

John Richard

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John Richard is a documentary filmmaker, video producer and photographer from Iowa City, Iowa. He works on a variety of independent and commercial video projects around the world through his studio, Bocce Ball Films, LLC. With a background in photojournalism, John's work combines a strong visual sense with intimacy and humor to create a style of storytelling that is cohesive and authentic. He is also the Documentary Films Coach at the Daily Iowan Newspaper.

Selected Films / Projects

SAVING BRINTON (2017) - Director of Photography. Saving Brinton is an Oscar qualifying feature-length documentary that tells the story of Michael Zahs and W. Frank Brinton—two men born a century apart, but bound together by small town life and a collection of 4.5 hours of cellulose nitrate film. In 1981, Zahs discovered the rare collection of early films used by Brinton in barnstorming exhibitions that introduced many Iowans to the moving picture. Saving Brinton captures this untold story utilizing rare photos and historic documents to paint a portrait of life and leisure in 1900s Washington County. Simultaneously, Saving Brinton follows Zahs' quest to preserve the treasured collection and to recreate the pageantry of the original exhibitions at the world "repremiere" at the historic Ainsworth Opera House. World Premiere at AFI DOCs 2017, DOC NYC, Rotterdam International Film Festival, Edinburgh Film Festival, Jeonju Film Festival.

CITY OF LITERATURE (2012) - Director of Photography. While only a small town in the middle of The United States, Iowa City is one of only three cities the world designated by The United Nations as a UNESCO City of Literature. This 60-minute documentary premiered on Iowa Public Television, The Big Ten Network, and numerous screenings around the Midwest. Won Best Documentary at the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival

ABOVE+BEYOND CANCER (2012) - Director / Cinematographer / Editor - Produced 15 part web-series that interwove the story of a group of cancer survivors and advocates as they climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and Island Peak in Nepal and performed the two highest American Cancer Society Relay for Life events. Climbed and filmed on both of the mountains under technically difficult conditions.

A MAN OBSESSED (2011) - Cinematography - Produced video for the ESPN Outside the Lines TV show and microsite about Charlie Wittmack, an Iowan family man who decided to swim the English Channel, ride his bicycle 12,000 miles to Nepal and climb Mount Everest in what he dubbed, The World Triathlon.

Work History

Founder, Bocce Ball Films

August 2009- Present

- Produce a variety of video projects for clients around the Midwest including The New York Times, The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, BBC, The Los Angeles Times, Frontier Natural Products Co-op, Above + Beyond Cancer, Museum of Danish America and numerous independent short films and videos.

Iowa City Press-Citizen, Staff Photojournalist

August 2008 - July 2009

- Photograph a variety of daily assignments and longer term enterprise stories on subjects affecting the local community including the devastating floods of 2008, the legalization of same-sex marriage, and the Iowa Presidential caucus, University of Iowa Athletics.

The Daily Iowan, Photojournalist and Photo-Editor

2002 - March 2004

- Managed a staff of 7 photographers and worked closely with all departments of the newsroom and organized weekly photo critiques for photography and design departments.

University Camera, Digital Imaging Specialist

September 2004 - March 2007

- Worked on a variety of projects for clients related to digital imaging including; high-quality scans from prints, negatives and transparencies, restoration of damaged prints and negatives, and many other custom jobs. Taught night classes on color management and digital imaging for local photographic professionals.

Education

1998-2004 - University of Iowa, BS, Environmental Science with an emphasis in geology.