

JULIE NHEM

Cinematographer • IATSE Local 600 DP Mentee '25 • AFI CIW '26
julie@julienhem.com • 916-217-5010 • julienhem.com

ABOUT

Cinematographer working across narrative, documentary, and commercial projects, drawn to character-driven stories with a visual approach rooted in naturalistic, intentional lighting.

With a foundation in still photography and a career built through the camera department, Julie brings both technical fluency and on-set intuition to her work. She is known for creating images that feel grounded and emotionally present, using light, color, and movement in service of performance and story.

A member of IATSE Local 600, Julie was selected as a Cinematographer (DP) Mentee in 2025, and in 2026 was selected for the AFI Cinematography Intensive Workshop (CIW), where she trained alongside leading cinematographers and industry mentors.

She collaborates closely with directors to shape visual language from prep through final color, working across both union and independent productions.

SELECT WORK — CINEMATOGRAPHER

PICKY — Narrative Short (2026) | Dir. N. Eleanor Campbell

Character-driven exploration of familial relationships centered around food and cultural expectations. Lighting designed around interior holiday tones and motivated window light.

THE MURAL — Narrative Feature (2025) | Dir. Rollyn Stafford

Visual character study exploring community, identity and sense of place. Natural light, restrained camera movement, and tonal contrast across skin tones. Developed look through LUT and DI collaboration.

SMOKEY'S — Narrative Feature (Blocks 1 & 2, 2024) | Dir. Cristian Paluso

Fantastical storytelling grounded in shadow-driven lighting and expressive handheld camera.

MENOPUNKS — Feature Documentary (2025) | Dir. Alicia J. Rose

Multi-state interview documentary. Lean, mobile setups, mixed-sensor workflow, and long-form vérité coverage.

THE WOMAN'S RITE — Feature Documentary (2024) | Dir. Heidi Uecker

Interview + vérité hybrid. Designed lighting approach and executed multi-camera coverage across locations.

THIS IS FINE — Narrative Episodic (2022–) | Dir. Tara Johnson-Medinger

Episodic pilot featuring choreography-driven sequences. Warm naturalistic lighting contrasted with stylized color in performance moments.

EVERYTHING I AM — Narrative Short (2025) | Dir. Martin Vavra

Intimate story of love and grief, using monochromatic visual language developed through LUT design.

ADDITIONAL WORK — narrative shorts, music videos, and branded campaigns for Paychex, Oregon Lottery, and regional agencies.

CAMERA DEPARTMENT — FOUNDATION & CREDITS

Worked under Oscar- and Emmy-winning cinematographers on:

- **“Guillermo Del Toro’s Pinocchio”** — Academy Award Winner, DP: Frank Passingham (Kubo & The Two Strings, Chicken Run)
- **“The Rehearsal”** — Emmy Award Winner, DP: Marco Cordero (Nathan For You, How to with Jon Wilson)
- **“Sasquatch Sunset”** — Sundance Premiere, DP: Mike Gioulakis (It Follows, Split, Us)
- **“Showing Up”** — Spirit Award Winner & Gotham Nominee, DP: Christopher Blauvelt (Emma, Speed)
- **“Pig”** — Spirit Award Nominee, DP: Pat Scola (A Quiet Place: Day One, Sing Sing).

Experience across union + independent productions, large-crew and field-documentary environments. Strong technical foundation, workflow fluency, and on-set leadership.

RECOGNITION & LEADERSHIP

- AFI Cinematography Intensive Workshop (CIW) - Selected, 2026
 - IATSE Local 600 Cinematographer (DP) Mentorship, 2025 (Mentor: Diana Matos)
 - Women In Film PDX - Board Member, 2024
 - OMPA Co-Chair, 2024
 - OMPA Pathways Program - Selected, 2019 (Mentor: Sam Naiman)
 - Honorable Mention - Best Cinematography, 2023
 - Documentary awards including Best Feature/Best Doc categories, 2021-2022
-

SKILLS & TOOLS

Cinematography | Camera Operation & Movement | Lighting Design
On-set leadership • G&E communication • Look development • Color pipeline workflow

EDUCATION

Portland State University — Film Studies, Post-Bacc
University of Arkansas — Higher Education Administration, M.Ed
University of Oregon — Anthropology & Spanish, B.A.

REFERENCES

Martin Vavra, Galaxy Sailor Productions, Producer & Director
galaxysailor@gmail.com • 541-621-4825

Tara Johnson-Medinger, Freelance Producer & Director
tara@littlemissanomoly.com • 503-267-1126