In 2000 Laurence produced and directed his first documentary film, “Fidel’s Fight”, based on cockfighting in Cuba. The film screened in competition at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival, the Doubletake Documentary Film Festival and won Best Cinematography at the New York Independent Film Festival in 2001.

Following a series of television commercials that he directed in 2003, Laurence was shortlisted for the Best Young Director Award at the Clio Advertising Awards and the Cannes Lions International Festival. Laurence has since directed a wide range of television commercials for both the US and Canadian markets.

2008 saw the completion of “Tobira No Muko / Left Handed”, Laurence’s first feature film as writer/director, which was produced in collaboration with executive producer Takao Saiki through Size, Inc. Cast with non-actors and filmed entirely on location in Tokyo, the film was awarded Best Feature at the Milan Film Festival, the Rhode Island Film Festival, L’Aquila Film Festival and the Japan Film Festival, won the Jr Jury Award at the Lyon Asian Film Festival and screened in competition at the Rotterdam International Film Festival, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, the Festival du Nouveau Cinema in Montreal, and the Fukuoka Film Festival, where it has received enthusiastic reviews. “Left Handed” is distributed by Vanguard Cinema (vanguardcinema.com).

“Pursuit of Loneliness”, Laurence’s second film as writer/director was shot entirely in Los Angeles and was produced by Ken Hanada through Growth Films.

Laurence is currently in preproduction on his third feature, “Vessels”, set in India and based on the subject of surrogacy and medical tourism. The project is slated to begin shooting in 2012.
An elderly female patient dies in a county hospital leaving no known next of kin. Over the course of the next twenty-four hours, the film charts the efforts of four central characters in finding a family member to contact in regards to the death of this anonymous individual; a nurse, a social worker, the emergency contact person listed on the decedent’s admission form, and lastly an investigator from the public administrator’s office.

Slowly but surely we become privy to the manner in which all belongings, holdings and personal effects of the decedent are gathered and accounted for, and we begin to understand that we are in fact witness to the systematic eradication and extinction of an individual. This is essentially a cautionary tale of the preciousness of community and the importance of family that have been taken far too much for granted in a social climate of comparative wealth and cultural apathy.

“Pursuit of Loneliness” was written and directed by Laurence Thrush. Acclaimed artist William Basinski provides the soundtrack. The cast is comprised of real doctors, nursing staff and investigators from the Los Angeles Coroner’s Office, and the film blends elements of documentary realism within the confines of a strong narrative.

The film is set in Los Angeles, where as many as 100 people are employed in the office of the public administrator to manage the unclaimed bodies of the deceased with no next of kin. A study of the way in which institutional health care and bureaucracy can desensitize us to the point where we lose sight of the face of humanity behind human suffering, the film poses the difficult question of whether people end up living in a certain way because they choose to or because society reduces them to a certain type of existence.