K.C. LAUF

Director of Photography | Commercial Photographer | IATSE Local 600 Camera Operator

Based in Los Angeles, CA. Willing to relocate.

kc.lauf@gmail.com | www.kclauf.com | https://www.linkedin.com/in/kclauf | +1 (248) 238-3925

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished Director of Photography, union camera operator, commercial photographer, digital creator, and visual producer with 10+ years of experience across commercial campaigns, studio productions, and global live music touring. Collaborated with 50+ major brands and led social campaigns generating 10M+ views. Captured content for 175+ shows across 6 continents while specializing in imaging technology, lighting design, and high-volume production environments. Senior-level creative production professional with visual skills and technical operations experience.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Director of Photography and Camera Operator / Photographer. Los Angeles, CA | 2011 - Present

- Capture content for agency and brand campaigns, behind-the-scenes documentaries, and solo-run user-generated social content using large commercial lighting setups and natural-light solutions across main-unit and social productions.
- Collaborate with 50+ major brands over 10 years, including Disney, Pepsi, Hulu, YouTube, McDonald's, Shell Oil, Dunkin' Coffee, Cadillac, and Vogue, delivering tailored visual content.
- Lead creative production on successful social media campaigns for McDonald's, Subway, Frito Lay, and Cadillac, achieving a combined 10M+ views through strategic visual storytelling.
- Execute commercial and social productions ranging from multi-unit studio builds to solo field capture, adapting cinematography and lighting techniques to meet varied production demands.

Freelance Camera Dept. Crew Member, Film Industry. Los Angeles, CA | 2011 to Present

- Support camera department operations as an on-set crew member across the Los Angeles film industry, contributing to commercial, feature film, television, social, promotional, short-film, and music-video productions.

Media Asset Manager / Assistant Editor. LALIM EDIT Los Angeles, CA | 2020 - 2022

- Manage media assets for commercial, music video, UGC, and branded content productions.
- Handle media intake, shipping and receiving, transcoding, uploading, file organization, nesting, color prep, and project relinking for online editorial workflows.
- Utilize Adobe Creative Suite and DaVinci Resolve across diverse nonlinear editing formats and multi-camera projects.
- Applying 18 years of production and post-production experience in media handling, drive preparation and delivery, on-set media loading, and multi-camera storage management.
- 5 years experience with major motion picture studio post production workflows.

Touring Music Director of Photography / Photographer. WORLDWIDE | 2013 - 2016

- Serve as the full-time sole touring videographer and photographer for 30 Seconds to Mars during the Love, Lust, Faith, and Dreams world tour album cycle, collaborating directly with frontman and director Jared Leto.
- Capture daily motion and still photography across 175+ live shows, six continents, and 13 tour legs, documenting the band's global performances and expanding visual archive.
- Manage end-to-end content production, including daily editing, delivery, and media coordination with third-party vendors, sponsors, and press teams under fast-paced tour demands.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Camera System Proficiency**: SONY cameras, CANON stills/motion cameras, ARRI cameras, RED cameras, Apple iPhone cameras, GOPRO action cameras, DJI cameras, Drone work, Specialty cameras
- **Media Workflow**: ShotPut Pro, Checksum Verification, Encrypted Delivery, Media asset management, On Set Data management, Multi Camera Media Wrangling
- **Post Production**: Adobe Creative Suite, DaVinci Resolve, Final Cut Pro, Capture One, AI-Assisted Workflow Integration, Studio Level Post Workflows, Color, Non Linear Editing, Photo Manipulation, Color Balancing, and Retouching.
- **Production**: Motion content, Cinematography, Still photography, Commercial Lighting and Lighting Design, Live Event Capture, Time Management, Directing, Team Building, Creative Collaboration, Leadership, Team Management, Communication Skills, Marketing, Creative Directing, Talent Direction, Client Interface, Performance Arts, Social Media, UGC (User Generated Content)
- **Auxiliary**: Fender Studio Pro, Ableton Live, Microsoft Office, MacOS, iOS, English, Graphic Design, Multi Instrumental Musician, Organizational Skills, Equipment Inventory and Maintenance.

EDUCATION

Western Michigan University — B.A. Film | 2008 - 2011

Kalamazoo Valley Community College — A.A. Film & Photographic Arts, Liberal Arts | 2007 - 2008

CERTIFICATIONS

- LOCAL 600 CAMERA OPERATOR (November 2025 to Present)
- USA Passport
- CA Driver's License
- US Citizenship