

**Leigh Lisbão Underwood** is an award-winning director of photography with Brazilian and American roots, based in Berlin, Germany. His work has been seen at festivals including Cannes, Tribeca, and Palm Springs, as well as television networks internationally – and he has been honored with awards for best cinematography at Palm Springs International Festival and the European Cinematography Awards. His recent credits include theatrical films, television features, and series episodes and pilots. His commercial work as a DoP includes clients such as Mercedes-Benz, Kia, Seat, Nike, Adidas, Universal Music and Riot Games.

Leigh's work shines in its versatility and emotionality: he is fluent in a wide variety of expressive styles and shooting approaches, balancing artistic visual storytelling and production constraints, while always striving for an intangible emotional connection with the subjects of his work.

A graduate of UCLA's prestigious Master's Program in Cinematography, a program that accepts only three students per year, he studied under seasoned cinematographers including Vilmos Zsigmond ASC, John Simmons ASC, John Bailey ASC, and Richard Crudo ASC. Since then he has regularly taught cinematography himself, also at UCLA, in courses on lighting, image composition, and camera operating.

Leigh grew up in a New Jersey suburb of New York City, traveling frequently to São Paulo, Brazil. He holds dual citizenship in the US and Brazil, as well as a resident working visa in Germany. His travels have driven his passion for telling socially aware, human stories through a cinematic eye.

## Leigh Lisbão Underwood

### Director of Photography



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## Awards

Winner – Best European Cinematography, *The Keeper of the Trees*, European Cinematography Awards 2020  
Winner – Best Cinematography, *The Boy Scout*, Palm Springs International ShortFest 2013  
Edie and Lou Wasserman Production Award, 2011  
MPAA Production Award, 2009 and 2010

## Education / Language

Master of Fine Arts, UCLA, Cinematography. Los Angeles, CA, 2012  
Master's study program, Internationale Filmschule Köln (IFS), Cologne, Germany, 2010  
Bachelor of Arts, Northwestern University, Film Production (Radio/TV/Film). Evanston, IL, 2008  
*English & German – fluent, Portuguese – conversational, French – comprehension*

## Filmography

### Fiction - Feature / Television / Series (selection)

2021 *The Squat Squad*, **DoP**, Series Pilot, dir. K. Dietl, Syndicam Productions, Germany (in post production)  
2021 *Harter Brocken 6: Der Waffendeal (AT)* / **DoP 2nd Unit & B-cam 1st unit**, TV Series, ARD Degeto, dir. Markus Sehr, prod. Odeon Fiction (Germany)  
2019 *Best Christmas Ball Ever*, **DoP**, TV Feature, dir. N. Lyon, JewelLabs Productions/Ion Network, USA/Austria  
2017 *Hearts of Palm*, **DoP**, short, dir. Jeff Kent, USA. Winner, best romantic comedy, Austin Under The Stars Festival  
2016 *Brasil Meu Amor*, **DoP**, theatrical feature, dir. D. Tottom, Brazil/USA – Official Selection, Los Angeles Brazilian Film Festival 2015  
2015 *1915*, **DoP**, theatrical feature, dir. G. Hovannisian & A. Mouhibian, USA. Winner, Special Jury Prize, Lake Van International Film Festival  
2015 *Je Suis*, **DoP**, short, dir. Faith Strongheart, USA. Winner, Best Short Film, Miami Independent Film Festival.  
2014 *Sugar Daddies*, **DoP**, TV Feature, dir. Doug Campbell, Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2014 *Lookalikes*, **DoP**, TV Series, dir. Greg Ash, prod. TruTV (USA). Winner, New York TV Fest 2014  
2014 *Bittersweet Sixteen*, **DoP**, short, dir. Clara Leac, USA/France. Official Selection, Eroin Cannes 2015; Distribution on TV France 3  
2013 *Death Clique*, **DoP**, TV Feature, dir. Doug Campbell, Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2013 *The Boy Scout*, **DoP**, short, dir. Patrick Brooks, USA. Winner, Best Cinematography, Palm Springs Int'l ShortFest 2013  
2013 *The Perfect Boyfriend*, **2nd Unit DoP**, TV Feature, dir. Rob Malenfant. Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2013 *Tom Turbo*, **3rd Unit DoP**, TV Series, Austria, prod. ORF, 2013

- 2012 *Teenage Bank Heist*, **2<sup>nd</sup> Unit DoP**, TV Feature, dir. Doug Campbell. Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2012 *Stalked at 17*, **2<sup>nd</sup> Unit DoP**, TV Feature, dir. Doug Campbell. Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2012 *Nikolai*, **DoP**, short, dir. Elyse Hollander, USA. Festival de Cannes Court Métrage 2013.

