning, shooting for edit, offline editing, and storytelling troubleshooting
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## Awards

- [2024] **SAFTA nominee:** Best Made for TV Doc (*Convict Conman*)  
**SAFTA nominee:** Best Made for TV Doc (*Rosemary's Hitlist*)  
**INPUT Africa Selection:** *Truth Be Told*  
**No. 1 African Film Award:** Ann Arbor - Film Festival (*Loving in Between*)
- [2023] **SAFTA Winner:** Best Made for TV Doc (*Senzo: Murder of a Soccer Star*)  
**SAFTA nominee:** Best Documentary Editing (*Steinheist*)
- [2022] Recognised as part of the **American Cinema Editors (ACE)** International Partnership  
**SAFTA Winner:** Best Made for TV Doc (*Devilsdorp*)  
**SAFTA nominee:** Best Documentary Editing (*Devilsdorp*)  
**SAFTA nominee:** Best Documentary Editing (*Murder in Paris*)
- [2021] **Best Short:** Vienna Shorts Film Festival - Oscar qualifying (*Cause of Death*)  
**The Eileen Maitland Award:** Ann Arbor Film Festival (*Cause of Death*)  
**Best Editor and Best Experimental Short:** Beirut Short Film Festival (*Cause of Death*)  
**Best Documentary:** WRPN Women's Int Film Festival, Festival Napoleon on Champs-Élysées, Africa Human Rights Festival, Impact Docs Award, Docs without Borders, Durban International Film Festival, Jozi Film Festival, Paris Film Awards (*Murder in Paris*)
- [2020] **Jury Prize:** Festival Des Cinemas Differents Et Experimentaux De Paris (*Cause of Death*)  
**SAFTA nominee:** Best Youth Programme (*MTV Shuga IRL Season 3*)
- [2019] **Best Documentary:** Zanzibar Film Festival, Jozi Film Festival, Coalition of South Asian Film Festival (*Someone to Blame*)  
**INPUT Africa Selection:** *Someone to Blame*  
**SAFTA Winner:** Best Documentary Short (*Someone to Blame*)
- [2018] **SAFTA nominee:** Best Current Affairs (*Life Esidemeni*)  
**SAFTA Winner:** Best Youth Programme (*MTV Shuga IRL Season 2*)

- [2016] **SAFTA nominee:** Documentary Short editor (*Indians Can't Fly*)  
**SAFTA Winner:** Best Documentary Short (*Indians Can't Fly*)
- [2015] **SAFTA winner:** Drama editing (*End Game*)  
**Best Short:** Slamdance Fusion Doc Challenge, NYC (*I am Juli*)
- [2014] **Best Documentary Short:** California International Film Festival (*Hyena Boys*)  
**Best Short Film:** Independent Mzansi Short Film Festival (*iBhokwe*)
- [2013] **South African Editors Guild** (S.A.G.E.) acronym for distinguished editors  
ATKV Feather Award (*Tibbie Steyn*), ATKV nomination (*Emily Hobhouse*)
- [2011] **SAFTA winner:** Best documentary editor (*Fish Out of Water*)
- [2009] **Medal of Honour:** South African Academy for Science and Art (*The Heart is Beautiful*)
- [2007] Selected director for the **Encounters Documentary Filmmaking Lab**
- [2005-2006] Selected for the **Berlin Talent Campus and Sithengi Talent Campus**
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## Education

- [2011-2015] **PhD, University of the Witwatersrand**  
Creative Arts - written thesis + 60-min documentary, *Fraternal*: Cambridge African FF, 2015  
[2011-2014] Mellon Postgraduate Mentoring Award
- [2007] **MA, University of the Witwatersrand**  
Intensive theory and practice, *Triptych of Her*: Durban International Film Festival, 2008
- [2001-2004] **BA in Film + Media with Honours, University of Cape Town**  
Final film, *Algemeen Befokte Afrikaans* - Official selection DIFF and NYIFVF, 2005  
First Class pass in Honours, Class medal - Video Production, Class medal - Media studies,  
Dean's List for undergraduate degree, Scholarship for undergraduate and honours degrees
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## Academia and Training

