

# Elias Lunsford

## Lighting and Camera



Dear Portfolio Visitor,

My name is Elias Lunsford and I'm graduating from the School of Film at Portland State University. I've been working in Portland as a narrative and commercial PA for the last 3 years, and I've DP'd two short films, both with crowdfunded 10k budgets, while in school. My passion is lighting, and my dream is to become a cinematographer. I also have a love for vintage guitars and amps. I'm more of a guitar player than a songwriter--I know what amp I need, why the power tubes make it sound like magic, and how to play to get the sound I want to hear. I see a parallel here with cinematography, where I'm not the director, but the interpreter of the story--making choices to influence the way the image is captured and how the technical team is managed and inspired to do their best work.

I've connected with industry professionals in Portland through on-set networking and follow-up discussions over coffee. This networking landed me a job with Jeff T Smith, the owner of Hungry Animal Lighting. While helping out at his shop, cleaning, and organizing gear, Jeff T taught me about lighting and the different tools Grips and Gaffers use in professional settings. Jeff T has worked in the union as a Key Grip, and he gave me the support and knowledge to pursue my dream of being a DP who's respected by G&E departments. I've also connected with local DPs and formed friendships with them. I'm passionate about Portland's film community and being an active member of it.

If you work with me, you'll likely hear me talk about scalable skills and practices. The first set I ever worked on was a shoot for a hospital ad with Carson Wright, a DP and close friend. With just the two of us, Carson implemented a professional filmmaking workflow, teaching me how to properly label media cards, bring him lenses, and overall treat the filmmaking process with respect--even at a small scale. This instilled in me values that have inspired me to implement these best practices while on set, taking the time to explain to less experienced crew why I want things a certain way, and aiming to create value for those who work with me by sharing the skills and practices I've learned along the way. This vision for my career has motivated me to invest all of my time, money, and energy toward achieving my dream.

I love working with friends. On challenging sets with long days, these friends start to become family. I will always cherish the relationships I've made and will continue to make through film, and I'm passionate about my team as much as I am about the practice of filmmaking.

Thank you for taking the time to review my portfolio.

Elias