



SAMANTHA NOLAND

Creative Storyteller, Filmmaker,
Actress, Leader, & Writer

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EDUCATION

American University, School of
Communication

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Film and
Media Arts May 2025
Concentration: Art in Entertainment
GPA: 3.9/4.0

Cornell University, College of Arts and
Sciences

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

American Studies & Performing and
Media Arts December 2021

Minor: Literatures in English

GPA: 4.1/4.3 | Honors: Phi Beta Kappa |
Dean's List

High School, **The Holton-Arms School**
May 2017

Graduated with Highest Honors

SKILLS & AWARDS

- **American University CSI (Center for Student Involvement) Award of Excellence, Spring 2024**
- **Won Best Graduate Thesis Fiction award at the AU Visions Awards 2025**
- **Adobe: Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Microsoft Suite, Canva, Davinci Resolve.**
- **Research: bibliographies, citations | Writing: editing, drafting content, grammar and spelling review.**
- **Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, X, Tik Tok, LinkedIn. | Public Speaking, Leadership, Organization, Group dynamics**

About Me

I am an award-winning Filmmaker and Writer who can create a story that will inspire people. A recent MFA graduate in Film and Media Arts, I also have experience in politics, non-profits, and alumni relations as well as years of experience as a trained actress.

WORK EXPERIENCE

June 2025

Production Assistant Backstory Strategies

- Professional production assistant gig working a live event on the National Mall.

Sept 2024 - May 2025

Graduate Ambassador American University

- Welcomed people at front desk, answered phones, and makes calls to prospective students. Presented at Admitted Students Day.
- Conducted research projects on admissions related topics. Managed the gradcomm email inbox.
- Wrote and edited written documents and marketing materials.
- Managed projects pertaining to graphic design and video materials.

September 2022 - May 2025

Graduate Assistant American University

- Teaching Assistant: Visual Literacy, Digital Media Literacy Classes, and SOC3 Public Relations Class.
- Assisted student with their video projects and honed their editing skills.
- Accomplished a project partnership with the non-profit A Wider Circle.
- Produced the Visions Awards, the premiere student film awards ceremony.
- Partnership with the SOC3 cohort, supporting the students in their Public Relations projects with Nestle.

June 2021 - August 2021

Communications Intern Jewish Democratic Council of America

- Designed, researched, and wrote a ten-page voting rights toolkit which was distributed to at least 25,000 partners.
- Wrote social media copy and edited social media posts and edited recruitment video for fellowship.

July - August 2019

Legislative Intern Senator Van Hollen's Capitol Hill Office

- Acted as a rapid response team for the Senator by answering phone calls from constituents on key issues.
- Conducted legislative research and attended briefings and hearings on the Hill.
- Wrote memos on important legislative issues.

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP

Alumnae Board Member, Holton-Arms School (September 2022-present)

- Work to increase participation, fundraising, and connectedness to the school.
- Fundraises for the school's annual fund.

President, Graduate Leadership Council (GLC) (September 2023- May 2024)

- Represented the entire graduate community to the AU administration.
- Planned and executed large-scale events and managed a budget of nearly 40K.
- Attended the AU Board of Trustees Meetings and Served on the finish line committee for fundraising.

Director of Programming, Graduate Leadership Council (GLC) (September 2022- May 2023)

- Planned events for the entire graduate student body.

Participant, Running Start Next Step Leadership Cohort (April - December 2024)

- Member of a high-level leadership program learning to run for political office.

Participant, Landmark Forum Team Management and Leadership Program (November 2024-present)

- High level training and development program designed to prepare the team leaders and managers of tomorrow.

Shabbat Cluster Coordinator, Edlavitch DC JCC (2023-present)

- Organize shabbat dinners once a month for young professionals in Maryland.

September 2019 - June 2020

Intern American Jewish Committee (AJC)

- Attended events at think tanks in DC and reported back with written memos.
- Conducted research on important policy issues relating to the Middle East and Israel.
- Organized large-scale Gala and fundraising events that raised thousands of dollars.

May 2017 - December 2017

Intern Running Start

- Acted as an executive assistant to President Susannah Wellford.
- Facilitated leadership trainings, wrote grants, planned events, and contacted Congressional offices.
- Wrote and edited emails and social media content.

CREATIVE WORK

Writer, "Unrequited"

Self-employed (October 2025 - present)

- Feature length script accepted into UFVA Conference Summer 2025.

Writer, Director, Producer, "People-Pleaser"

Self-employed (January 2024 - March 2025)

- Recently completed Capstone short film project.
- Wrote script, fundraised for budget, cast roles, planned shoots, and gathered crew.
- Over a year and a half process to result in a 14-minute film.
- Won Best Graduate Thesis Fiction award at the AU Visions Awards 2025
- Screened at the American Pavillion, Cannes Film Festival Next Gen Showcase.
- Script accepted into UFVA Conference Summer 2024.

Writer, Director, Producer, "Park Bench Philosophy"

Self-employed (March - May 2024)

- Wrote the script, cast roles, organizes shoot, coordinated the crew on this fiction short.
- Accepted into the Film Night 2025 Film Festival.

Director, Writer, and Editor,

Hot Rocks and Pretty Trash: Living off the Grid on Capitol Hill (February - May 2023)

- Finalist for People's Choice award, Kino Film Festival
- Screening in UFVA Conference Summer 2024

CONFERENCES & FESTIVALS

Graduate Fellow (Anticipated), UFVA (University Film and Video Association) Conference July 2025, Houston, TX

- Chosen as part of a six-person cohort of graduate students and recent MFA grads for mentorship.

Participant, Cannes Film Festival program, American Pavilion May 2025

- Selected to attend the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France through the American Pavillion Program.

Participant, New York Career Intensive March 2025

- Was selected as part of a competitive application process to attend the New York Career intensive. Networked with industry professionals at leading companies such as CBS, NBC, FOX, AMC, and Nasdaq.

Conversationalist, Reykjavik Global Women's Forum 2024 November 2024

- Participated in Global Forum on women's leadership with leaders from around the world.
- Shot video of the panels and discussions and participated in the dialogue.

Presenter, UFVA (University Film and Video Association) Conference July 2024

- Presented two original pieces at the academic conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

Participant, Los Angeles Career Intensive May 2024

- Was selected as part of a competitive application process to attend the LA Intensive.
- Networked with industry professionals and AU Alumni during the week-long program.

LANGUAGES

French
Hebrew



watch my reel here

<https://vimeo.com/1079238159>