

Neil Sandoz

Editor • Creative Storyteller
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Editor, Creative Storyteller, Director, and Producer with 14+ years of experience developing commercial, documentary, and narrative work. Blends the instinct of a deeply creative filmmaker with the structure and discipline built through years of agency, nonprofit, and freelance production.

Directed *OPEN YOUR EYES*, a feature-length documentary that earned international recognition and was selected as an Official Selection at the 2025 NBO Film Festival in Nairobi, Kenya. Produced 100+ films, led multicultural creative teams, built production pipelines, and delivered campaigns for global NGOs and major U.S. brands. Lived and worked in Nairobi from 2017–2025, drawing on deep cross-cultural communication, creative flexibility, and the ability to navigate complex production challenges.

Skilled across the full production lifecycle—concepting, story development, directing, shooting, editing, sound design, and post-production management, while maintaining strong leadership, collaboration, and storytelling instincts.

CORE SKILLS

Creative & Production //

• Editing (Premiere Pro) • Directing • Producing • Cinematography • Story Development • Documentary Filmmaking • Field Production • Post-Production Management • After Effects (2D animation, titles)
• Sound Design & Mixing (Logic Pro X)

Leadership & Strategy //

• Creative Direction • Team Leadership & Development • Cross-cultural Collaboration • Client & Stakeholder Management • Content Strategy • Campaign Development

Additional //

• Lighting • Interview Direction • International Production • Workflow Design • Asset Management • Branding Awareness

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

SIM International | East Africa | 2017–2026

- Produced and edited 60+ internal and external films spanning documentary, campaign, and social content.
- Led and managed a multidisciplinary creative team (video, audio, photo, written storytelling).
- Directed productions across Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Nigeria, Madagascar, and Cameroon.

- Developed and implemented creative strategy for regional communications and global storytelling initiatives.
- Trained and mentored Kenyan filmmakers who now run independent creative businesses.
- Oversaw content pipelines, budgets, timelines, and stakeholder relationships.

DIRECTOR / EDITOR - FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

“Open Your Eyes” | 2021–Present

- Directed and managed a 80min documentary from concept through international festival release.
- Led all aspects of production: story development, interviews, cinematography, editing, and color.
- Secured *Official Selection* at the 2025 NBO Film Festival and received international recognition.
- Managed a multi-year production timeline while leading a remote, multicultural team.

EDITOR / PRODUCER

Filmlab | Houston, TX | 2013–2017

- Produced and edited commercial content for major U.S. clients across multiple industries.
- Managed client relationships, budgets, timelines, and creative workflows.
- Directed on-set crews and developed storyboards, treatments, and editorial plans.
- Delivered broadcast, digital, and branded content for corporate and agency partners.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & CREATIVE LEAD

Jenga Films Kenya (Kenya Startup) | 2019–2023

- Helped launch and build a successful filmmaking startup serving East African clients.
- Created foundational workflows, pitches, pricing structures, and creative direction for early projects.
- Guided the team in producing a 2 fundraising campaigns that generated nearly \$850,000 for clients.
- Fully transitioned the company to local leadership, now operating independently.

FREELANCE FILMMAKER, PRODUCER & ANIMATOR

2010–Present

- Produced/edited branded content, social campaigns, mini-docs, and editorial pieces for diverse clients.
- Collaborated with global partners, including the World Food Programme and Mars, Inc. on large-scale campaigns.
- Concepted, shot, and edited projects end-to-end with high creative ownership.
- Collaborated with selected brands to create custom 2D logo animations.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing

Mays Business School, Texas A&M University (2009)

TOOLS & SOFTWARE

Adobe Creative Suite • DiVinci Resolve • Logic Pro X • All Major Camera Systems • Professional Audio
• Lighting Kits • Google Workspace • Microsoft TEAMS • Notion • Slack