

TORBEN BERNHARD

Office: 801-882-1144
torben@ohomedia.com

Torben Bernhard is an award-winning director, editor, and cinematographer who has made films on subjects ranging from the rise and fall of MTV, to the disappearance of a town in Southern Utah, to "Transmormon," the story of a Mormon family's unconditional love for their transgender daughter. He has directed and edited several critically acclaimed short and feature-length documentaries that have been featured in The New York Times, The Atlantic, National Geographic, Upworthy, People Magazine, The Sundance Film Festival, and more. He has also experienced viral success with two separate documentary projects, garnering over 100 million views. He has received the "Utah Short Film of the Year Award" three times in a row.

EDUCATION

Utah Valley University, Orem, UT.
B.A. in Integrated Studies, Cum Laude, 2009
B.A. Thesis: *The Sonosopher: Alex Caldiero in Life...in Sound*

AWARDS AND HONORS HIGHLIGHTS

Winner, Best Feature Documentary, World Cinema Nice, for *Church & State*, 2018

Finalist, Best Editing in a Feature Documentary, World Cinema Nice, for *Church & State*, 2018

Winner, Best Feature Documentary, American Documentary Film Festival, for *Church & State*, 2018

Winner, Golden Spike Award: Videos for External Audiences, PRSA, for *Oxygen to Fly*, 2017

Winner, Utah Short Film of the Year, Utah Arts Festival, for *Oxygen to Fly*, *Transmormon*, *Boomtown*, 2017, 2014, 2013

Winner, Vimeo Staff Pick, for *Transmormon*, 2014

Winner, Artistic Vision Award, Big Sky Documentary, for *Transmormon*, 2014

Winner, Tree of Life Award, Affirmation, for *Transmormon*, 2014

Winner, St. Louis Film Festival Special Jury Award for Best Documentary Short, for *Boomtown*, 2013

Winner, City Weekly Arty for Best Short Film of the Year, for *Boomtown*, 2013

Recipient: Integrated Studies Student Thesis of the Year Award, National Dean's List, Dean's Merit Scholar, Conflict Resolution Scholarship, Communities of Engaged Learners Grant (2008 and 2009), and Scholarly and Creative Opportunities Program Scholarship.

COMMUNICATION AND INSTRUCTION

Monument Pictures, Salt Lake City, UT 2019-2025

Editing Consultant

- Taught post-production professionals storytelling techniques, editing analysis, and technical editing skills.
- Served as a mentor and consultant for all episodes of season six of the television show *Artful*.

Utah Valley University, 2023

Adjunct Professor, Advanced Editing II

Utah Valley University, 2010-2013

Communication Specialist, College of Humanities & Social Sciences

- Responsible for branding, marketing events, conference registration, graphic design, video, photography, web site presence and maintenance, social media outreach, and developing internal communication models to improve the dissemination of information throughout the College and region.
- Managed, under the supervision of Associate Vice President Brian Birch, central initiatives for the Office of Engaged Learning focused on further developing “engagement” at Utah Valley University. Spearheaded and conceptualized a narrative approach to marketing remarkable student, faculty, and alumni stories.
- Selected to create, in collaboration with a team of graphic and web designers, a new web portal to curate short format web videos, first-person testimonials, and resources to serve both the internal and external community. For over a year, all regional Utah Valley University billboards directed users to this site.

Get Storied, 2010-2013

Story Fellow

- Served on the design team for their inaugural “Reinvention Summit: A Virtual Conference on Storytelling.”

Utah Valley University, 2004-2009

Mediation Program Coordinator

- Traveled to local high schools and middle schools in Utah County, developing truancy intervention programs for students through parent/teen mediation. Developed a parent/teen mediation course at Dixon Middle School that was awarded the Communities of Engaged Learners grant.

Utah Valley University, 2007

Adjunct Professor, Anthropology 1010

SELECTED WORK

***The Gospel of Elaine*, Editor, 2025**

A feature-length documentary film exploring the extraordinary work and personal journey of renowned scholar Elaine Pagels.

***Source*, Editor, 2025**

A documentary feature film about Bristol Bay, Alaska and the untamed and pristine ecosystem that makes it one of the biggest spawning grounds for salmon in the world and the risk of the proposed Pebble Mine.

***Artful*, Producer, Consulting Editor, Editor, 2019-Present**

A television series about the inner workings of the creative spirit and how personal faith influences artists and their art. The show is entering its sixth season.

***Professor of Film Editing*, Advanced Editing II, Utah Valley University, 2023**

***Home River*, Cinematographer, Editor, Colorist, 2023**

In 2016, three Sámi women broke the law to protect their traditions. The Sámi people had fished the Deatnu River as a livelihood and spiritual practice for centuries until Finland enforced unprecedented restrictions on the river. In a monumental case for Indigenous rights, Kati, Anne, and Heidi fought the state to keep their culture alive.

***Fire Tender*, Cinematographer, Editor, Colorist, 2023**

Tells the story of Yurok tribal members returning to traditional fire ways. This documentary aired on PBS.

***The Right to Read*, Finishing Editor, 2023**

The Right to Read shares the stories of an NAACP activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read.

***I Want My MTV*, Editor, 2019**

Details the implausible genesis of MTV, the rapid rise of the brand, and the global revolution that followed. In partnership with A&E Networks and Time Inc. Premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

***Deep South Cancer Fighters*, Editor, 2018**

Official Selection of Sidewalk Film Festival.

***Church & State*, Editor, 2018**

Winner of multiple film festival awards. The documentary received national and international distribution through Blue Fox Entertainment.

***Quiet Heroes*, Director of Photography, 2018**

Official Selection of Sundance Film Festival.

Oxygen to Fly, Director, 2017

Over 100 million views to date. Featured in several national and international publications, including BBC, ESPN, CNN, People Magazine, and Billboard Magazine. Official Selection of SXSW's Social Change Conference.

The Gospel According to Raphael, Director/Director of Photography, 2016

Created in collaboration with Salt Lake City's NPR affiliate. Featured by The Atlantic and Narratively.

Dying in Vein, Editor/Co-Producer/Director of Photography, 2016

Transmormon, Director, 2014

Award-winning, viral short documentary with over 5 million views. Featured in several national and international publications, including National Geographic, The New York Times, The Atlantic, and The Huffington Post.

Boomtown, Director/Director of Photography, 2013

Official Selection of DOC NYC, Camden International Film Festival, St.Louis International Film Festival, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Oxford Film Festival, and Logan Film Festival.