

Member Spotlight: Nancy Ford



How did you get your start in the industry? I'd been working seasonal/temp jobs for a couple years after the velvet shackles of state employment had been cast off. I started the summer washing out of smokejumper training and wound up leading wilderness trips for troubled teens, sometimes referred to as "hoods in the woods". Got laid off at the end of the summer and drove to Montana. Stopped in Deer Lodge and took a tour of the prison museum. Bumped into some folks building a set and asked em where the production office was. Stopped in and dropped off a resume. Spent the next couple months living in the Butte Holiday Inn and painted sets for "Love Comes to the Executioner".

What influenced you to enter the entertainment world? Film production jobs had been on my "list of ways to erratically earn a paycheck" for a while and it just fell into my lap. How could I say no?

What is your educational background? Two year technical certificate at the old St. Paul Technical/Vocation Institute in land surveying and followed it up with a U of Minnesota bachelors degree. Geography major, studio arts minor.

What are you currently working on? A fundraising video for Ann Bancroft's foundation that provides micro grants to Minnesota girls and a long term documentary about panhandlers. March I'll be heading to Austin, TX for SXSW. I thought it would be fun to spend a week as an event photographer.

What is your favorite story to tell about working in this industry? Taking on a project for a marine geology field class at the University of Texas and overlooking the fact that I get horribly seasick. I spent eight hours a day lying on my back waiting for it to end and fifteen minutes pulling myself together to get the footage I needed. Came out pretty good thanks to my editor Nick Bocek. <https://vimeo.com/72618346>

What is your most memorable/favorite project? Most memorable... hmmm. I answered a Craigslist ad and wound up putting on scrubs and watching breast augmentation surgery. They were shooting a training video for the company that manufactures implants.

What inspires you? The desire to do something I've never done before. That's why my work history is a bit of a train wreck.

What are some of your hobbies and interests? I LOVE thrift store shopping. You can see the most amazingly hideous clothes and house hold goods at thrift stores. And the people watching is good too.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? In 10? One of my revenue streams involves sewing machines. I repair backpacking equipment and outdoor apparel. I'm pulling the trigger and opening a repair/retail shop that sells used/consignment stuff. There are only six repair shops around the US that do what I do and less than 20 shops that sell used camping equipment. I hope to still have the freedom to travel around the world and shoot for non profits.

What advice would you offer to a young female looking to get into this industry? Same advice I'd give a male. Bust your ass, look for something to do if you're not busy, offer to help others, and keep your mouth shut.

If you could work with anyone (dead or alive) who would it be and why? I got nothin for this question. There's something interesting and something to learn from just about everyone.

Would you like us to feature you in our monthly newsletter and on our website?

Head to <http://mnwift.org/membership/application/> and submit your member application today!

If you're already a member, download the individual application and submit the second page with a head shot to communications@mnwift.org.