### Camera Operator

- 2021 *Harter Brocken 6: Der Waffendeal* (AT) / DoP 2nd Unit & B-cam 1st unit. TV Series, ARD Degeto, dir. Markus Sehr, prod. Odeon Fiction (Germany)  
2020 *Hot Pursuit* (Netflix Series), dir. Fiona Murguia, WorldMatt Productions (USA) – In Post Production  
2018 *Berliner Schnauzen* (TV Series - RBB), dir. Steffen Heidenreich, Bubbles Films (Germany)  
2017 *Das Apartment* (Streaming Series), dir. Reinaldo Almeida, Kind Prod. (Germany)  
2017 *The Lady Killers* (Theatrical Feature), dir. Phil Leirness, Rational Exuberance (USA)  
2014 *Somewhere Beautiful* (Theatrical Feature), dir. Albert Kodagolian, Bueno Films (USA)  
2013 *Missing at 17* (TV feature), dir. Doug Campbell, Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2013 *The Cheating Pact* (TV feature), dir. Doug Campbell, Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2013 *The Perfect Boyfriend* (TV feature), dir. Doug Campbell, Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2012 *Dirty Teacher* (TV feature), dir. Doug Campbell, Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2012 *The Surrogate* (TV feature), dir. Doug Campbell, Shadowland / Lifetime Network (USA)  
2012 *Smiley* (Ind. Feature), dir. Michael J. Gallagher, Level 10 Films (USA)

### Commercial Cinematography

- 2020 Mercedes Benz – *Neulich im Autohaus*, dir. Steffen Heidenreich, prod. FastLane Film, Berlin  
2020 Kia x Riot Games, *Mediocre Rap Battle Of The LEC 4*, dir./prod. Yung Eldr, Berlin  
2020 *More than MS* – Hertie Stiftung (Multiple Schlerosis social awareness), dir. Eicke Bettinga, prod. Divimove, Berlin  
2020 Novartis - *Aimovig*, dir. Sergej Moya, prod. Von Fiessbach Film, Berlin  
2020 KitKat X Riot Games, dir. Zhong To, prod. Streamwerke, Berlin  
2020 Corratec – *Cyclo*, dir. Blitz Opaque, prod. Wonder Woods Creative, Berlin  
2019 Adidas – *Father and Son*, dir. Eicke Bettinga, prod. Wonder Woods Creative, Berlin  
2019 Siemens – *ECR*, dir. Sergej Moya, prod. Von Fiessbach Film, Berlin  
2018 Mercedes-Benz AMG – *Speed Up in Style/NYC*, dir. Aladin Mekanovic, prod. WolffPack Vision, Berlin  
2018 Mercedes-Benz – *Komfortaktion*, dir. Maximilian Grabinger, prod. FastLane Film, Berlin

- 2018 Nike Running – *Dream It* (spec), dir. Merlin Camozzi, prod. OddOneOut, Los Angeles, CA USA
- 2018 Mercedes-Benz – *X-Class/Auto Therapist*, dir. Steffen Heidenreich, prod. FastLane Film, Berlin
- 2018 Mercedes-Benz – *Partner Shop 2*, dir. Steffen Heidenreich, prod. FastLane Film, Berlin
- 2018 Foodora – *First Bite*, dir. Nikolas Kasinos, prod. SSC Volo, Berlin
- 2017 SEAT – *Christmas Special*, dir. Florian Peters, prod. GrandHotel Pictures, Berlin
- 2017 Beats by Dre – *Before the Show*, dir. Charlie Lezin, prod. GrandHotel Pictures, Berlin
- 2017 Miele – *Our Future*, prod. JF Projects, Frankfurt
- 2017 Unicare – *Angekommen*, as Dir./DoP, prod. JF Projects, Frankfurt
- 2017 Mercedes-Benz – *Partner Shop*, dir. Steffen Heidenreich, prod. FastLane Film, Berlin
- 2016 Mercedes Benz – *Born to Run*, dir. Steffen Heidenreich, prod. FastLane Film, Berlin
- 2015 Volkswagen – *Andreas Mühe Artist Portrait*, dir. Katharina Kowalewski, prod. KO Films, Germany
- 2015 Astrid Sarkissian – *Bleed* (fashion), dir. Clara Leac, prod. Double B Films, France
- 2014 Volkswagen – *Friedrich Lichtenstein Portrait*, dir. Katharina Kowaleski, Berlin
- 2013 Sportifik – *Always Find A Game*, dir. Paul Reisinger, prod. OddOneOut, USA
- 2012 Audi – *Night Ride*, dir. Lauren Hoekstra, prod. OddOneOut, USA
- 2012 Free People – *Wanderlust* (fashion), dir. Chelsey Dubiel, prod. OddOneOut, USA
- 2012 Gerolsteiner – *Lights* (tabletop), as director/DP, prod. OddOneOut, USA
- 2011 AT&T – *Walking Sticks*, dir. Eugenio Villamar, prod. OddOneOut, USA
- 2010 State Farm – *That's It*, dir. Eugenio Villamar, prod. OddOneOut, USA

