

DAVID MORRISON'S BIOGRAPHY

I WAS BORN IN VIRGINIA AND RAISED IN NORTH CAROLINA. IN HIGH SCHOOL I HAD THE GREAT FORTUNE TO STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY, WE SHOT 35MM BLACK AND WHITE FILM, PROCESSED AND PRINTED PHOTOS EVERY WEEK. OUR PICTURES WERE CRITIQUED BY FELLOW STUDENTS. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT I LEARNED TO EXPLAIN IN WORDS WHAT WORKED AND DIDN'T WORK ABOUT A PHOTOGRAPH. FROM THERE, I WENT TO COLLEGE AT THE SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN AND STUDIED FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY & FILM/VIDEO. THAT WAS AN AMAZING SCHOOL WITH INCREDIBLE INFLUENCES, SO MANY CREATIVE PEOPLE WHO WERE FINALLY UNLEASHED AND READY TO PURSUE MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES. WE HAD CAMERAS AND EDITING BAYS AT OUR DISPOSAL, WE MADE SO MANY LITTLE FILMS. TO TEMPER THAT "ART SCHOOL EXPERIENCE" I ALSO WORKED AT THE LOCAL NBC STATION AS A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER / EDITOR. I LOVED THAT JOB, LANDING ON A SCENE, ASSESSING AND SHOOTING A STORY, CUTTING IT AND BEAMING IT OUT FOR THE NEWS AT 6 OR 11. I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE ECONOMY OF IMAGES AND HOW TO SHOOT FOR AN EDITOR. THE DOWN SIDES WERE, CHASING AMBULANCES (LITERALLY), PUTTING CAMERAS IN UNWELCOME PLACES, AND ABOUT 20 TOO MANY LIVE SHOTS FROM THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS.

SO, AFTER GRADUATION I MOVED TO LOS ANGELES. AFTER A FEW YEARS I STARTED SHOOTING SMALL, MICRO BUDGET INDIE FILMS. THE COOL THING ABOUT THOSE DAYS IS THAT THERE WASN'T DIGITAL VIDEO SO WE SHOT IN 16MM. NOT THAT ONE IS BETTER BUT TO CONSTRUCT AN IMAGE ON FILM COSTS MORE IN EFFORT AND RESOURCES WHICH MADE ME MORE THOUGHTFUL. IT WAS A GREAT DISCIPLINE TO LEARN. THROUGH THE 90'S, I SHOT 8 OF THESE FILMS, THE TITLES CAN BE SEEN AT IMDB.COM BUT THE TITLES WON'T HELP YOU RECOGNIZE THE FILMS. IN THAT TIME I ALSO SHOT LOW BUDGET MUSIC VIDEOS AND SPEC COMMERCIALS. MONTH BY MONTH, I SLOWLY BUILT A REEL.

I LOVE TO SHOOT! IT SOUNDS SIMPLE BUT I LOVE MY JOB. LOOKING THROUGH A LENS, CREATING SHAPE AND FORM JUST MAKES ME EXCITED AND UNAWARE OF GRAVITY. SHOOTING MOTION IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE 24 OR (23.98) PERFECT STILL FRAMES. THE FIRST TIME A FILM OF MINE SCREENED IN A THEATRE I REALIZED THAT WHAT THE AUDIENCE EXPERIENCED ON THE SCREEN WAS EXACTLY WHAT I EXPERIENCED IN THE EYE PIECE OF THE CAMERA MONTHS EARLIER. MY EYE, MY SENSIBILITIES AND MY CHOICES WERE LEADING THE JOURNEY OF THE AUDIENCE. WHAT A RESPONSIBILITY AND PRIVILEGE! IN EVERY MOMENT THAT A CAMERA IS MY HAND.

SO FAR I AM VERY PROUD OF THE WORK THAT I'VE DONE, I HAVE HAD THE FORTUNE TO COLLABORATE WITH AMAZING ARTISTS, ACTORS, WRITERS, DIRECTORS, MUSICIANS. PEOPLE THAT REALLY INSPIRE ME, MAKE ME THINK AND PERCEIVE THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT WAY. I LOVE SHOOTING FEATURES, COMMERCIALS, MUSIC VIDEOS, AND DOCUMENTARIES. I DO BELIEVE THEY ALL MELT TOGETHER, AND INFORM ONE ANOTHER. A POWERFUL IMAGE IS A POWERFUL IMAGE. I TRY NOT TO THINK IN TERMS OF "GENRE" OR "FILM VS DIGITAL." AN IDEA OR STORY THAT IS WELL EXECUTED WILL BE COMPELLING IN WHATEVER THE FORMAT. THIS YEAR I'VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO WORK WITH FIRST TIME FEATURE DIRECTORS AND 35 YEAR COMMERCIAL VETERANS. THE GREATEST THING IS THAT I LEARN FROM BOTH, AN OPEN EXCHANGE THAT BREATHES LIFE INTO THE WHOLE PROCESS AND ENSURES GROWTH.