

SAMANTHA LOUISE NOLAND

Filmmaker | Producer | Writer | Educator

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EDUCATION

American University, Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Film & Media Arts | 2025
3 year terminal degree in the arts, teaching and production experience

Cornell University, Bachelor of Arts, American Studies & Performing and Media Arts | 2021
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Deans List, Minor in Literatures in English

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Best Graduate Thesis Fiction Award**, American University Visions Awards for [People-Pleaser](#) (2025)
- **Official Selection**, Rehoboth Beach International Film Festival for [People-Pleaser](#) (2025)
- **Participant**, American Pavilion at Cannes Film Festival (2025)
- Member, **University Film and Video Association, Women in Film and Video, & WGAE Indie Film Caucus**
- Managed a **\$40,000 budget** as **President of American University's Graduate Leadership Council**
- Founded and developed a community organization creating events and engagement for young professionals
- Selected for competitive industry development programs connecting emerging leaders with executives from CBS, NBC, FOX, AMC, and Nasdaq

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Producer / Writer / Director, [Independent Film Projects](#) | 2023–Present

- Wrote, Directed, Produced: [Park Bench Philosophy](#) (2024), [People-Pleaser](#) (2025) & the documentary [Hot Rocks & Pretty Trash: Living off the Grid on Capitol Hill](#) (2023).
- Lead end-to-end production of award-winning narrative films, managing creative vision, project strategy, budgets, timelines, vendors, and multidisciplinary teams.
- Direct teams of actors, designers, cinematographers, and production professionals to deliver projects from initial concept through final distribution.
- Develop audience engagement strategies, promotional materials, and festival submission campaigns resulting in industry recognition and official selections.
- Manage competing creative and operational priorities while maintaining deadlines, quality standards, and stakeholder alignment.
- Build relationships with industry professionals, academic partners, and festival organizations to expand project visibility and impact.

Program Instructor, Close Up Foundation | Washington, DC | February 2026–June 2026

- Taught and facilitated civic education programs for middle and high school students from across the United States, adapting communication strategies for diverse audiences. Worked directly with students each day.
- Managed daily program logistics, schedules, and student experiences in a fast-paced educational environment.
- Led discussions on complex public policy topics while creating inclusive, engaging learning environments.
- Collaborated with program staff to execute high-quality educational programming.

Founder & Community Director, [Young Folks of Kemp Mill](#) | 2023–Present

- Founded and developed a Jewish community organization connecting young professionals through events, outreach, and relationship-building initiatives.
- Recruited and coordinated volunteers to execute community programming and engagement strategies.
- Developed organizational messaging, event experiences, and partnerships from concept through execution.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, American University School of Communication | Washington, DC | September 2022–May 2025

- Produced the annual Visions Awards student film showcase, coordinating event strategy, communications, logistics, and partner relationships.
- Supported departmental marketing initiatives through digital content creation, promotional materials, and audience engagement campaigns.
- Mentored students in storytelling, visual communication, and media production.
- Partnered with faculty, staff, students, and nonprofit organizations to execute academic programming and special events.

Graduate Ambassador, American University Admissions | Washington, DC | September 2024–May 2025

- Represented American University to prospective students, families, and external audiences through presentations, outreach, and personalized communication.
- Created promotional materials and digital content supporting recruitment and engagement initiatives.
- Managed high-volume communications while serving as a trusted public-facing representative of the university.

Communications Intern, Jewish Democratic Council of America | 2021

- Designed a 10-page Voting Rights Toolkit distributed to more than 50,000 partner organizations nationwide.
- Created digital communications, social media content, and outreach materials supporting national advocacy campaigns.

Development Intern, American Jewish Committee | 2019–2020

- Developed donor communications, event materials, and organizational correspondence.
- Supported fundraising events and stakeholder engagement initiatives.

Legislative Intern, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen | 2019

- Prepared legislative research, constituent communications, and policy briefing materials. Answered phones and email communications.

Customer Experience Team Member, Fruitive LLC | Washington, DC | 2018–2020

- Delivered exceptional customer experiences in a fast-paced hospitality environment.
- Supported daily operations across guest service, food preparation, and team collaboration.
- Developed strong communication, adaptability, and problem-solving skills while working in a high-volume setting.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**President, Graduate Leadership Council, American University | 2023–2024**

- Elected representative for graduate students, serving as liaison between students, university leadership, and the Board of Trustees.
- Managed a \$40,000 programming budget and oversaw planning, event execution, and resource allocation.
- Led university-wide initiatives designed to strengthen engagement, communication, and student experience.
- Collaborated with administrators, student organizations, and campus partners to deliver impactful programming.

Alumnae Board Member, The Holton-Arms School | 2022–Present

- Support alumnae engagement initiatives and organizational communication efforts.
- Served as Secretary, managing meeting documentation and supporting board operations.

Team Member, Landmark Forum Team Management Leadership Program | 2024-2026

- Works with small teams to practice personal leadership and team management skills.

Shabbat Cluster Coordinator, Edlavitch DC JCC | 2022-present

- Organizes and hosts monthly shabbat dinners for young professionals

AWARDS, INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

University Film and Video Association Conference — Presenter (2026), Graduate Fellow (2025), Presenter (2024)

American Pavilion at Cannes Film Festival — Participant (2025)

Rehoboth Beach International Film Festival — Filmmaker, Official Selection (2025)

New York Career Intensive — Participant (2025)

Los Angeles Career Intensive — Participant (2024)

Reykjavik Global Forum on Women's Leadership — Conversationalist & Event Video Producer (2024)

SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite • Premiere Pro • After Effects • Photoshop • Illustrator • DaVinci Resolve • Canva • Microsoft Office Suite • Social Media Platforms: Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok • Graphic Design • Canva • Digital Content Creation • Video Production • Project Management Tools • Screenwriting • Teaching • Curriculum Development • Classroom Management • Producing • Team management • Scheduling • Casting • Film Directing • Research • Copy editing • Languages: Beginner level Hebrew and French