

Thomas Sawano

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SUMMARY

Thomas Sawano is an award-winning visual journalist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Multiskilled and an enthusiastic team player, his approach to photography and filmmaking starts from the idea that capturing human psychology through images is the heart of the social good that visual journalism can do. He is excellent at rising to the occasion in tough news scenarios.

EXPERIENCE

Visual Intern THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

June 2024 to
Aug. 2024

- Covered stories ranging from the San Francisco Pride Parade to the plight of gig workers in San Jose to a day of homeschooling between mom and daughter.
- Divided time between work as a staff photojournalist and video producer.
- *For reference, contact Emily Jan at emily.jan@sfchronicle.com*

Production Coordinator BLUPRINT FILMS

Mar. 2023 to
Aug. 2023

- Wrote pitch materials and grant applications for *A Good Medicine*, an upcoming documentary series that interrogates the science behind alternative medicine.
- Researched potential characters and conducted pre-interviews.
- Hired freelance crew and worked as a production assistant during shoots.
- Shot interviews while attending a conference with main characters in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- *For reference, contact Libby Spears at libbyspears@bluprintfilms.com*

Correspondent Intern LOOKOUT SANTA CRUZ

Aug. 2022 to
Dec. 2022

- Covered beats ranging from electoral politics in Watsonville, CA to the science of food waste disposal.
- Contributed to the outlet's atmospheric storm live blog coverage, for which *Lookout* won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News.
- *For reference, contact Tamsin McMahon at tamsin@lookoutlocal.com*

Editorial Intern THE PRISON JOURNALISM PROJECT

Jan. 2022 to
May 2022

- Edited stories submitted by incarcerated contributors for copy and structure.
- Supported their contributors with additional reporting, research, and fact-checking.
- Placed stories on the organization's CMS and penned a monthly, 'In Case You Missed It' newsletter.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Master's of Journalism, Documentary Filmmaking, 2025

- Philomathia Foundation Grant recipient: *The Glacier Wedding*
- Departmental Fellow, 2023-24

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

B.A. in Philosophy, B.S. in Cognitive Science, 2022

- Reporter and City Desk Editor for student weekly *City on a Hill Press*.
- Studied abroad at the University of Edinburgh in Fall 2021.

SKILLS

- Lighting (via strobe and continuous)
- Non-fiction cinematography (framing interviews, run-and-gun cinematography, recording location sound)
- Documentary photography
- Photo editing (via Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop) and news filing (via Photo Mechanic)
- Video editing (via Adobe Premiere and Final Cut Pro)
- Video motion graphics (via Adobe After Effects)
- AP Style newswriting