Raif Kendrick

raifkendrick.com · @rafilms_stuff on Instagram

Selected Films: Rocks · Bench · Macaroni · Junior Scholars · LUCHA · Morning Coffee · Train Man · Cereal · Doomscrolling · Harlem · Desi · The Garden · Escape

EDUCATION

Sept 2023 – June 2027 (expected)

High School of Art and Design · New York, NY

- Film/Video Production Major: studio-based, three-year college-level curriculum.
- Produced five to six short films per year in small crews, covered pre-production, production, and post-production.
- Shot on Blackmagic cinema cameras, prosumer DSLRs, and video cameras.
- Recorded with high-fidelity condenser microphones, lit scenes with professional lighting equipment, edited in Adobe Premiere.
- Built a professional portfolio and film reel spanning many genres and tones.
- AP Coursework: English Literature, World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government & Politics, Environmental Science.

FILMMAKING & CREATIVE PRODUCTION

July 2026

Student Filmmaker & Director · Prague Film School, Prague, Czech Republic

- Wrote, directed, and edited two original short films: Macaroni (5 min.) and Bench (1 min.); Macaroni was screened and reviewed by faculty.
- Crewed on nine student productions as Director of Photography (4), Assistant Director (2), Assistant Camera (1), Gaffer (1), and Sound (1).
- Completed intensive training in screenwriting, directing, cinematography, editing, and sound; filmed on location in Prague with access to professional production resources.
- Founded the Apple Juice Awards, a student-led ceremony celebrating the program's filmmakers; developed original award categories, designed promotional materials, organized online voting, and secured prizes. Hosted and emceed the awards ceremony for approximately 50 students and faculty.

Jan 2026 – Present

Independent Filmmaker & Creator, Weekly Short Film Series · @rafilms_stuff

- Created and sustained an ambitious weekly filmmaking project, independently producing and releasing 41 consecutive original short films.
- Write, direct, shoot, and edit films spanning narrative fiction, documentary, comedy, and experimental visual storytelling.
- Oversee all stages of production, from concept development and screenwriting to casting, cinematography, sound design, and post-production using Adobe Premiere Pro and DaVinci Resolve.
- Direct friends, classmates, and community members; coordinate locations, schedules, and production logistics to meet weekly release deadlines.
- Explore new cinematic techniques and spotlight local neighborhoods, individuals, and small businesses through original short films.
- Generated 318K+ cumulative views and attracted 750 followers, with standout short film Bench reaching 144K views.

Apr – May 2026

Documentary & Music Video Director / Producer
The Junior Scholars Program at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY

- Directed and produced two original projects for the Schomburg Center: a commissioned short documentary exploring historical context (released April 2026) and a music video (released May 2026).
- Led both productions from pre-production through final delivery, overseeing creative direction, location scouting, talent coordination, shot planning, and equipment setup.
- Directed principal photography and edited both films in Adobe Premiere Pro, delivering completed projects to the organization's specifications.

Aug 2026

Promotional Video Director & Editor · The Same Time Tomorrow Artist Collective, New York, NY

- Pitched his services directly to the owner and was hired to create a promotional video for the business.
- Wrote, shot, and edited the video for release on the shop's social media channels.

Oct 2025 – June 2026

Anchor, Editor, Videographer & Social Media Manager · NewsCast, High School of Art and Design

- Anchored live and recorded news segments broadcast to the school community.
- Operated camera and handled cinematography for news segments, interviews, and school event coverage.
- Edited all video content in Adobe Premiere Pro, managing post-production from raw footage to final cut.
- Managed the program's Instagram presence, creating and scheduling content.
- Collaborated with a student team to plan, shoot, and publish multimedia stories on deadline.

Technical Skills & Certification

- Certiport Adobe Certified Professional in Digital Video Using Adobe Premiere Pro
  - Video editing, color grading, and multi-track audio mixing
- DaVinci Resolve: video editing and color grading
- Adobe Photoshop & Lightroom: photo editing, color correction, graphic design, compositing
- Camera & Cinematography: Blackmagic cinema cameras, DSLRs, shot composition, lighting setup
- Sound: location recording with condenser and boom microphones
- Creative: screenwriting, directing, on-camera hosting
- Social Media: content strategy and management (Instagram)

LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP

Sept 2026 – Present

Board Member & Social Media Manager · Black Student Union, High School of Art and Design

- Leads discussions on Black representation in film and media, history, culture, and current events.
- Organized Black History Month programming, including guest speakers, and helped coordinate museum visits, film screenings, and club discussions.
- Collaborated with the Hispanic Student Union to organize an upcoming screening of Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse.
- Documents events through photography and videography for social media.

