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## CHAD ZELLMER

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## 7x Regional Emmy Award-Winning Visual Storyteller

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### SUMMARY

7-time Emmy-winning Director of Photography, Photojournalist, FAA 107-certified drone pilot, editor, and visual storyteller with 25+ years of experience in network television, digital media, local and network news and live broadcast production. From solo shoots to global productions, I've led teams in high-pressure environments and delivered standout content across formats. Proficient in various editing software including Adobe Creative Suite, with a proven track record editing corporate, news-style packages, branded content, and digital segments under tight deadlines. I thrive in collaborative environments, virtual or on set, and bring a cinematic eye, editorial instinct, and relentless drive. I'm ready to leave the freelance world behind and contribute to a creative team that values hustle, heart, and zero ego.

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### CORE COMPETENCIES

- Unique and creative eye and expert visual storytelling and editing
- Interview-driven narrative construction and storytelling
- Set direction, talent direction, photography and lighting on a network level
- On location photography, videography, editing, producing on extremely tight deadlines
- Avid, Davinci, Adobe Premiere Pro & Creative Suite (Photoshop, After Effects, Audition) proficient
- Domestic and global travel with lots of gear through airports and customs
- Logistics and booking for crews including airfare, hotels, crews, etc...
- Operation of dozens of broadcast cameras, including Sony, Canon, Fuji, Arri, Red, etc.
- Gimbal, steady cam, jib, slider, dolly, sky cam, cable cam, operation
- FAA part 107 certified drone pilot with 10+ years of experience
- Writing, producing, production management on hundreds of sets
- Frame.io, Teams, Zoom, Slack, Word, Excel, etc.
- Corporate, branded, news & short and long form editing
- Remote workflows, data management & file delivery
- Live U/live truck and satellite truck operation
- Editorial and news judgment
- Tight turnarounds & deadline management
- Hustle, drive and self-motivated, free-thinking, problem-solver

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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, manage and operate Chad Zellmer Productions LLC, a freelance 4K/HD full-service production company based in Denver, CO
- 24+ years of experience as a DP/Camera Operator, traveling domestically and 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
- 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
- Discovery Channel, NFL, Comcast, History Channel, Travel Channel, ABC, CNN, NBC, Al Jazeera, Magnolia, DIY, HGTV, Food Network, and hundreds of other credits

### **Specialize in a wide range of storytelling formats, including:**

- Unscripted and true crime television
- Documentary filmmaking
- Live network news and ENG sports coverage
- Corporate interviews, films, and photography
- Videos for small businesses
- Social media content and campaigns
- Brand videos and Commercial production
- Internal, B2B, and training videos
- Expertise in project planning, scripting, and producing award-winning content

## CASE STUDIES

- **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
- **Director of Photography for Living Alaska (HGTV)** – filmed in locations all over Alaska and the extreme locations it has to offer. Worked in seaplanes, helicopters, boats, ATV's, around wildlife, in some of the most remote locations America has to offer

## Director of Photography | Staff Videographer

**High Noon Entertainment | 2009 - 2013**

- Thousands of hours of camera operation including handheld, gimbal, slider, dolly, jib, studio camera, and drone
- Director of Photography/videographer for one of the largest producers of unscripted cable television content in the United States
- Collaborate with dozens of hosts, talent, producers, crew on various sets
- Problem-solve in hundreds of scenarios and environments around the world to always deliver the necessary elements for a great story
- Filmed thousands of hours of content for major networks, including Discovery Channel, Travel Channel, Food Network, History Channel, HGTV, DIY, Cooking Channel, etc.
- Managed behind-the-scenes operations such as equipment rentals, camera layouts, and production budgets on dozens of shows. 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 | Editor

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

- Captured, produced, reported, and edited general, breaking, and feature news stories under tight deadlines

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- 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 | Editor

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

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## AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

- **7x Regional Emmy Awards** – 2 spot news, 2 general news, photographer of the year, feature, documentary feature
- **2 Edward R. Murrow Awards** – General news, feature
- **National Headliner Award**
- **NPPA Awards** – Various
- **RTNDA** – Various
- **SCBA** – Various
- **B-Roll.net** – Best in Show, various others
- **FAA Part 107 Drone Operator** – Often integrates aerials into edits where appropriate

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## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Communications / Media - Marketing  
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

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## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Flexible and available evenings, weekends, or holidays as needed
- Strong home editing setup and high-speed internet for high-speed remote collaboration and delivery
- Passion for journalism, story-first edits, and collaborative workflows

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## REFERENCES

**Lori Allred** - Comcast Creative Services

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**Sean McLaughlin** – Hunter Douglas

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**John Burshtan** - Water Planet Productions

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**Laurie Brian** - Citizen Pictures

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**Chris Wheeler** – KUSA-TV/High Noon Entertainment/Great Divide Pictures

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