



Astrid Bussink

DOCUMENTARY STORY EDITOR & FILMMAKER

CONTACT

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Haarlem, Netherlands

Born 3-9-1975

LANGUAGES

- Dutch, native
English, fluent
(written and spoken)
German, conversational
French, basic
Portuguese, currently learning

EDUCATION

MA Film
Edinburgh College of Art /
University of Edinburgh

BA Mixed Media
AKI ArtEZ Academy of
Art & Design

SELECTED AWARDS

- IDFA First Appearance Award
The Angelmakers
- Grierson nomination (UK)
The Angelmakers
- Berlinale Generation Award
Giovanni en het Waterballet
- Golden Calf
Achter de Toren
- IDFA Special Jury Award
Luister

PROFILE

Internationally awarded documentary filmmaker, story editor, and educator with extensive experience in nonfiction storytelling, story development, and editorial consultancy. Works across documentary film, teaching and project evaluation, with a strong focus on narrative structure, research-driven storytelling and character-based documentaries. Experienced in guiding filmmakers, evaluating projects for funding bodies and developing documentary stories from research to final edit.

CURRENT POSITIONS

- Independent Documentary Story Editor** 2019 – present
Story editing, editorial feedback, and story development for documentary films and series. Credits include *House of Hope* (dir. Marjolein Busstra), winner of the Hot Docs Best International Feature Documentary 2026; Netherlands-Palestine co-production, world premiere IDFA 2025. Further productions for Netflix, Videoland and NPO.
- Documentary Directing Tutor** 2020 – present
Nederlandse Filmacademie
Teaching documentary directing, story development, scene construction and research methods at university level.
- Project Evaluator & Advisor** 2017 – present
NPO Fund – Documentary & Fiction
Evaluating and advising on documentary and fiction projects, treatments, development plans and funding applications.
- Media Studies Lecturer** 2021 – present
University of Amsterdam
Teaching media analysis, nonfiction storytelling and narrative structures.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- Head of Youth** 2017 – 2019
VPRO
Led editorial development of youth documentary, factual and digital content for Dutch public broadcaster VPRO.
- Workshop Tutor, Kids & Docs / IDFA / Cinekid** 2011 – 2021
Tutoring at international workshops focused on youth storytelling and nonfiction film development.
- Script & Directing Coach (Freelance)** 2012 – present
Script and directing coaching for independent documentary filmmakers.

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

- Writer / Director** 2005 – present
Internationally awarded documentary films screened at IDFA, Berlinale, Oberhausen, Visions du Réel, and Cinekid. Films include *The Angelmakers*, *The Hideout* and *Luister / Luister*.