# **JOSHUA VESELKA**

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#### **SUMMARY**

Award winning documentary and factual producer, director and development creative with more than 20 years of industry experience: having produced and directed in the UK, Belgium, Switzerland, Cuba, Mexico, Jordan, Ghana, Japan, Haiti, India, South Africa, Kenya, The Peruvian Amazon, Israel (including the Gaza Strip & the West Bank), Afghanistan and extensively throughout the US, with credits in both short and long form programming.

A storyteller equally as happy in development, prep, the field and the edit - with a passion for the detail necessary to originate, execute and facilitate good film, TV or digital content – making sure narrative, character, picture and sound all get the love they need, no matter the budget, distribution platform or running length.

A talented verite documentarian, skilled at crafting compelling 1<sup>st</sup> person narrative arcs, while equally comfortable working with a host to guide the journey or scripting for more formatted and structured non-fiction and factual productions.

A creative and flexible problem solver in the office, with excellent crisis management skills on set and on location, and extensive experience filming in adverse environments as well as a noteworthy ability to collaborate with network and production executives, talent, crew and contributors. Adept at multi-tasking, detail-oriented, versed in all aspects of post-production and always aware that on time and on budget matters.

\*Dual National (US passport holder with UK Resident Visa)

#### **CREDITS**

Grain Media | Development Producer (Aug 2017 – Nov 2017)| Please enquire with Grain Media about the project details

Creative Director (part time), Transterra Media (Transterra Originals) | Multi-Platform Digital Distribution | March 2017 - ongoing |

Show of Force (Production Company, NY) | Multi-Platform Digital Distribution | Development Producer (Jan 2017 – Feb. 2017) | Please enquire with Show of Force about the project details as I am under an NDA.

We The Voters | Multi-Platform | Supervising Producer (July 2016 – Sept. 2016)| Show of Force / Vulcan Productions | We the Voters is a nonpartisan digital slate of 20 short films designed to inform, inspire and activate voters nationwide with fresh perspectives on the subjects of democracy, elections and governance in the lead up to the 2016 elections.

The Story of God | National Geographic | Field Producer/Director | (Series Premiered 4-3-2016)

This series follows Morgan Freeman as he embarks on an epic exploration and intimate reflection on God, immersing himself in religious experiences and rituals all around the world, as well as becoming a test subject in scientific labs to examine how the frontiers of neuroscience and cosmology are intersecting the traditional domain of religion.

Hello, I Must Be Going! 25 Years of Nick News | Producer/Director | Nickelodeon | 12-15-2015

The final hour-long special of the children's documentary and news series that won almost every US award in television during it's run, focuses on and highlights the work and shows done over the last 10 years.

Being a Father | Producer/Director | Promundo-US | Initial premiere at the UN, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (continued online distribution) A 4-minute NGO short film celebrating involved fathers from around the world. Designed as a companion for the release of the first ever, "State of the Worlds Fathers" report. The film was commissioned by and is digitally distributed by MenCare: A Global Fatherhood Campaign.

#### So Close and Yet So Far Away: The Kids of Cuba, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 4-13-15

After more than 50 years of being enemies, the United States and Cuba have agreed to work together to repair the relationship. What will this mean for the kids of Cuba tomorrow? What is it like to be a kid in Cuba today? A journey though Cuba to listen to the children from a country on the precipice of change.

#### The Border Kids, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 12-2-14

In 2014 nearly 60,000 unaccompanied kids, child migrants as they are called, crossed the southern border of the United States. In June of 2014, President Obama described the surge in children across the border as an "urgent humanitarian situation." Most of these kids came from the Central American countries of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Were these kids coming in search of the "American Dream," or were they fleeing for their lives?

#### Twelve for the Road, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 6-17-14

The Kelloggs are a Colorado family of 14, 2 parents and their 12 kids, who leave their big family home to live in a 36 FT RV and travel around the country competing in extreme sports and generally looking for adventure wherever they can find it.

#### Fleeing Syria: Children of War, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 2-11-14

Syrian children and families caught in the crossfire of a bloody civil war seek refuge at Camp Za'atari, now the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest refugee camp, situated in North Jordan, on a barren and dusty desert plain just across the Syrian border.

#### Sunshine Daydream / Grateful Days, Fathom Events & Rhino Entertainment | Executive & Consulting

**Producer** | August 2013 'Grateful Days' A short companion film featuring contemporary interviews with Wavy Gravy, Ken Babbs and Carolyn "Mountain Girl" Garcia to compliment the concert film (Sunshine Daydream) about a legendary benefit performance given by the Grateful Dead in Oregon in 1972.

#### Vice President, Production and Development, LUCKY DUCK PRODUCTIONS | 2008 - 2012

A principal architect responsible for the creation and execution of all of Lucky Duck's programming and development as well as fostering relationships with the company's diverse clientele, and the hiring and oversight of Lucky Duck's support staff. All the while continuing to produce current shows for Lucky Duck, form partnerships, tackle new formats and new media, and create innovative projects for development.

#### Kids for Sale: Slavery in Ghana, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 8-26-12

A passionate American boy travels to Africa where he and a former child slave go on a rescue mission.

#### In Harm's Way? Japan Through the Eyes of Its Kids, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 8-7-11

When the earthquake struck the seas off Japan, causing a giant tsunami to slam into Japan's northeast coast, it tore up lives, buildings and, sometimes, whole communities.

#### Haiti Rising? Life in the Ruins, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 1-9-11

What's it like to be a kid in Haiti a year after the earthquake?

#### Studs Terkel: Listening to America, HBO | Producer | 5-15-10

Documentary exploring the life of America's greatest oral historian.

