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

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  
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 Commffest 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.


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


“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)

ADDITIONAL PRODUCING ROLES:


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


WEB CONTENT WEB DOCUMENTARY


CURRENT PROJECTS