



GIANNA SAVOIE, PH.D.

FILMMAKER, PROFESSOR,
ENTREPRENEUR

CONTACT

✉ giannasavoie@gmail.com

☎ +1 (347) 678 4569

🌐 www.giannasavoie.com
www.oceanmediainstitute.org

🏠 216 S. Grand Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715 USA

EDUCATION

PH.D. AMERICAN STUDIES
Lens: Science Communication via Visual Media
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 2017

M.S. ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY
Antioch University
Keene, NH 1998

CITIZENSHIP

USA and Italy (Dual)

SOCIAL

📘 www.facebook.com/gianna.savoie

📷 [@giannasavoie](https://www.instagram.com/giannasavoie)

🐦 [@oceanmediainst](https://twitter.com/oceanmediainst)

ABOUT

Dr. Gianna Savoie is an award-winning documentary producer, writer, professor, and National Geographic Explorer with nearly two decades of experience in Natural History filmmaking. Her Emmy-nominated work has been featured on PBS, NATURE, NHNZ, National Geographic, Discovery, and the BBC, as well as in theatrical documentaries and in print and web publications. Trained as an environmental biologist, she pairs her love of science with the art of filmmaking to craft stories that not only inform but deeply resonate. As Founder of the Ocean Media Institute, a nonprofit global media collective that expands the public's engagement in ocean science through innovative visual media, Gianna pays forward her penchant for powerful storytelling to address the most critical conservation issues on the planet.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION / OCEAN MEDIA

- "Overcoming Ethical Challenges in Marine Conservation Communication," Accepted Paper, International Marine Conservation Congress, Kuching, Sarawak, 2018.
- "Redefining Narrative Ownership of the Ocean," Public Understanding of Science, Massimiano Bucchi, Ed., University of Trento, Italy. In Review, 2018.
- "Turning the Tide Through Accompaniment," American Studies Journal, American Studies Association. In Review, 2018.
- "The Storied Sea: Crafting a Collective Narrative of the Ocean," Ph.D. Dissertation, Montana State University, 2017.

ACADEMIA

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BOZEMAN, MT. 2011 - 2017
ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR (NON-TENURE TRACK),
MFA PROGRAM FOR SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY FILMMAKING

GRADUATE COURSE INSTRUCTION:

- FILM 515 Science and Natural History Film Production
- FILM 517 Production Management
- FILM 518 Writing for Non-Fiction Film
- FILM 521 Interactive Documentary
- FILM 523 Second Year Film Prep
- FILM 525 Second Year Film Production
- FILM 533 Life on TERRA
- FILM 590 Thesis

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PRODUCTION

- OCEAN MEDIA INSTITUTE, BOZEMAN, MT** **2014-PRESENT**
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
- "Nautilus," Producer/Director (In Production, 2018)
 - "Plastic Pollution to Cultural Solution: Bering Sea," P.I. and Producer/Director (In Production, 2018)
 - "I Am Ocean," Series Producer for films: I Am Ocean: Hawaii, I Am Ocean: Philippines, I Am Ocean: Baja (2016 - present)
 - "The Shape of a River," Producer/Writer 2017
 - "In Pursuit of Plastics" (Ocean Media Explorer), Executive Producer, 2015
 - "Expedition Hannibal" (Ocean Media Explorer), Executive Producer, 2015
 - "Expedition Hades" (Ocean Media Explorer), Executive Producer, 2014
- LIFE ON TERRA, BOZEMAN, MT** **2011-2017**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
- Executive Producer of award-winning science & natural history podcast series that explores the natural connections that propel life on Earth
- OKEANOS/PACIFIC VOYAGERS FOUNDATION, AUCKLAND, NZ** **2011-2014**
WRITER AND STORY PRODUCER
- "Our Blue Canoe," Writer/Story Producer for feature documentary about a 120 South Pacific Islanders who sailed a fleet of voyaging canoes across the Pacific Ocean to share a message of environmental stewardship
- NOAA AND AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC, LONG BEACH, CA** **2013**
DIRECTOR/SUPERVISING PRODUCER
- "Ocean Exploration 2020 Video Series," Director/Supervising Producer of video series on Ocean Exploration
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TELEVISION, NEW YORK, NY** **2010**
WRITER AND POST-PRODUCER
- "Animal Invaders," Writer and Post-Producer for series on invasive species
- DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS, INC. NEW YORK, NY** **2006-2008, 2010**
PRODUCER AND WRITER
- Producer/Writer for Animal Planet and Discovery Kids' on-air promos and interstitial content
- NATURE / WNET NEW YORK, NY** **1997-2010**
PRODUCER AND WRITER
- "Wolverine: Chasing the Phantom," Producer, Writer, Director for Emmy-nominated film about wolverines for PBS and National Geographic International. 2008-2010
 - "Life in Death Valley," Producer and Writer of award-winning documentary about the natural history of Death Valley for PBS and NHNZ, Ltd. 2004-2006
 - Producer and Writer of narration scripts, promos and teasers for numerous NATURE episodes. 1997-2008
 - Scientific Consultant for NATURE's web content. 1998-2004

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BAREFOOT WORKSHOPS, NEW YORK, NY
PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR

2007-2007

- "Finding True North" Producer and Director of independent documentary about teenage cancer survivors.

