

CJ Friedlander

DIRECTOR | WRITER | EDITOR | SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

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Creative and results-driven storyteller with a strong background in filmmaking, writing, and social media marketing. Adept at quickly aligning authentic stories with sweeping visuals alongside a deep focus on emotional intimacy in order to deliver impactful content in fast-paced digital environments.

EXPERIENCE

Development Intern, Aggregate Films

Los Angeles, CA | Sep. 2025 - Dec. 2025

- Reported coverage on scripts, pilots, and books from established writers and filmmakers for prospective development
- Managed project selections under a first-look deal with Netflix and actor/director Jason Bateman
- Offered notes on upcoming projects as well as shadowed office executives and producers

Social Media Manager, Barstool Sports

Chicago, IL | May 2025 - Present

- Spearheaded the revival of inactive college social media accounts, driving renewed engagement for a 20K+ follower audience across Instagram and X
- Executed data-driven social media growth strategies post-relaunch, increasing monthly viewership by 3,400% and significantly improving audience engagement
- Developed visually compelling graphics, posts, and videos that reached hundreds of thousands of accounts on a weekly basis

Content Creator, The Academy at American High

Syracuse, NY | Nov. 2023 - Nov. 2024

- Helped launch and manage a sketch comedy Instagram account from scratch, growing the audience to over 8,000 followers in just a few months while driving high engagement through viral posts and reels
- Collaborated with high-profile social media brands, including College Life and American High Shorts, reaching a combined audience of 4M+ followers across platforms
- Optimized content strategy by analyzing social media trends and audience insights, generating thousands of views per day

Creative Development Intern, American High

Syracuse, NY | Apr. 2023 - Nov. 2024

- Analyzed a variety of scripts ranging from television pilots to blockbuster films
- Managed project selections under a first-look deal with Hulu and producer/director Jeremy Garelick
- Researched and scouted creative talent – including artists, writers, and directors – for project development

Video Editor, Sports Broadcast Solutions

Chicago, IL | Dec. 2022 - Feb. 2023

- Edited, designed, and produced sports-related videos for YouTube
- Developed work shift habits of 10-12 hours daily
- Acquired thorough knowledge of popular athletes, teams, and cities

EDUCATION

DePaul University

Chicago, IL | Sep. 2022 - March 2026

- BFA: Film and Television
- Directing Concentration
- GPA: 3.98 out of 4.0
- Dean's List: Every Quarter
- Honors Student
- Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity
- IFC Council Member

SKILLS

- Adobe Premiere Pro
- Adobe Photoshop
- Advanced Lighting
- Canva Designs
- Copywriting
- Data Gathering
- Final Cut Pro
- Final Draft
- Fundraising
- Location Scouting
- Marketing
- Microsoft Office
- Multi-Camera Setup
- Pitch Decks
- PowerPoint
- Script Coverage
- Shot Composition
- Sizzle Reels
- Social Media Experience
- Sound Mixing
- Trend(s) Analysis
- Video Editing

CREATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Hell From The Shadows (short film 2025)

Director | Writer | Editor | Producer

- Awarded Best Director (CHI) at the Chicago Horror Film Festival, 2025
- Awarded Best Bloodbath Horror at the All Horror Shorts Film Festival, 2025
- Nominated for Best Visual Effects at DePaul's Premiere Film Showcase, 2025
- Official selection at the Indie Horror Film Festival, 2025

Where To Next? (short film 2025)

Editor | Sound Designer

- Nominated for Best Visual Effects at DePaul's Premiere Film Showcase, 2025