

Elaine G. Minionis

CV
(1980)



Education

- 2008 **New York Film Academy.** Documentary Filmmaking (1 year Certificate)
- 2007 **Washington University in St. Louis.** 1 semester Ph.D in Comparative Literature (Full Scholarship, incomplete)
- 2000-2005 **Universidad Católica Andrés Bello.** Caracas, Venezuela. B.A. in Literature, with strong focus on Philosophy and Arts (5 year program)
- 1997-2000 **Universidad Simón Bolívar.** Caracas, Venezuela. Undergraduate Biology Studies (4 years, incomplete)

Professional Experience

2011-Current Co-owner/Photographer/Emmy-nominee 2020 Documentary Filmmaker/Editor & Retoucher/Content Developer at The Lunch Box Studio – Pembroke Pines, FL: Creative studio devoted to commercial & personal photography and non-fiction videography. Photographer, creative image development for products, brands, professionals, etc. Also, content creation for companies; from researching, structuring and fully developing written content for websites, projects, ideas, products.

2018-Current Owner & Designer of online dog bandana brand AVANTBark:
E-commerce shop of awesome reversible dog bandanas for pups with an edge. These bandanas are a way to stand out in this world, giving strength to your voice as a pawrent, as well as encouraging self-expression through the personality of your pooch. To me, when a pup wears a statement piece that reflects his/her personality, and strolls our world with it, that becomes the path we choose to bring joy, whimsicality, braveness and diversity into our lives. Freedom of visual speech is something we are seriously committed to. And yes, we are proud to celebrate the different, the unlikely, the unconventional, the oddball... actually "that" that isn't the mainstream. Our world so does need it.
All pictures, videos and content created by Elaine Minionis.

- 2011-2014 Owner/Gallerist of The Lunch Box Gallery – Miami Art District, FL: Contemporary photography gallery in Wynwood devoted to showcase conceptual, essay and documentary photography, with a strong focus on social issues and today's man as a subject of exploration. From curating monthly shows and the deep research this entails, to developing all the written content for the exhibitions, marketing, artist statements, press releases, etc. Also, main spokesperson in interviews, press, jury for other galleries' competitions and director of student's program "One Night Stand Exhibition Series", a space for extremely talented and local undergrad and grad students to exhibit their documentary photography in a section of the gallery. The gallery still works virtually, catering to collectors and interior designers with specific photography needs.
- 2009-2011 Content Editor for international telecommunications company NetUno - Weston, FL (headquarters based in Venezuela): Creative content developer for mostly all marketing and internal/external communications of the company. Ads, flyers, marketing presentations, product sheets, video scripts, social media, marketing research, etc.
- 2009 Freelance Producer for Discovery Networks Latin America / US Hispanic (September): "The Amazing Race" show. Review narration, structure, animation, etc.
- 2009 Summer Internship in the Original Production Department – Discovery Communications Latin America / US Hispanic - Miami (June-August): Evaluate and analyze non-fiction proposals; review, re-structure and re-narrate scripts; evaluate *offlines* (audio, graphics, narration, structure, etc.) from shows in development (like "The Amazing Race", "Vivir para Contarlo" series, "Take Home Chef", etc.); research and develop content for new shows; assist all executive producers from the department with their current productions; administrative assistance, etc.
- 2009 Assistant Editor, Production Assistant and Intern – Flicker Flacker Films – "The Naturalized", a documentary by Aaron Lubarsky for The History Channel - NYC (January – May)
- 2007 Copy Editor for all text books/ Researcher/Content Developer for the science section of the textbooks – Grupo Santillana (Multinational Spanish Publisher) – Venezuela (March – June)
- 2006 Documentary Scriptwriter - *Habitat: Venezuela* - 4 programs for television - *Kamarata Productions* – Venezuela (January – July)
- 2006 Advertising photographer/Still Photographer/Making Of - Movie:

Elipsis - Directed by Eduardo Arias-Nath - 20th Century Fox – Venezuela (February – April) (www.elipsis.net)

2005 Literary Journalism - Writing and Research Internship - *Plátanoverde Magazine* - A&B Productions – Venezuela (April – August)

Additional Qualifications and Courses

2008 **New York Film Academy** New York, USA
Final Cut Studio Pro, Panasonic 24p DVX and HVX

2007 **Trasnocho Cultural Foundation** Caracas, Venezuela
9 hrs Argumental Scriptwriting

2006 **Grand Movie Circuit** Caracas, Venezuela
116 hrs Documentary and Television Production: Scriptwriting, TV Production, Final Cut Pro editing, Assistant Director, Documentary Filmmaking

2006 **Núcleo Fotosensible** Caracas, Venezuela
20 hrs Studio Lighting for photography

2006 **Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos Rómulo Gallegos**
Caracas, Venezuela
1 year Literary Expression Workshop - Mention: *Poetry*

2004 **University of the Arts London** UK
Photography

Filmography (all non-fiction)

2018 **UNCANNY: The Dolls of Mariana Monteagudo** *Director, Cinematographer, Producer, Editor, Researcher.*
30 min. short documentary about Venezuelan plastic artist Mariana Monteagudo, her creative process and her inspirations behind her intriguing and culturally hybrid doll sculptures, all made of repurposed materials. The piece explores topics like immigration, motherhood, idolatry and the treatment of trash in contemporary times. The film is a regional Emmy-nominee 2020, it won the PBS festival "The Film-maker Project" as well as received the title *Audience Award* earning local and national broadcast and distribution by PBS. It is winner of *Best Documentary 2019* of the Miami Independent Film Festival and *Audience Award* from I'm Not Gonna Move to L.A. festival. It was also accepted in the Female Eye Film Festival of Toronto; regarded top 50 festivals in the

world; as well as official selection of the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival. www.uncannydollsfilm.com.