GIUSEPPE BUCCIARELLI PRODUCTIONS, FLORENCE, ITALY
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

2006

- "Ahmed and the Return of the Arab Phoenix," Script supervisor for award-winning documentary on the Bald Ibis for National Geographic Channel.

PRINT & WEB

FREELANCE WRITER

1995-PRESENT

- Cover science, nature, and environmental stories for regional, national, and international publications.
- WNET Online. Wrote web companions for various PBS programs, including: Life in Death Valley, Underdogs, Murder in the Troop, Crime Scene Creatures.
- Wrote and illustrated: Field Guide to the Community Rainforest: Traditional Uses of the Plants of Belize.

OTHER

- EU Citizenship -- Dual Citizen with US and Italy
- Board of Directors, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2017 - Present
- Member, University Film and Video Association, 2013 - Present
- Member, Writers Guild of America, 2009-Present
- Member, Society of Environmental Journalists, 2005-Present
- Board of Directors, Bozeman Film Festival, 2013 - 2015
- Committee Member, President's Fine Arts Series, Montana State University, 2012
- Board of Directors, Filmmakers for Conservation, 2004 - 2008
- Director/Curator, The Community Rainforest Museum, St. Paul's Bank, Belize. (Directed the establishment of an Ethnobotany museum in the village of St. Paul's Bank, Belize. 1995-1997)

EDUCATION

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BOZEMAN, MT.

PH.D. IN AMERICAN STUDIES WITH FOCUS ON OCEAN SCIENCE COMMUNICATION, 2017

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY, KEENE, NH.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY, 1997

LESLEY UNIVERSITY/AUDUBON EXPEDITION INSTITUTE, CAMBRIDGE, MA.

MASTER'S PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, 1994

LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, SOUTHAMPTON, NY.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ART EDUCATION, MAGNA CUM LAUDE, 1991

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PERSONAL & SCHOLARLY RECOGNITION AND LEADERSHIP

- National Geographic Explorer, 2018-Present
- Principal Investigator and grant recipient from National Geographic's Office of Exploration for "Plastic Pollution to Cultural Solution" media project on St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea, 2018 - 2020
- Featured Presenter and Final Judge, Science Media Awards and Summit, Boston, MA, 2018
- Featured Media Scholar and Presenter, International Marine Conservation Conference, Paper: "Ethics in Marine Conservation Communication," Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, 2018
- Featured Humanities Scholar and Presenter, Jackson Hole Wild "Out West Fest" Jackson, WY, 2018
- Featured Presenter, International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula, MT, 2018
- Featured Presenter, "Art of Science Storytelling" and "In the Hot Seat: Interview Techniques for Scientists" sessions, AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland, OR, 2018
- Final Judge, Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival and Conservation Summit, Jackson, WY, 2017
- Featured Speaker, Science on Screen, Bozeman, MT, 2017
- Featured Presenter, SciComCon, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2017
- Featured Presenter and Final Judge, International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula, MT, 2017
- Named "Uncommon Leader for Transitional Times" by Blue Ocean Network, 2016
- Featured Speaker, Blue Ocean Business Summit, 2016
- Featured Presenter and Judge, Blue Ocean Film Festival and Conservation Summit, 2016
- Saxton Dissertation Completion Award for American Studies, 2016.
- Featured Presenter, "Ocean 180 Video Challenge," AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting, 2016
- Featured Guest and Presenter, Waimea Ocean Film Festival, HI, 2016
- Final Judge, Blue Ocean Film Festival, Monaco, 2015
- Featured Speaker and Advisor, Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival and Conservation Summit, 2015
- Featured Guest, Speak Up for Blue Podcast, 2015
- Featured Speaker, Blue Ocean Film Festival and Conservation Summit, 2014
- Ocean Science Journalism Fellow, Woods Hole Oceanic Institute, 2014
- Merit Award for Teaching, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, 2013
- International Judge and Featured Guest Presenter, Ekotopfilm, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2012
- Fulbright Recipient, US Department of State, 2012
- Invited Guest and Featured Speaker, Blue Ocean Film Festival and Conservation Summit, 2012
- Named one of "Five Inspirational Women You Should Meet" for "Fostering innovation and notable change in the world," Brody & Cole's WOW Women Campaign, 2012
- Featured Alum, "I Am Bay View" campaign, Bay View Academy, East Providence, RI, 2012

