

**Brandon Colvin, Ph.D.
B.A. English, Creative Writing,
2010**

By Bryna Sims & Max Chambers

**Filmmaker & Assistant Professor,
University of Arkansas**

“Develop relationships with your professors. The only limit to your education is your own curiosity, and professors love nurturing the interests of precocious students.”



Western Kentucky University alumnus Brandon Colvin (2010) completed his PhD in Film Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2018, where he also served as a teaching assistant for film courses. He is now an assistant professor in the School of Mass Communication at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Colvin has already produced three feature-length films: *Frames* (2012), *Sabbatical* (2014), and *A Dim Valley* (2021). He also produced the award-winning short film *“Great Light”* (2018).

Frames won the Best Feature of 2013 award from *NoBudge*, a website where independent filmmakers upload their films. It received praise especially for its intelligent representation of a filmmaker's view on the mundane and for its gripping finale. The film *Sabbatical* has received praise from critics for its honest portrayal of loss and relationships. His latest film, *A Dim Valley*, premiered in New York City in July 2021 at Quad Cinema for nearly a week of screenings. The film will also have screenings in Los Angeles and other cities.

Colvin's successes are many and will continue to expand as he advances his career. However, he will always be proud of where he got his start: right here among the Hilltoppers of WKU. Colvin believes that his current career path is almost exactly what he envisioned when he was a student here at WKU.

He is incredibly grateful to WKU and the teachers who helped him here. Colvin says he would not trade his experiences at WKU for anything. He notes that many Potter College professors both encouraged and challenged him to become a better writer and filmmaker. Teachers like Ted Hovet, Mary Ellen Miller, Tom Hunley, and many others helped shape Colvin on his journey.

Colvin's advice for current students comes in three steps: "1) Search for people who are supportive of and excited by you and your ambitions. Latch onto them. 2) Take stock of the resources available to you.... Figure out the most interesting, challenging thing you could do with those resources. Go do it. Invite those supportive people to be part of it. 3) Repeat those steps over and over for the rest of your life."

