

John A. Kantara

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Personal Details:

03. July 1964 • Bonn • Germany
Male • Married

TV Producer/Director

Creative and dynamic professional with extensive experience producing TV documentaries and reportages for ZDF, ARTE, 3sat, and ARD. Proven success in managing variety of operational and financial aspects of network shows production. Speaks & writes fluently in German & English; Reads French. **Areas of expertise include...**

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- Media Programmes
 - Creative Writing
 - Corporate Communication
 - Relationship Building
 - Filming / Editing
 - Production Operations
 - Current Affairs
 - Team Collaboration
 - Project Management
 - Risk Assessment & Mitigation
 - Administrative Support
 - Budgeting & Cost Reduction

Professional Experience

Kantara Films & Documentaries – Owner / Director

2000 – Present

Currently (2020) in production to develop three creative and high-impact documentaries of one hour. Generate one science documentary for ARTE TV on Black Holes and the role they played for the development of life as we know it and two parts of a five-part German-Canadian historical series on Truth and Lies in war and conspiratory theories for ZDF TV and TVO Canada.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Developed, produced, directed, and often narrated 70 long format TV documentaries and reportages for German Television within US, Africa, Europe, and Asia.
(<https://www.kantara.de/filmographie/>).
- Dealt with complex subjects in difficult and at times dangerous places and circumstances (Pakistan, Iraq, and Egypt).
- Led and mentored high-potential artistic teams and professionals as well as managed large-scale budgets up to 200K for each film to get the best possible outcome.

AVE – Reporter / Producer

1997 – 2000

Develop and produce documentaries for SAT 1 TV, ZDF TV and 3sat Television.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

- Exhibited active participation in development of several science documentary series for 3 sat television.

DIE ZEIT TV Magazin – Reporter / Producer

1993 – 1997

Acted as a TV-Reporter for Germany's largest weekly broadsheet newspaper DIE ZEIT in Hamburg, Germany. Produced more than 100 short format TV reports (5 -6 minutes) covering, arts & history, politics, business, science and armed forces.

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KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

- Cover Story of DIE ZEIT Magazin (Print) on Jews who killed Nazis in post World War II Europe



DEKRA HOCHSCHULE für MEDIEN – Lead Contributor

University of Applied Science

2018 – 2019

Developed a new master programme in "Risk, Crisis- and Conflict Communications", which presented together with German Council on Foreign Relations at a symposium.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

- Secured new contacts within academia and research institutions that resulted in culminating in a two day symposium with the German Council on Foreign Relations.

DEKRA HOCHSCHULE für MEDIEN – Programme Director

University of Applied Science

2013 – present

Founded West Africa student Exchange programme for bringing DAAD funded German journalism students to research and write Bachelor thesis on West African media systems. Collaborated with Almer Mater, Free University of Berlin, Kantara brought together Information Communication Technology (ICT) researchers from the University of Ghana at Legon, School of Communications and the Institute of Media and Communication Studies of the Free University of Berlin.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

- Engaged in changing perception of Africa and her people in German students of journalism and future communication multipliers.

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DEKRA HOCHSCHULE für MEDIEN – Professor of Journalism

University of Applied Science

2011 - present

Directed and managed all practical national and international media programmes, especially the final exams student publications and broadcasts. Strengthened communication base with management of Technical University Berlin, the German History Museum and the German Hygiene-Museum, Dresden for obtaining desired outcomes. Held accountable for teaching ethics in journalism at DEKRA Hochschule für Medien.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Film curator of the exhibition "The Invention of Human Races" at Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden (<https://www.dhmd.de/ausstellungen/rueckblick/rassismus/>).
- Produced films on German Colonialism with students for exhibition "German Colonialism" at German History Museum (<https://www.dhm.de/ausstellungen/archiv/2016/deutscher-kolonialismus.html>).

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY – Guest Lecturer

Global School of Journalism & Communications, Baltimore, USA

2018

Education / Training

Postgraduate studies in International Journalism

City University in London, England 1993

Master's Degree Political Science (Diplom-Politologe)

Free University Berlin, Germany 1991

Trained Medic with the German Navy

National Service 1985

Achievements & Awards

Awarded for his Print journalism by the German Academy for Technological Sciences (2007) and was for eight years in the Jury of Prix Média, the Award of the Suisse Academy of Technical Sciences (2010-2018)

Won Award in Journalism of the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation (2011)

Received in 2012 the prestigious Georg-von-Holtzbrinck Award for Science Journalism for TV Documentaries and also that year the German Journalism Award for Space and Aeronautics for his documentary on the Space Shuttle – End of an Era

The Otto-Brenner-Foundation awarded Kantara in 2013 with the Prize in critical Journalism for ARD Documentary "Killing via joystick – the Drone war and consequences"

Award of 7th International Festival of Documentary Films on Life Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic for documentary on Veganism (2017)

Film-Screening at the invitation of the United States Congress Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe during Black History Month 2018 in Washington D.C.

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