LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION 2020

INTENSIVE SUMMER FILMMAKING PROGRAM

LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION

ENRICHING CHILDREN'S LIVES
THROUGH THE ART OF FILMMAKING

A DIFFERENT SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Lights, Camera, Action is an experience for students who might be more creatively or artistically inclined. Our program goes beyond the typical camp experience to offer focused, intensive instruction in numerous aspects of filmmaking.

The goal of this program is to give students a different outlet who might not benefit from a traditional summer camp.

By the end of this 3-week program, your child will collaborate with their peers to produce a full film and attend a premiere screening of that film.

This involves participating in pitch meetings, brainstorming and writing sessions, screenwriting workshops, props and set design, performance and camera operation.

A RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH

THE BIG PICTURE

"When a student is captivated by the brushstrokes of Picasso's paintings, the agony of Shakespeare's Macbeth, or the rhythm of Duke Ellington's music, doors to a brilliant world of imagination burst open,"

- Dennis Van Roekel, President of the NEA

SOCIAL BENEFITS

"Arts activities promote growth in positive social skills, including self - confidence, self-control, conflict resolution, collaboration, empathy and social tolerance."

- NASAA, Critical Evidence

BEHAVIORAL BENEFITS

"The meta-analysis by the Arts Education Partnership revealed that drama courses in particular helped students develop an improved understanding of social relationships and complex emotional issues."

- Public School Review

JULY - SESSION 1

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	6 Day 1	7 Day 2	8 Day 3	9 Day 4	10 Day 5	11
12	13 Day 6	14 Day 7	15 Day 8	16 Day 9	17 Day 10	18
19	20 Day 11	21 Day 12	22 Day 13	23 Day 14	24 Day 15	25
26	27 **Premiere!**	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST - SESSION 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3 Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 3	6 Day 4	7 Day 5	8
9	10 Day 6	11 Day 7	12 Day 8	13 Day 9	14 Day 10	15
16	17 Day 11	18 Day 12	19 Day 13	20 Day 14	21 Day 15	22
23	24 **Premiere!**	25	26	27	28	

DAILY SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:30	-	Arrival, warm-ups
9:30 - 10:30	-	Instruction
10:30 - 11:00	-	Snack, Skill Exercises/Group Work
11:00 - 12:00	-	Instruction
12:00 - 1:00	-	Lunch, Recess, Film Screenings
1:00 - 2:00	-	Independent Practice
2:00 - 2:45	-	Snack, Skill Practice/Group Work
2:45 - 3:00	-	Clean up and Dismissal

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

WEEK 1

- ❏ Generating Ideas, Pitching, Brainstorming
- ❏ Performance Basics
- ❏ Collaborative Writing/Revising
- ❏ Storyboarding

WEEK 2

- ❏ Rehearsing
- ❏ Props/Set Design
- ❏ Shooting/Blocking/Framing

WEEK 3

- ❏ Advanced Performance
- ❏ Continuity
- ❏ Directing/1st, 2nd, 3rd Units
- ❏ Premiere!

Week 1 is when filmmakers will learn how to develop and pitch ideas. Once an idea is settled upon, production will begin, focusing mostly on writing through visual storytelling techniques.

By Week 2, filmmakers hit the ground running with rehearsals and set design.

Week 3 will see filmmakers shooting most of the week to finish all their scenes. All of their footage will be edited using professional software (Adobe Premiere Pro).

Filmmakers will dress to the nines to attend their premiere at **Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas® 11 & BTX!**

Week 1 Schedule: Visual Storytelling

Breathing Life into Ideas

MONDAY

- Intros & icebreakers
- Know your resources
- Genre
- Developing an idea
- The elevator pitch

LUNCH

- Present your idea
- Choosing a story
- Scene assignments
- Story Sketching

TUESDAY

- Film Screenings
- Sketch performances
- Feedback
- Storyboarding a scene
- Collaborative storyboarding

LUNCH

- Present scenes
- Feedback circles
- Revision
- Finding your niche

WEDNESDAY

- Writing for the screen
- Screenwriting examples
- Script Breakdown
- Collaborative writing

LUNCH

- Writer's workshop
- Revisions
- Film screenings

THURSDAY

- Film Screenings
- Plotting
- Momentum & Tension
- Intensive Writing

LUNCH

- Writer's Workshop Final Draft
- Revisions
- Brainstorm for set design

FRIDAY

- Groupings: Writers, Directors, Props, Costumes, Set Design, Performers
- Small group production/rehearsal
- Whole group feedback

LUNCH

- Table Read
- Small group production

Week 2 Schedule: Film Production

Filmmaking Technique and the Performing Arts

MONDAY

- Intros & icebreakers
- Know your resources
- Genre
- Developing an idea
- The elevator pitch

LUNCH

- Present your idea
- Choosing a story
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LUNCH

- Table Read
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Week 3 Schedule: Directing A Film

Camera Operation and Technique

MONDAY

- Intros & icebreakers
- Know your resources
- Genre
- Developing an idea
- The elevator pitch

LUNCH

- Present your idea
- Choosing a story
- Scene assignments
- Story Sketching

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- Film Screenings
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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Dustin Connors has been teaching grades 4-6 since 2009, spending time in New York, Seattle, and North Carolina.

