Umit Gulsen

Director of Photography · Washington, DC
umit@umitgulsen.net · +1 703-349-9125 · umitgulsen.net · IMDb nm7570526

Twenty years of visual storytelling

Freelance Director of Photography in Washington, DC since 2015. References available on request.

EXPERIENCE

2015— **Freelance Director of Photography**
Documentaries, television, news, commercials, music videos and narrative films for networks, newsrooms, nonprofits and brands across Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia and internationally.

SELECTED CREDITS

Documentary 25

In production	One Giant Leap: The Life of Farouk El-Baz Cinematographer	Fairouz El-Baz	MISR · Banded Media
In production	Singles Director of Photography	Lisa Hurwitz	A Slice of Pie Productions
2026	Series on artists & materials — Making Colors, Pollock, LeWitt Director of Photography		National Gallery of Art
2024	Yalla Parkour Cinematographer (U.S.) & camera operator	Areeb Zuaiter	Kinana Films
2024	Crypto documentary · DC shoot Director of Photography		Independent production
2023	Till Murder Do Us Part: Soering vs. Haysom · docuseries Director of Photography (Lynchburg, VA interviews)		Netflix · Fruitmarket
2023	Join or Die Additional cinematography	Pete Davis & Rebecca Davis	Netflix · Abramorama
2023	Shadow Men: Inside Wagner, Russia's Secret War Company Cinematographer		The Wall Street Journal
2023	The Love Letters of Ulysses S. Grant Director of Photography	Theodore Antonio Anasti	Whimsy Productions
2021	Persona: The Dark Truth Behind Personality Tests Additional photography	Tim Travers Hawkins	CNN Films · HBO Max
2020	Jonathan Scott's Power Trip Camera operator	Edward Osei-Gyimah & Jonathan Scott	Future You Media
2018	We Are Not Done Yet Cinematographer	Sareen Hairabedian	HBO
2018	Recognizing the Early Stages of Dementia Director of Photography	Christopher Cymbalak	AARP Studios
2017	Fashion Foresight Director of Photography	Christopher Cymbalak	AARP Studios · Webby nominee

2019	Living Proof Director of Photography	Christopher Cymbalak	AARP Studios
2017–26	Purpose Prize, Never Gets Old, Real People Stories & more Director of Photography		AARP Studios
2023–24	Oral-history films · 13 episodes Director of Photography		American Veterans Center
2021	Redefining Shangri-La · Refugee Chef Director of Photography		Channel NewsAsia
2025	Is Information the Fifth Force of Nature? Director of Photography		Quanta Magazine
2023	The Map Coloring Puzzle That Changed Mathematics Director of Photography		Quanta Magazine
2021	James Webb Space Telescope documentary · NASA Goddard interviews Director of Photography		Quanta Magazine (Simons Foundation)
2017	Imagine… Cameron Mackintosh Cinematographer		BBC
2016	Wings to Fly (Guatemala) & Glimpses of Tanzania Director of Photography	Christopher Cymbalak	Project Concern International (PCI) · USDA Food for Education
2017	North Korean refugee documentary Director of Photography		EV Content
2018	Fed Chair Janet Yellen · Federal Reserve shoot Cinematographer		Ironbound Films · feature documentary

Television 9

2021–25	If You Lived Here · Seasons 1–4 Cinematographer		Leapfrog Productions · WETA PBS
2021	Mary Letourneau · documentary episode (Maryland shoot) Cinematographer		Arrow Media (UK)
2024	Couching It · pilot Director of Photography		VPM (Virginia PBS)
2021	The Problem with Jon Stewart · 1 episode Camera operator		Busboy Productions · Apple TV+
2021	UFO · 1 episode Camera operator		Bad Robot · Showtime
2019	If We Built It Today · 1 episode Camera operator		Arcadia Content · Science Channel
2018	Quebrando o Tabu · 2 episodes Cinematographer		Spray Filmes · GNT (Brazil)
2017	Mastermind · 2 episodes Cinematographer		BBC
2016	Suspicion · Season 2 (West Virginia inserts) Additional photography		October Films

Broadcast & news 8

2021–26	Interviews & features · 60+ shoots Director of Photography		The Wall Street Journal
2026	BOTFRAME · DC shoot Director of Photography		The Wall Street Journal

2025	Army Secretary Dan Driscoll interview Director of Photography		The Wall Street Journal
2025	Education Secretary Linda McMahon interview Director of Photography		The Wall Street Journal
2025	ACLU's Cecillia Wang on fighting Trump's deportation plan Director of Photography		The Wall Street Journal
2024	Rep. Maxwell Frost Director of Photography		Condé Nast
2021	Climate Envoy John Kerry interview Director of Photography		The Wall Street Journal
2026	Ransomware: Firmen in Geiselhaft (NZZ Format) Director of Photography		NZZ · SRF

