

**Alaina Halbleib**

Honors Capstone 2026

# Character Driven Storytelling:

An Examination of Documentary Filmmaking and  
the Intersection of Journalism and Entertainment



# What Started this Project?

## Multimedia Capstone Documentary

Answering: “Who is Pittsburgh for?”

- Interviewed young Pittsburgh politicians and political leaders
- Asked the public what their impressions are and what issues matter most
- Captured neighborhoods across the Pittsburgh region



# Honors Contributions

1

Research

2

Interviews

3

Editing

# Foundational Research

## Topics

- Advocacy Journalism
- Intersection of documentary and journalism
- Interactive documentaries
- Documentary films as a form of investigative journalism
- Journalism standards in documentary filmmaking

## Key Takeaways

- Documentaries allow greater influence than traditional journalism
- New forms of documentaries as technology evolves
- Emergence of documentaries as traditional journalism declines
- Higher emotional implications than traditional journalism

# Expert Interviews

## Venture Road Pictures



**Krystle Grandy**

Creative Partner/Producer



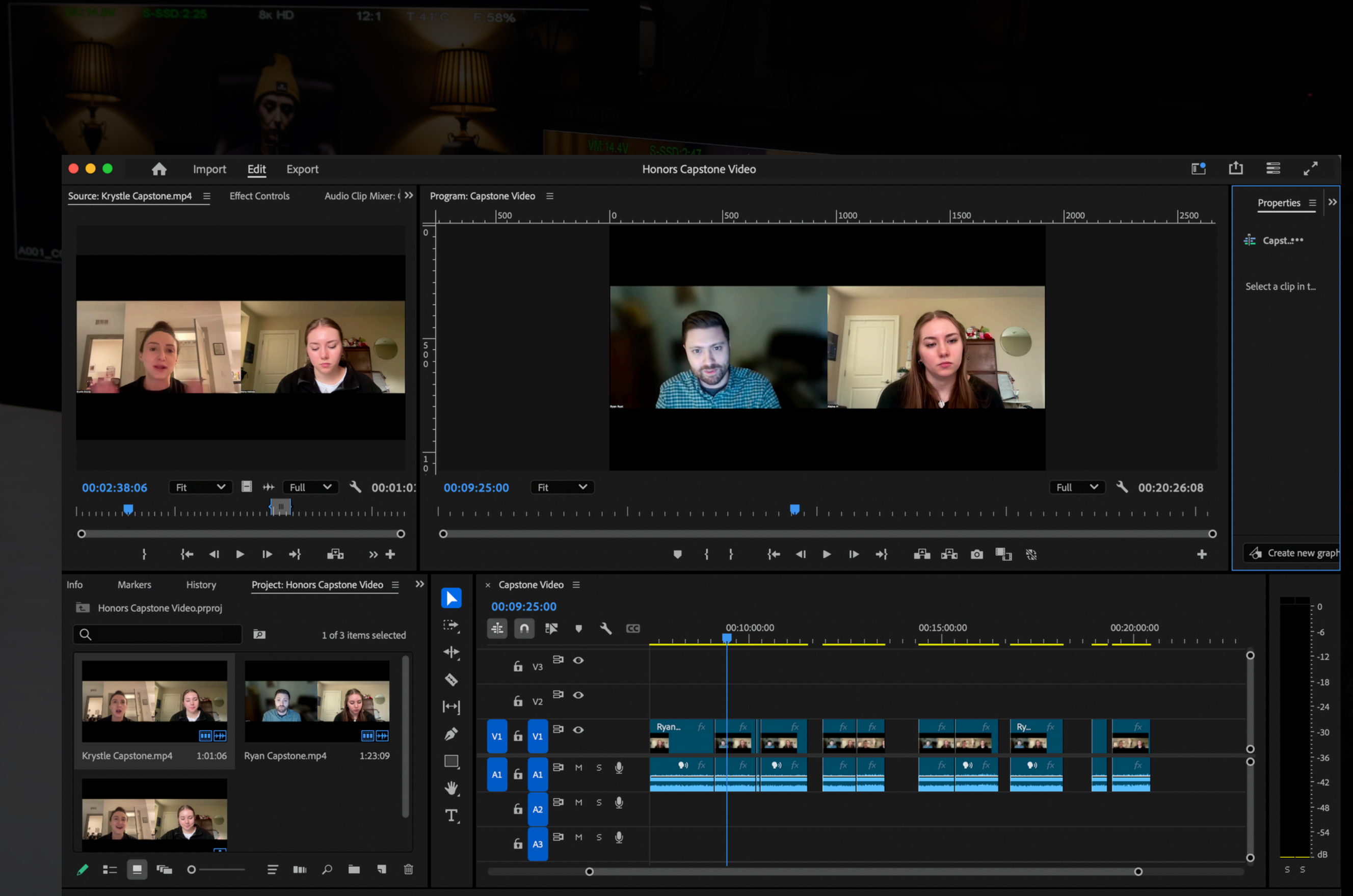
**Ryan Rust**

Founder/Director

# Editing

Pr

Ae



# Key Takeaways

1

Documentaries must maintain journalistic standards to be credible

2

Character driven documentaries provide a throughline and unique POV to storytelling

3

The landscape of documentary filmmaking is changing by the day with advancing technology

# Bibliography

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