PRODUCTION RECOGNITION

THE SHAPE OF A RIVER, OCEAN MEDIA INSTITUTE, 2017 (PRODUCER AND WRITER)

- Featured Selection, Jackson Hole Wild, "Out West Fest" Jackson, WY, 2018
- Finalist, Ekotop Film Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2018
- Official Selection, Le Bois Film Festival, Boise, ID, 2108
- Official Selection, Wild and Scenic Festival, Nevada City, CA, 2108
- Finalist, Wildlife Conservation Film Festival, New York, NY, 2017
- Official Selection, International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula MT, 2017
- Official Selection, Wild Rivers Film Tour, Multiple venues throughout MT, 2017

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I AM OCEAN: PUA CASE (PRODUCER AND WRITER) OCEAN MEDIA INSTITUTE, 2016

- Silver Award, Imagine Cosmic Cine Festival, Munich, Germany, 2018
- Official Selection, Bozeman International Film Festival, Bozeman MT, 2018
- Finalist, Ekotop Film Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2017
- Official Selection, Ocean Film Festival, Croatia, 2017
- Official Selection, Ethnografilm Festival, Paris, 2017
- Best "Dotcomentary," Reef Renaissance Film Festival, St. Thomas, VI, 2016

I AM OCEAN: CHAD WIGGINS (PRODUCER AND WRITER) OCEAN MEDIA INSTITUTE, 2016

- Official Selection and Finalist, Les Boise Film Festival, Boise, Idaho, 2017
- Official Selection and Finalist, Blue Ocean Film Festival, St. Petersburg, 2016

IN PURSUIT OF PLASTICS (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER) OCEAN MEDIA INSTITUTE, 2016

- Official Selection and Finalist, Blue Ocean Film Festival, St. Petersburg, 2016

OUR BLUE CANOE (WRITER AND STORY PRODUCER) OKEANOS/PACIFIC VOYAGERS FOUNDATION, 2015

- Silver Medal, Climate Change and Sustainability, New York Festivals, 2016

LIFE ON TERRA (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER) MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, 2011 - 2017

- Silver Medal, Climate Change and Sustainability, New York Festivals, 2016
- Green Site Honoree, Webby Awards, 2014
- Best of Green Category, Webby Awards, 2013
- Audience Choice, Webby Awards, 2013
- Best in Green Category, Webby Awards, 2013
- Audience Choice, Pixel Awards, 2013
- Panda Award for Best of Web, Wildscreen Festival, 2012

WOLVERINE: CHASING THE PHANTOM (PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, WRITER) NATURE/WNET, 2010

- Emmy Award Nominee for Outstanding Nature Program, National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, 2011
- World Medal Award for Nature and Wildlife, New York Festivals, 2011
- Special Jury Award in Environment and Science, Cine Golden Eagle Awards, 2011
- Best Film Made in Montana, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2011
- Outstanding Scientific Content, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2011
- Creative Storytelling, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2011
- Outstanding Cinematography, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2011
- Finalist, Nature and Environment, Banff Mountain Film Festival, 2011

LIFE IN DEATH VALLEY (PRODUCER AND WRITER) NATURE/WNET AND NHNZ, 2006

- Best of Category for Ecosystem, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2006
- Best Editing, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2006
- Merit award for Photography, International Wildlife Film Festival, 2006
- Excellence in the Writing/Concept, U.S. International Film & Video Festival, 2006
- Certificate for Outstanding Documentary, U.S. International Film & Video Festival, 2006
- First Place, Gold Camera Award, (Cinematography, Videography, Camera Work), U.S. International Film & Video Festival, 2006
- Second Place, Silver Screen Award, (Geography), U.S. International Film & Video Festival, 2006
- Certificate for Creative Excellence, (Writing, Concept), U.S. International Film & Video Festival, 2006
- Certificate for Creative Excellence, (Documentary), U.S. International Film & Video Festival, 2006
- Best Television Program >\$500K, Montana CINE, 2006 Merit for Cinematography, Montana CINE, 2006
- Silver Award in Environment and Science, Cine Golden Eagle Awards, 2006
- Finalist, Nature and Wildlife, New York Festivals, 2006