

Michael Kahn

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Senior Video Editor & Colorist

Summary

Oscar & Emmy-Nominated Senior Video Editor and Colorist with over 20 years of experience driving audience engagement and critical acclaim for premium broadcast, film, and high-volume streaming content. Proven expertise in advanced video editing, cinematic color grading, post-production supervision, and compelling narrative storytelling. Consistently delivers award-winning projects by leveraging mastery of Adobe Premiere Pro, Avid Media Composer, DaVinci Resolve, and After Effects. Adept at optimizing complex post-production workflows and managing multiple concurrent projects to consistently exceed stakeholder expectations and meet aggressive broadcast and digital deadlines. Seeking to apply extensive skills and innovative approach to elevate content production for a forward-thinking media organization.

Professional Experience

Senior Editor

Warner Bros. Discovery | September 2014 – Present

- Edited and color-corrected hundreds of hours of promotional and episodic content across diverse genres for major networks including HBO, Discovery Channel, OWN, HGTV, Food Network, Science Channel, and Animal Planet, directly contributing to network viewership and brand engagement.
- Developed and implemented optimized post-production workflows, enabling rapid, high-quality content delivery for a vast library of programming, consistently meeting demanding broadcast schedules.
- Collaborated cross-functionally with producers, directors, and creative teams to shape compelling narratives and streamline visual storytelling processes for multi-platform content creation, ensuring consistent quality and brand adherence.
- Mentored and provided advanced technical guidance to junior editors on software proficiency, color grading techniques, and efficient workflow practices, elevating overall team capability.

Freelance Editor / Online Editor / Colorist

CutPoint | January 2005 – Present

- Provided comprehensive video editing, online editing, and color grading services for a diverse portfolio of leading broadcast, web, and film clients, including National Geographic, HBO, MTV, A&E, Smithsonian Networks, NowThis, PhRMA, CoStar (Homes.com), Leftfield Pictures, Big Fish, and Lucky Dog Films.

- Edited end-to-end post-production workflows for numerous concurrent projects, ensuring seamless client collaboration and adherence to precise delivery specifications across various media formats and codecs.
- Contributed significantly to award-winning and high-profile campaigns within corporate, political, and creative industries, directly impacting client visibility and message reach.

Online Editor / Director of Final Cut Pro Services

Mega Playground | October 2007 – June 2011

- Spearheaded all Final Cut Pro projects as the dedicated staff online editor, ensuring the highest quality standards and efficient throughput within a busy post-production facility.
- Configured and optimized multiple Final Cut Pro editing systems, providing essential technical support and rapid troubleshooting to the entire editing team, significantly enhancing operational efficiency.
- Ensured seamless integration of software and hardware solutions, facilitating fluid production workflows and consistent on-time project completion.

Selected Project Credits

Editor

- **Political Advertising** (Dixon/Davis, 2022): Crafted visually compelling political campaign ads that effectively engaged millions of voters across key national and local races in Nevada, California, Michigan, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Maryland.
- **Biden For President 2020 Campaign** (Truxton Creative, 2020): Produced high-impact campaign ads and promotional content that garnered tens of millions of views nationwide, driving widespread voter engagement.
- **The Steve Irwin Story** (Animal Planet, 2018): Edited, sound designed, online edited, and color graded this award-winning documentary, recognized with two Telly Awards for Television General-Documentary and Craft: Editing.
- **Corporate and Political Advertising** (Interface Media, 2012, 2014): created innovative creative advertising for diverse clients, measurably enhancing audience engagement and message retention across target demographics.
- The Bletchley Circle Promo (Storylab, 2013): Edited promotional content that garnered a DC Peer Award for exceptional storytelling and pacing, significantly boosting series visibility prior to broadcast.

Online Editor

- **GasLand** (Director, Josh Fox, 2010): Pioneered and implemented an innovative dual-version editing strategy with unique frame rates and workflows, meticulously tailored for distinct platform optimization:
 - Film Version: Awarded the Sundance: Special Jury Prize and received an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary.

- Broadcast Version (HBO): Earned multiple accolades, including an Emmy Award and four Emmy nominations. This strategic approach ensured a consistent, high-quality viewer experience across both film and television platforms.
- **Louie** (FX Productions, 2010–2011): Delivered polished final episodes for seasons one and two of the Emmy-nominated series, ensuring consistent tonal quality and broadcast readiness for a critically acclaimed production.
- **Let The Fire Burn** (Director, Jason Osder, 2013): Online edited the critically acclaimed documentary, earning recognition at the Tribeca Film Festival for Best Editing.
- **Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet** (Lucky Dog Films, 2014): Finalized multiple episodes with precise color correction and sound alignment, consistently maintaining broadcast quality standards across the series.
- **No Woman No Cry** (Director, Christy Turlington Burns, 2009): Provided final edits for this Tribeca Film Festival Official Selection, significantly enhancing its emotional resonance and audience connection.

Color Correction

- **Gold Rush: The Dirt** (Discovery Channel, 2014–2019): Executed final edit and color correction for 33 episodes over five years, consistently ensuring broadcast quality and visual consistency for a popular docuseries.
- **Cirque Du Cambodia** (Joel Gershon, 2020): Expertly executed color grading to deliver the director's vision, earning the 2021 Documentaries Without Borders International Film Festival: Outstanding Excellence Award.
- **OWN Network Promos** (OWN, 2019): Performed precise color correction for numerous high-visibility promotional campaigns, including Ambitions, The Haves and Have Nots, and The Know, optimizing visual appeal for target demographics.
- **Rise Again: Tulsa and the Red Summer Trailer** (Nat Geo, 2021): Executed nuanced color correction for a high-profile documentary trailer, ensuring visual impact and narrative tone that resonated with the subject matter.

Core Competencies

Advanced Video Editing | Expert Color Grading | Narrative Development | Immersive Storytelling | Workflow Optimization | Audio Editing & Sound Design | Motion Graphics Integration | Client Collaboration | Broadcast & Streaming Standards | Digital Media Delivery | Team Leadership & Mentorship | Complex Project Management | Cloud-Based Editing Workflows | Version Control

Technical Skills

NLE (Non-Linear Editing): Avid Media Composer, DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere Pro

Motion Graphics: Adobe After Effects, Adobe Photoshop

Color Correction: Avid Media Composer Symphony, DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere Pro

Post-Production Tools: Frame.io, Aspera, Box, OneDrive, Microsoft Office, Google Workspace

Technical Knowledge: Video Codecs, Aspect Ratios, Export Specifications, Final Delivery Formats, Quality Control (QC), Post-Production Pipelines, Broadcast & Streaming Compliance.

Operating Systems: Mac OS, Windows

Education

University of Maryland; College Park, MD

Bachelor of Arts, Communication | 1999-2003
