

# John E. Thornton, II, M.F.A.

Principal Academic Professional and Director of Film and Media

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech

School of Literature, Media, and Communication

Email: [jthornton30@gatech.edu](mailto:jthornton30@gatech.edu)

## EDUCATION

2011	<b>Savannah College of Art and Design</b> Master of Fine Arts in Film and Television
2003	<b>Clark-Atlanta University</b> Bachelor of Arts in English

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024 - Present	<b>Principal Academic Professional and Director of Film and Media</b> School of Literature, Media, and Communication The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
2019 - 2024	Senior Academic Professional and Director of Film and Media School of Literature, Media, and Communication The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
2011 - 2018	Academic Professional and Video Production Coordinator School of Literature, Media, and Communication The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
2010 - 2011	Graduate Teaching Assistant Savannah College of Art and Design

## PROFESSIONAL FILM EXPERIENCE

2024	<b>Director   Cinematographer</b> <a href="#"><i>Navigating Autism in Communities of Color</i></a> Award-winning feature length documentary
2023	<b>Director   Writer</b> <i>Code Name Brenda</i> Award-winning narrative short

2021	<b>Director   Cinematographer</b> <a href="#"><i>MothaFCKN Artist</i></a> Award-winning short documentary
2019	<b>Cinematographer</b> <a href="#"><i>New Day</i></a> Music Video
2018	<b>Director</b> <a href="#"><i>Spaceships and Dope Sh*t: Episode 1</i></a> Docu-series
2018	<b>Director</b> <i>Spaceships and Dope Sh*t: Episode 2</i> Docu-series
2018	<b>Co-Producer   BTS Cinematographer</b> <a href="#"><i>Teach Love</i></a> Short documentary
2017	<b>Cinematographer</b> <i>Our Westside Story</i> Award-winning short documentary

## SELECTED GRANTS and FUNDED PROJECTS

2024 - Present	<b>External   Co-Principal Investigator</b> <b>Collaborators:</b> Susanna Morris, Ph.D; Kinitra Brooks, Ph.D. Mellon Foundation grant to support <i>The Earthseed Project</i> is a humanities centered collaboration of Afrofuturist students, scholars, and community stakeholders based at the Georgia Institute of Technology (GT) and Michigan State University (MSU). <b>\$575,000</b>
2024	<b>Internal   Principal Investigator</b> Arts@GT ISP grant to support LMCFilms. <b>\$20,000</b>
2024 - 2025	<b>External   Co-Principal Investigator</b> <b>Collaborator:</b> Ida Yoshinaga, Ph.D. BMW grant to support the CinèInnovate Studios Vertically Integrated Project. <b>\$20,000</b>
2021- 2022	<b>Internal   Principal Investigator</b> Digital Integrated Liberal Arts Center funding to support the Reimagining Virtual Reality and IRETI Virtual Production project. <b>\$14,000</b>

2021 - 2022	<b>Internal   Co-Principal Investigator</b> <b>Collaborators:</b> Jillann Hertel, MFA; Melissa Foulger, MFA Tech Fee funding to support the School of LMC Arts@Tech multidisciplinary requests for equipment to support LMCFilms, the CoLab, and DramaTech. <b>\$81,000</b>
2022	<b>Internal   Senior Personnel</b> <b>Collaborator:</b> Jennifer Singh, Ph.D. Wardlaw Foundation funding to support the production of the documentary <i>Navigating Autism in Communities of Color</i> . <b>\$3,500</b>
2019 - 2022	<b>Internal   Senior Personnel</b> <b>Collaborator:</b> Richard Simmons, Ph.D. Funding to support the production of the Energy 101 Massive Online Open Course revamp videos and the Big Data Project for the Strategic Energy Institute. <b>\$32,000</b>
2017 - 2018	<b>Internal   Senior Personnel</b> <b>Collaborator:</b> Paul Alonzo, Ph.D. Funding to support the production of the pilot episodes of <i>Covering Latino American Popular Culture for US Audiences</i> . <b>\$3,500</b>
2018	<b>Internal   Principal Investigator</b> Ivan Allen College Curriculum Innovation grant to support the development and design of a new film production course. <b>\$3,500</b>
2017 - 2018	<b>Internal   Principal Investigator</b> Funding to support the LMCFilms Social Justice Student Film Festival and to develop a Mobile Journalism and Documentary Toolkit. <b>\$9,250</b>
2013 - 2014	<b>External   Principal Investigator</b> Hyundai funding to produce a short film for the Hyundai Lens of Loyalty Contest. <b>\$10,000</b>

