

**JAMES KICKLIGHTER**  
**DIRECTOR • PRODUCER**

**Travis Tammero (UTA) • Lucius Cary (Rain)**



Los Angeles-based filmmaker James Kicklighter spent the first 18 years of his life in Bellville, GA, population 123. After the unexpected death of his father at age 12, James has spent his career telling stories about loss and identity, directing and producing films since 2006.

Recent work includes two documentary features, *The American Question*, rated 100% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, exploring the erosion of trust in America over 8 years, and *The Sound of Identity*, rated 91% on Rotten Tomatoes, following Lucia Lucas, following the first Trans opera singer to have a leading role on the American stage. He is currently developing his first documentary series with Lionsgate Television, alongside executive producer Donnie Wahlberg.

Kicklighter's branded work includes the first Chinese spot for Caesars Entertainment and Tulsa Opera. He also directed and produced digital ads for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign, crafting material with politicians and performers, including Lena Dunham, Sean Astin, Kate Walsh, and Miley Cyrus.

Working between narrative films, documentaries and advertising, James brings creative tools from each of these disciplines to approach new material. He is an active member of the Director's Branch of the Television Academy, and is a p.g.a. producer.

Released in 2024, *The American Question* delves into the heart of a divided America, exploring the historical and contemporary factors that have eroded our trust in our neighbors, communities, institutions, and government. With input from numerous experts, including Colin Woodard, Amy Chua, Yuval Levin, and Tania Israel, *The American Question* seeks to answer the pressing question: can America restore trust among its people?

In 2021, Kicklighter released *The Sound of Identity*, premiering on STARZ, now streaming on Prime Video, and available on demand. Taking place in the unlikely setting of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the film is executive produced by Golden Globe®-winner and Academy Award®-nominated Josh Bachove (*Minari*, *The Little Hours*).

His first feature, the international film *Desires of the Heart* (2013), was filmed in Savannah, Georgia and Rajasthan, India. Kris Sharma (Val Lauren, *Medal of Honor*, *Sal*) leaves a budding romance with an artist (Alicia Minshew, "All My Children") in Savannah, for a marriage arranged by his parents in India. There, he discovers centuries old secrets that may determine the fate of his destiny. *Desires* was released theatrically by Luminosity Pictures throughout India.

Creating a myriad of short form content between feature films, titles include the male stripper drama *Angel of Anywhere* (2018), starring Briana Evigan (*Step Up*, *Sorority Row*) and Ser'Darius Blain (*Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*). *Angel* was distributed on television through ShortsTV and on Omeleto, an online streamer of Oscar and BAFTA-qualifying short films.

He serves on the Advisory Board for AMBITION, a Los-Angeles based entrepreneurial program for disadvantaged youth, and on the Advisory Board for the Georgia Southern Department of Communication Arts. He volunteers with the Los Angeles-based Kids in the Spotlight, directing and producing stories written and acted in by foster youth, including *Whatever it Takes* (2024).