- [2024] **Botswana Ignite**  
Edit training
- [2024-2007] **Supervisor, Lecturer, External Examiner: Open Window, WITS, AFDA**  
Edit Lecturing, external examiner of essays, dissertations and final film exams
- [2020-2022] **NFVF Education & Training board**
- [2020-2019] **Talent Factory Mentor: Multichoice, Zambia**  
Edit training and post-supervision of final films
- [2019] **Newzroom Africa: Nala Media**  
Edit training
- [2018-2013] **Course Convener: WITS, Johannesburg**  
4th year + MA 'National Cinema and Fiction Film'(2018), MA 'Introduction to Production' (2013)
- [2016-2015] **Training Manager: Big Fish, Johannesburg**  
Course convener and lecturer for 2nd years, project manager for GFC training course (2016)  
Wider managerial and operational duties: creating and implementing training programs

## Masterclasses, Conferences and Papers

- FAME WEEK MIP AFRICA 2024**, 'Behind the Lens of True Crime Documentaries in South Africa', panelist
- 26th Encounters South African International Documentary Festival, 2024** SAGE editing panel:  
Crossing Boundaries, Crossing Borders, panelist
- Botswana Ignite, 2024** Editing Masterclass
- PARSE Journal, Summer 2020** 'Recollect: Snippets of Self' <https://parsejournal.com/journal/#intersections>
- Journal for African Cinemas Special Edition, 2018**

Comminos, N. (2017), 'Practice-led research: Home video and the autobiographical self'  
**CiLECT-CARA The Politics and Poetics of the Practices of Film, 2018**, round table  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Es'kia Mphahlele Postgraduate Colloquium and Arts Forum, Wits, 2011**  
'The Politics of Dissemination: Personal Archive and Memory'

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## **Film and TV Experience**

### **Story Consulting**

[2024] Story consultant on feature length doc, Pat van Heerden  
[2023] Encounters + SAGE Rough Cut Lab story consultant  
[2023] Indelible Media story consultant for 6-part doc series

### **Directing**

[2025 - 2023] **Director: Idea Candy, Johannesburg**

Withheld til release August 2025 (NDA): 5-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

Tracking Thabo Bester: 4-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

Convict Conman: 2-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

[2015] **Director + Editor: Self produced, Johannesburg**

*Fraternal* (doc, Cambridge African Film Festival)

[2014] **Director: Fireworx, Johannesburg**

1 Episode: *Mzansi Love* (drama, SABC)

[2014] **Director + Editor, VWV, Johannesburg**

Editor Comedy *Central Roast* promos, director-editor for Debonairs in-house videos

[2015 - 2008] **Director + Editor: Self produced, Johannesburg**

Triptych of Her (short film, DIFF)

[2008] **Director + Editor: High Rotation, Johannesburg**

50sec Mother's Day Lentswe Poetry Project Poem for SABC2

[2005-2007] **Director, Editor, Production Manager: Vuleka Productions, Durban**

Director+editor Do Girls Want It? 48min doc, Encounters+SABC 1. 24-min doc, Zulu Nation, eTV.

5x25min docs, Cato Manor Museum – 5min film, AIDS Foundation (advocacy)

[2004] **Co-director and co-editor, UCT**

*Algemeen Befokte Afrikaans* (short doc) (DIFF, New York Independent Film and Video Festival)

### **Editing**

[2024- 2021] **Senior Editor: Idea Candy, Johannesburg**

Station Strangler: feature doc for Showmax (documentary)

Rosemary's Hitlist: 4-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

Steinheist: 3-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

Devilsdorp: 4-part Limited series for Showmax (documentary)

[2023-2014] **Editor: EMS Productions, Johannesburg**

*Truth Be Told* (doc series - ep 1+2), *Murder in Paris* (2-part doc - SABC, festival release) *Someone to Blame* (54min doc - SABC, festival release), *Indians Can't Fly* (48min doc, SABC)

[2022] **Editor: Plexus films**

We Will Not Die Quietly (documentary) (\*in post-production)

[2022-2017] **Editor: Blackboard Trust, Johannesburg**

Loving In-between (short doc), *Cause of Death* (short doc: Berlinale, IDFA, and various international film festivals), *When I Grow Up I Want to be a Black Man* (Two screen projection for the Eye Institute and various international film festivals)

[2021] **Editor: Ten10 films, Johannesburg**

Senzo: Death of a Soccer Star: 5 part Limited series for Netflix (documentary)

