

# SOWJANYA KUDVA

Assistant Professor | Cinema & Television Arts | Elon University

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## EDUCATION

### Temple University

**MFA** | Film & Media Arts (2016 - 2019)

*Concentration:* Screen & Comics Writing

*Award:* Future Faculty Fellowship (3 years)

### University of North Carolina School of the Arts

**BFA** | School of Filmmaking (1999 - 2003)

*Major:* Editing & Sound

## TEACHING

**Assistant Professor** | Elon University (Fall 2020 - present)

- CTA3560 *Film & Television Aesthetics*
- COR3500 *Analyzing the Graphic Novel*
- CTA3160 *Writing for Television & Cinema*
- CTA2560 *Entertainment Media*
- COM2200 *Creating Multimedia Content*

### Instructor

- COM2200 *Creating Multimedia Content* — Adjunct Professor, Elon University (2020)
- *How to Script Comics* — Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University (2019)
- *Making Comics* — Temple University (2018)

### Teaching Assistantships

- *Screenwriting I* — Temple University (2018)
- *Introduction to Film Analysis* — Temple University (2017 - 2018)
- *Media Arts II* — Temple University — (2018)
- *Editing & Sound* — University of North Carolina School of the Arts (2001)

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, PANELS, & TALKS

- **Presenter** | **Queer Studies Conference** — UNC-Asheville — March 2023  
*Neoliberalism & Disclosure's New Trans Activism: The Politics of Discrimination and How to Fight It.*
- **Presenter** | **76th UFVA Conference** — SUNY Fredonia — July 2022  
*That's Hollywood! How Disclosure's Activist-filmmakers Refused to Shrug-off Traditional Production Practices by Modeling New Ones*
- **Panelist** | **Pritzker Sucker Studio Lab** — Northwestern University — April 2022  
*Media Production Cultures and Mental Health*
- **Presenter** | **MCLLM** — Northern Illinois University — April 2022  
*That's Hollywood! How Disclosure's Activist-filmmakers Refused to Shrug-off Traditional Production Practices by Modeling New Ones*

- **Panelist** | **Kelly Strayhorn Theater** — Pittsburgh, PA — Nov 2020  
*Devas Ex Machina: A Conversation about God(s), South Asians, and Queers* ([link](#))
- **Talk** | **The Ethnography Lab** — Duke University — Feb 2020  
*Conversations on Documentary: How Form Influences Function* ([link](#))
- **Presenter** | **Scholars of Color Conference** — Temple University — April 2019  
*What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get: The Limitations and Potential of Word-Processing*
- **Presenter** | **Race/Sex/Power Conference** — Roosevelt University — April 2018  
*Artificial Intelligence Narratives as a Tool for Building an Intersectional Imaginary*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Filmmaker & Consultant** | [sowjfilms.com](http://sowjfilms.com) — 2003-present

- Write, direct, produce, and edit projects across multiple platforms & genres.
- *Selected Clients:* IBM, Condé Nast, Vogue, Vanity Fair, GQ, WIRED, YouTube, Etsy

### **Senior Producer** | **Independent Television Service (ITVS)** — San Francisco, CA — 2015-2016

- Produced and edited documentaries for PBS's *Independent Lens* and *POV*.
- *Selected Partners:* The Atlantic, The Nation, The Washington Post, NPR News, KQED News, Salon, PBS Newshour

### **Senior Producer** | **WIRED** — San Francisco, CA — 2013-2015

- Re-built and managed in-house video department. Directed, produced, edited all videos.
- *Selected Clients:* 9/11 Museum, Disney/Pixar, Ducati, Oculus Rift, Pinterest, Dropbox, Oakley, AutoDesk, Acura
- *Awards:* 2 Society of Publication Designers Awards (2015); D&AD Golden Pencil (2015); Vimeo Staff Pick for *Behind the Scenes w/ Edward Snowden* (2014)

### **Editor, Lead Ast. Editor, Asst. Editor** | **TV Post-Houses**, Los Angeles, CA — 2003-2009

- Assisted, online edited, and offline edited broadcast and reality TV productions for Freemantle Media, 51 Minds Production, 3Ball Productions, WPT Entertainment.
- As lead assistant editor, I managed a team of other assistants and coordinated with producers, writers, and editors to prepare episodes for broadcast.
- *Channels:* NBC, VH1, The Travel Channel, Oxygen

