

Jenny Mackenzie, Ph.D.

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1100 South Vista View Drive, Salt Lake City, UT, 84108

Education

2005 – '07	MFA Coursework	University of Utah, Film Studies Dept.
1999	Ph.D.	University of Utah, Social Work
1986	M.S.W.	Simmons College School of Social Work
1984	B.A.	Brown University, Psychology

Professional Experience

Executive Director, *Jenny Mackenzie Films*, 2009 – present

Director and producer of documentary films focusing on human-interest stories. We produce films that are “real people, true stories, inspirational films” that integrate my 15 years of nonprofit and social work experience. Our films reach wide audiences through competitive distribution and education & outreach screenings to create sustainable social change and impact.

Director/Producer Credits

THE RIGHT TO READ (in production) Through intimate footage, we see the resilience and strength of four women as they passionately advocate to provide free literacy programs for their own children and their communities. Despite significant barriers like language, learning disability, and poverty, these women fight tirelessly to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of long-term life success: the ability to read.

HOWEVER LONG (2019) *However Long* is a portrait of women living with metastatic (stage four) breast cancer, and the unique support group that connects them all. As these women process challenging questions about living with an incurable disease, themes like resiliency, hope, and ferocious honesty emerge. *However Long* addresses the question that all human beings need to ask themselves: how do you want to live the rest of your life? Premiering at multiple festivals in 2019/2020, distribution Alabama Public Television, NETA, and VOD.

QUIET HEROES (2018) The story of two fearless medical professionals who provided world-class AIDS/HIV care in conservative, Mormon Utah in the 1980's and 90's when no one else would. Facing adversity and ostracism in their personal and professional lives, Dr. Kristen Ries, along with her physician's assistant, Maggie Snyder, forged a path of compassion, discovery and quality care for a population that everyone else seemed willing to let die. Premiered at Sundance Film Festival 2018, distributed on LOGO documentaries and Amazon.

DYING IN VEIN: The Opiate Generation(2016) Through a cinéma vérité's tye, this film drops you directly into the lives of the public health epidemic of heroin addiction. With unprecedented access, *Dying in Vein* looks at the reality of being an addict, the aftermath of death for loved ones, and the impact of socioeconomic class on our broken treatment system. Premiered at multiple festivals in 2017/2018 distributed on HULU.

SUGAR BABIES: the bitter sweet truth of diabetes (2014) examines the public heath epidemic of both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes in American children. The film looks at the heartbreaking burdens, the unexpected triumphs, and explores the question that has bedeviled us for the last decade: why is there no cure for the disease of obesity and sugar intake that is now ravaging America's youth? Premiered at multiple film festivals 2014/2015, distributed by Virgil Films on Amazon, iTunes, and Vudu.

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INVISIBLE DISABILITIES (2012), shares the complex reality of what it means to live with an “invisible disability,” which at first glance may not be readily apparent. Renowned expert Dr. Temple Grandin discusses how individuals, families and communities can help create meaningful high-quality lives for our population with special needs. Intimate, moving, and inspirational, this educational documentary changes our understanding of the problems this population encounter and shows us the contributions they make to our communities.

LEAD WITH LOVE: strengthening families through the coming out process (2010) is a persuasive and necessary intervention documentary funded by The National Institute of Health. The film explores the ways in which family reactions impact gay teenager’s emotional and physical well-being through the coming out process. With authenticity, warmth, and humor, the film weaves together several stories from different families and shares the pain that comes from experiencing parental rejection, as well as the relief that comes from feeling accepted. This educational documentary was written about in The New York Times, discussed on The View, and has been used in ground-breaking research publications through the National Institute of Health.

KICK LIKE A GIRL (2009) is the story of what happens when “The Mighty Cheetahs,” an undefeated all-girls soccer team, competes in the boy’s division. With humor and candor this documentary gets at the heart of the boy-girl issues and explores what "Kick Like A Girl" really means on and off the playing field. Refreshing and triumphant, *Kick Like A Girl* reminds us all of the lessons learned in competitive athletics and how sports have been one of the most effective instruments of social change in our lifetime. Premiered at multiple festivals in 2008/2009, winning an IDA nomination, distributed on HBO.

WHERE’S HERBIE? (2007) With warmth, humor, and humility, Herbie Loveitt, a 91-year-old working lobsterman from Georgetown, Maine shares his philosophy on aging, death and the risks of retirement. Herbie shows us how to live the last years of one’s life to the fullest. Premiered at multiple festivals in 2007/2008, nominated for Grand Jury Prize at the New Hampshire Film Festival, distributed on New England Public Television.

Social Justice Work Experience

April 2000 – June 2005

Chief Program Officer Y.W.C.A. of Salt Lake City.

Supervision and administration of the YWCA’s eight programs (battered women’s shelter, children’s services, residential self-sufficiency program, KRH transitional housing program, prevention services, teen pregnancy group home, health promotions services, and child care services) ongoing education and training for agency staff and graduate interns, representation of the YWCA in strategic collaborations with other organizations, grant writing, community presentations, media, public relations.

February 1999 – March 2001

Clinical Consultant Rape Recovery Center of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Supervision of all counseling staff. Facilitation, coordination, and education of staff and volunteer training.

January 1988 – January 1996

Coordinator of Family Therapy Training *National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine, Denver, Colorado.*

Supervision and family therapy training with staff and interns. Acting Director of Outpatient Day Treatments. Supervision and family therapy training with staff and interns. Acting Director of Outpatient Day Treatment. Psychotherapy with individuals, couples, families, and groups. Coordinator of sex education program for adolescents.

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Academic & Teaching Experience:

2020 –present

Utah Valley University, Assistant Professor, Digital Cinema Production

Responsible for full-time teaching , recruitment and development of documentary track within DCP. Course work includes intro to non-fiction film production as well as development of syllabi for two advanced classes in documentary track.

2019 – 2020

Waterford High School Artist-in-Residence.

Responsible for teaching a seminar in social impact documentary filmmaking. Course covers development of concepts, pitching, interviewing, storyboarding, and post-production.

2009 – Present

Spy Hop Youth Media.

Film and media consultant reviewing and critiquing student projects each semester.

2018 – 2019

Utah Film Center, Through My Lens.

Film and media instructor for middle and high school teachers teaching students to make documentary films in their humanities classes.

1995-2005

University of Utah, Adjunct Faculty Mentor.

Teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the department of social work.

Awards:

2019 Emmy award for QUIET HEROES (Special Populations of People category in Daytime Emmys)
2019 Finalist for The Roy W. Dean “From the Heart” film production grant
2017 Recipient Utah Film Commission Community Incentive Grant
2009 Recipient Chick & Egg Documentary Grant

2007 Deans Tour Award, University of Utah, Film Studies Department for “Where’s Herbie?” 1998
William McPhee Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in Doctoral Research
1996 Jamal O’Jack Scholarship for Academic Achievement and Promise in Doctoral Research 1987
Nomination for Outstanding Young Women of America

Board & Committee Appointments:

2019–current	Utah Film Commission, Advisory Board Chair
2014–2018	Utah Film Commission, Advisory Board Member
2014–2019	The Davey Foundation, Board Member
2009–2015	The Children’s Center, Board Member

References:

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