

Mark Torpoco
Viewpoint High School '27

FILMOGRAPHY

- “Still On” (short film, 4:58, 2026). Editor, Writer, Director. A television, and later an iPhone, serve as witnesses to the 1992 Rodney King riots and the 2020 George Floyd protests, quietly linking two generations. The film uses light and color, point of view, and recurring visual motifs to explore the media’s influence on daily life. Involved precise historical research and sound selection to recreate the eras, and features an original end-credit score composed by a classmate. Winner Zaki Gordon Award, produced for Film III class.
- “The Dollhouse Dilemmas” (pilot script, 36 pages, 2026). Co-writer, writers’ room. After losing his job, an obsessive young legal assistant follows a mysterious online informant to an isolated house where he finds himself trapped with a group of strangers in a deadly psychological experiment orchestrated by an inquisitive artificial intelligence. Strengthened collaborative writing skills by working in a simulated television writers’ room with a focus on pitching, revising and consensus-building. Written at the Iowa Young Writer’s Studio—TV Series (Summer Residential).
- “American Gothic” (short film, 4:54, 2026). Sound/VFX Design, Writer, Director. A bullied student becomes fixated on a mysterious house tied to the iconic painting of the same name. Uses sound, shadow, practical lighting and confined spaces to build tension through atmosphere. The production required coordinating multiple locations including exterior shoots at Universal Studios, day-to-night continuity, plus sound and low-light challenges. Produced for Film III class.
- “Sigo de Pie” (short film script, 10 pages, 2026). Writer. After a painful breakup disrupts his training, a young boxer struggles to regain his confidence under the guidance of his coach while preparing for an upcoming fight. Meticulously researched for authenticity and utilizing subtitled Spanish dialogue, the screenplay draws on my Peruvian-American identity to explore themes of resilience and emotional self-worth. Written during a school trip on a bus ride to Lake Titicaca, Peru.
- “Welcome to Bothell” (pilot script, 27 pages, 2025). Writer. Set against the rain-soaked forest of the Pacific Northwest, a stranded traveler becomes drawn into the quiet town where time, loneliness and belonging seem to operate by different rules. Blending psychological mystery with melancholic small-town imagery, the story explores burnout, isolation and the seductive danger of surrendering to escape. Based on my Alpha Young Writers Selection story by the same name and developed for Introduction to Screenwriting class.
- “Viewpoint School Goes to Peru” (documentary, 8:00, 2026). Sound Design, Cinematographer, Editor Writer. On a school trip to Peru, four friends set out to document their cultural heritage experience, but accidentally spiral into a chaotic mockumentary quest for a rumored lost artifact. The film’s visual language experiments with dynamic action coverage and expansive panoramic

compositions, contrasting intimate handheld documentary moments with wide immersive landscapes from Peru. The film both celebrates my Peruvian heritage and satirizes filmmaking itself, as the group's need to "find a story" becomes the story itself. Created freelance on a school trip.

- "How to Wash the Dishes" (short film, 1:39, 2024). Cinematographer, Editor, Writer, Director. An ordinary kitchen tutorial transforms into a stylized horror-comedy through dramatic lighting, suspense editing, and sound design. Created during Film II as an early experiment in mood, visual storytelling, and tonal contrast that later evolved into "American Gothic".
- "Dog DMV" (short film, 1:17, 2026). Cinematographer, Editor, Writer, Director. TikTok comedy sketch imagining a world where dogs must navigate the frustrations of the DMV. An experiment in deadpan editing and working with an animal actor. Created freelance.

AWARDS, HONORS AND OTHER WRITINGS

Zaki Gordon '94 Viewpoint Film Award (2026); Iowa Young Writers Studio-- TV Series (Residential Program, 2026); "Judge the Individual" (2026), essay, International Write the World Competition honorable mention; "Welcome to Bothell" (2024), short story, Alpha Young Writers Selection; "The Carousel in the Park I Once Rode" (2025), poem, American High School Poets honorable mention; "Silent Signals" (2025), poem, LA Library Teen Poetry Contest honorable mention; Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop (Residential Program, 2025); Co-Chair, Viewpoint Literary Scholars (2024-2026); "Surfing One Morning in California Sun" (2023), poem, Robert Frost Society Contest winner; A Viewpoint School Convocation Speaker (2022); *The Kite*, a self-published children's book (2020).

ACTIVITIES AND HOBBIES

Viewpoint High School Varsity Soccer (Goalkeeper, All-CIF 2026); Club Soccer (Goalkeeper, Juventus, MLS Next 2); AYSO Volunteer Youth Referee; Worked as CalSouth Assistant Referee; Viewpoint High School Ultimate Frisbee Club Founder; Viewpoint High School Student Council Class Representative 2025-2026; initiated Viewpoint varsity jacket program; Chair, Latin American Students Association; Certified Scuba Diver; Cooking (Latin American Cuisine); Black belt in Karate.