JULIAN MERCER

CINEMATOGRAPHER

San Francisco, CA | (415) 555-0148 | julian.mercer@email.com | linkedin.com/in/julianmercer

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Director of Photography with 11+ years across documentary, commercial, and narrative production. Designs the visual look from lensing and lighting to color pipeline, runs camera and grip crews of up to 12, and delivers on budget and schedule for broadcast and streaming clients.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Photography Jan 2021 - Present
National Geographic Society, Washington, DC

- Shoot episodic documentary segments on ARRI Alexa Mini LF and Sony FX9 packages, leading a camera crew of up to 8 across multi-week location schedules.
- Developed the visual style and LUT for a six-episode series with the director and colorist, keeping the look consistent across four shooting units.
- Cut lighting setup time by about 25% on interview days by pre-lighting a standard key-fill-backlight plan scouted in advance.
- Planned drone and underwater coverage with licensed operators, bringing in 90% of the shot list in the planned shooting days.
- Managed a $320,000 camera and grip package budget and returned the unspent contingency on two productions.
- Delivered on-set dailies with metadata to the post team each night, which shortened ingest and sync time by a day per shoot.

Camera Operator and Director of Photography Mar 2017 - Dec 2020
Radical Media, Los Angeles, CA

- Operated A-camera on national commercial campaigns and shot second-unit work for brand spots under directors with strong visual direction.
- Photographed 40+ commercial days as DP, building lighting plans in advance that kept crews on time through pre-light and wrap.
- Worked with the colorist on grade references to match footage from three camera systems in a single hero spot.
- Led a four-person electric and grip team through night exteriors that needed controlled practicals and a lift-based moonlight source.
- Pitched and shot a branded documentary short that was selected for two regional film festivals.

Camera Assistant Jun 2014 - Feb 2017
Panavision, Woodland Hills, CA

- Prepped and tested camera packages, lenses, and accessories for feature and episodic orders, with no equipment failures reported on set.
- Pulled focus as 1st AC on commercial and music video shoots, holding sharp focus on shallow depth-of-field set-ups.
- Calibrated lens and monitor settings with DITs, speeding up test shoots for new camera bodies.
- Maintained camera reports and media logs for each shoot day, keeping the rental house record clean on returns.

CORE SKILLS

Lighting design | ARRI and RED camera systems | Lens selection | Color pipeline and LUTs | Camera movement and Steadicam | Drone coordination | Shot lists and storyboards | Crew leadership | Budgeting camera packages | On-set DIT workflow | Documentary field production | DaVinci Resolve | Exposure and sensor science

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production, Chapman University, Orange, CA

CERTIFICATIONS

Member, International Cinematographers Guild (IATSE Local 600) | FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate | Safety Pass, Contract Services Administration Trust Fund