

Dina Zhanybekova

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA

May 2025

Candidate for Bachelor's in Arts and Science in **Cinema and Media Studies** and **Political Science** (Major GPA: 3.83)

Honors/Awards: **Penn World Scholar (selective program fostering global leadership)**

Clubs: Chess Club, Bent Button (Film production club), Penn Screenwriters Guild

Production experience: Director of Photography, Editor, Script Supervisor, First Assistant Director, Administrator, Unit Production Manager, Actress

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DevLab, University of Pennsylvania, Research Assistant | Philadelphia, PA

February 2024 – present

- Research Assistant for The Machine Learning for Peace Project funded by USAID
- Collect and analyze over 1000 law initiatives across 52 countries examining their impacts on civic freedom within respective countries
- Construct visually compelling graphs in R to present and compare trends in civic freedom across 52 countries over the last 10 years

After Hours Productions, Intern | Los Angeles, CA

June 2023 – December 2023

- Contributed to an upcoming documentary about Feldman Ecopark in Ukraine, directed by [Joshua Zeman](#), by logging over 400 raw footage files into Excel and translating them from Russian and Ukrainian to English
- Initiated and developed a Java program that efficiently identifies timestamp overlaps in caption files, optimizing the subtitling process

Saine Productions, First Assistant Director | New York, NY

August 2023 – September 2023

- Collaborated with the producer to schedule the production of a feature film “[Fidelity](#)”, ensuring efficient use of resources and time
- Created daily call sheets using Excel, providing essential information to cast and crew to streamline film production operations
- Oversaw all departments on the film set resulting in the completion of production in 15 days without any delays

Patriot Pictures, Intern | Los Angeles, CA

June 2023 – August 2023

- Assisted director and producer on set for a feature “Almost Popular” (dir. by Nayip Ramos)
- Wrote 30 script coverage reports
- Conducted data collection and analysis spanning the last decade, evaluating the profitability of mid-budget music films across domestic and international sales markets. Presented findings directly to the CEO, offering strategic recommendations based on insights derived

Ballet Magique, Intern | Los Angeles, CA

June 2023 – August 2023

- Used Movie Magic Scheduling to break down the script, ensuring efficient planning for production schedules
- Pitched social media marketing strategies for the promotion of an upcoming feature film Alexis Colette (dir. by Anthony W. Johnson)
- Organized interviews with the crew members of a feature film Alexis Colette

Price Lab, Video Editor | Philadelphia, PA

May 2022 – August 2022

- Edited documentary series in French using Premiere Pro about the Holocaust survivors for Penn faculty, Melanie Peron
- Conducted research on the Holocaust to add relevant infographics

Wolf Humanities Center (WHC), Media and Communication Assistant | Philadelphia, PA

October 2021 – May 2022

- Revamped 150+ [WHC website](#) pages in two weeks by adjusting their designs and writing descriptions of events (Drupal 9)
- Researched social media UX of Humanities Centers in other universities to improve content strategy of WHC
- Edited podcasts on Adobe Audition improving sound quality and the narration flow ([WHC Soundcloud](#))
- Set up hardware (Panasonic Lumix camera, Zoom H4n recorder, lighting) to live stream public events
- Edited videos using Premiere Pro for events to accommodate ASL users

EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Penn Chess Club, Marketing Director | Philadelphia, PA

September 2023 – present

- Established and managed the club's Instagram account, achieving more than 100 followers within the first week of its creation
- Designed posters that effectively elevated the club's visibility and contributed to a significant increase in club attendance
- Took pictures at the events and edited them using Adobe Lightroom and post reels (over 1200 views per reel)
- Volunteer at the Philadelphia Library teaching children chess

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Language: English (fluent), Russian (native proficiency), Kazakh (proficient), French (elementary)

Technical: Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Lightroom, After Effects, Illustrator, Adobe Audition, Microsoft Office, R, Java, OCaml, HTML, Squarespace, Wix, Movie Magic Scheduling, Python

Interests: Chess, Quantum physics, Podcast, Non-fiction literature, Science/Political Documentaries, Piano