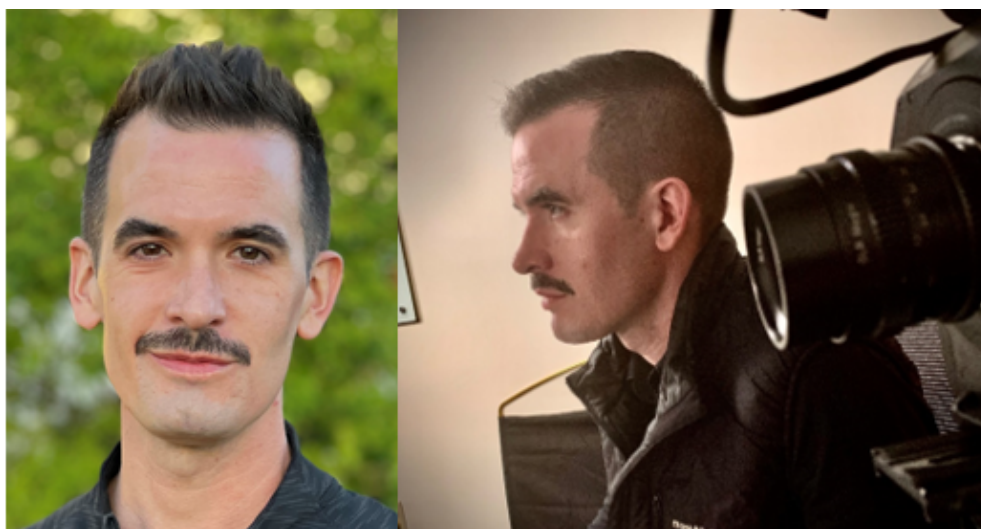


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**OCTFME RECOGNIZES
DYLAN GRAVES BARBETA-COMSTOCK
AS THE DECEMBER 2022
FILMMAKER OF THE MONTH**



This DC-based filmmaker and multimedia producer specializes in short form, docu-style, impact, social justice, and victims' rights content

Washington, DC – The District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment (OCTFME) is pleased to recognize **DYLAN GRAVES BARBETA-COMSTOCK** as the December 2022 Filmmaker of the Month.

District-based filmmaker [Dylan Graves Barbeta-Comstock](#) is the creative director of [Holaday Graves Media](#), a multimedia production company he founded that specializes in documentary and issue-based video production for educators, government entities, non-profits, and social justice organizations. Dylan's creative and professional work during his celebrated career has been informed by his understanding of otherness since age 3. As a queer kid growing up in rural Virginia, Dylan started making experimental art videos in a barn at age 13.

At age 14, Dylan's cross-country coach died of a heart attack in front of him at practice. In order to make sense of what had happened and what it meant to him, Dylan scripted, cast, directed, and

edited a video about the experience, [By The Blood of My Knees](#). He realized then that he could do something with video that mattered. That same year, Dylan worked on his first socially-conscious documentary film as a production assistant for [Amy Gerber-Stroh](#)'s film *Public Memory: A Film About American Memorials*.

Surviving a variety of crimes as a child, and later as an adult, further galvanized his drive to create meaningful media. He chose to leverage art, lived experience, and education in service of inspiring change.

“It is an honor to be trusted with others’ stories. It is a privilege that my journey and work may be in service of others’ truth. Thank you for this opportunity.”

After interning with Clive Barker, MTV Films, and the Los Angeles Film Festival Dylan graduated with high distinction from the University of Virginia, having completed a narrative review of literature titled “Nonheterosexuality, Age, Gender, and Childhood Sexual Abuse,” which examines the predictors, correlates, and sequelae of sexual abuse experienced by gay male youths. Following graduation, Dylan moved into Washington, DC and soon thereafter began working with local LGBTQ+ publications, documenting queer activism from 2010 to 2018 through video and photography.

