



SAMANTHA NOLAND

Creative Storyteller, Filmmaker, Teacher,
Actress, Writer, Event Producer & Leader



based in Silver Spring, Maryland



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watch my reel here

<https://vimeo.com/1079238159>



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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

- **Adobe:** Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Microsoft Suite, Canva, Davinci Resolve, Color Correction.
- **Research:** bibliographies, citations
- **Writing:** editing, drafting content, grammar and spelling review.
- **Social Media:** Instagram, Facebook, X, Tik Tok, LinkedIn.
- **Video production, content creation, camera work, project management**

About Me

I am an award-winning Filmmaker, Producer, and Writer who creates stories that will inspire people. A recent MFA graduate in Film and Media Arts, I also have experience in theatre, government, politics, non-profits, Jewish community work, teaching, and alumni relations. I can bring my passion to any project!

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance Production & Hospitality Assistant | National Conference Sept 2025

- Coordinated multi-day production and hospitality logistics for a large-scale professional summit, ensuring smooth daily operations for 200+ participants, VIPs, & staff. Worked with nonpartisan group to facilitate dialogue across the aisle.
- Delivered consistent, professional client service while maintaining discretion under NDA requirements.

Production Assistant | Backstory Strategies June 2025

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

Production Assistant | Rorschach Theatre Company July 2023

- Professional production assistant gig filming a live theatre production.

Graduate Ambassador | American University Sept 2024 - May 2025

- Welcomed people at front desk, answered phones, and made daily calls to prospective students. Presented at Admitted Students Day.
- Conducted research projects on admissions related topics. Managed the general gradcomm email inbox which entailed replying to many requests each day.
- Wrote and edited written documents and marketing materials.
- Managed projects pertaining to graphic design and video materials.

Graduate Assistant | American University September 2022 - May 2025

- 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.

Communications Intern | Jewish Democratic Council of America

June 2021 - August 2021

- Designed, researched, and wrote a ten-page [voting rights toolkit](#) which was distributed to at least 50,000 partners and continues to be updated and distributed.
- Wrote social media copy and edited social media posts and edited recruitment video for fellowship.

Legislative Intern | Senator Van Hollen's Capitol Hill Office

July - August 2019

- Acted as a rapid response team for the Senator by answering phone calls from constituents on key issues throughout the day.
- Conducted legislative research and attended briefings and hearings on the Hill.
- Wrote memos on important legislative issues such as healthcare, immigration reform, women's reproductive rights, judicial reform, and environmental issues.

VOLUNTEER

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

- Work to increase participation, fundraising, and connectedness to the school. **Serves in role of Secretary.**
- Fundraises for the school's annual fund.

Member of the Cornell Arts and Sciences Alumni Media Team (2024-present)

- Present to students and speak about my career trajectory since graduation.

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.

LANGUAGES French
Hebrew

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**
- **Art History & Chorus Awards, Holton-Arms School 2017**

Development Intern | American Jewish Committee (AJC)

September 2019 - June 2020

- 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.

Intern | Running Start

May 2017 - December 2017

- 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 PRODUCTION WORK

Writer / Director / Producer, "The Last One In" (August 2025)

- Created a short film for Wheaton Film Festival's Make a Movie in A Month Challenge.

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)

- **Official Selection in the Rehoboth Beach International Film Festival 2025.**
- 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.
- Screened at the UFVA Conference 2025.

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, 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.