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Sarita Siegel completed a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Anthropology in 1993 and started Alchemy Films in 1994. Alchemy Films has been a registered limited company in San Francisco, California and London. We produce documentaries for the international broadcast markets as well as film festivals and educational fields. Our clients include National Geographic International, National Geographic US and International, PBS, Fuji TV, Discovery Channel, ITVS and ARTE, University of Madison, Wisconsin and Otago University, New Zealand.

The following titles were produced under Alchemy Films:

**“The Land Beneath Our Feet”** (2017) 54 mins. Director/producer/writer/camera  
Funded by University of Madison, Wisconsin, Global Health Institute, NSF  
<http://thelandbeneathourfeet.com> Distributed by Passion River.

When lost footage from the 1920s depicting a corporate land grab in the early days of globalization arrives back in Liberia, it sparks inquiry into how Liberians lost sovereignty over the very land that sustains them.

*AWARDS: Best Feature, Documentary or Animated Film Award, International Competition, Festival de Cine Verde de Barichara 2017; Best African Film Award San Francisco Black Film Festival 2017; Global Insights Award, Black Maria Film Festival 2017; Best Documentary Award, Hobnobben Film Festival 2017; Best Director Award, Harlem International Film Festival 2017; Honorable Mention, Houston Black Film Festival 2017, 2014 International FOCAL Award, trailer won best use of archival footage in a short production*

“The Land Beneath Our Feet” has screened at many festivals listed on <http://thelandbeneathourfeet.com/screenings/> and is used at the US CDC for training purposes

**“In the Shadow of Ebola”** (2015) 27 mins. Director/producer/writer/camera  
Funded by US ITVS and broadcast on PBS web 2015 - 2019. Educational distributor FMG.  
Used in training at US Center for Disease Control. Shown in the Wellcome Collection, London.

Synopsis: The intimate story of a family and a nation torn apart by the Ebola outbreak.

FESTIVALS: Wisconsin Film Festival 2015, Sheffield Film Festival (videotheque) APHA Global Public Health Film Festival, Chicago Social Change Film Festival, San Jose International Short Film Festival, 2015. Full list of festivals is at <http://intheshadowofebola.com/screenings/>

**“Fire Burn Babylon”** (2010) 53:00 mins. Director/producer/camera/sound/writer  
Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/22313784>, <http://www.facebook.com/fireburnbabylon>  
Distributed by Caribbean Tales, Gaiam and Collective Eye. Licensed to CaribVision and broadcast throughout the Caribbean and NY Tri-State on CaribVision.

Synopsis: When a volcanic eruption devastates the Caribbean island of Montserrat three Rastafarian friends leave their rural retreat and resettle in London. The men’s lives and beliefs transform as they rediscover new ways of living in the city that they believe represents their spiritual nemesis, ‘Babylon’.

**AWARDS:** Audience award for *Best Documentary*, Freestyle Life Film Festival. *Special Mention*, Aruba International Film Festival. *Bronze Palm award*, Mexico International Film Festival. *Honorable mention* Commfest Mada awards, Toronto. Nominated *Best Music Score* Jamaica Reggae Film Festival 2012

**FESTIVALS:** Rockumentti Rock Film Festival, One Love Festival, Kent, UK. SENE Film, Music and Arts Festival, Freestyle Life Film Festival, Beefeater In-Edit : Festival Internacional de Cine Documental Musical de Barcelona - market. Docuwest, Docutah, HBO New York Latino Film Festival, Open City Film Festival, London. Aruba Film Festival, Africa World Documentary Film Festival, St Louis, USA, Wisconsin Film Festival, London East End Film Festival, World Film Festival of Visual Culture, Tartu, Estonia, San Diego Black Film Festival, Jamaica Reggae Film Festival. London Black History Month 2010, International Women's Film Festival, Miami, Portobello Film Festival, Aspekty Film Festival Poland.

**"The Disenchanted Forest"** (2002) 52:00 mins. Director/produce/sound/writer

Trailer: <http://www.collectiveeye.org/catalog/disenchanted-forest.html>

Pacific Pioneer Fund and Fleishhacker Foundation funding. Licensed to National Geographic International and National Geographic US Channels, France 5, ARTE France, Discovery Canada and Fuji TV, Screened at European Space Agency. Narrated by Brooke Shields.

Synopsis: Natural history documentary on the culture and rehabilitation of ex-captive orangutans.