In 2015, Dylan began working with [Video/Action](#), a DC-based, non-profit production company specializing in the elevation of infrequently heard voices. During his time with Video/Action, Dylan worked with the USDOJ’s Office for Victims of Crime, producing over 50 videos featuring survivors, their stories, and those who serve them. To ensure best practice in transforming his own experience with tragedy into advocacy for others, in 2017, Dylan became a nationally credentialed victim advocate through the National Organization for Victim Assistance. In 2018, in partnership with the National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, The Advancement Project, and the Schott Foundation for Public Education, Dylan produced and wrote a nine-video series examining the School-to-Prison Pipeline from impacted stakeholder perspectives.

In 2019, Dylan founded [Holaday Graves Media](#). Established in the District of Columbia, Holaday Graves Media specializes in trauma-informed video, and media solutions to complex topics, working with clients ranging from Penn State’s Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Telehealth Center and Network for Victim Recovery of DC to the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges and Boehringer-Ingelheim. Following his work with the EPA-DOJ Victim Assistance Team in 2021, Dylan was invited back to present collected knowledge and lessons learned as a survivor-turned-video advocate for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week 2022.

Currently, Dylan is developing video toolkit and curricula concepts for mental health professionals, victim advocates, and LGBTQ+ affiliated service providers. Dylan is also working on a 27-panel visual art series titled “Disruptive Nocturnal Behaviors.” A reflection of surviving sexual violence, the series combines photography, textual art/poetry, and collage in presentation of PTSD sequelae. Within the series, the term *disruptive nocturnal behaviors* is folded in on itself by illustrating how the name of the symptom can also describe the cause of the harm. This is the forerunner to a film he is writing titled “The Pressing Bed,” a metaphor for the compression of unchosen identity layers within a survivor.

Dylan has been a member of [Women In Film & Video \(WIFV\)](#) for the past six years. He has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2018, serving as Secretary (2020) and Treasurer (2021) for the organization. In 2020, Dylan re-established the WIFV Mentorship Program which he currently chairs. For the program, he authored a 12-month curriculum paralleling the seasons, and growth cycles within a creative's career. Recognizing the impact of mentorship in his life, he was driven to give back.

In addition to being an artist and public speaker, Dylan loves running, motorcycle-camping, plants, his husband, and their cat Bill.

Awards and Honors:

- Silver Davey Award, 2019 | Writer, Producer & Director, Education | NEA & AFT
- Silver Telly Award, 2019 | Producer, Social Responsibility | USDOJ-OVC
- Bronze Telly Award, 2019 | Producer, Government Relations | USDOJ-OVC
- 3 Gold Omni Intermedia Awards, 2018 | Producer & Writer | USDOJ-OVC
- Gold Telly Award, 2018 | Producer, Social Issues | USDOJ-OVC
- Bronze Telly Award, 2018 | Producer, Social Responsibility | USDOJ-OVC

Select Credits:

Producer/Writer/Director: [LGBTQ+ Victim Advocacy Initiative at Eskenazi Health - 2022 National Crime Victims' Service Awards](#) (2022)

Producer/Writer/Director: [Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Team - 2022 National Crime Victims' Service Awards](#) (2022)

Producer/Writer/Director: [2022 AAVMC Excellence in Research Award Winner Dr. Barry T. Rouse](#) (2022)

Producer/Writer/Director: [The Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Telehealth Center - Expanding Access to Care](#) (2021)

Producer/Writer/Director: [NVRDC's Community Response Program](#) (2021)

Producer/Writer/Director: [Vegas Strong Resiliency Center - 2021 National Crime Victims' Service Awards](#) (2021)

Producer: 2021 EPA/ENRD Training Video: Neurobiology of Trauma & Forensic Interviewing (2021)

Producer/Writer/Director: [Network for Victim Recovery DC: Steadfast Commitment to DC Survivors](#) (2020)

Producer/Writer/Director: [Alaska Police and Fire Chaplains – 2020 National Crime Victims' Service Awards](#) (2020)

Producer/Writer/Director: [2020 Iverson Bell Award Winner – Dr. Jaime Gongora](#) (2020)

