

Taniel Kilajian
Assistant Professor of Instruction
Department of Theatre, Dance and Film
Texas State University

EDUCATION

MFA in Film and Video Production, December 2019
University of Texas at Austin
GPA: 3.89

BA in Economics, May 2011
New York University

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Instruction
August 2024 to present
Department of Theatre, Dance and Film
Texas State University

Lecturer
January 2022 to August 2024
Department of Theatre, Dance and Film
Texas State University

Teaching Assistant
August 2016 to August 2019
Radio-Television-Film
Moody College of Communication
University of Texas at Austin

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Assistant to Director Terrence Malick
January 2021 to June 2022
Lake Waco Productions

Videographer and Editor for the President's Award for Global Learning
October 2018 to December 2019
University of Texas at Austin

TEACHING

Courses Taught

TH4363 Directing for Film | Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025
TH4342 Film Editing | Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025
TH4341 Short Film Development | Fall 2024, Spring 2025
TH1353 Film Production Practices | Fall 2023, Fall 2024

Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development

Intro to Documentary Production
Alternative Poetics

WORK (AS DIRECTOR)

The Falcons (2024)

Sound Unseen Film and Music Festival 2024
Arpa International Film Festival 2024
Pomegranate International Film Festival 2024 | Best Short Documentary
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival 2025

C'est La Vie (2019)

SXSW RTF Longhorn Denius Showcase
Soho International Film Festival
Rhode Island International Film Festival | Semi-Finalist
Blow-Up International Arthouse Filmfest | Finalist
Lebanese Independent Film Festival
Lone Star Film Festival
Tokyo International Short Film Festival | Honorable Mention
Australia Independent Film Festival | Semi-Finalist
Independent Short Awards | Platinum Award for Best Student Director, Silver Award for Best Dark Comedy Film, Silver Award for Best Actor
IndieX Film Festival | Outstanding Achievement Award for Student Director, Best Student Crime Short
New York Independent Cinema Awards
Montreal Independent Film Festival
Venice Shorts Film Festival
Underground Cinema Film Awards
Silicon Beach Film Festival
Long Story Shorts International Film Festival | Best Short Film
JellyFEST Season 6 | Finalist

Drift (2018)

Literally Short Film Festival
Lone Star Film Festival
Chain NYC Film Festival

Under the Covers (2017)

SXSW RTF Longhorn Denius Showcase
Portland Comedy Film Festival
Atlanta Comedy Film Festival
Chicago Comedy Film Festival
Deep in the Heart Film Festival
Fastnet Film Festival
Austin Micro Short Film Festival
Fort Worth Indie Film Festival | Finalist
Houston Comedy Film Festival | Best Texas Film
Austin Spotlight Film Festival | Best Cinematography

A Gold Coin on the Street (2016)

Literally Short Film Festival | Best of Local & Fresh
Rockport Film Festival | Best Short Documentary
Pomegranate International Film Festival

WORK (MISCELLANEOUS)

Foragers (in post-production) directed by Carlos Cagin
Co-Producer
Assistant Director

Leads (2025) directed by Bryan Poyser
Actor

Lost Souls (2024) directed by Katherine Propper
Additional Super-8 footage
Special Thanks

The Way of the Wind (in post-production) directed by Terrence Malick
Executive Assistant to the director Terrence Malick