### **Video Producer & Event Coordinator** | **MMA Group**, Los Angeles, CA — 2005-2006

- Coordinated large-scale events for fashion shows, art auctions, weekly musical residencies, music festival parties, and brand parties. Introduced video to agency's marketing strategy.
- *Selected Clients:* Museum of Contemporary Art - Los Angeles, Otis College of Art & Design, Coachella Music Festival, Motorola, Myspace, Quiksilver, DKNY, Harajuku Lovers, XBOX

## SELECTED SCREENINGS

### CONSULTANT

- ***Our League*** (2022), **Documentary Short**, ITVS — Dir: Sam Cullman
  - Premiered on PBS Independent Lens
- ***Halloween 1987*** (2022), **Narrative Short** — Dir: Hansen Bursic
  - Premiered ReelQ Film Festival in the Team Dream Shorts category

### VIDEO EDITOR

- ***(in)convenience*** (2023) **Narrative Short** — Dir: Alexandra Greenspan
  - Premiered at San Francisco Independent Film Festival & won The Audience Award for Best Narrative Short
  - Screened at Tag! Queer Shorts Festival; Wicked Queer; TRANSlations
- ***Waking Hour*** (2019) **Narrative Short** — Dir: Nava Mau
  - Screened at 20+ festivals in 2019-20 including *NewFest*, *Outfest Fusion*, *Toronto LGBT Film Festival*
- ***Jose and Mr. Ramos*** (2016), **ITVS Documentary Short** — Dir: Jackie Mow, Laura Pacheco
  - Published on NPR and PBS NewsRoom; Screened at PBS Online Film Festival
- ***Sophie and Ben*** (2016) **ITVS Documentary Short** — Dir: Sophie Sartain
  - Published on PBS *Independent Lens*, NPR, The Atlantic, KQED; Screened at the American Film Showcase
- ***Marry the Movement*** (2013) **Promo for SONG** — Dir/Prod/DP/GFX: Sowjanya Kudva
  - Published at *The Nation*, *Human Right Campaign*, *Colorlines*, and more.
- ***All of Us*** (2012) **Educational Documentary Short** — Dir/Prod/DP/GFX: Sowjanya Kudva
  - Screened at 7 national conferences, 2012 - 2013
- ***Into the Depths*** (2011) **Music Video** — Dir: Will Joines
  - Premiered on Pitchfork.com
- ***Heaven in Stereo*** (2011) **Music Video** — Dir: Will Joines
  - Premiered on Spin.com
- ***Sparkle in the Dark*** (2011) **Music Video** — Dir: Will Joines
  - Premiered on AllMusic.com
- ***Getaway Driver*** (2010) **Music Video** — Dir: Will Joines
  - Premiered on MTV-U Top 5
- ***Be Still*** (2010) **Short Narrative Film** — Dir: Karrie Crouse
  - Screened at Slamdance, Austin Film Festival, Memphis Film Festival

- *Farewell, My Subaru* (2008) **Documentary Short** — Dir: Jason Ensler
  - Published on BoingBoing.com
- *Obsessed with You* (2008) **Music Video** — Dir: Will Joines
  - Premiered on MTV-U
- *Hollywood Smile* (2007) **Music Video** — Dir: Locke Webster
  - Premiered on LOGO Top 10
- *What I Love About Dying* (2006) **Short Film** — Dir: Silas Howard
  - Premiered at Sundance Film Festival
- *Rondro* (2004) **Documentary Feature** — Dir: John Roberts
  - Premiered at Cine Noir Film Festival, Closing Night Film

## VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- **Panel Organizer & Moderator** | *Print, Digital, and Video Journalism – Creative Collaboration across Branded Magazine Content*, Elon University & Cinelon — 2022  
Conversation with current and former WIRED staff: Angela Watercutter, Christie Hemm Klock, Nurie Mohamed, and Junho Kim
- **Volunteer** | *Strong Black Lead: Finding Your Voice and Propelling Your Career*, Elon in LA Alumni Event — 2022  
Moderator: Nneka Eurah, 2011  
Panelists: Theresa Helmer, 2012; Davis Morrow, 2010; Mia G. Watkins, 2016; Mykel Dodson, 2010; Loren Brunson, 2019
- **Panel Organizer & Moderator** | *How to Build an Inclusive Culture in Media Production*, Elon University and Student Government Association — 2021  
Conversation with [Nava Mau](#) and [Kristal Sotomayor](#)
- **Presenter** | *The Power of No: Reclaiming Your Voice in Media Production*, Student-run ALANAM Conference, Elon University — 2021  
Conference serves African-American/Black, Latinx/Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Alaskan Native, and Multiracial communities at Elon
- **Panelist** | **New Faculty Orientation**, Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, Elon University — 2021  
Topic: strategies for thriving during your first year at a new university
- **Guest Speaker** | **Cinelon**, Student Media Organization, Elon University — 2021  
Topic: ethics of production in screen-media industries
- **Mentor** | **The Writing Circle** — 2021  
Mentorship program for trans women of color who sought to submit to the print anthology: *Paradise on the Margins: Lessons and Dreams from Trans Women of Color*.

- **Mentor & Panel Moderator | Temple University** — 2017-2019  
Worked with queer-, people of color-, and women-led student orgs to moderate panels, organize workshops, and support students in extracurricular and professional pursuits.
- **Creative Mentor & Guest Speaker | BAYCAT**, San Francisco, CA — 2014-2016  
Worked with under-resourced high school students at an organization that sought to close the digital divide in Silicon Valley.
- **Assistant Programmer | OUTFEST & AFI Film Festivals** — 2005-2006  
Watched festival submissions, wrote summaries of each, and provided opinions on whether the films should be screened in each respective festival.

## SERVICE AT ELON

- **Student Media Board** — 2023
- **University QEP Committee** — 2022 - 2023
- **School of Communications Diversity Committee** — 2022
- **Cinema & Television Arts Curriculum Committee** — 2022
- **School of Communications Fellows Committee** — 2020 - 2021
- **Honors Student Mentorship**
  - **Stella Bloom** — 2022 - 2024  
**Topic:** Queer representation in queer, coming of age cinema.
  - **Ridley Randolph** — 2020 - 2023  
**Thesis:** *Producing Gender: How Hollywood Production Cultures Affect Gender Representation in Romantic Comedy Films.*
  - **Elizabeth Bigham** — 2020 - 2022  
**Thesis:** *Empowered: Examining Queer and Feminist Identities through Comics and Film.*
- **Cinema & Television Arts BFA Thesis Mentor**
  - **Nadine Jose** — 2022 - 2023  
**Thesis:** *In Regards To Your Father* | Feature-length Screenplay
  - **Chase Pelletier Hernandez** — 2022 - 2023  
**Thesis:** *Baker's Place* | Short Narrative Film
  - **Sydney Steinberg** — 2022 - 2023  
**Thesis:** *Taste* | Short Narrative Film + 4 short screenplays that combine into a feature-length film: *Sight, Touch, Sound, Smell*

- **Hanna Biebel** — 2021 - 2022  
**Thesis:** *Touch* | Short Narrative Film  
**Award:** [Best First-Time Short Film](#) @ BIFF, Sweden (Sept 2022)
- **Lauren McLane** — 2021 - 2022  
**Thesis:** *Meth Baby* | Feature-length Screenplay

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- \$500 | **Center for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning**, Elon University — 2020
- \$24,000/y Stipend + Tuition Remission | **Future Faculty Fellowship**, Temple University Graduate School — 2016 - 2019

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- **University Film and Video Association** (2022 - present)
- **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication** (2021-2022)
- **National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity** (2020-2021)
  - Completed *Faculty Success Program* (Summer 2020)

## SKILLS

### TEACHING

Moodle  
Canvas  
Blackboard

### MULTIMEDIA

Premiere  
Photoshop  
Illustrator  
Final Cut  
AVID

### WRITING

Final Draft  
Highland  
Scrivener  
Celtx

### MANAGEMENT

Slack  
Trello  
Asana  
Teams

### CREATIVE

Writing  
Producing  
Directing  
Cinematography  
Video Editing  
Sound Editing

Sound Recording  
Sound Design  
Story Editing  
Post Supervising  
Project Development  
Creative Consulting

### PROFESSIONAL

Team Building  
& Supervising  
Hiring & Professional  
Development  
Project Management  
Public Speaking  
Curriculum Design

Brand Strategy  
Marketing Strategy  
Event Production  
Studio Building  
Post Studio Building  
Budgeting & Equipment