

# DANIEL J GERSTLE

FILMMAKER, PRODUCER, CREATIVE WRITER | JUNE 2023

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**From Emergency Response to Filmmaking & Writing** | After running emergency response in disaster zones around the world, Daniel has shifted to producing film and media based in Berlin. His work has been covered by [BBC TV](#), [BBC Radio](#), [The Guardian](#), [Rolling Stone](#), [CNN](#), [Euronews](#), [The New Yorker](#), [The Atlantic](#), [WNYC](#), [VICE](#), [Aljazeera](#), [LA Times](#), and other media. He published stories and photography in [Rolling Stone](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Atlantic](#), [Journal of International Affairs](#), [Vocativ](#), [New America Media](#), and others.

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## MULTIMEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### *In Preproduction*

- 2021/2024 | [EVIL BUTTERFLIES](#). **Director/ Producer/ Writer**. Short fiction film, sample for a feature-length fiction film, directed by Daniel J. Gerstle, starring Paola Fleming. Firedance films, Berlin, Germany.
- 2022/2024 | [LAST KISS](#). **Director/ Producer/ Writer / Actor**. Short fiction film, sample for a feature-length fiction film, directed by Daniel J. Gerstle, starring Self & Anna Bibidibo. Firedance films, Rome, Italy & Berlin, Germany.

### *In Production*

- 2018/2024 | [HOW WE SURVIVE](#). **Director/ Producer/ Writer**. Feature documentary film and collaborative multimedia led by Daniel J. Gerstle, 90 min feature narrative + 40x4 min distinct vignettes. Humanitarian Bazaar: Germany, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Ukraine, Bosnia. The feature film is attached to a parallel multimedia project on protecting civilians, the War Survivors Advisory.

### *In Post-Production*

- 2011/2023 | [SOMALI SUNRISE \(formerly LIVE FROM MOGADISHU\)](#). **Director/ Producer/ Cinematographer/ Editor**. Feature documentary film by Daniel J. Gerstle, 100 min. Humanitarian Bazaar: Somalia, Kenya, Netherlands, United States. Starring Shiine Akhyaar, Felis Abdi, & Digriyow Abdi. Featuring K'naan & AlSarah.
- 2011/2023 | [DANGEROUS MUSIC](#). **Director/ Producer/ Cinematographer/ Editor**. Short documentary film by Daniel J. Gerstle, 30 min, Humanitarian Bazaar: Netherlands, France, Kenya, Afghanistan. Featuring AlSarah, Ambrotype, Paradise & Diverse, White Page, & Waayaha Cusub.
- 2023 | [LOVE: A THOUSAND FRAMES PER SECOND](#). **Assistant Director/ Co-Producer**. Director Peivend Ghayori's fiction feature film about love in the digital age, a hybrid film between reality and virtual reality. Ghayori Film. Berlin, Germany / Bergen, Norway.
- 2023 | [THE UNIVERSE ZONE](#). **Creative Advisor / Treatment Writer**. Alexander Sadreddini's fiction feature film homage to Takovsky's classic film, Stalker. UK, Lithuania.

### *Completed*

- 2022 | [PARVANA](#). **Creative Advisor/ Screenplay Consultant**. Fiction short film directed by Abbas Ayyoubi, starring Yalda Safi, Marzia Haschemi, 20 min. Ayoub films. Berlin, Germany.

