

*Curriculum Vitae*

**ANNIE J. HOWELL**

Filmmaker  
Assistant Professor of Media Studies and Film  
Coordinator, Graduate Documentary Studies Program

Department of Media Studies and Film  
The New School  
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**EDUCATION**

Master of Fine Arts in Film  
Emphasis: Writing and Directing  
New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, 2001

One year of graduate coursework  
Critical Arts Theory – Department of Culture and Communication  
New York University, 1996

Bachelor of Arts in English, with minor in Fine Art  
Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington, 1990

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

**THE NEW SCHOOL**, New York, New York  
**Department of Media Studies and Film**

**2006 – 2008      Assistant Chair for Documentary Studies,  
Assistant Professor of Media Studies and Film**

Responsible for developing and leading new one-year graduate program in documentary studies, recently named by *The Independent* magazine as one of the top ten documentary programs in North America. Leadership and senior administration include curriculum development and hiring, recruiting and admissions processes, as well as teaching core production class, day-to-day operations, fundraising, marketing, recruitment, admissions, events and long-term planning. Currently leading effort to develop MFA in Documentary Practice.

**2002 – 2005      Assistant Chair for Undergraduate Studies,  
Assistant Professor of Media Studies and Film**

Responsible for curriculum and faculty, including hiring and overseeing large adjunct faculty (80+) in Film Production, Film Studies, Media Studies, Screenwriting and Journalism.

Senior administration of the programs in Media Studies and Film:

*Cinema and Media Studies area-of-study, New School Bachelors Program*

*Media Production area-of-study, New School Bachelors Program*

*Certificate in Film Production, non-credit*

*Certificate in Screenwriting, non-credit*

Led effort in determining course offerings for a given semester. Guided and shaped overall curriculum including developing new courses, programs, and faculty initiatives.

Engaged in long-term planning for curriculum, in particular regarding the use of technology inside the media and film classroom.

Led effort for advertising and marketing of Media programs at undergraduate and non-credit level.

Created summer intensive program in the arts – Independent Film in New York.

Served on Divisional and University committees, including:

*Provost-appointed Media Curriculum Committee (2007)*

*Video Focus Group, co-leader (2007)*

Produced departmental special events, including:

*Faculty Screening Series*

*New Technology Series presented by The Producers Guild of America*

*Doc Talk (guests include Academy Award-winning and nominated directors Peter Davis,*

*DA Pennebaker, Rachel Grady and Heidi Ewing, Laura Poitras)*

Taught two courses per academic year.

**Courses taught at The New School:**

*Writing from Screen to Screen (graduate)*

*Foundations of Documentary Practice (graduate)*

*Digital Video Documentary (undergraduate)*

*Writing the Short Screenplay (undergraduate)*

*Sync Sound Preproduction: Writing and Planning (undergraduate)*

*Independent Film Producing and Directing (undergraduate)*

**DUKE UNIVERSITY, Durham, North Carolina**

The Center for Documentary Studies

Department of Literature, Program in Film and Video

Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Hart Leadership Program

## **1999 – 2002 Visiting Instructor in Film and Public Policy Studies**

Co-created (with Gail Segal) Duke University's first course in digital video documentary through The Center for Documentary Studies, the Sanford Institute of Public Policy and Duke's Program in Film and Video. Designed curriculum, advised on equipment purchase, access policy, and admissions. Worked with University staff to create final screening for community. (*The course was evaluated by students as #1 of 54 Public Policy courses by students in 2001*)

Served as co-producer on summer 2000 artist residency with Alfredo Jaar, through the Center for Documentary Studies' "Literacy Through Photography" project, involving creating a multi-media campaign (web, print, video, installation) with local high school students.

Led freshmen honors program students in weekly discussion on media and health.

### **Undergraduate Courses taught at Duke University:**

*The Documentary Experience: A Video Approach*

*Advanced Narrative Workshop (Digital Video and 16mm)*

*Screenwriting: The Short Screenplay*

*Issues in Health Care and Society: Media, Entertainment and the Performing Arts*

## **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, New York, New York** Graduate Program in Film

### **1998-99 Graduate Assistant to the Chair**

Assisted Chair in coordinating lecture series of visiting directors and producers. Speakers included Tamara Jenkins (*Slums of Beverly Hills*), Tom DiCillo (*Living in Oblivion*), Todd Solondz (*Welcome to the Dollhouse, Happiness, Palindromes*) and Barbara DeFina (producer for Martin Scorsese).

Conceived and developed advanced directing class with revolving instructors. Instructors included Terry George (*In the Name of the Father, Hotel Rwanda*), Susan Seidelman (*Desperately Seeking Susan*), Lodge Kerrigan (*Clean, Shaven*), and Alan Berliner (*Nobody's Business, The Sweetest Sound*).

## **SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE, Seattle, Washington** Tony Award-winning regional theatre

### **1991-95 Publications Coordinator, Graphic Designer, Editor**

Managed publications for large regional theatre (6 plays per season), including programs, study guides for school residencies, ads, and marketing materials.

