

JAMES OKUNGU

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

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Creative, talented and motivated visual storyteller who combines international market experience with an MA in journalism to create engaging, impactful imagery

Versatile multimedia producer with a strong project management background, a deep passion for photography and telling impactful stories, a love for discovering new unit, entertainment, and editorial photographers while cultivating industry relationships with PR, talent, filmmakers, social influencers, vendors and production teams.

SKILLS & EXPERTISE

- Excellent Written & Verbal Communication
- Photo & Video Production & Editing
- Budget Management & Rate Negotiation
- Exceptional Sense of Accountability
- Great Attention to Detail
- Lighting, Composition, Color Control
- Adobe Creative Suite: Premiere, Bridge, Photoshop, Lightroom, Bridge, Audition
- Digital Asset Management Systems - Media Grid, Merlin, CHP

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTO EDITOR – GLOBAL PHOTO DESK

2/2022 – Current

Process color correction and transmit impactful breaking news, entertainment, 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 frame grabs to support production workflows.

Manage entertainment, sports and editorial photographers covering multiple complex projects simultaneously.

Prioritize assignments for competing projects across multiple departments including social, editorial and events.

Coordinate assignment, production and publication of articles, curation of photo galleries, photo collections and photo essays in various formats.

Supervise adherence to Federal copyright laws, usage licenses, embargoes, AP standards, practices and filing protocol for photo and video assignments.

SELECT PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Developed and executed best practice guidelines** for captioning photos to maintain accuracy, high 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

1/2013 – Current

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

SELECT PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Successfully tracked** production budgets, schedules, managed contracts and payroll for cast and crew to ensure on time, cost-effective visual asset delivery

- **Researched, learned and excelled** at acquiring new technical skills and technology including photographic equipment, digital file specs & file formats
- **Exceled as casting director** for several client productions

NEW YORK POST

PHOTO EDITOR - FREELANCE

2/2021 – 09/2021

Supported and serviced photo requests from cross-functional departments including Marketing, PR, Social & Production teams
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 films, 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 collages, photo illustrations and galleries, curated photo collections to boost stories

Managed Photo assets while maintaining high standards for quality and customer obsession

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 high-quality assets, clearance sheets for acquired social media assets and PR releases ensuring they are compliant with legal requirements

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" on ABC Live Stream
- **Researched, verified, and cleared photos with Rights & Clearances;** negotiated fees with photo agencies and photographers; tracked usage and permissions
- **Coordinated photo shoots for "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

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| • 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