- 2022 | [QUEERBERG: DRAG CINDERELLA](#). **Camera**. Theatrical performance directed by KL Divon, ft. Prince Emrah, Julie Dancer, Berlin, Germany.
- 2021 | [QUEENS AGAINST BORDERS: THE DOCUMENTARY](#). **Camera**. Directed by Rakaya Lisa, ft. Cupcake, The Darvish, Setara, et al. Berlin, Germany.
- 2020 | [WIZZY: LIGHT OF MY EYES](#). **Bts Camera / Grip**. Dir. by Rakaya Lisa. Music video. Germany.
- 2019 | [SYRIAN METAL IS WAR](#). **Creative Adviser**. Feature documentary film by Monzer Darwish. Doc, 90 min. Mater Films: Syria, Lebanon.
- 2018 | [PARADISE & DIVERSE: 143 BAND: BARANI](#). **Behind the Scenes Camera / Advisor**. Dir. By Ghafar Faizyar. Berlin, Germany.
- 2018 | [ONE NIGHT IN SARAJEVO](#). **Director/ Producer/ Camera**. Fiction short film by Daniel J. Gerstle, 7 min. Starring Deniz Tavle & Daniel J. Gerstle. Humanitarian Bazaar, Bosnia.
- 2018 | [STEVE ET JIM](#). **Assistant Editor**. Fiction short by Irene Della Casa, 15 m, Della Casa: Germany.
- 2018 | [WORLD CONFERENCE OF SCREENWRITERS](#). **Camera**. Dir. By Will Hamilton, doc, Germany.
- 2017 | [HB SARAJEVO FILMMAKER'S WORKSHOP](#). **Director/ Producer/ Editor**. Short documentary by Daniel J. Gerstle, 4 min. Humanitarian Bazaar, Bosnia.
- 2017/2008 | [THE ACTOR](#). **Co-Screenwriter**. Feature fiction film by Jon Osman, 85 min. Osman: USA.
- 2017 | [AWARENESS & EXPECTATIONS ft. JAKE HISSITT](#). **Director/ Producer/ Editor/ Camera**. Short documentary promo, 5 min. Spinglass: United Kingdom.
- 2016/2011 | [UNEP: SOMALI ACTIVIST WINS AWARD](#). **Producer/ Camera**. Short documentary by Samah Tokmachi, 5 min. Samah Cinema: Somalia.
- 2014 | [BOSNIA: HEART ON THE FIELD](#). **Producer/ Boom**. Short doc, 5 min. RPP Sao Paolo: Bosnia.
- 2014 | [AFGHANISTAN'S WHITE PAGE](#). **Director/ Producer/ Editor/ Camera**. Short doc & music video by Daniel J. Gerstle, 4 min. Humanitarian Bazaar: Afghanistan, United States.
- 2014 | [HUMANITARIAN BAZAAR: OUR PORTFOLIO I/II](#). **Director/ Producer/ Editor/ Camera**. Promotional video, 4 min. Humanitarian Bazaar: Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Bosnia, US.
- 2014/2009 | [WATCHERS OF THE SKY](#). **Grant Writer**. Feature documentary film by Edet Belzberg, 110 min. Propeller Films: Rwanda, Bosnia, United States.
- 2013 | [MOGADISHU MUSIC](#). **Director/ Producer/ Editor/ Camera**. Short documentary by Daniel J. Gerstle for UNDP, 24 min. Humanitarian Bazaar: Somalia, Kenya.
- 2012-3 | [SOMALI SUNRISE CONCERT TOUR FOR PEACE](#). **Director/ Producer/ Camera**. Collaborative peacebuilding media campaign, 12x3 min. Humanitarian Bazaar & US Embassy: Kenya & Somalia.
- 2012 | [UPPANOTCH: SILENTY FALLIN'](#). **Camera**. Music video directed by Zavara Mponjika, New York.
- 2012 | [SUDAN MOSAIC](#). **Director/ Producer**. Promo video, 3 min. HB/ HELO: US. Starring Alsarrah.
- 2012 | [SOMALIA: MUSIC TOO POWER TO BAN](#). **Director/ Producer/ Editor/ Camera**. Short documentary by Daniel J. Gerstle, 15 min. Humanitarian Bazaar: Kenya. Starring Waayaha Cusub Band. Premiered at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., United States.
- 2012 | [ADESO AFRICA: VANISHING LANDS: HOW NOMADS SURVIVE](#). **Director/ Producer/ Camera**. Short documentary by Seth Chase, ft. Fatima Jibrell, Degan Ali, Alsarrah. 5 min. Humanitarian Bazaar & Drewstone: Somalia, Kenya, & South Sudan.
- 2012 | [ADESO AFRICA: INNOVATING AID](#). **Producer/ Camera**. Short documentary by Seth Chase, ft. Fatima Jibrell, Degan Ali, dStephan Said. 5 min. Humanitarian Bazaar & Drewstone: Somalia, Kenya, & South Sudan.