# America's Forgotten Children: The Rural Poor, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 12-21-08

The world is sliding into hard times economically, but there are areas of the U.S. where families were already struggling.

#### The Untouchable Kids of India, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 10-21-07

*Nick News* travels to the world's biggest democracy to meet and to listen to the stories of the kids in India who are still treated as Untouchable.

#### Kids of Cons!, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 5-20-07

It is estimated that children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely than other kids to end up in prison themselves. These are the most at risk kids. And they are often forgotten.

## Wound Up for the Round Up, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 10-1-06

Six City-Slicker Kids go way out west on a Nick News Adventure.

#### Children of the Storm, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 7-2-06

They're the survivors: Katrina Kids. They will never forget what happened. Or what's happened since. This is their story.

#### Strangers in a Strange Land, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 3-19-06

Four American kids living in Japan – exploring, learning and growing in a very foreign world.

#### The Great Wave Train, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 10-23-05

Linda Ellerbee and six kids raft the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

#### Do Something! Caring for the Kids of Katrina, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 9-11-05

Wherever you find a terrible situation, you find good people, trying to make a difference.

#### Give Peace a Chance?, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 7-6-05

Peace. Salaam for Palestinians. Shalom for Israelis. Can there be lasting peace between them?

#### Safari So Good, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 3-20-05

A *Nick News Adventure* through Kenya, getting up close and personal with wild animals, entering jumping contests with Masai warriors, and exploring a land as old as time.

#### Living with AIDS: A Story of Three Kids, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 12-1-04

More than 14,000 kids in the U.S. are infected with the HIV virus. More than 90 percent of those kids were born with the disease.

#### Rollin' Down the River: Kids Explore the Amazon | Producer/Director | 8-29-04

A 7-day boat trip down the Amazon and through the Rainforest.

#### Kids Pick the President: The Issues | Producer/Director | 4-25-04

In a Presidential election there are candidates and there are issues. We know who the candidates are but what are the issues?

#### The Courage to Live: Kids, South Africa & Aids | Producer/Director | 12-1-03

South Africa has more kids with AIDS than any other country. What happens to them is not just their story. It's your story. It's our story.

# There's No Place Like Home: Homeless Kids in America, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 10-19-03 The fastest growing homeless population in America is families with children. And if you don't see them, you're not looking.

#### Faces of Hope: The Kids of Afghanistan, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 3-17-02

What's it like to be a child in a country that has been at war for more than 20 years?

# Nick News Presents LifeStory: Rosie O'Donnell, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 4-15-01

A biography: Rosie O'Donnell, her childhood, life and career.

# Headliners & Legends with Matt Lauer: Dudley Moore, MSNBC | Producer/Director | 3-29-01

Biography of the late actor, comedian and musician.

#### Nick News Presents LifeStory: Muhammad Ali, Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 2-6-00

A special biographical tribute, including celebrity interviews and exclusive footage of Ali's life at home with his wife Lonnie and their son Assad.

#### Producer/Second Camera, Edison Schools Project: Nutrition & Fitness | 2000

Educational video on the Food Pyramid.

#### The Big Help | Nickelodeon | Producer/Director | 1999

Kids helping the world around them.

# Nick News – Segment Producer & Field Producer on over 100 news magazine style segments | Nickelodeon | 1996 -1999

#### **AWARDS**

#### Hello, I Must Be Going! 25 Years of Nick News | Nickelodeon

Emmy Award Nomination - 2016 | Outstanding Children's Program - Primetime

#### The Border Kids, Nickelodeon

The 2015 Imagen Awards | Best Children's Programming

Kids for Sale: Slavery in Ghana, Nickelodeon | 8-26-12

BANFF World Media Festival, Rockie Award nominee - 2013 | Children's Program - non-fiction

#### In Harm's Way? Japan Through the Eyes of Its Kids, Nickelodeon

BANFF World Media Festival, Rockie Award nominee - 2012 | Children's Program - non-fiction

#### Studs Terkel: Listening to America, HBO

News & Documentary Emmy Award Nomination - 2011 | Outstanding Historical Program - Long Form

#### The Untouchable Kids of India

Emmy Award - 2008 | Outstanding Children's Program – Primetime Banff Award | Banff World Television Festival

#### Do Something! Caring for the Kids of Katrina

Emmy Award Nomination - 2006 | Outstanding Children's Program - Primetime

#### The Courage to Live: Kids, South Africa & AIDS

Emmy Award Nomination – 2004 | Outstanding Children's Program – Primetime International Family Film Festival Award | TV Documentary, Short Parents' Choice Award – Gold | Parents' Choice Foundation

#### There's No Place Like Home: Homeless Kids in America

Emmy Award Nomination - 2004 | Outstanding Children's Program - Primetime Parents' Choice Award - Gold | Parents' Choice Foundation

#### Faces of Hope: The Kids of Afghanistan

Emmy Award - 2002 | Outstanding Children's Program – Primetime NAMIC Vision Award | Best Children's Program

#### Nick News Presents LifeStory: Muhammad Ali

Chicago International Children's Film Festival - 2001 | Adult Jury Prize NAMIC Vision Award | Best Children's Program

#### **SKILLS & EXPERTISE**

Capable verite 2<sup>nd</sup>/B camera operator, experienced with various small body HD digital cameras as well as Super 8 film cameras

Solid basic lighting skills with experience in studio, interior, exterior, and field environments Extensive experience with and basic editing skills on Avid and Final Cut editing systems

#### **ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS**

New York University School of Journalism
Film & Video Arts, New York, New York
Global Village School of Documentary Video, New York, New York

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

Academy of Television Arts & Sciences / Producers Guild of America