



G. Mark LaFrancis

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Resume

General

G. Mark LaFrancis is an award-winning photographer, journalist, film-maker, as well as an instructor of photography, journalism and film production to students from ages 10 to 70. G. Mark LaFrancis is listed on the Mississippi Arts Commission Artist Roster and the Mississippi Humanities Council Speakers Bureau for his presentations on poetry, film making, and film production.

- 2020** **Writer:** The play “Show and Tell: A Soldier’s Renewal,” based on his poem “Show and Tell.” To be produced at the Natchez Little Theatre in Nov. 2020.
- 2020** **Writer:** “In Their Boots: Voices of World War II,” a collection of poems inspired by interviews with Mississippi World War II veterans. Due for release: fall of 2020.
- 2003-present** **Interviewer/Oral Historian/Writer:** Combat or near-combat veterans and their loved ones, composing more than 1,100 poems inspired by the interviews.
- 2008- present** **Presenter:** “In Their Boots: Poems Inspired by Soldiers and Their Loved Ones,” “In Their Boots: Voices of World War II,” multi-media programs supported by the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Mississippi Arts Commission. To date, approximately 50 programs completed to audiences of approximately 3,000 Mississippians.

- 2018** **Recipient:** 2018 Mississippi Scholar (Mississippi Humanities Council) for extensive contributions to the state of Mississippi in terms of oral histories (World War II veterans, Parchman Ordeal survivors, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration’s 25th anniversary, and more) along with production of documentaries, and teaching artist residencies.
- 2017** **Co-Creator, Executive Producer:** “Women of the Struggle: Facing Fear in the Civil Rights Era,” a documentary chronicling the lives of young women living through extraordinary and dangerous times in the Mississippi region.
- 2017** **Coordinator, Natchez PhotoVoice (Project H.E.A.L.):** Collaborative among City of Natchez, IDEAS XLab, Natchez Art Association
- 2017** **Teaching Artist (Film and Photography):** Fallin Career and Technology Center, Natchez, MS. Coached six-student team on creation of two films, both of which placed first in district competition and second in state competition
- 2016** **Executive Producer/Director/Script Writer/Editor:** “The Parchman Ordeal: The Untold Story” in partnership with the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American History and Culture. Selected for broadcast by Mississippi Public Broadcasting and chosen “Most Transformative Film” at the Crossroads Film Festival (2017)
- 2016** **Teaching Artist (film and photography):** Natchez High School through a special grant of the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education
- 2012-2016** **Teacher (film and photography):** Adams County Christian School
- 2014-Present** **Past President, President, Vice President:** Mississippi Writers Guild
- 2014-Present** **Founder and President** New Dawn Video Productions, M&M Video Productions
- 1997-Present** **Instructor/Producer/Film Maker:** Various positions and films, primarily documentaries (details below)
- 2013** **Producer/Director/Editor:** “A Call to Duty: Stories of World War II” featuring two World War II veterans (short documentary)
- 2013** **Director/Writer/Editor:** “Saluting the Silver Anniversary of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration 1990-1994. (short documentary)
- 2012** **Film Maker/Producer:** Film series of interviews with members and officers of the American Legion in Washington, D.C. Viewable at www.talkingwithheroes.org
- 1997-2012** **Director of Public Information:** Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez, Miss. (retired). In charge of all marketing, public

- relations, photography, brochures, multi-media, broadcast and television commercials
- 1997-2012** **Advisor, N-Sights:** Advisor to the award-winning campus newspaper of Copiah-Lincoln Community College *N-Sights*, overseeing production and instruction of photography, page design and editorial content
- 1997-2012** **Instructor, College Publications, Principles of Journalism:** Classroom instructor for students in the following areas: photography, layout/design, public relations and media
- 2011** **Producer/Instructor:** Documentary “Behind the Whistle: A Coach’s Story,” premiered during the 2011 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
- 2010** **Producer/Instructor:** Documentary “Now That’s Funny: Jokes, Musings and Stories from the South,” premiered during the 2010 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
- 2010** **Founder,** coordinator, teacher, Copiah-Lincoln Community College Institute for Young Film Makers, a summer program teaching all aspects of film to students 10-13
- 2009** **Producer/Instructor:** Documentary “Eudora Welty: Woman of the World, Daughter of Mississippi,” premiered during the 2009 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
- 1999-2008** **Founder/Instructor:** Introduction to Broadcasting/Film, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez, Miss. Taught students all facets of film creation and production using digital video cameras and editing software
- 2005-2008** **Producer/Instructor:** Mini-Documentaries “Rose and Raymond: Winners in Life,” “For the Love of Buddy: A Parents’ Devotion” and “Voice of Inspiration: The Tony Gamberi Story”
- 2008** **Producer/Instructor:** Documentary “Richard Wright: A Force for Right,” premiered during the 2008 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

AWARDS

- 2019** **Recipient:** Elbert R. Hilliard Award for Outstanding Oral History Project, Mississippi Historical Society “Mississippi World War II Veterans Oral History Project.”
- 2019** **Co-Recipient:** Award of Merit, Mississippi Historical Society for the oral history and film/book project “The Parchman Ordeal: The Untold Story” in partnership with Darrell S. White and Robert Morgan.
- 2018** **2018 Mississippi Scholar,** Mississippi Humanities Council
- 2017** **Broadcast Selection, Mississippi Public Broadcasting:** “The Parchman Ordeal: The Untold Story”
- 2017** **Crossroads Film Festival “Most Transformative Film,”** “The Parchman Ordeal: The Untold Story”

- 2017** **Official Entry, Various Festivals:** “The Parchman Ordeal: The Untold Story”
- 2009** **Recipient, the first U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran Humanities Achievement Award** (for work on two documentaries: “Richard Wright: A Force for Right,” and “Eudora Welty: Woman of the World, Daughter of Mississippi”
- 2008-Present** **Mississippi Humanities Council Speakers’ Bureau:** “The ABCs of Documentary Film Making from Concept to Creation”
- 1997-2012** **Recipient:** More than 100 awards from the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi for public relations projects, radio/television commercials, photography, advertising campaigns, graphics, and public relations innovation

ORAL HISTORIES

- 2018 to Present** **Women of the Struggle: Facing Fear in the Civil Rights Era**, an Oral History of women who lived through that tumultuous time. (ongoing)
- 2015 to Present** **The Parchman Ordeal: The Untold Story**, an oral history of young men and women who were illegally incarcerated at the Mississippi State Penitentiary during the Civil Rights Era. (ongoing)
- 2015 to Present** **Mississippi World War II Veterans Oral History Project** (ongoing)
- 2015** **The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration: Twenty-Five Years of History’**
- 2012** **The Flood of 2011: An Oral History**
- 2008-2016** **Interviews with more than 120 soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan and their loved ones**

EDUCATION

- 1985** **Bachelor in Arts**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- 1973** **Associate in Arts**, Springfield, MA, Technical Community College

MILITARY SERVICE

- 1967-1971** **United States Air Force:** Honorably Discharged
- 1976-1995** **United States Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard:** Retired

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Assistant Scoutmaster, Youth Group Leader, Natchez Area Community Alliance, Mentor to Youth, High School Creative Writing Workshop, Advisor to High School and Middle School Newspapers, Volunteer for Habitat for Humanities, Contributor to the Natchez-Adams County Humane Society, the Sunshine Shelter, Natchez Children's Home, Stewpot, United Way, and more