- 2012 | [ADESO AFRICA: ABOUT US](#). **Producer / Camera**. Short documentary by Seth Chase, ft. Fatima Jibrell, Degan Ali, K'naan, Alsarrah. 5 min. HB & Drewstone: Somalia, Kenya, & S Sudan.
  - 2012 | [BIG IN THE STANS](#). **Post-Production Advisor**. Documentary series by Ruth Owen, 14 x 7min. White City: Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom.
  - 2011 | [PSYCHO-MAMBO ft. GATO LOCO COCOCINO](#). I/II. **Director / Producer / Editor / Camera**. Short music documentary by Daniel J. Gerstle, 4+4 min. Humanitarian Bazaar: United States. Starring Stefan Zeniuk & Gato Loco Cococino.
  - 2011 | [TURN IT UP IN CENTRAL ASIA](#). **Director / Producer / Editor**. Short documentary music promo video by Daniel J. Gerstle, 5 min. Humanitarian Bazaar & Sound Central Festival: Afghanistan, US. Starring Kabul Dreams, District Unknown, Ariana Delawari, Brian Viglione, and many more.
  - 2010 | [FILMING VIOLENCE](#). **Director / Producer / Camera**. Short documentary by Daniel J. Gerstle, 12 min. Oxfam, Humanitarian Bazaar, & HELO Media: United States.
  - 2009-Present | [Humanitarian Bazaar](#). **Executive Producer**. Founded/ oversaw production company.
  - 2008 | [FAITH](#). **Co-Screenwriter**. Feature fiction film by Lewis Morphey. Honeycutt Films: United States. Starring Josh Kornbluth.
  - 2006 | [Hamptons International Film Festival](#). **Guest Services**. NY, United States.
  - 2001 | [Mill Valley Film Festival](#). **Guest Services**. CA, United States.
  - 2001-2 | [San Francisco International Film Festival](#). **Guest Services**. CA, United States.
  - 2000-2002 | [Filmmakers Forum of the East Bay](#). **Organizer**. CA, United States.
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#### LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- 2009-2014, 2016-2022 | **Program Director/ Producer**. Humanitarian Bazaar. Creative projects focused on how civilians survive war and disaster. That included documentary films, multimedia advocacy, online magazine, and more. Clients included UNDP, US Embassy Kenya, CLEAR Global / Translators Without Borders, Danish Refugee Council, Kennedy Center, Freemuse, Adeso Africa, Sound Central Festival, Matar Productions, and more. Films listed below.
  - 1998-2008, 2015-2016 | **Humanitarian Response & Refugee Assistance**. Multiple employers included: Danish Refugee Council (Afghanistan), People in Need (Ukraine), Relief International (Iraq), International Medical Corps (Russia), and International Rescue Committee (Bosnia, Croatia, Azerbaijan).
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#### EDUCATION

- **Master of International Affairs in Humanitarian Management & Health**, *Columbia University*, School of International and Public Affairs & Mailman School of Public Health. (2003-2005)
  - **International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance**, *Center for International Humanitarian Cooperation*, Fordham University, New York. (2003)
  - **Bachelor of Arts in History**, *University of Cincinnati*, Ohio (1991-1996).
  - **Digital Skills**: Adobe Creative (Premiere, After Effects, Photoshop, etc), Final Cut, Avid, DaVinci Resolve, Powerdirector, Wordpress, Agile, Slack, Miro, and many more.
  - **Working Languages**: English (Native), Bosnian/ Serbian/ Croatian (B2), Russian (B1/2), German (B1).
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