

# Wendy K. Smith, Ph. D.

wendy@wendysmith.com  
[www.wendysmith.com](http://www.wendysmith.com)

(585) 546-3063  
375 Mt. Hope Avenue #202 Rochester, NY 14620

**Award winning filmmaker and educator with extensive teaching experience,  
specializing in innovative documentary camera techniques.**

## Key Qualifications

- Organized and clarified large amounts of information for students and motivated them outside their comfort zone.
- Established research and writing background: authored and published over 40 articles and literary pieces in English and French in academic, business and literary journals.
- Presented video/film seminars at colleges, institutions and conferences.
- Commitment to cultural diversity, pluralism, and individual differences.

## Teaching Experience

**SUNY at Brockport, Film Studies Program/English Department, Brockport, NY. 2019-20**

- Teaching Documentary Film class using online and group exercises, screenings and lecture, incorporating aesthetic, social and technical issues.

**Monroe Community College, Visual and Performing Arts Department and Health and Physical Education Department, Rochester, NY**

1998, 2012-present

- Taught Digital Video /Audio; organized and implemented structured computer lab training.
- Taught communication, stress management and wellness skills to diverse community college population of 35 students with substantial life issues.

**Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY**

2011-2013

- Taught Documentary Film History and Production using lecture, group exercises and screenings, incorporating theoretical, ethical and technical issues within a historical context. Students in undergraduate production class went on to renowned graduate film departments and many got their films into film festivals.

**Duke University Center for Documentary Studies (CDS), Durham, NC 2010-2011, 2013, 2014**

- Developed workshops for filmmakers and professionals in certificate program focused on documentary camera techniques. Feedback directly from participants and director was resoundingly positive. Received excellent response from those working at PBS and the former assistant to Michael Moore as well.

**SUNY at Brockport, Film Studies Program/English Department, Brockport, NY** 2010

- Taught required World Film History class using online and group exercises, screenings and lecture, incorporating aesthetic, social and technical issues. Invited contemporary guest speakers for well-received demonstrations.

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## **SUNY at Brockport, Art Department (Visual Studies Workshop), Rochester, NY 2007 – 2009, 2013**

- Taught Digital Media II during the semester and Documentary Film workshops in the summer (1998-2000, 2004-2007, 2009) and Ethnographic Film for the Anthropology Department.
- Organized and designed lecture/screening class addressing theoretical, historical, technical and ethical issues related to this type of filmmaking.

## **Boston University (Center for Digital Imaging Arts at Boston University), Washington, DC 2008**

- Created/taught module in Documentary Camera and the Interview in an intensive workshop environment focused on production and editing techniques.
- Student who fell in love with hand held camera work went on to work on a shoot with James Taylor based on the reel he created in this workshop.

## **Nazareth College of Rochester, Art and English Department, Rochester, NY 2002 – 2006**

- Planned and implemented structured computer lab training; produced and taught program in digital video production using Final Cut Pro software with related lectures in scriptwriting, editing and production techniques for Art and English Departments.

## **Rochester Institute of Technology, Film/Video Department, Rochester, NY 2005**

- Researched and developed lecture/screenings for required Ethnographic Film class. Blended theoretical and ethical issues relevant to this kind of filmmaking with pertinent issues to both student animators and photographers.

## **Film/Video Consulting Projects**

- Produced video “Learning without Walls” as consultant on City of Rochester project “Rochester Stories” for the School without Walls (2010).
- Postproduction consultant, (2009, 2012), “The Last Experiment,” a social documentary that grapples with how one community deals with the challenges of global climate change.
- Honorable Mention, *Smoky Mountain Nantahala Media Festival*, 1997 and 1999 for “The Road Home” and “Home Sweet Home”, which was honored at the *Lily Guernesey International Film and Video Festival* 2000 along with “How does your Garden Grow?” in 2003. For complete screening list see <https://www.wendysmith.com/filmmaker/filmography/>
- Video Residency, *Experimental Television Center, Ltd.*, Owego, NY, 1997.
- Received *French government and NYS Regional Arts Council grants* and co-distribution (1999-2001, 2007, 2008, and 2012).
- Conceived, shot and produced “Perry in His Garden” shown at the *International Film Market, Cannes* and the *Cinema du Reel* in Paris, France.
- Programmed films and panels for *Matrilineage Film Festival*, for *Upstate Media*, funded by the *NYS Council of the Arts*, 2002 and multiple documentary and ethnographic film festivals in Paris, France.

## Additional Experience

- Director/Editor at Syracuse University Summer Sessions.
- Video Production Trainer for Buffalo Cable Access Media, Buffalo, NY.
- Freelance Video Editor for United Nations Development Program.
- Video Technician for WTN News/ABC, New York, NY.

## Education

### **Ph.D. – Documentary Film Studies, summa cum laude**

University of Paris X, Nanterre, France

Ph.D. Dissertation: *The Genesis of the Portrait: From Cave Art through Contemporary Film Portraits: A Case Study* (English title translation) – 400 pages.

### **M.S. – Television/Film/Radio**

Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

*Authored and published over 40 articles in English and French in academic, business and literary journals. Complete list available at*

<https://www.wendysmith.com/writer/business-writing/>

<https://www.wendysmith.com/writer/poetry/>

<https://www.wendysmith.com/teacher/academic-publications/>

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[linkedin.com/in/wendysmith10](https://www.linkedin.com/in/wendysmith10)

## Reference Portfolio

**Lester D. Friedman, Ph.D.**, Chair, Media and Society Program  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

[friedman@hws.edu](mailto:friedman@hws.edu)

*I hired Wendy Smith to teach documentary production after receiving extensive and enthusiastic evaluations from previous students, staff members of the HWS community, and those who have taken her various workshops. Many students and colleagues specifically commented on her creativity, thoroughness, professionalism, and extensive knowledge of documentary techniques.*

*I can personally attest to her ability to do outstanding work with students and staff. Her easygoing, passionate, and approachable style puts people completely at ease, encouraging them to explore new options and seek new insights.*

*Everyone at Hobart and William Smith Colleges feels fortunate to have a person with her talent and temperament working at our institution as a committed visual artist and dedicated teacher. Her reputation in the film world is that of an outstanding visual artist, and I cannot imagine a person better suited to address the needs of your students and faculty on all levels.*

**Richard Della Costa**, Faculty, Visual Studies Workshop, The Media Shop at Edison Technical and Occupational Center, Rochester, New York

[farm1990dellacosta@gmail.com](mailto:farm1990dellacosta@gmail.com)

*I have known Wendy for 15 years as a film and video artist, collaborator and colleague at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, New York. Wendy has excelled both as a teacher and an artist and is extremely competent with a variety of camera systems, film and video production equipment, editing systems and related software. She is a trusted and valuable faculty member at the VSW Summer Institute. The feedback I have received from students is of the highest quality: Wendy is clear and patient with her lectures, supportive and creative with the students.*

*Wendy is able to present a vast range of work for students to experience and draw upon when creating their own work. I do not have reservations as to her teaching ability or her ability to work within an academic environment, as a positive team member and creative contributor. She is locally well known as a video artist and, in particular, video poet, her work having been published and collected in the United States.*

*I am a strong supporter of Wendy in her work and would recommend her highly for any program or position that she envisions for herself.*

**Jean Donnell, Ph.D.**, The Women's Institute, Baltimore, Maryland

[thebestview@aol.com](mailto:thebestview@aol.com)

*I attended a documentary film workshop where Wendy was the instructor. I could not have been more delighted with the class. Wendy was creative, organized and thorough. Although the members of the class had varying skill levels, she was able to provide a meaningful learning experience for all of us.*

*I was so impressed that when I returned to Maryland, I invited her to train my television crew in video production at a large non profit organization where I serve.*

*On a personal note, Wendy is a wonderful person and a good communicator who gets along with people very well even under heavy deadline pressures. I unreservedly recommend Wendy Smith.*