Narrative 9

2026	In Need of Seawater Director of Photography	Richard Yeagley	Short
2025	The Cousin Director of Photography	Amitabh Joshi	Short · Vacant Light · Nepal America Int'l Film Festival 2025
2019	A Trip Down Memory Lane Writer, producer, DP & editor	Umit Gulsen	Short · Gold Award, DC Webfest
2018	Beautiful Dreamer Cinematographer	Stephen Lipscomb	Feature
2017	The Importance of Finding the Other Cinematographer	Marcey Lynn Frutchey	Short · Rosebud Award
2017	Tell Me a Story Cinematographer	Isa Seyran & Ibrahim Turk	Zeyba Films · short
2015	How Do I Camera operator	Stephen Lipscomb	Short
2022	Senses Cinematographer	Alyscia Cunningham	Her House Media · short
2017	You've Reached Sarah Cinematographer		Short

Music videos 2

2021	Lauren Gottshall — Easy for Me Director of Photography	Morgan Gullett	MG Entertainment
2019	Heather Mae — Smoke Signals Director of Photography		MG Entertainment

Commercial, branded & arts 5

2025	WAEPA 2025 commercial Director of Photography		WAEPA
2021	MAGNIFICA · screendance Director of Photography	Mimmo Miccolis (choreographer)	Embassy of Italy · Istituto Italiano di Cultura
2016	Official recruitment film Director of Photography	Fabian Marquez	N-SSA
2021	Recruitment film Director of Photography		Kaeser Compressors

2016–26	Brand & nonprofit films Director of Photography	Deloitte, Capital One, Kaiser Permanente, Uber, Marriott, Save the Children, WaterAid, American Red Cross & more

EDUCATION

2016 — MA, Film and Video — American University
Washington, DC.

2007 — TV, Radio and Cinema — Marmara University
Istanbul. Film theory and history; assistant director on TV series, shorts and documentaries, including *Blue*, supervised by Majid Majidi.

SELECTED CLIENTS & COLLABORATORS

The Wall Street Journal · BBC · Netflix · HBO · Al Jazeera · Financial Times · Condé Nast · TikTok · Viacom · CTV National News · Channel NewsAsia · NZZ · TEGNA · WETA-PBS · VPM (Virginia PBS) · AARP · The Kennedy Center · National Gallery of Art · National Park Service · HHMI · Simons Foundation · Bloomberg Philanthropies · UNDP · Save the Children · WaterAid · American Red Cross · UPS Foundation · The Pew Charitable Trusts · NRDC · AFL-CIO · Roosevelt Institute · Union of Concerned Scientists · No Kid Hungry · Deloitte · Capital One · Marriott · Kaiser Permanente · Uber · IKEA · Bridgestone · Kia · Dermalogica · Sodexo · Williams-Sonoma (Pottery Barn Kids) · Interscope Records · King & Spalding · McDermott Will & Emery · Georgetown University · University of Virginia · American University · USCIS · National Museum of the Marine Corps · Interpublic Group · MullenLowe · Arrow Media · Zinc Media · Farm Sanctuary · Cystic Fibrosis Foundation · Jewish Federations of North America · American Veterans Center · PCI · Embassy of Italy · Istituto Italiano di Cultura · The Washington Ballet · Goldschmied & Chiari · Quanta Magazine · Manoto TV · 2U · University of Denver · California University of Management and Sciences · ALMA · IELTS · Addison · Blue Chalk Media · WAEPA · Kaeser Compressors · NSSA-NSCA · North-South Skirmish Association · Heather Mae · Lauren Gottshall

RECOGNITION

2025 — Yalla Parkour
Feature documentary (U.S. cinematography). Screened at the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale). Berlinale listing ↗

2024 — Join or Die
Feature documentary (additional cinematography) — released on Netflix.

2023 — Shadow Men: Inside Wagner, Russia's Secret War Company
Peabody Awards nominee. The Wall Street Journal. Peabody Awards ↗

2019 — A Trip Down Memory Lane
Gold Award, Digital Shorts — DC Webfest. Official Selection — Virginia Film Festival.

2018 — Fashion Foresight — AARP
Webby Award Nominee, 22nd Annual Webby Awards — Social: Fashion & Beauty.

2018 — The Importance of Finding the Other
Rosebud Award — Rosebud Film Festival.

ON CAMERA

Fed Chair Janet Yellen · Climate Envoy John Kerry · U.S. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll · Education Secretary Linda McMahon · Rep. Maxwell Frost · Suze Orman · Fitness icon Denise Austin · Astronaut Leland Melvin · Futurist Amy Webb · The President of Somalia (official visit) · NBA referee Dee Kantner · Actor James Madio · Holocaust survivor Ben Lesser · Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. George Hardy · WWII paratrooper Vincent Speranza

MEMBERSHIPS

WIFV — Women in Film & Video

CONTACT →