**[2020-2014] Editor: TIA Productions, Johannesburg**

Various: Carte Blanche (investigative journalism), MTV Shuga IRL SE1-3 (TV doccies), *MTV Young Moms Nigeria*, *Miss Trans Diva* (eTV, 24min doc), *Timelines* (feature doc, Durban International Film Festival, Jozi Film Fest, Indie Karoo Film Festival), Guardian news, *Hyena Boys* (short doc, various festivals), *I am Juli* (short doc, Big Sky, Slamdance, Indie Karoo Film Festival), MTV inserts, Talk with Kwangu SE1+SE2 (Zambezi Magic)

**[2020-2011] Editor: Uhuru, Johannesburg**

RedFish stream (short doc), *How To Steal A Country* (feature doc, editing team - IDFA, Showmax, Africa in Motion, Encounters, Doc Edge, Sydney South African Film Festival) *Everything Must Fall* (feature doc, editing team: IDFA, various other film festivals), Various short films (advocacy)

**[2020-2009] Editor: Pulp Films, Johannesburg**

Takalani Sesame SE11+SE12, 7x 23-min docs series *My Beautiful Game*

**[2020] Editor: Blue Zone Media**

*Triologue* (talk show)

**[2019] Editor: Nala Media**

*Loved Like Crazy* (46 min doc, Lifetime channel)

**[2019-2018] Editor: Full Circle Productions, Johannesburg**

Negotiated Settlement (3x50min doc series), shorts for Con Hill museum

**[2018] Editor: The Swank Group, Johannesburg**

*Lagos to London* (online, 22min doc)

**[2016-2009] Editor: Rapid Blue, Johannesburg**

BBC's Great South African Bake Off: Season2+3 (reality), ITV's *4 Weddings*: Season 1 (reality), BBC's *Come Dine With Me*: Season 1-3 (reality), Ep 3 BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* (doc)

**[2016-2014] Editor: Fireworx, Johannesburg**

*The Jews of Madagascar* (doc), *Sticks and Stones* (13-part drama), Ep 7: *End Game* (drama)

**[2016] Editor: Good Cop, Johannesburg**

*People You Might Know* (web-series)

**[2016] Editor: Afrokaans, Johannesburg**

*Shoprite Stories* (corporate)

**[2013] Editor: John Trengove, Johannesburg**

*The Goat/iBhokwe* (short film)

**[2013] Editor: Freeway Productions, Johannesburg**

Finishing editor on a five part series for MNET entitled *The History of Film in Africa* (doc)

**[2013] Editor: e.News Channel/e.tv Prime Time News/eNCA /eTV, Johannesburg**

News editor and team leader for eNews, current affairs show Africa 360, obituaries for Mandela

**[2012] Editor: Born-free Media, Johannesburg**

Docu-reality series *Life's a Stage*, 7 x episodes (doc-reality)

**[2012-2008] Editor + insert producer: Foxwood Films, Johannesburg**

Kyknet: *Formidabele Vroue*, 2x48min, *Celeb se Kind*, Editor/insert producer *Robinson Regstreeks* (current affairs), *Sewe Sakke Sout* (doc-reality). Mnet: *The Heart is Beautiful*, 4x50min doc eps.

**[2011] Editor: Jungle Works, Johannesburg**

UN films - older women and discordant couples living with HIV/AIDS (advocacy)

**[2009] Editor: Bonngoe Productions, Johannesburg**

Editor of 2x26min episodes of a doc series, *Beyond Positive*

**[2009] Editor: Dzuguda Productions, Johannesburg**

Editor of a 52-min of *Gladiators of Venda* (doc), 1x24 min episode in *Sheroes* doc series

**[2007] Editor: Fusion Films, Johannesburg**

8 x 45sec adverts and other deliverables for the OUTsurance 'Staff Helping S.A. OUT' campaign

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**Extracurricular**

Executive board member: South African Guild of Editors - Portfolio: Treasurer.

Member: Documentary Filmmakers Association. South African Film and TV Awards Judge

**References** (contact details on request)

Wim Steyn, Executive Producer

Enver Samuel, Director

Xoliswa Sithole, Director/Producer

Jyoti Mistry, Filmmaker/Academic

Sara Blecher, Director

Richard Finn Gregory, Director