

JAMES OKUNGU

PHOTO & FILM DIRECTOR/EDITOR

• 917-828-2483 • jpokungu@jamesokungu.com • [linkedin.com/in/jamesokungu](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jamesokungu) • Portfolio: jamesokungu.com

Visual storyteller who combines global experience with an MA in journalism to create engaging, inspiring content.

Versatile multimedia producer, director, actor and experienced journalist with significant years of experience developing content for digital, broadcast, print, publishing and social media platforms, with an innovative approach and creative vision for improving photography and video production while implementing tactical plans to execute and improve standards.

SKILLS & EXPERTISE

- Excellent Writing & Editing
- Video, Audio & Photo Production & Editing
- Sourcing, Negotiating & Managing Assets
- Exceptional Sense of Accountability
- Great Attention to Detail
- Excellent Interpersonal & Communication Skills
- CMS, WordPress, Squarespace, HTML, Drupal
- Software: Adobe Premiere, Bridge, Photoshop, Lightroom, Bridge, Audition, Final Cut
- DAM Systems - Media Grid, Merlin, CHP

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTO EDITOR – GLOBAL PHOTO DESK

2/2022 – Current

Edit, process and transmit compelling breaking news, feature, sports and enterprise photos on the wire to clients, Work with domestic and international photographers and vendors in maintaining guidelines for original photography. Secure clearance rights and permissions for images, artwork and video screengrabs to support editorial storytelling. Manage several photographers and freelancers covering multiple projects to ensure work is delivered on time. Manage and supervise AP homepage asset choreography to ensure innovative and immersive visual storytelling. Coordinate assignment, production and publication of articles, curation of photo galleries, photo collections and photo essays in various formats. Supervising adherence to AP standards, practices and filing protocol for photo and video assignments. Deploying AI-assisted technologies while maintaining highest journalist standards.

SELECT PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Developed and executed best practice guidelines** for captioning photos to maintain accuracy, quality and safeguard AP's reputation for independence, fairness and impartiality
- **Supervised and gave feedback** to photographers and photo editors on assignment in the field and remote editing
- **Lead Global Photo operations** as desk supervisor directing workflow of photo editors and assigning projects
- **Developed a streamlined workflow** for prioritizing photo requests from clients and in-house news production
- **Championed development** of ever-green enterprise stories and pre-production of obits for prominent people

TOP SHOT PIXELS

WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, ACTOR – PART-TIME

1/2013 – Current

Write, produce and direct short films while exploring and creating content that pushes boundaries, is out-of-the-box and thought-provoking. Interview and hire crew including photographers, cinematographers and other heads of department. Cast actors and coordinate and supervise projects from conception to post-production and marketing

SELECT PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Successfully planned and executed** projects on budget and managed contracts and payroll for cast and crew
- **Researched, learned and excelled** at acquiring new technical skills and technology including photographic equipment, image handling and editing software and workflows

- **Exceled as casting director** for several client productions

NEW YORK POST

PHOTO EDITOR - FREELANCE

2/2021 – 09/2021

Executed cutting edge visual presentations that incorporated photo, video, text and audio for digital, print and social media. Designed composites and photo illustrations to enhance news stories, preempted print edition needs, collaborated with photographers and producers in the field to ensure strong photo coverage, for entertainment, TV and movies, executed exclusive pop culture coverage for Page Six.

FOX BUSINESS

PHOTO EDITOR

8/2019 – 9/2020

- **Championed breaking news content that drove significant traffic, shares, and comments** by leveraging expertise in strong visual storytelling to advocate for lede photo selection and in-story photo placement.
- **Designed montages, collages, photo illustrations and slideshows** to boost story performance

SELECT PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Developed and executed asset usage training** for the entire team covering disinformation tactics and social media policy, copyright law, defamation and best practices to maintain accuracy and quality
- **Collaborated with product development to rebrand the website and official app** from the ground up, providing vital input on photo and slideshow optimization, placement and usage, delivering historically high traffic
- **Launched a Digital Asset Management system** to archive top-quality assets, clearance sheets for acquired social media assets and PR releases securing them for future reference in legal argument

ABC NEWS

PHOTO EDITOR

5/2017 – 8/2019

- **Cropped, retouched and optimized images** for individual website specifications as needed
- **Shot and curated high-quality and impactful visual content that enhanced storytelling;** pitched creative, thoughtful photos and story ideas across broadcast, digital platforms, and social media including for "On Location"
- **Researched, verified, and cleared photos with Rights & Clearances;** negotiated fees with photo agencies and photographers; tracked usage and permissions
- **Co-produced "Popcorn with Peter Travers"** photographing celebrity interviews and BTS content
- **Produced "World in Photos", "This Week in Pictures"** for ABC News Live and supported photo needs for "World News Tonight," and "Good Morning America"

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Multimedia Producer (NBC News) | • Reporter, WTIU-TV (PBS) |
| • Multimedia Producer (Consultant) Pact Inc. | • Multimedia Instructor, Indiana University |
| • Social Media Marketing Assistant, FUELED | • TV Content Executive, KISS TV |
| • News Assistant, NY Public Radio | • Production Coordinator, Write-On |
| | • Production Assistant, Editrack |

EDUCATION

MA, Journalism, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

BA, Social Studies (Psychology), Moi University, Kenya