**FESTIVALS AND AWARDS:** *Finalist Marion Zentz Best Newcomer Award*, Jackson Hole Film Festival 2001, International Wildlife Film Festival Finalist Award, *Commendation Genesis Awards*, Merit Award for Educational Value, *Merit Award for Production Value*, Missoula Montana. *2nd Place*, EarthVision 2001 Environmental Film & Video competition. *Merit Award Columbus*, Ohio, Los Angeles. *Cinematography Award*, Festival du Cinéma de Bruxelles. *2<sup>nd</sup> Best Primate Film* (professional category) International Primatological Society, August 2008. *Trailer was a finalist in the Missoula Montana Wildlife Film Festival & Angelciti Int'l Film Festival*. Minding Animals conference, Newcastle Australia 2009, "Thinking With Animals" conference, Max Planck Institute, Berlin 2001, American Natural History Museum of New York, Smithsonian Institute. Official film for BOS-USA. Image EcoVision Festival, Palermo, 2006. Tales of Planet Earth, 2007.

**"Exiles and Outlaws"** (2010) 8:30 mins.

Producer/director/ writer Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/12607495> (password:elephant)

Co-Production with the University of Wisconsin. Invited to the Silverdocs Ace Documentary Grant.

Trailer for documentary that tells a story of two cultures, one elephant and one human, that once lived in harmony but are now locked in head to head conflict. Included in Jackson Hole Media Library partnership with African Parks ([www.africanparks.org](http://www.africanparks.org))

#### ADDITIONAL PRODUCING ROLES:

Associate producer **"The Real Dirt on Farmer John"** (2006) 52:20 mins.

Synopsis: An epic tale of a maverick Mid-western bio-dynamic farmer.

Theatrical release USA, Germany and Australia 2006/2007. ITVS funded for 'Independent Lens PBS. 31 international awards including, Slamdance Audience Award, in competition IDFA 2005. Nashville Film Festival Special Award, Wisconsin Film Festival Jury Award and Audience Award. IDA Docuweek. Chicago International Documentary Festival Audience Award, Best Feature. San Francisco Intl Film

Co-producer/ sound recordist/additional camera **"The Split Horn"** (2002) 56:40 mins.

Synopsis: A family gripped by cultural transformation as ancient Hmong traditions collide with American lifestyles. ITVS and NAATA (now CAAM) funding for PBS. Award of Excellence, Society for Visual Anthropology Film & Video, Emmy Nominated, Slamdance Audience Award 2005, Nashville Film Festival Special Award, Wisconsin Film Festival Jury Award and Audience Award. IDA Docuweek. Chicago International Documentary Festival Audience Award, Best Feature. San Francisco Intl Film Festival Grand Jury Award Best Bay Area Doc.

## SHORT FICTION FILMS

'**The Beloved**' (1997) (12.25) 35mm. Director/producer/writer (<https://vimeo.com/63008113>)  
AWARDS: JVC award, *Best Screenplay*, Portobello Film Festival. *Silver Award*, '*Best short film adaptation*',  
World Fest Flagstaff. Tales of Planet Earth, Madison Wisconsin.

'**Destroying Angel**' (1995) (11.40) super 16mm. Director/producer/writer (<https://vimeo.com/56055340>) -  
Funding Creative New Zealand, Toi Aotearoa AWARDS: *Certificate of Merit* - Chicago International  
Festival.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:** Wrote chapter entitled "Anthropomorphism in "The Disenchanted Forest" in  
"Thinking With Animals", Max Planck Institute, Columbia University Press. 2005. (Eds. Lorraine Daston and  
Greg Mitman). "Brides of Kong" E-magazine. Body Politics, 2004. "Style: True To His Roots" 'Raw Vision',  
outsider artist magazine August 2006. "Hate, Late Great Tate Modern", 1,2,3,4,5,6 Wide Open Spaces  
Kilimanjaro magazine 05.

**TEACHING:** Oral history and documentary production workshop held at CNDRA in Monrovia, Liberia 2018  
for University of Wisconsin. Documentary Production class at Otago University, New Zealand, 2008. Artist in  
Residence, University Wisconsin, Madison 2007. Taught documentary production class, 'Green Screen,  
Environmental Film in History and Action'. Guest speaker environmental filmmaking at Oxford Brookes  
University 2006, Speaker Orangutan Symposium Harvard University USA, 2005, Speaker at IAMHIST annual  
conference London 2005. Max Planck Institute, Berlin, "Thinking with Animals" conference 2003.

## WEB CONTENT WEB DOCUMENTARY

Producer/cameraperson "Tales of the Hood" (<http://vimeo.com/19476680> (password: alchemy)  
Cameraperson/editor Guardian Science webpages (2011-2012). Cameraperson Big Picture TV (2011- 2013)  
(<http://www.bigpicture.tv>) Cameraperson Conflict Awareness Project 2014.

## CURRENT PROJECTS

Director/producer/camera/writer of documentary, "**Outspoken**". Conscious rap artists use rap to articulate  
youth identity, social commentary and political activism. Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/54245339>  
(password:alchemy)