



WHY ZERO WASTE?

Director Danny Kim speaks about his perceived strengths of the material of new documentary feature *Zero Waste*.

Looking back on the footage I shot in the past year, I managed to document five different individuals who took it upon themselves to make an impact in curbing the plastic waste crisis. Working with these individuals, I have combined the use of vérité and candid interviews to further highlight this growing issue. I am also conscientious of how sound can make an impact in the art of documentary film, so I have chosen to work with one of the top sound mixers in South Korea. With an immersive and rich sound experience, I plan to take my audience to locations not typically associated with plastic waste and open their eyes to this problem by presenting provocative scenes of plastic waste that can be found in their daily lives.

Additionally, I have started incorporating 3D animation techniques to illustrate the current state of the plastic waste crisis in South Korea, specifically the greater Seoul metropolitan area. In my first feature documentary film credited as a producer, *Love Child* (Sundance 2014), we also experimented with 3D animation techniques. I am interested in continuing this exploration of new media to incorporate them into my own traditional documentary practice. The idea of using 3D animation and

particles came to me while reading about how microplastics are now floating in the air and are breathed in by humans every day. By showing the microplastic particles floating in the air in 3D animation, I hope to emphasize the severity of this situation.

In order to realize my vision and elevate this project to the next level, I would like to attend the edit and story lab to receive feedback that will fuel future experimentation of the story structure and narrative arc of *Zero Waste*. My goal is to deliver a finished film that has a universal appeal no matter where you are, what color of your skin is, or whether you're an environmentalist or not.

Some of my favorite documentary work is from Patagonia films, and I've launched *Docu+* in hopes to inspire their tone in films.

I also enjoy watching Netflix docu-series *Chef's Table*, which has inspired me to showcase some of the creative solutions my characters are coming up with in upcycling plastic products from "trash to treasure" using a dazzling tone and manner as seen in *Chef's Table*.

DIRECTOR'S JOURNEY IN MAKING ZERO WASTE

Zero Waste is an environmental documentary and directorial debut film for Danny Kim, a Seoul based documentary filmmaker.

Why did I decided to make a film? I believe that documentaries can have a greater impact when shown to the masses, especially when working with projects centered around environmental messages. This represents my call to action to inspire changemakers to lead their communities.

I am also passionate about working with documentaries opposed to fictional filmmaking because I can show real human drama. With Zero Waste, I am willing to show a fraction of the dramatic conflict that my characters are faced with today in combating plastic waste pollution.

Additionally, I believe documentary films can also serve as archives to modern history. I hope that by directing Zero Waste, I can document a significant era of human history where we are grappling with unprecedented environmental disasters.

However, like most filmmakers, I have faced numerous challenges and obstacles in the production of Zero Waste with the biggest being telling a global issue on a microscopic level. Zero Waste takes on this microscopic focus by observing how individual communities are inspiring change.

As a director who spent half of his life abroad, I am looking for ways to tell this story in a way such that viewers outside of Korea will be drawn in as well. However, I do believe that any good story will have a universal appeal no matter the language barrier, culture, or geographic location of the story.

As I embark in the postproduction stage of Zero Waste, I am most excited to carefully dissect the materials I've shot over the year and to construct a narrative of how a small group of individuals can create a ripple effect in the grand scheme of things such as the environmental movement.

By participating in the weeklong retreat at Sundance Resorts I am excited to share my rough cut to likeminded documentary filmmakers from all over the world. Previously, when I was a graduate student at Duke University, I had the honor of attending the Flaherty Film Seminar as a fellow. I imagine the Sundance Documentary Edit and Story lab will be similar to this experience, but I believe that it will help me garner more opportunities to craft my story. With the feedback provided by this workshop, I will be able to return to the editing room and take into consideration all the feedback I received to carry my project through to the finish line.


Docu+



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