

# JULIE NHEM

Cinematographer • Member IATSE Local 600  
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## ABOUT

Cinematographer drawn to stories that transform the ordinary into the unforgettable. I aim for visual impact and emotional response in my work: lighting that elevates the frame and commands attention, color driven by tone and mood, and camera movement that invites the viewer into the scene.

My journey through the camera department — utility, loader, camera assistant, operator, and now DP — has grounded me in the day-to-day craft of filmmaking. I've learned how to move through sets quietly, respect performance, and build trust through clarity, communication, and consistency.

Since joining Local 600 in 2019, and becoming a DP mentee in 2025, I've contributed to features, episodic work, long-form documentaries, and commercial content. I'm comfortable building looks from set through color pipelines, navigating multi-camera workflows, and adapting to whatever the shoot demands. My goal is always the same: to serve the director's vision while creating an exceptional visual journey.

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## SELECT WORK — CINEMATOGRAPHER

### **THE MURAL** — Narrative Feature (2025) | Director: Rollyn Stafford

Visual character study exploring community and place. Focus on natural light, restrained camera movement, visual intimacy, and juxtaposed skin-tone tonal palettes. Built look through LUT development + DI collaboration.

### **SMOKEY'S** — Narrative Feature Blocks 1 & 2 (2024) | Director: Cristian Paluso

Cinematic fantastical story-telling grounded in shadow-contrast lighting & handheld camera movement.

### **MENOPUNKS** — Feature Documentary (2025) | Director: Alicia J. Rose

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

### **THE WOMAN'S RITE** — Feature Documentary (2024) | Director: Heidi Uecker

Interviews + vérité hybrid with thematic color separation. Managed on-location lighting strategy and several multi-camera setups.

### **THIS IS FINE** — Narrative Episodic (2022-?) | Director: Tara Johnson-Medinger

Episodic pilot incorporating strong female leads and dance choreography. Warm naturalistic light integrated with low atmospheric, skin-tuned magentas and violets in dance sequence. Composed with responsive dolly movement, maintaining dynamic proximity.

### **EVERYTHING I AM** — Narrative Short (2025) | Director: Martin Vavra

Love and grief between an interracial couple punctuated with monochromatic visuals built through a LUT

### **ADDITIONAL WORK:**

Narrative shorts, music videos & branded commercial content — including Paychex, Oregon Lottery, and independent regional campaigns.

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# **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.

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## **RECOGNITION & LEADERSHIP**

- IATSE Local 600 DP Mentee (2025)
- WIF-PDX Board Member (2024)
- OMPA Co-Chair (2024)
- OMPA Pathways Program Selection
- Honorable Mentions — Cinematography
- Documentary awards including Best Feature/Best Doc categories

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## **SKILLS & TOOLS**

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

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## **EDUCATION**

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

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## **REFERENCES**

Martin Vavra, Galaxy Sailor Productions, Producer & Director  
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Tara Johnson-Medinger, Freelance Producer & Director  
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