## PRESENTATIONS

2022	"Media Representations as Cultural Perspectives on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," Diversity Symposium, Georgia Institute of Technology.
2020	"What is Black Media Studies and What is it Doing at Georgia Tech?" Planet Deep South Conference, Georgia Institute of Technology
2019	"Mobile Documentary Filmmaking Techniques," Subsume Summit, Atlanta GA

2018 “What Does Net Positive Equity Look Like?” Net Positive Symposium,  
Georgia Institute of Technology

## COURSES TAUGHT

Principal Academic Professional and Director of Film and Media, GT

2011 - Present  
Fall, Spring, and  
Summer

### **Undergraduate Courses Taught Annually**

Cinematography  
Video Production  
Advanced Video Production  
Documentary  
Documentary Production  
Screenwriting

### **Courses Taught Previously**

Music Video Production (as a Special Topics)  
Filmmaking Technology / Immersive Filmmaking (as Special Topics)  
Global Documentary Theory and Practice (Graduate)  
Master's Project (Graduate)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, SCAD

2010 - 2011

Digital Cinematography  
Intro to Film  
Advanced Cinematography

## ADVISING

2023 Kara Kanter, *Exploring Latin X: Transgender and Non-Binary Rights within Argentina and the U.S.* Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with

2023 Paula Sanhueza, *Metalsome Mondays Music Ethnography*, Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with Phil Auslander, Ph.D.

2023 Bryan Rocha, *Home Visits: When a DFCS Employee visits homes*, Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with Paul Alonzo, Ph.D.

2022 Tishya Bhatnagar, Loy Boyer, *Tomorrow, I Will Ask You to Marry Me*, Capstone, Bachelor of Science in Literature, Media, and Communication, GT.

2022	Nicole Butler, <i>Challenge Camerounais</i> , Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with
2022	Mark Lannaman, Examining Sustainability in Bogota, Columbia and Atlanta, GA through Urban Agriculture, Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with
2021	Angelik LaBoy, <i>IRETI</i> , Bachelor of Science in Computational Media, GT.
2019	Kelsie Anderson, <i>The Grey Tsunami</i> , Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with

## CURRICULUM INNOVATIONS

**New Course Developed** for the Black Media Studies Minor  
LMC 3454 Producing Podcasts and Documentaries

**New Course Developed** for the School of LMC  
LMC 3352 - Immersive Filmmaking

**New Course Developed** for the Schools of LMC and ML  
LMC 8803 - Global Documentary Theory and Practice

**New Course Developed** for the School of LMC  
LMC 4500 - Music Video Production

**Programmatic Innovation** - Rebranding the “LMC Video Lab” to LMCFilms

## SERVICE and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2020 - Present	Juror - Television Academy of Arts and Sciences
2019 - Present	Juror - International Documentary Association
2019 - Present	Juror - Film Independent Documentary Awards

### INSTITUTE CONTRIBUTIONS

2024 - 2025	GT's Non-Tenure Track Academic Faculty Promotion Committee
2023 - 2024	Search Committee Chair, Lecturer in Film Production, School of LMC
2023 - 2024	Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Film, School of LMC
2020 - 2022	Global Media and Cultures Program Admissions Committee
2021	GT Inclusive Leaders Academy Graduate
2021 - Present	GT's Arts Square Film Arts Working Group

2021	GT Inclusive Leaders Academy Graduate
2019 - 2020	Search Committee Chair, Lecturer in Film Production, School of LMC
2019 - Present	School of LMC Tech Fee Coordinator
2018	Ivan Allen College Freshmen Internship Program Mentor

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Television Academy of Arts and Sciences (active member)

International Documentary Association (active member)

Film Independent (active member)

South-East Emmy's Association (active member)

Part 107 Certified Drone Pilot (active license)

Fullbright Specialist Roster (2020 - 2025)