

CHAD ZELLMER

Phone: 720-696-2485 | 417-827-3989

Email: chadzellmer@gmail.com

Website: www.chadzellmerproductions.com

Facebook: [@chadzellmerproductions](https://www.facebook.com/@chadzellmerproductions)

LinkedIn: [Chad Zellmer](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ChadZellmer)

ABOUT ME

Seven-time regional Emmy Award-winning Director of Photography, Section 107 Drone Operator, Still Photographer, Producer, Editor, and Graphic Artist specializing in high-end broadcast television production. Over 22 years of experience capturing and crafting compelling stories through visuals. Hardworking, self-motivated, and a team-oriented leader dedicated to delivering high-quality content, even with limited resources and tight budgets.

High-quality, cost-effective production for television and social media at any scale.

I offer a full range of services to meet the needs of nearly any broadcast video or social media production, including:

- **Director of Photography for broadcast television & camera operation**
 - **Full pre-to-post production video services**
 - **Domestic and international project management**
 - **Licensed FAA 107 UAV drone pilot**
 - **One-man band storytelling and remote interviews**
 - **Still photography (behind the scenes, concert, real estate, drone/aerial)**
 - **A la carte services and equipment rentals**
 - **Live broadcast and streaming capabilities**
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Director of Photography | Owner | Section 107 Licensed UAV Pilot | Producer | Still Photographer | Editor

CZ PRODUCTIONS LLC | 2013 - Present

- Own and manage Chad Zellmer Productions LLC, a 4K/HD full-service production company based in Denver, CO.
- 22+ years of experience as a DP/Camera Operator, traveling globally for broadcast television productions.

- Oversee crew management, direct talent, coordinate travel, and handle production accounting.
- Extensive camera operation expertise, including handheld, gimbal, jib, slider, dolly, aerial, drone, live, and sports cinematography.
- 10+ years as a Section 107 licensed and insured drone operator.
- Collaborated with 100+ broadcast clients across various genres, including true crime, network news, corporate, B2B, scripted, unscripted, music videos, PSAs, and documentaries.
- Specialize in a wide range of storytelling formats, including:
 - **Unscripted and true crime television**
 - **Documentary filmmaking**
 - **Corporate interviews, films, and photography**
 - **Videos for small businesses**
 - **Live network news and sports ENG coverage**
 - **Social media content and campaigns**
 - **Commercial production**
 - **Internal, B2B, and training videos**
- Expertise in project planning, scripting, and producing award-winning content.
- Own and maintain a vast inventory of professional camera, lighting, live-streaming, and drone gear.
- Extensive experience in international and domestic production logistics, including customs, carnets, and crew coordination.
- **Director of Photography for Von Miller's Studio 58**
Primary camera operator for a comedy sketch series featuring Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller. Worked with high-profile talent at major events such as the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl to produce an eight-episode series for Facebook Watch.
- **Director of Photography for Xtreme Waterparks (Travel Channel)**
Filmed over 80 segments across 50 countries, capturing extreme waterpark environments with innovative cinematography. Developed creative solutions to shoot dynamic, high-energy sequences in challenging and often remote locations while working closely with engineering teams to ensure safety and visual impact.
- Discovery Channel, NFL, Comcast, History Channel, Travel Channel, ABC, CNN, NBC, Al Jazeera, Magnolia, DIY, HGTV, Food Network, and hundreds of other credits.

Director of Photography | Staff Videographer

High Noon Entertainment | 2009 - 2013

- Director of Photography for one of the largest producers of unscripted cable television content.
- Filmed thousands of hours of content for major networks, including Travel Channel, Food Network, History Channel, HGTV, Discovery, and DIY.
- Managed behind-the-scenes operations such as equipment rentals, camera layouts, and production budgets.
- Supervised gear allocation for over 20 simultaneous television productions.
- Directed talent and crew across various production environments.

- Traveled extensively for international productions, managing customs, carnets, fixers, and equipment logistics.
- Collaborated with development teams to conceptualize and shoot sizzle reels.

Photojournalist

WYFF-TV, Greenville, SC | July 2005 - January 2009

- Captured, produced, reported, and edited general, breaking, and feature news stories under tight deadlines.
- Operated live and satellite trucks for on-location broadcasting.
- Specialized in investigative journalism, special assignments, and sports coverage.
- Won multiple prestigious awards, including six regional Emmy Awards, two Edward R. Murrow Awards, and a National Headliner Award.

Photojournalist

KSPR-TV | May 2001 - July 2005

- Filmed, produced, and edited television news stories for daily newscasts.
- Extensive experience with live truck operations and remote field production.
- Specialized in investigative journalism and special projects.
- Hands-on experience with directing, audio engineering, studio cameras, and field production.

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- **Cinematography & Directing:** Extensive experience in directing and lighting for television, film, and commercial productions.
- **Production & Business Management:** 11+ years operating a full-service production company, handling payroll, bidding, inventory, and equipment acquisition.
- **Drone Operations:** Section 107 certified UAV pilot with 100s of flight hours.
- **Camera & Lighting Expertise:** Thorough knowledge of dozens of broadcast cameras, including Sony, Arri, Red, Canon, and Panasonic.
- **Equipment Mastery:** Extensive knowledge and operation of gimbals, sliders, dollies, jibs, cranes, drones, and more.
- **Talent & Crew Direction:** Director of Photography and team leader for crews of up to 15, with experience in worldwide travel and production logistics.
- **International Production Logistics:** Filmed in 60+ countries, handling travel logistics, customs, carnets, and fixers.
- **Live Broadcast & Streaming:** LiveU operation and multi-camera live production experience.
- **Award-Winning Photography:** Still photography in various fields, including behind-the-scenes, concert, real estate, and aerial drone photography.

- **Problem Solver & Team Player:** Fun, hardworking, and collaborative with a keen ability to troubleshoot challenges in high-pressure environments.
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EDUCATION

Missouri State University
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Media Production | Minor in Marketing

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **7 Regional Emmy Awards** (Southeast Photographer of the Year, Best Short Documentary, Spot News, General News)
 - **2 Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards**
 - **3 Telly Awards**
 - **National Headliner Award**
 - **Peabody Award**
 - **RTNDA, CBA, SCBA, MBA Honors**
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REFERENCES

Lori Allred - Comcast Creative Services
Phone: 303-549-4044
Email: lori@winedogpictures.com

Sean McLaughlin – Hunter Douglas
Phone: 720-226-1957
Email: seanmclaughlin62@yahoo.com

John Burshtan - Water Planet Productions
Phone: 303-514-4774
Email: jwburshtan@gmail.com

Laurie Brian - Citizen Pictures
Phone: 720-244-5225
Email: lbsftv@gmail.com

Chris Wheeler - KUSA/High Noon Entertainment/Great Divide Pictures/Mountain Golfscapes
Phone: 720-244-2981
Email: chris@greatdividepictures.com

Darren Whitehead - KUSA Television
Phone: 303-548-9046
Email: darren.whitehead1@gmail.com