

Leslie Atkins

DOCUMENTARY EDITOR AND POST-PRODUCER

Available for remote work 

leslie@leslieatkins.tv 



PROFILE

Leslie Atkins is a highly versatile documentary editor and post-producer with 20+ years of experience working with international teams. Her credits include Emmy and Peabody-winning series like PBS FRONTLINE, Al Jazeera Fault Lines and Witness, National Geographic Explorer, and New York Times Op-Docs. She has also worked on independent features and in unscripted TV. Her work has been nominated twice for a News and Documentary Emmy. She is bilingual in English and Spanish.

LINKS

[Website](#)

[IMDb](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

SKILLS

Adobe Premiere

Avid Media Composer

Davinci Resolve

After Effects

Scripting

Trailer and Sizzle Reel Editing

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS

[Al Jazeera 'Fault Lines'](#) | Editor and Colorist

23 episodes (additional roles noted)

[Secrets of the Clergy](#) (2023)

[Do You Want to Die Today? Inside Canada's Euthanasia Program](#) (2023)

Also co-writer

[License to Kill: How US 'Stand Your Ground' Laws Let Shooters Go Free](#) (2023)

Also co-writer

[The Box: Spending 27 Years in Solitary Confinement](#) (2023)

Also stills animation

[The Confession: Exposing Colombia's Dark Military Past](#) (2023)

Also co-writer, not colorist

[El Salvador's Prison State](#) (2023)

[The End of Roe v. Wade](#) (2022)

Also co-writer

[System Failure: The Boeing Crashes](#) (2019)

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Leslie Atkins

AWARDS & GRANTS

2023 ITVS Diversity Development Fund,
Breaking the Blue Wall

Film Independent's
2022 Documentary Lab and
Fast Track Film Market,
Selected Participant,
Breaking the Blue Wall

\$92,000 grant from Open Society
Institute of Baltimore, community-
based storytelling initiative,
Breaking the Blue Wall

2021 Overseas Press Club
Citation of Excellence,
*Frontline Mexico: The Fight Against
COVID-19*

2020 News and Documentary
Emmy nomination,
System Failure: The Boeing Crashes

2020 NY Film and TV Festival,
Silver in News Reports/Features and
Bronze in Current Affairs Documentary,
*Frontline Mexico: The Fight Against
COVID-19*

2019 News and Documentary
Emmy nomination,
Between War and the Ban

2014 National Headliner Awards
First Place in Health/Science reporting,
America's Infant Mortality Crisis

2012 Imagen Award, Winner for
Best National Informational Program,
Lost In Detention

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS

Al Jazeera 'Fault Lines' (continued)

[*The States Banning Abortion, The Advocates Fighting Back*](#) (2019)
Also co-writer

[*Targeted By A Text*](#) (2019)
Also co-writer

[*The Aftermath: The Trauma of Mass Shootings in the US*](#) (2019)

[*The Cost of Living: What's Behind High Prescription Drug
Prices in the US*](#) (2019)

[*Amazon Burning: Death and Destruction in Brazil's Rainforest*](#) (2019)

[*Between War and the Ban*](#) (2018)

[*Surveilling Black Lives Matter*](#) (2017)

[*America's Infant Mortality Crisis*](#) (2013)

[*Elderly Incorporated*](#) (2013)

[*The Battle for the Arctic*](#) (2012)

[*Fracking In America*](#) (2012)
Also additional camera

[*For Sale: The American Dream*](#) (2012)

[*The Abortion War*](#) (2012)
Also additional camera

[*The US and Honduras*](#) (2012)

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DOCUMENTARY CREDITS

'Breaking the Blue Wall' | Editor, post-producer, stills and document animation

Independent documentary in progress (dir. Alissa Figueroa).
Funded in part by the [Open Society Institute of Baltimore](#), [ITVS Diversity Development Fund](#), and Investigative Studios, with support from Film Independent ([2022 Documentary Lab](#), [2022 Fast Track Film Finance Market](#)) and the [Center for Independent Documentary](#). [Email me to request a link to trailer and scene samples.](#)

Al Jazeera Featured Documentaries | Editor and Colorist

[*The Full Report: Living in Mexico's Kill Zone*](#) (2021)

[*Frontline Mexico: The Fight Against COVID-19*](#) (2020)

[*Crude Harvest: The Fight for Mexico's Oil*](#) (2014)

Al Jazeera 'Witness' | Editor, Post-Producer and Colorist

[*Mind Over Battle*](#) (2017)

[*Dreamers Mums*](#) (2016)

[*Chagas: A Silent Killer*](#) (2013)

Al Jazeera 'Viewfinder' | Editor, Post-Producer

Also consulting editor on 8 episodes

[*My Dancing Heart*](#) (2015)

[*Rio's Red Card*](#) (2014)

New York Times 'Op-Docs' | Co-Producer, DP, Editor, Post-Producer

[*Two Countries, No Home*](#) (2014)

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EDUCATION

BA in History, Carleton College (1998)

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Spanish (fluent)

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS

PBS FRONTLINE | Editor

[*Lost In Detention*](#) (2011)

[*Flying Cheaper*](#) (2011)

UNSCRIPTED CREDITS

National Geographic Explorer | Editor

Fighting Back: Stories from the Spill (2010)

Vampire Forensics (2010)

NatGeo Wild Specials | Editor

Saved from the Spill with Mireya Mayor (2010)

[History Channel 'Modern Marvels'](#) | Editor

[*Winter Tech*](#) (2010)

[NatGeo Channel 'World's Toughest Fixes'](#) | Editor

Atom Smasher (2009, also writer)

[*Sky High Texas Tower*](#) (2009)

[*High Voltage Power Lines*](#) (2008)

[*Thirty-Eight Ton Engine*](#) (2008)

Planet Green 'Total Wrecklamation' | Editor

Edited three 30-minute episodes (2008)

[Smithsonian Channel 'America Wild & Wacky'](#) | Editor

Edited four 15-minute episodes (2007)

History Channel 'Digging for the Truth' | Editor

[*Mummies of the Clouds*](#) (2007, season 4)

Post-Production Manager and Assistant Editor, seasons 1-3

Leslie Atkins

TESTIMONIALS



Thank you Leslie for your invaluable contributions to our piece. Your editorial input not only enhanced the story, but was essential to its final form. I'm immensely proud of this episode, and much of its success is credited to your exceptional efforts.

-Josh Rushing, Correspondent, [Do You Want to Die Today?](#)



Leslie has more than exceeded my expectations as a documentary editor on my first independent feature film. She's been an incredible collaborator on the project, methodically working her way through hundreds of hours of footage and countless documents, archival clips and photographs, finding the right sound and images to quilt together a complex narrative with real soul. Her creativity and persistence has helped us solve many thorny storytelling problems.

- Alissa Figueroa, Director, *Breaking the Blue Wall*



It's been a joy to work with Leslie. I've worked with a lot of different editors and with her it's a different dynamic. She just understands the format and the kind of narrative rigor that's needed. She's gone through and listened to everything, and she's willing to keep going until we get it right.

- John Dickie, Director, [Dreamer Mums: Divided by US Deportation](#)



On investigative docs, more than 80% of the work we do in the edit is spent grappling with story structure. There are plenty of editors that can punch the keys and make the pictures work, but precious few, like Leslie, who really understand the craft of literate filmmaking, deftly turning complex ideas into compelling narrative. She gets it.

- Rick Young, Former Senior Producer, PBS FRONTLINE