Steven Carter

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Director of Photography with 28+ years of experience creating visually compelling content for film, TV, and branded media. Notable projects include *Light Bunny*, an official selection at the 2025 HolllyShorts Film Festival, and *Pick A Movie*, winner of Best Romantic Comedy at the 2024 Silicon Beach Film Festival. Worked with clients such as TrueCar, USAA, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), ChillerTV, and Infinite Reality, delivering high-quality branded content. Recognized for versatility across large-scale productions and one-man-band operations, with expertise in bringing projects from concept to completion.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Director of Photography | Los Angeles, CA
Mar 2012 – Oct 2015 | July 2020 – Present

- Collaborate with clients to conceptualize and execute high-quality video and film projects, balancing creative storytelling with budget constraints.
- Select, prepare, and manage camera and lighting equipment for each shoot.
- Hire and lead camera and lighting teams for events and productions.
- Oversee color grading or supervise external colorists to ensure the final product meets quality standards.
- Work with producers on budgeting for camera and lighting needs.

TrueCar | Los Angeles, CA | Videographer + Photographer
Oct 2015 – Jul 2020

- Provided videography for internal events, social media campaigns, and marketing.
- Coordinated live event video capture and production logistics.
- Produced, hired, and scheduled teams for video shoots, ensuring all visual content met branding standards.
- Managed vendors, oversaw equipment maintenance, and handled still photography needs for commercial and internal use.
- Utilized Adobe Premiere, DaVinci Resolve, and Adobe Lightroom to edit, color correct, and finalize footage.

Rhythm + Hues | Los Angeles, CA | Freelance VFX Manager
Aug 2008 – Mar 2012

- Managed large-scale VFX pipelines for films such as *The Incredible Hulk*, *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*, *Night at the Museum*, *Moneyball*, and *Life of Pi* (Academy Award for Best Visual Effects).
- Supervised VFX teams, budgets, and vendors, ensuring timely project delivery.
- Liaised between artists, producers, and management to maintain high creative standards and meet production goals.

Donat/Wald Agency | Los Angeles, CA | Post Producer
Mar 2008 – Aug 2008

- Supervised post-production for various projects, ensuring timely delivery.
- Managed external vendors and collaborated with editors, sound designers, and VFX artists.
- Developed post-production budgets and handled contract negotiations.

Rhythm + Hues | Los Angeles, CA | Freelance VFX Coordinator for Commercials
Feb 2003 – Mar 2008

- Coordinated VFX teams for commercial projects, ensuring timelines and milestones were met.
- Managed workflows, schedules, and resources for multiple productions.

Media Group | Columbus, OH | Stage Manager + Gaffer
Apr 1998 – Feb 2001

- Served as the primary lighting technician, designing lighting setups for studio and location shoots
- Scheduled and managed day-to-day operations for sound stages and live location shoots
- Coordinated equipment logistics, maintenance, and repair for all studio equipment

WDTN 2 (CBS) News | Dayton, OH | Production Technician + Videographer
Mar 1997 – Apr 1998

- Managed live broadcast logistics, including camera operation, lighting, and teleprompter setup.
- Assisted with live commercial feeds and remote broadcasts.

WKEF 22 (ABC) News | Dayton, OH | News Videographer
Oct 1996 – Mar 1997

- Collaborated with reporters to capture live news content and produce news packages.
- Coordinated remote broadcasts and technical setups.

SKILLS

- **Camera Systems**: RED, Arri, Sony, Canon, DSLR
- **Lighting**: Scene Lighting, Studio Lighting, Location Lighting
- **Post-Production**: DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Creative Suite (Premiere, After Effects, Photoshop), Color Grading, Post-Production Workflow
- **Production**: Pre-Production Planning, Show Planning, Production Support, Studio and Location Shooting, Drone Operation, One-Man Band Operations
- **Photography**: Still Photography, Cinematic Photography
- **Additional**: Strong understanding of post-production workflows and delivering projects from concept to completion

EDUCATION

Wright State University | Dayton, OH
Studied Film Production

- *Awarded a Student Emmy for my film Night Owls*
- Selected as the only student for advanced classes with guest cinematographer Michael Spiller