Hayden McComas

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Filmmaker / Director

Award-winning documentary director specializing in translating complex science and technology into films general audiences connect with. Wrote and directed a feature documentary on AI, blockchain, and Web3 that won three 2025 Best Feature Documentary awards — and now writes and directs generative AI shorts and features. Behind that, a decade of short-form, interview-driven documentary work for non-profits and community organizations — mission-focused mini-docs and gala campaign films delivered at budgets from $10K. Owner-operator with a complete camera, audio, and post-production pipeline; leads lean 2–4 person documentary crews and has directed a 30-person crew across five international locations. 100% on-time, on-budget delivery record for non-profit clients.

Core Capabilities

Documentary interviews & pre-interviews · deep subject research · story development & scripting · b-roll direction · in-house editing, color, and sound (DaVinci Resolve, Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro X) · in-house motion graphics, compositing and title design (DaVinci Fusion) · trailers & campaign cuts · production scheduling & budget management · owner-operated camera and audio package (BMPCC 6K, RED Komodo, Sony A7Sii, DJI Mavic 2)

Generative AI production — shot design & prompt architecture · reference-layer construction for character, vehicle and location consistency · Nano Banana Pro, Veo and Omni Flash (Google Flow) · Seedance and Wan (Higgsfield) · Topaz upscaling · ElevenLabs voice · full finish in DaVinci Resolve Studio

Generative AI Films

"First Light" (2026) — Writer/Director
Fully AI-generated narrative short. Sole creator: concept, script, production, edit, grade and sound. Two characters held consistent across eleven shots and multiple locations on a locked reference layer, resolving in a two-hander dialogue scene.

"It Begins with an Almond Shell" — A CarbonZero.eco film (2026) — Writer/Director
Fully AI-generated product film for a biochar carbon-sequestration company. Commissioned work; sole creator across concept, script, production and post.

Selected Documentary Work

"The Absolutely Amazing, Wonderful, Frightening, Threatening Edge of Tomorrow" (2024) — Writer/Director
Feature documentary making AI, blockchain, and Web3 accessible to general audiences. $2M budget, crew of 30, five global locations.
Winner, Best Feature Documentary — New York City International Film Festival, AI International Film Festival, and London Independent Film Awards (2025).

"Faith, Love, Hope" (2026) — Editor
A long-form travel documentary detailing the story of an autistic, non-verbal girl's heart-warming journey to walk the 500-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain. Story structure, paper edit, title and motion graphics, generative AI, music, sound design. 45 min.

"Mental Health Awareness" (2021) — Writer/Director/Editor
Interview-driven mini-doc on mental health in San Francisco's Korean-American community ($10K budget).

"Rising Together" (2021) — Writer/Director/Editor
Fundraising campaign film for the Korean American Community Foundation of San Francisco's 2021 Gala.

"Oakland Zoo x District" — Writer/Director
Short promotional documentary produced in collaboration with the Oakland Zoo.

"Sacrificial Lamb" (2019) — Writer/Director/Editor/Producer
Narrative short film, a Roald Dahl adaptation, produced and delivered on a $10K budget.

Professional Experience

Owner / Director & Producer — Eclipse Images, Ltd., Palm Desert, CA May 2016 – Present

- Direct documentary, PSA, and commercial productions end to end — research and pre-interviews through interviews, b-roll capture, edit, color, sound mix, and final delivery — with a fully in-house post-production pipeline.
- Confer directly with clients and stakeholders on story, framing, and editing approach, integrating feedback across revision rounds to sharpen the finished film.
- Scale production to the project: lean 2–4 person documentary units up to a 30-person international feature crew.
- Run disciplined media management: same-day card offload, redundant backup, and organized archives up to 18 TB per production.

Writer / Director / Editor — Film Causes.org May 2019 – Jun 2022

- Directed and edited PSAs, fundraising campaigns, trailers, and short-form films for a roster of non-profit and community clients; delivered 100% of projects on time and within budget.
- Produced and edited the campaign video for a virtual fundraising event that drove record-breaking results of more than $700K during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Production Accounting & Operations — A+E Networks Oct 2018 – Oct 2019

- Produced weekly cost reports for Line Producers and the VP of Production and processed payroll for 300+ crew across 20+ shows — hands-on production budget discipline.

Executive Assistant to Lloyd Kaufman — Troma Entertainment, Inc. Oct 2017 – Sept 2018

- Managed feature-film pre-production (script breakdowns, table reads, location scouting, scheduling) and wrote, shot, and edited monthly promotional videos for the Troma Now streaming service.

Education & Publication

University of California, Santa Barbara — Bachelor of Arts, English & Film Studies
The Modern Monk (2025) — published non-fiction, 254 pages, 1° Publishing