- 2014 **Baja's Secret Miracle** *Structure Consultant*
Winner of the "Viewster Audience Award" and \$20,000 donation to Al Gore's Climate Reality Project.
This short film tells the story of Mario Castro, a fisherman in Cabo Pulmo (Mexico) that decided to change the destiny of the marine life around him, after suffering from fishing exploitation.
- 2008 **The Pixel Man** *Director, Cinematographer, Producer, Editor, Researcher* (Thesis Documentary)
A short documentary filmed entirely inside the 3D virtual world of *Second Life* (HD/Machinima); Cinéma Vérité journey through five real life residents of Second Life.
- **New York Film Academy Documentary Festival**
- 2008 **Red Hats for the Soul** *Director, Cinematographer, Producer, Editor, Researcher*
A short documentary about "The Bombshells", one of the Bronx chapters of the Red Hat Society (DV)
- **New York Film Academy Documentary Festival**
- 2008 **Voice of the Serenade** *Director, Cinematographer, Producer, Editor*
A short Direct Cinema and Character film documentary about New York City poet Peter Chelnik (DV)
- 2008 **True Act** *Co-Director, Co-Producer, Co-Editor*
A 5 min pitch episode for Reality TV show about an improvisational street theater group on socially engaging scenarios (HD)
- 2008 **A Red Hook Tale** *Camera Operator, Translator, Co-Interviewer*
A short documentary by Frederik Boll. Central American food vendors fight to protect the businesses upon which they've built their lives and their community in Red Hook, Brooklyn (DV)
- **New York Film Academy Documentary Festival**
- 2008 **2012** *Camera Operator, Sound Recorder*
A short documentary by Megan Sievert. Speculation on the year 2012 and its possible implications on Earth (DV)
- **New York Film Academy Documentary Festival**
- 2008 **Worlds Apart** *Camera Operator, Sound Recorder*

A short documentary by Agnelo Gomes. Family and education of Chinese immigrants' children in the US (DV)

- **New York Film Academy Documentary Festival**

2008 **DeliziOus!** *Director, Producer, Editor, Narrator, Researcher*
A short Mute/MOS and observational documentary on "Delizia 92" Pizzeria as an example of Globalization, NYC (16mm)

2008 **3 V-logs** *Director, Producer, Editor, Narrator, Researcher*
Free-style conversational cyber-films for distribution on the internet about the documentary genre and future projects (DV)

- **Selected for posting V-log in the NYFA website**

Honors, Awards and Publications

2020: Documentary "Uncanny: The Dolls of Mariana Monteagudo" is a regional Emmy Awards nominee 2020.

2020: Documentary "Uncanny: The Dolls of Mariana Monteagudo" won the PBS festival "The Film-maker Project" as well as received the title *Audience Award* earning local and national broadcast and distribution by PBS.

2020: PBS broadcasted my documentary "Uncanny: The Dolls of Mariana Monteagudo" in South Florida.

2019: Winner of *Best Documentary 2019* of the Miami Independent Film Festival and *Audience Award* from I'm Not Gonna Move to L.A. festival for the documentary "UNCANNY: The Dolls of Mariana Monteagudo".

2019: Documentary "Uncanny: The Dolls of Mariana Monteagudo" official selection of renowned "Female Eye Film Festival" in Toronto, regarded top 50 film festivals in the world.

2011: Cover and publication of series "Not Anymore" - Area de Zinc art magazine (area-zinc.com)

2009: Selected for the Discovery Channel Latin-America summer internship.

2008: Selected V-log *Why Documentaries?* Published in the New York Film Academy website www.nyfa.edu. Directed, Edited, Written and Produced by Elaine Minionis, NY.

Public screening of *Red Hats for the Soul* documentary at New York Film Academy screening room; Directed, Edited, Researched, Written, Filmed and Produced by Elaine Minionis, NY.

Poetry Recitals for the American Theater of Actors. Invited twice to feature, NYC.

2007: Accepted in Washington University in St. Louis for the M.A.- Ph.D program in Comparative Literature. Awarded with a full tuition Scholarship, a University Fellowship for the first academic year (2007-2008) and a Teaching Assistantship support after the first year.

Publication of 10 poems in the book "Voces Nuevas" – CELARG editorial (award from the Literary Expression Workshop – Mention: Poetry; nationally selected)

2006: Publication of Poem - *Galo* - *Letras Magazine* (March 20 – April 20)
Poetry Recital - *Galo* in the motion picture *Elipsis* by Eduardo Arias-Nath - 20th Century Fox

Publication of all photographic images (posters, newspapers, magazines, international presentations) - *Elipsis* - 20th Century Fox

Undergraduate Thesis Recognition - *The Mythology of Cthulhu as a mechanism of irruption of the fantastic* H.P Lovecraft - Recognized Tutor: Carlos Sandoval

Poetry Recital - *Wandering Luck*- CELARG Theater

Poetry Recital – *Disinfected Common Place* – I International Book Fair in Venezuela

2005: Nationally selected to attend the Literary Expression Workshop, Mention: Poetry - 1 year – CELARG

Publication - Selected to contribute to photographic section PORTFOLIO of the recognized art magazine *Platanoverde* #8 (2005) and its Special Edition (2006)

Publication - Contributing Writer to *Platanoverde* (#8, #9)

2004: Photographic Exhibition: "Four Houses After Turning the Corner" - Universidad Central de Venezuela