Jan 2025 & Jan 2026; returning Jan 2027

Film Instructor · 187 Film Festival Saturday class, Washington Heights, NYC

- Selected as one of 21 high school filmmakers to participate in the program.
- Designed and taught filmmaking lessons for middle school students across two six-week programs, covering pre-production, cinematography, directing, and editing.
- Guided students through the complete filmmaking process, from story development and scripting to filming and final edits.
- Provided individualized mentorship, helping students develop technical skills and confidence in visual storytelling.

July 2025

Founder & Head Teacher · Hearts of Gold

- Conceived, proposed, and led a five-day educational camp for five children ages 5–13 at a family shelter; independently developed the curriculum and daily programming.
- Designed and taught interactive lessons in Mandarin, financial literacy, video editing, and other subjects.
- Directed a collaborative music video, guiding campers through planning, filming, and performing.
- Recruited and supervised an assistant counselor; coordinated schedules, materials, and logistics with Hearts of Gold staff.
- Designed custom camp T-shirts and coordinated their production.

Oct 2024 – June 2025

Sophomore Class President · High School of Art and Design

- Elected by peers to represent a sophomore class of 380 students, serving as a liaison between students, faculty, and school administration.
- Led regular class officer meetings with the principal to discuss student concerns, initiatives, and school events.
- Organized the Halloween Dance and helped coordinate a school soccer pep rally, serving as emcee and leading activities.
- Advocated for expanded student recreation opportunities, including supervised morning Open Gym access and new badminton equipment.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Apr & Sept 2026

Event Photographer & Videographer · Jazz Tribute Performances, New York, NY

- Independently photographed and filmed live performances at the Sonny Rollins Memorial (Cathedral of St. John the Divine; 2,000+ attendees) and Randy Weston Centennial Celebration (Dizzy's Club, Jazz at Lincoln Center).
- Documented performances by acclaimed jazz musicians, including Joe Lovano, Jon Faddis, Monty Alexander, Jason Moran, Vijay Iyer, Rodney Kendrick, and Patience Higgins.
- Adapted camera techniques and audio recording to challenging low-light environments and acoustics, from a large cathedral to an intimate jazz club.
- Captured performances discreetly, preserving the atmosphere of each event while minimizing disruption to performers and audiences.

Aug 2025

Mandarin Language Tutor · Verbier Language School, Verbier, Switzerland

- Supported Mandarin instruction for four beginner students, ages 9–16, using native-level fluency to provide immersion and cultural context.
- Helped develop and deliver interactive lessons on foundational vocabulary, pronunciation, and conversation.
- Adapted teaching to students' varying ages, proficiency levels, and learning styles.

CREATIVE WRITING & CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Aug 2026 (10 days)

Participant & Counselor in Training · WriCampia

- Completed intensive creative writing workshops.
- Wrote and directed two original short films: Rocks and Odyssey.
- Led read-aloud sessions for younger campers, fostering engagement with storytelling.
- Mentored younger campers in brainstorming and developing original stories.
- Assisted camp counselors with daily activities and programming.

July 2025 (2 weeks)

Participant, Mandarin Language Immersion Program · Where There Be Dragons, Taipei, Taiwan

- Selected for a 10-student international cohort in a full-immersion program conducted entirely in Mandarin.
- Studied Mandarin reading and writing, Taiwanese history, and culture through daily classes, including instruction in Traditional Chinese characters.
- Documented the immersion experience through photography and videography for the organization's Yak Board blog.
- Lived with a non-English-speaking host family, strengthening conversational fluency through daily interactions.
- Explored Taiwanese culture through temple visits, night markets, calligraphy, cooking, and visits to local libraries and museums.

Apr – May 2024

Selected Participant, Ekphrastic Poetry Masterclass Series
Urban Word NYC × Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

- Selected as one of 15 young writers for a six-week poetry masterclass led by multidisciplinary writer and artist Caits Meissner.
- Explored the relationship between visual art and creative writing through weekly workshops in ekphrastic poetry at the Guggenheim Museum.
- Composed original poetry inspired by museum exhibitions, drawing on visual observation, interpretation, and personal reflection.

LANGUAGES: Mandarin Chinese: fluent (spoken); beginner reader · French: conversational · Spanish: conversational

INTERESTS: Poetry • Drawing (70+ original works) • Boxing • Basketball • Cycling