



These Rising Cinematographers Are Shaping Tomorrow's Media

Variety Staff



Jackson Hunt

Photo : Courtesy of Jackson Hunt

Hunt discovered a passion for lensing while he was at Emerson College. “Someone invited me to a film set and I fell in love with the camera,” he says.

“It’s really satisfying right away instead of waiting to see the whole thing with the beginning, the ending and the sound. Cinematography is there in your face and the results are immediate.”

The Atlanta native started his career in music videos, winning an MTV award in 2014 for shooting Beyoncé's "Pretty Hurts." Music videos are still among his most preferred work. "I shot a music video for Solange Knowles in Africa, That was one of my favorites, just because we went to Cape Town, we got to see new things, there was a whole family vibe [and] it came together so well." Another music video that stands out for him is Jake Bugg's "There's a Beast and We All Feed It." "We amazingly took the camera and put it in a van and ran around New Orleans."

Hunt was the DP on Henry Dunham's "The Standoff at Sparrow Creek," which played in the midnight section of the 2018 Toronto festival. In 2019, he joined the production of HBO's "Betty," created and directed by Crystal Moselle, and shot handheld on location. He's prepping for the second season now and is also involved in a "very long, extended prep" for a World War II film Dunham will direct. "We were having all these conversations, and then the coronavirus hit," Hunt says. "So that's in the long term." Working in the corona era has been different. "Everyone's been really diligent," he says. "You can take the class, people talk about what it's going to be like, but I'm curious to see what happens when we start shooting." —
Shalini Dore