

Nich L. Perez

DeLaney Filmmaker-in-Residence

Department of Journalism and Mass
Communications
Film and Visual Culture Faculty Cohort

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[Nich L. Perez](#) is a Filipino-American filmmaker, educator, and collaborator. He creates film grain and pixels through personal human connections, carving narratives with the lens of empathy and community. As the founder and director of the Nonprofit Film Collective, a grassroots group of storytellers, “Nick” transcends traditional boundaries by collaborating with nonprofits, communities, students, and institutions to tell meaningful stories with tangible, real-world, positive impacts.

Nich’s latest feature-length film, *letters to eleanore*, offers a poignant exploration of disability and hope. This award-winning documentary, like most of his films, was produced jointly with his university students and is currently in film festivals. He has taught in various universities, including Grinnell College and St. Mary’s University as a Visiting Assistant Professor, where he worked on media projects that tackle complex subjects with sensitivity and insight, utilizing media arts and practice as a powerful tool for advocacy and storytelling. Nich has filmed in more than 50 countries: experiencing a breadth of humanity, interacting through multiple languages, connecting with people from varied cultures and economic backgrounds, and living these experiences with students. With multiple films in the pipeline, Nich continues to push boundaries and challenge perceptions through his work in an ever-evolving media landscape and in both fiction and nonfiction, producing media that captures beauty, inspiration, and authenticity.

Education

MFA Cinematic Arts: Film and Television Production, School of Cinematic Arts
University of Southern California

MA Communication Studies, St. Mary’s University, Texas

Photography and Human Rights Certificate, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University

BA Philosophy, University of St. La Salle, Philippines

BS Business Management, University of St. La Salle, Philippines

Teaching:

FILM 233 Introduction to Film
Video Production
Documentary Narrative and Production

Teaching Experiences

2023 - Visiting Assistant Professor, Communications and Media, St. Mary's University, Texas
2022 - Visiting Assistant Professor, Film and Media Studies, Grinnell College
2011- 2016 Assistant Professor, Communications and Visual Arts ,
Holy Cross College, Notre Dame IN

Research / Teaching Interests:

Documentary Narrative and Production
Video and Film Production
Media, Social Justice, and Service-Learning
Contemporary International Cinema
Screenwriting and Documentary Preproduction
Effective Media Production: Digital Still Photography and Editing
Cinematography, and Film Editing
Community Storytelling
Film Festivals
The Ontology of Film Grain and Pixels

Recent Projects

"letters to eleanore" feature-length documentary (*currently in the film festival circuit*)
2024 Documentary Award Winner, A&E Film Festival, Bristol, England
2024 Official Selection, Freedom Festival International, South Carolina, USA

"The White Feast (Screenplay)"

2023 Official Selection, Beverly Hills Film Festival, USA
2021 Official Selection, University Film and Video Association, USA

"LETTERS: the art of grieving" - *Distributed by EPF Media | Streaming on GuideDoc* 2021

Official Selection, StoryBolt's 4th Short Documentary Contest, USA
2021 Award Winner, Go Mental! International Short Film Festival 2021, Germany
2021 Award Winner, Giuria del Festival ART CONTAINER, Italy
2021 Official Selection, Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival, Scotland.
2020 Official Selection, 74th University Film and Video Association Conference, USA
2020 Great Lakes Film Festival, USA
2020 Finalist Mountain Shadow Film Society's 6th Annual Short Film Competition
2020 Jury Prize Nominee, First Look Film Festival, USA
2019 Official Selection, Filmstrip International Film Festival, Romania
2019 Finalist, Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA

"Kahidlaw" (Longing) *(currently in the film festival circuit)*

2022 Official Selection, PDX Recovery Film Festival, USA

2022 Official Selection, Monaco Film Festival

2022 Official Selection, Hyperreal Film Club, USA

"Dear Nay"

2022 Art With Impact Short Film Competition Winner

2020 Official Selection, One Step Film Festival, Yangon

2020 Official Selection, Huntington Beach Cultural Cinema, USA

"LETTERS: transformations"

2023 Official Selection, Nosebleeds Film Festival, USA

2021 Winner, Art With Impact Film Competition - Olive Film Collection

"A Philosophical Approach to Enlightenment"

2020 Official Selection, Lift-Off Global Network Film Festival, UK

2020 Award Winner, Tagore International Film Festival, India

2020 Flickfair Film Festival, USA

"In Plato's Digital Cave"

2020 Official Selection, LAMPA International Film Festival of Socially Oriented Short
Films, Videos and Social Advertising