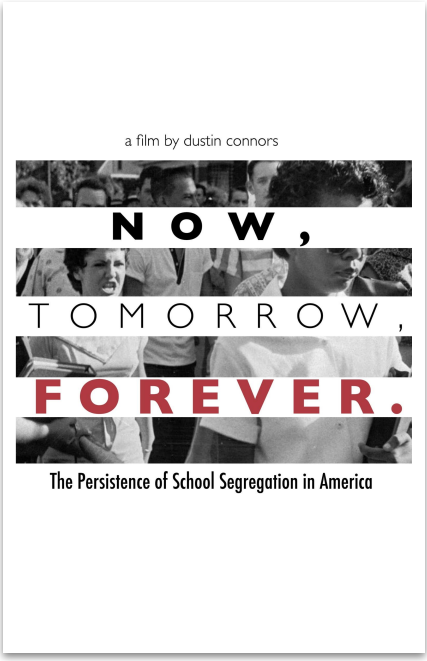
He studied documentary filmmaking in graduate school, winning numerous awards for his experimental documentary *Seeing Trauma*, the short films *A Boy Out of Yemen* and *(F)Empowered*, as well as his thesis film *Now, Tomorrow, Forever: The Persistence of School Segregation in America.*

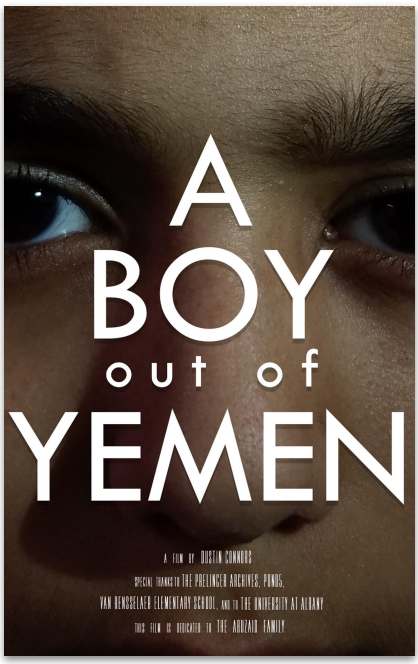
Film has always been a part of his curriculum, offering enrichment classes at several schools in film history and moviemaking, as well as producing end-of-year films in lieu of class plays.

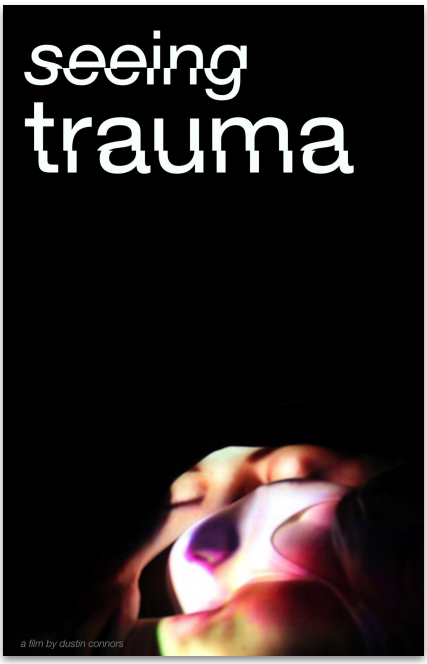
He received his Bachelor of Science in Childhood Education from SUNY Plattsburgh in 2008, and his Master of Arts, in History & Documentary Filmmaking from SUNY Albany in 2018.

He is still active in the filmmaking community, living in Saratoga Springs and striving to make a bigger space for arts in public education.

Dustin with one of his former students in Seattle







AWARDS & ACCOLADES

2019	*Now, Tomorrow, Forever*	Grand Prize for Best Film - SUNYwide Film Festival
2019	*Seeing Trauma*	Experimental Honorable Mention - SUNYwide Film Festival
2018	*A Boy Out of Yemen*	Best Film - Berlin Flash Film Festival Runner Up Best Documentary - NYSIFF Nominated - Social Justice Film Festival
2018	*(F)Empowered*	Documentary Honorable Mention - SUNYwide Film Festival

CONTACT & PRICING

$1800 for 1 session
$3000 for 2 sessions

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US:

childrensfilminstitute@gmail.com

Covers the following:

- Equipment costs
- Camera, data storage, tripod, microphones
- Materials (notebooks, writing utensils, etc.)
- Location rental costs
- Insurance costs
- Snacks
- Editing Software

Scholarships available