Served as Managing Editor as well as Art Director/Graphic Designer for *Prologue* magazine, theatre's subscriber publication (published bi-monthly).

Worked closely with Artistic Director (Daniel Sullivan, now directing on Broadway in New York) and Associate Artistic Director (Doug Hughes, also currently directing on Broadway) to refine editorial content and approach.

For 1994-95 season, designed posters for the Mainstage plays.

## **SEATTLE SYMPHONY**, Seattle, Washington

### **1990-91          Publications Coordinator**

Managed publications for large regional symphony orchestra, including programs, librettos and study guides for school residencies.

## **FREELANCE**

### **1992-2000          Designer/Illustrator/Cartoonist**

Clients include “Saturday Night Live,” *The New York Times*, New York Botanical Garden, Pearl Jam, Lindesmith Center-Drug Policy Foundation, Northwest Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Center

## **ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE**

### **WRITER-DIRECTOR-CINEMATOGRAPHER-PRODUCER in FILM, 1996 - PRESENT**

*Select list*

#### ***Tia, Marco, Ming*** – *Writer/Director*

Short script in development, drama, 2009

Funded through a grant awarded by ITVS, Independent Television Service, “American Visions” series. Awarded one of 15 grants for winter 2009.

*A pregnant border agent is forced to reconsider her views when she discovers an illegal immigrant boy hiding in her bathroom.*

#### ***Sparks*** – *Co-Writer/Director*

Internet series, comedy noir, 2008

[www.sparks-series.com](http://www.sparks-series.com)

Series of narrative shorts designed for the small screen

*Equal parts absurdist comedy, mystery and documentary, Sparks is a web-based serial about humans and technology.*

#### ***Black Kid*** – *Writer*

Feature-length screenplay in development, drama, 2008

Grand Prize, Panasonic Digital Filmmaker Award, 2008 Independent Film Project (IFP)

Independent Film Week, participant in Emerging Narrative program, one of forty screenplays selected from 500 submissions

*When his family moves from New York City to rural Washington State, eleven year-old Clark finds he is suddenly cool as the town's only black kid.*

***The Mama Songs – Writer***

Feature-length screenplay in development, comedy satire, 2006

Currently with Locomotive Films, producers Lucy Barzun (*Pieces of April, Grey Gardens*) and Joshua Astrachan (*Gosford Park, Company, A Prairie Home Companion*)

Recipient of 2005 Fellowship, Nantucket Screenwriters Colony

Finalist, Sundance Lab, 2005

*A lonely janitor, seeking instant fame as a country-western singer-songwriter, becomes pregnant with sextuplets.*

***Grace and the New Rules – Director/Producer/Cinematographer***

22:00, documentary, mini-dv, color, 2002

Cucalorus Film Festival, SilverDocs Film Festival, Reel Venus Film Festival, amongst others

***\*\*Aired on the Independent Film Channel (IFC)\*\****

*An 86 year-old Southern housekeeper, a filmmaker, and the conventions of race, class, and documentary itself. "... A well-crafted and unpretentious doc ... (so captivating she could potentially sustain a full-length feature)" – indieWIRE*

***The Failure of Pamela Salt – Writer/Director***

23:00, drama, 35mm, color, 2001

***\*\*Aired on The Sundance Channel\*\****

IFP Market (finalist, Sundance Channel's Emerging Narrative Best Short Award), Virginia Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, IFP Buzzcuts, Cucalorus Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, amongst others

*A 29-year-old medical school reject moves back home, only to discover her 11-year-old neighbor is a singing, dancing cardiologist prodigy. A short film about success, failure and crushing the competition.*

***Baby – Producer***

21:00, comedy, 16mm, color, 2001

Sundance Film Festival, amongst others

*A family discovers an abandoned baby at a rest stop.*

***Dolly – Director/Editor***

7:00, comic documentary, 16mm, black and white, documentary, 2000

***\*\*Aired on PBS, Channel 13's "Reel New York" July, 2004\*\****

***\*\*Currently airing on cutlab.org, curated by screenwriter Coleman Hough\*\****

SXSW Film Festival, Doubletake Documentary Film Festival, San Francisco Doc Fest, Newport International Film Festival, MADCAT International Women's Film Festival, Lussas Documentary, amongst others

*In an old Upper East Side walk-up, plastic heads, limbs, torsos, and wigs clutter a few dimly lit rooms. Welcome to the New York Doll Hospital. Dolly profiles resident "doctor" Irving Chais as he diagnoses and treats toys and dolls in disrepair.*

***Absolutely Idaho*** – *Writer/Director*

10:00, comedy, 16mm, color, 1999

*\*\*Sold to Hypnotic for distribution, currently airing on Finnish Television\*\**

Shorts International Film Festival, Brno International Film Festival

*Sue Feener is just getting used to being a “real” New Yorker when her hometown of Pocatello, Idaho up and vanishes.*

***Poor Little Thing*** – *Producer*

10:00, comedy, 16mm, color, 1999

*An angry young woman must dress up like Santa Claus to deliver a Christmas turkey.*