Producer: [2019 NCVRW Theme Video: Honoring Our Past. Creating Hope for the Future.](#) (2019)

Producer/Writer: [2018 The School-to-Prison Pipeline: A Holistic Perspective - AFT/NEA/Schott Foundation/Advancement Project](#) (2018)

Producer/Writer/Director: [Kevin F. Rivers & Sherry C. Rice - 2018 National Crime Victims' Service Awards](#) (2018)

Producer/Writer: [2018 NCVRW Theme Video: Expand the Circle. Reach All Victims.](#) (2018)

Producer/Writer/Director: [A Tribute to Beacon House Founder Reverend Donald E Robinson](#) (2017)

Producer/Writer/Director: [2017 National Crime Victims' Service Awards - Joy Solomon, Esq.](#) (2017)

Producer/Writer/Director: [2017 NCVRW Theme Video: Strength. Resilience. Justice.](#) (2017)

Producer/Writer: [2016 NCVRW Theme Video: Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.](#) (2016)

Producer/Writer: [If You're a Victim of Crime, Help is Available](#) (2016)

Social Media Handles:

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/HoladayGravesMedia/>

LinkedIn: [Dylan Graves Barbeta-Comstock](#) (personal)

Professional Websites:

www.HoladayGraves.com

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About FILMMAKER OF THE MONTH

The Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment (OCTFME) launched the “Filmmaker of the Month” initiative as a vehicle for highlighting the talents and creative contributions of filmmakers that make the District of Columbia their home. The “Filmmaker of the Month” initiative is part of OCTFME’s mission to elevate the national and international profile of the District’s talented filmmakers.

***If you know of a filmmaker that would make a great future “Filmmaker of the Month,” you can send OCTFME your recommendations using this [nomination form](#).

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About OCTFME

The Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) produces and broadcasts programming for the District of Columbia's public, educational, and government access (PEG) cable television channels and digital radio station; regulates the District of Columbia's cable television

service providers; provides customer service for cable subscribers; and supports a sustainable film, music, and entertainment creative economy and labor market in the District of Columbia.

OCTFME award-winning content provides resourceful information on government activity, education, current events, history, music, arts, and entertainment. OCTFME operates and manages the District’s government television access channels: the District Council Channel (DCC), the District of Columbia Network (DCN), and the District Knowledge Network (DKN).

OCTFME owns, manages, operates, and programs the District of Columbia Entertainment Network (DCE). This 24-hour on-demand streaming network delivers diverse and inclusive – FREE – lifestyle, music, live events, sports, arts, variety shows, talk shows, educational and entertainment programming from the nation’s capital into homes via ROKU, Apple TV, and Amazon Fire TV as well as iPhone and Android mobile devices by downloading the DCE Network App or at DCENetwork.com.

OCTFME also owns, operates, manages, and programs DC Radio 96.3 HD4 digital radio station, the District of Columbia’s first government radio station, in partnership with Howard University’s WHUR. It is one of only two full-power, city-managed and programmed radio stations in the country.

OCTFME provides production support services that advance film, television, video, entertainment, interactive, multimedia, and digital media content creators. These services include permitting, location scouting, production support; job placement assistance; workforce development; and the DC Film, Television, and Entertainment Rebate Fund.

OCTFME provides additional support to the Creative community through the Creative Affairs Office (CAO), and Mayor Muriel Bowser Presents: 202Creates initiative. CAO showcases and preserves the District of Columbia’s rich creative communities throughout all 8 Wards. CAO builds sustainability in the creative community through policy, programming, and education, further expanding the middle-class pathway for the creative workforce. CAO coordinates public, private, and community partners to accomplish all goals and create equitable and inclusive opportunities for the District’s creatives. Mayor Muriel Bowser Presents: 202Creates initiative, administers programs that support the growth and sustainability of the creative industries throughout the District.

For more information, contact the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment at (202) 671-0066, visit us online at: entertainment.dc.gov, and follow us on Facebook.com/entertaindc, Instagram.com/entertain_dc, and Twitter.com/entertain_dc.

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Social Media:

