

TRENT WATTS

Cinematographer

New York | DC | Worldwide

Trentwatts.com

RESUME

Summary

In the past decade, Trent has worked as a Cinematographer on over 700 productions, specializing mostly in documentaries, branded content, and commercials. He started his career in Washington, DC, learning to work fast with small crews and minimal resources. After rising to the top of the DC production industry (and building a thriving production company in the process), he moved to Brooklyn in 2020 to further his craft and work with the top filmmakers in the industry. He still has a large network of crew in the DC-Baltimore area and travels down regularly for shoots and family.

A Cinematographer for Storytellers

He began his filmmaking journey as a screenwriter, writing hundreds of pages in high school and college, and studying the craft of storytelling through the likes of Joseph Campbell and Robert McKee, before transitioning to cinematography later. This foundational love of storytelling separates him from other DP's, as he's able to shoot in a way that feels like "writing" as opposed to "photographing". A beautiful shot does not stand on its own unless it's conveying just the right meaning, while building from the shots before it and setting up the shots after it.

A Collaborative Process

Trent's process starts with carefully listening to collaborators to understand the story they're telling, the bigger picture of what they're trying to accomplish, and the intricacies of their project. With his team of go-to crew, he then determines the best approach to maximize production values while telling the most compelling story. He enjoys the process of working through the unique technical, logistical, and storytelling challenges of each project, having a solid plan in place, and throwing that plan out to improvise when necessary. On set, he loves fostering a positive collaborative atmosphere, where good ideas can come from anybody, and crew and talent are empowered to work at their best.

His list of owned equipment includes an ALEXA Mini, Zeiss CP2 lenses, wireless monitors, and lights.

SELECTED CREDITS

DOCUMENTARY

Project	Director	Production Company
"March on Washington: Keepers of the Dream" 1-hour TV special https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0BsJ08WiEQ	Marquis Daisy	National Geographic / The Undeclared
"In Ten Pictures: Tupac", doc series episode https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000v5hv https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vGyDSYHnWmNpB-jr4VUiYD562wlrkitl/view?usp=sharing	Matthew Hill	BBC Studios
"The Bolsonaros", doc series interview frames	Matthew Hill	BBC Studios
Katie Couric "The Meaning of Matthew Shepard" segment https://time.com/5440651/matthew-shepard-pittsburgh-synagogue/	Lauren Vance	Katie Couric with TIME
Boxing Feature "Gervonta Davis: Baltimore's Rising Star" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCGkDR2dH_s	Marc Youngblood	Showtime Sports
Boxing Feature "Gary Russell Jr vs King Tut " https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wiN7-V6wRI38iWOp83PfvI917cYjn1w6/view?usp=sharing	Noah Lerner	Showtime Sports
Off the Map: The Christopher McCandless Story https://vimeo.com/271718697	JJ Kelley	Travel Channel
AARP "My Greatest Battle" 1-hour TV special https://videos.aarp.org/detail/video/4913665792001/the-first-battle-of-vietnam-%7C-the-battle-of-la-drang---aarp	TJ Cooney	American Heroes Channel with AARP

COMMERCIAL / BRANDED

Project	Director	Producer / Agency
Canadien Paralympics Committee "We're Here" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCyl65PQEQs	Max Geraldo	Flare BBDO Toronto
White Castle "Say Anything" https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ciq2m9nQ3HJgoP35jY7TIX7GPYDx4NGC/view	John Gebhart	Merkley + Partners
Youtube "Find a Way #WithMe" campaign https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wIT_FdpqU4	Stephen Bailey	Entropico / Amanda Naseem

Citi "Justin Thomas: Life & Money" https://vimeo.com/523500891	Brandon Bloch / Matt Zuckerman	Publicis / Magic Seed
Amazon/NFL "Thursday Night Football"	Brenna Briton	Amazon Studios
Amazon Music "R&B Rotation: Yuna" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4NnwGekFIE	Anahid Yahjian	Amanda Naseem
NCAA "Diving into Academics" series	Nick Bruckman	People's TV
McCormick "Flavor Makers" series https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2mn_5YV9ps	Lee Morton	Mozell Films
MetLife "Pathway Toward Empowerment"	Rich Butterworth	WSJ Custom Studios
USAA "R. Riveter" https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ukiyY-aLvSS5a8-x500IH9j3FxA8Q-FF/view?usp=sharing	Rich Butterworth	CNN Courageous
Strayer "Communication Matters"	Amani Martin	Amani Martin
Sony PS5 launch campaign	Steven Murphy	4th Row Films
AARP "Lumberjack & Squirrel" campaign https://trentwatts.com/#ifancybox/yt/TtSyD2V3oeY	David Friedman	AARP Studios
Kaiser Permanente healthcare campaigns (lifestyle/real people) Denise - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7bWTKaPKnY Dave - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSwgJImY9Y Jan - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvPpQez-0C8	Bryan Litt	Kaiser Permanente
Kaiser Permanente "To the Heroes of 2020" https://vimeo.com/493770204	Bryan Litt	Kaiser Permanente
Kaiser Permanente "Why Kaiser" https://vimeo.com/596654843/167694aac9	Bryan Litt	Kaiser Permanente
NASCAR "Meet the Driver" series https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7450264/	Mitchell Stuart	Looking 4 Larry / HQ Creative
Comcast Xfinity "New Store Experience"	Jason Weitzel	AP-Invision Agency
Reebok "Live with Fire: Chris Hendricks"	Trent Watts	Adam Parr
Brawny "AmeriCan" campaign	Trent Watts	Adora Wilson-Eye / Cutwater
Realtor.com "Real People" campaign	Trent Watts	Eastward Films

SELECTED CLIENTS

Production Companies

CNN Courageous Studios, WSJ Custom Studios, People's TV, Soul Pancake, Magnet Media, Osmosis Films, Chrilleks, Trick & Mortar, Entropico, Magic Seed, 4th Row Films, Mozell Films, Green Buzz, Rockhouse, 76 Words, Firebird Films, Eastward Films, Squad 47,

Agencies

Flare BBDO, Ogilvy, Publicis, Edelman, Berlin Rosen, Weber Shandwick, HK Strategies, Wunderman, Grey, Reingold, Levick

Television

BBC Studios, NBC, Showtime Sports, Vice, National Geographic, Travel Channel, Universal Sports, MTV, Vox Media, Vice

Companies / Brands

Geico, Amazon, Bud Light, Google, Wendy's, Xfinity, Microsoft, IBM, Sony Playstation, Citi, T-Mobile, Paypal, Ebay, Samsung, Hilton Hotels, Netflix, Metlife, Dick's Sporting Goods, Hewlett-Packard, Brawny, Macy's, Realtor.com, Kaiser Permanente, Booz Allen Hamilton, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Cisco Systems, Anthem, White Castle, McCormick Seasonings, Pandora

Non-profit

Natural Resources Defense Council, NCAA, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Mastercard Foundation, WK Kellogg Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Boys & Girls Club of America, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Salvation Army

Schools

Yale University, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, George Mason University, George Washington University, University of Rhode Island