***Drain King*** – *Cinematographer*

7:00, documentary, 16mm, black and white, 1998

*Bronx plumbers visit apartments, restaurants and China Town basements to clear the city’s clogged drains.*

**HONORS and AWARDS**

Development Grant Recipient (\$10,000), ITVS (Independent Television Service), “American Visions” shorts series, a series of short films intended for digital and television distribution (2009)

Grand Prize, Panasonic Digital Filmmaker Award, Independent Feature Project’s (IFP) Independent Film Week, screenplay *Black Kid* (2008)

Screenplay *The Mama Songs*, finalist, Sundance Institute Directors Lab (2005)

Screenplay *The Mama Songs*, fellow, Nantucket Screenwriters Colony (2005)

Screenplay *The Mama Songs*, accepted, Sundance Independent Producers’ Conference, (2003)

Screenplay *The Mama Songs*, finalist, Sundance Institute Directors Lab (2002)

Film *The Failure of Pamela Salt*, finalist (one of three), Sundance Channel’s Emerging Narrative Best Short Award, Independent Feature Project (IFP) Market, 2002 (jurors included filmmakers Gary Winnick and actors Clea Duvall and Mark Ruffalo)

Finalist, Seventh Annual Directors Guild of America East Coast Student Filmmakers Awards, Best Female Student Filmmaker (2001)

Five NYU Craft Awards for film *The Failure of Pamela Salt*, in Cinematography, Editing, Acting, Production Design and Producing, awarded by the faculty (2001)

Screen Gems Post Production Award (2001)

Warner Bros Post Production Award (2001)

Abel Cine Tech Student Filmmaker Camera Award (2000)

Three NYU Craft Awards for film *Absolutely Idabo* in Directing, Screenwriting, and Editing, awarded by the faculty (1999)

Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences Internship Scholarship (1998)

Full Tuition Scholarship, Graduate Assistantship — NYU (1998-99)

American Association of University Women Scholarship (1997-98)

Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women Scholarship (1997-98)

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

Vice-Chair, Executive Board of Directors, Girls Write Now (2007-present)

Judge, Stories from the Field: United Nations Film Festival (2007)

Judge, Harry Chapin Media Awards (2007, 2008)

Member, New York Women in Film and Television (2007-present)

Member, Independent Feature Project (IFP) (2008)

Faculty Participant, Full Frame Film Festival Fellows Program (2007)

### **SCREENINGS:**

#### **2008**

sparks-series.com

Indiepix.net

Independent Film Channel

#### **2006/2007**

Independent Film Channel

Cutlab.org

#### **2005**

Maine Film Festival for Girls, Portland, Maine

The Sundance Channel

Independent Film Channel

#### **2004**

IFP and Showtime's Buzzcuts, The Pioneer Theatre, New York City

PBS, Channel 13's "Reel New York"

The Sundance Channel

The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke, Video Institute (one-week documentary workshop)

**2003**

The New School, New York City  
Reel Venus Film Festival, Symphony Space, New York City  
AFI/Discovery Channel's SilverDocs Film Festival, Silver Springs, Maryland  
Bedford Women's Correctional Facility, Bedford, New York  
The Sundance Channel  
New York State Communication Conference

**2002**

Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand, France  
IFP Buzzcuts, The Pioneer Theatre, New York City  
NYU's First Run Film Festival, New York City  
Cucalorus Film Festival, Wilmington, North Carolina  
Atlanta Film Festival, Atlanta, Georgia  
IFP Market, New York City

**2001**

Full Frame Film Festival, Durham, North Carolina  
SXSW Film Festival, Austin, Texas  
San Francisco Doc Fest, San Francisco, California  
Newport International Film Festival, Newport, Rhode Island  
MADCAT International Women's Film Festival (San Francisco and National Tour)  
Lussas Documentary, Lussas, France  
Flicker Film Series, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Virginia Film Festival, Charlottesville, Virginia  
Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina  
The Light Factory (profiling North Carolina Filmmakers), Charlotte, North Carolina  
Miz Films Film Festival, Durham, North Carolina  
Solo screening of work, The Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University

**2000**

Sundance Film Festival, Park City, Utah  
NYU's First Run Film Festival, New York City  
Firewater Shorts Screening Series, New York City  
Marco Island Film Festival, Marco Island, Florida  
Shorts International Film Festival, New York City  
Brno International Film Festival, the Czech Republic

**PRESENTATIONS****2008**

National Association of Broadcasters Conference, Las Vegas  
"New Trends in Graduate Documentary Education"

**2004**

The Center for Documentary Studies  
Summer Video Institute

“Directing the Documentary”

**2003**

Meredith College

“Patterns in Film”

Screening and presentation to summer honors students, high school level

New York State Communication Conference

“First Person Documentary-Making”

Screening and presentation to NYSC members, annual conference

Bedford Womens’ Correctional Facility

“The Personal Documentary”

Screening and presentation to incarcerated women