

# MELISSA JANE KIEGO

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## Filmmaker

- Professional cinematography, lighting, editing, directing, and pre-production planning experience for more than 8 years.
  - Valued leader of creative teams, multimedia, and communications departments.
  - Skilled in conceptualization and orchestration of marketing campaigns that effectively reinforce and build brand images.
  - Expert in the technical, conceptual and content development of film production.
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## Education

**University of Texas**, Austin, TX, Spring of 2025

- Master of Fine Arts in Film
  - Film Production
  - Emphasis on Directing

**Rochester Institute of Technology**, Rochester, NY, Dec. 2013

- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Bachelor of Science in Psychology
    - Minor: Deaf Culture Studies
    - Performing Arts Certificate
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## Professional Experience

**Motion Light Lab**, Washington, DC – *Gallaudet University*

**Production Specialist**, Sept. 2019 to Aug. 2022

- Lead in production in all aspects of Motion Light Lab and Action & Brain Lab projects, such as: filming, editing, animating, and handling the logistics of production.
- Also arranging, training, coaching, and managing scripts and content for storytellers/talents.
- Provide support for animation, motion capture, and 3D creative works from a production perspective.

Link: <http://www.motionlightlab.com>

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**Copper & Water, LLC.**, Washington, DC – *Media Hub*

**Digital Media Director**, Jan. 2017 to present

- Meet and arrange for independent contractors to work with different companies on a variety of large to small scale projects. Such projects include graphic design, logo design, web design, filming, editing, captioning, transcribing, writing, and consulting.
- Responsible for managing all platforms of social media outlets for Copper & Water on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- Create marketing materials, website, and videos for Copper & Water.

Link: <http://www.thecopperandwater.com>

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**Hot Snakes Media Production Company**, Washington, DC – *Netflix*

**Logger**, Sept. 2019 to Nov. 2019

- Helped log over hundreds of hours of footage from American Sign Language to English text with time codes.
- Tracked story development and made sure to let the story producers know if the actors were following the script prompts for each scene.

Link: <https://www.netflix.com/title/81035566>

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**National Deaf Center**, Austin, TX – *National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes*

**Social Media Specialist**, Jan. 2017 to Oct. 2017

- Chiefly responsible for managing all platforms of social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and more.
- Maximize the usage of various social media platforms to optimize marketing and outreach to the community with a focus on the postsecondary education, career, or lifetime choices available to deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- Incorporate multi-media skills and work with a team of marketing and communications specialists remotely.

Link: <http://www.nationaldeafcenter.org>

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**Ink & Salt**, Washington, DC – *Carebears and ASL*

**Filmmaker/Editor**, Ongoing contract basis from 2016-2017

- Capturing and editing footage for an ASL app designed for children.
- Tasks also include doing chroma keying, color correction, and lighting.
- Working closely with app development and compression issues for memory sizes.

Link: <http://www.inkandsalt.com/>

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**Hands Land**, Washington, DC – *ASL Rhymes and Rhythms for Young Children*

**Chief Cinematographer/Editor**, May 2015 to Nov. 2016

- Manage the capture of playful and creative videos with the use of chroma keying and lighting.
- Responsible for the final format of the entire video production by integrating entire animation sequences with edited footages.

Link: [www.handsland.com](http://www.handsland.com)

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**Purple Communications**, Rocklin, CA – *Video Relay Services*

**Video Producer**, Sep. 2015 to Feb. 2016

- Responsible for all video capture, edit, and presentations for the company.
- Tasks also include doing captioning, chroma keying, color correction, lighting, photography, writing production concepts/scripts, obtaining talent, directing talent, seeking locations for filming, and more.

- Marketing the service of Purple Communications through videos output via the company website and social media.

Link: [www.purple.us](http://www.purple.us)

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**Communication Services for the Deaf**, Austin, TX – *Communication Services*

**Video Editor**, Ongoing contract basis from 2014-2017

- Editing footage for their various campaigns/projects, doing transition work, color correction, effects, captioning, and audio edits.
- Telecommuting with a digital team remotely through basecamp.

Link: [www.csd.org](http://www.csd.org)

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**Gallaudet University**, Washington, DC – *International Design Competition/ASL Connect*

**Cinematographer/Editor and Digital Media Specialist**, Aug. 2015 to May 2016 then March 2016 to Sept. 2016

- Capturing natural, artistic, and architectural videos with the use of a slider, shoulder rig, and DSLR lenses/camera. Editing of montages related to the Gallaudet International Design Competition and DeafSpace.
- A short montage video runs as a placeholder in the front of the homepage of the International Design Competition website.
- Capturing instructional ASL footage for the ASL Connect program at Gallaudet University.

Links: <https://competitions.malcolmreading.co.uk/gallaudet/> and [www.gallaudet.edu/campus-design/deafspace.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/campus-design/deafspace.html)

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## Other Experience

**so it goes.**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL – *Deaf Artists' Playground short film*

**Cinematographer**, Feb. 2020

- Created a long-shot short film centering around 3 different environments and storylines entirely on an iPhone XS Max with the help of a gimbal stabilizer system.
- The short film is now being submitted to film festivals internationally.

Link: <https://filmfreeway.com/projects/2331714>

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**America's Next Top Model**, Washington, DC – *Audition Tape*

**Cinematographer**, Oct. 2014

- Capture videos of Nyle DiMarco in various modeling and runway poses in exterior and interior environments around the District of Columbia.
- Advise on footage use and script.

Link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEkwIxcgINic](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEkwIxcgINic)

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**Sign to Sign**, Washington, DC – *Human Rights Advocacy*

**Cinematographer/Editor**, July 2014 to Nov. 2014

- Promote the human rights of marriage equality by producing a video to be released widely on social media platforms

- Film various individuals and groups in public spaces, interior studios, and their homes.
- Edit footage, sound, and logo design.
- Launch a social media page, campaign, and increase awareness to the public.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/Sign-to-Sign-947995005228157/>

## Technology

<b>Software:</b>	Final Cut Pro X, Adobe Premiere, AfterEffects, Encoder, Photoshop, Final Draft, Celtx, Motion, Google Drive, Slack
<b>Equipment/Tools:</b>	Electric and door dollies, rail tracks, steadicams, sliders, shoulder rigs, etc.

## Skills

Cinematography	Scheduling for Projects
Editing/Captioning	Budget planning
Lighting/Rigging	Scriptwriting
Underwater Cinematography	Public & Media Relations
Creative Team Leadership	New Product Launch

## Awards

**Film Festival Screenings** (*The Pastman*), 2018, (*Oblivion*), 2015, and (*Salvation*), 2014

These short films have been accepted to screen at several film festivals such as the Other Worlds Austin Sci-Fi Film festival, Shanghai International Deaf Film Festival, Rochester Fringe Festival, the UK Deaffest in London, the Seattle Deaf Film Festival, and more. "The Pastman" has won two best actress awards internationally.

**First Place in the Next Big Idea Competition by ZVRS** (*Invisible Captions*), 2013

The presentation of this innovative product won the attention of many deaf individuals seeking for better captioning strategies.

**Grand Prize Winner in the See What I'm Saying Contest** (*Can You See What I'm Saying?*), 2010

In the Sprint sponsored competition, the three-minute short comedy film depicts what Deaf people can do as opposed to Hearing people.

**Demo Reel on request | Available for remote work**