### Documentary

- 2016 *Crossing Borders – The Muslim-Jewish Conference*, as Dir./DoP, MJC / Berlin
- 2014 *Another Day in Nyanga*, dir. Chris Hanson (South Africa/USA)
- 2014 *Mudbloods*, dir. Farzad Sangari (Additional Photography) (USA)

### Music Videos

- 2019 Puppetmastaz – *Purple Maple*, Dir. Reinaldo Pinto Almeida, Grain of Salt Films, Berlin
- 2018 Tua – *Vater*, as Dir./DoP, Chimperator Productions, Berlin
- 2018 Tua – *Vorstadt*, dir. Vasi, Chimperator Productions, Berlin

- 2017 Eskazed – *Overwhelm*, dir. Clara Leac, France – Official Selection, Orlando Int'l Film Festival 2017
- 2017 Gudrun von Laxenburg – *The Return of the Unicorn*, as Dir./DoP, Corvis / Jewellabs, Vienna
- 2015 Koby Funk feat. Max Giesinger – *Unser Sommer*, dir. Jonas Stärk, ThunderBerg Films, Berlin
- 2015 Tamas – *Eat The Rich*, dir. Max Nadolny, ThunderBerg Films, Berlin
- 2015 Late Great Fitzcarraldos - *Giuseppe*, as Dir./DoP, OddOneOut, USA
- 2014 Together Pangea - *Offer*, dir. David Harris, We Are Famous Productions, USA

## Teaching (partial list)

- 2020- ***Advanced Lighting*** UCLA Extension Cinematography, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 Cinematography and lighting course, focusing on advanced practical techniques as well as creative choices in lighting.
- 2016- ***Composition and Framing*** UCLA Extension Cinematography, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 Cinematography and camera operating course, focusing on practical techniques as well as creative choices in composition.
- 2015- ***Lighting for Emotional Impact*** UCLA Extension Cinematography, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 Advanced cinematography course with focus on the use of light in cinematography, in practical and theoretical contexts.
- 2013 ***Directing the Actor for the Camera*** UCLA Arts Institute, Los Angeles, CA
- Workshop for film production and directing actors.
- 2012 ***Film Production for Non Majors*** Teaching Assistant, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, Los Angeles, CA
- Taught workshops on production practices on set, and mentored students in their class projects.
- 2011 ***Advanced 35mm Production*** Teaching Assistant, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, Los Angeles, CA
- Trained students on Panavision 35mm cameras and mentored students in weekly shoots.

## Experience

### Operating Experience

Gimbal – DJI Ronin 2, Movi Pro, etc.

Motion Control (Mark Roberts systems), Remote Heads

Operating on Dolly/Crane (JF Fisher, Chapman, Panther, GFM, etc.), Jib, Slider

Fluid Heads (O'Connor, Sachtler)

Handheld, Easyrig, etc.

### Camera Systems

Digital – Arri Alexa (all), Red (all), Sony (Venice, F55, etc), Canon, BM...

Film – various 35mm and Super 16mm (Arri, Aaton, Panavision)

Anamorphic/Spherical optics: Cooke, Zeiss, Panavision, Hawk, Angenieux...

### Post / Workflow

Editing/Color/VFX: Avid, DaVinci Resolve, Premiere, After Effects, FCP