

Steve Downer

Director-Cameraman, DOP, Camera Operator, Photographer

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PROFILE

A versatile, creative and dedicated film & video cameraperson and stills photographer, with considerable and diverse experience in broadcast television, cinema and the corporate sector. Proven ability to undertake highly responsible roles including Director of Photography, Director-Cameraman, Lighting Cameraman, Camera Operator and Photographer, and to complete projects to the highest standard and within agreed deadlines and budgets. Key skills include:

- Artistic Vision.
- Creativity and meticulous attention to detail.
- Ability to give and accept direction.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Diplomacy and tact when working with team members, the public and artistic talent. Has worked with presenters including David Attenborough, Bill Oddie, Kate Humble, Ben Fogle.
- Knowledge of the requirements of the relevant Health & Safety legislation and procedures.
- Experience of working in hostile environments & with dangerous animals.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Renowned within UK and worldwide television industry for skills in filming animal behaviour and for work in developing and using specialist techniques including deep-focus optics, macro and time-lapse photography.
- Recognised as one of the **HOT 100** UK television creative talents in November 2006 by **BROADCAST** magazine.
- Winner of numerous industry awards including 2 News & Documentary **EMMY** awards for Outstanding Achievement in a Craft - Cinematographers.
- Master Photographers Association LMPA distinction, 1982.

CAREER HISTORY

2003 - Present

Worked as Director of Photography / Camera Operator on numerous independent feature films, short films, music videos and corporate videos including:

VISIONS OF THE ARABIAN DESERT – TwoFour Arabia (HD Abu Dhabi wildlife feature film 2013)

hibu - Filmed web commercials for businesses in the West Midlands region. (2011 - ongoing)

RENTOKIL – contributed to a definitive video database of pest species – 400 Company (2011)

LAST CHANCE ROMANCE - SHh... Productions (short film 2008)

MY GENERATION – Project Monkey. Music video for boy band BILLIAM (2008)

A MOMENT OF GUILT - Alex Lichtenfels/Steffan Aquarone (feature film 2007)

SAUSAGES COME FROM PIGS - UK Meat & Livestock Commission (promotional video 2007)

THE URBAN FREESTYLER EXTREME - Brick Lane Films (special interest sports DVD 2007)

NADINE - Matchstix Productions (feature film 2006)

GORGEOUS LABOUR OF LOVE - SHh... Productions (short film 2005)

SEVERN PARK - Mike Bennett (training video for Avon & Somerset Fire Service 2004)

E SANAM - Corner Pocket Films (music video for Bollywood star Kamaal Khan 2003)

RED SQUIRRELS - Red Alert Charity (promotional video 2003)

WINGS OVER WARMINGTON - Conceived, wrote, filmed, edited, and designed packaging for a promotional DVD, , for Fir Tree Falconry Centre in Warwickshire, 2007.

MICROCOSMOS - Worked with Surrey University to photograph macro & micro images of bacteria for an audio visual installation featuring the music of Professor Milton Mermikides of the Royal College of Music. Presented during Guildford Music Festival, 2007.

BIZCLIP - Filmed web commercials for businesses in the West Midlands region. 2008 – 2010.

2006 – Present

Worked as freelance Senior Cameraman at **ANIMALS ON BLUE**, a company specialising in producing footage of animals filmed against blue and green backgrounds, for chroma-key use in feature films and commercials. I was asked to bring my natural history filming experience to the company by devising techniques for studio filming of small animals & invertebrates using high-end digital cameras – the ARRI D20 / D21, RED ONE MYSTERIUM-X and RED EPIC 5K. I now film the company's commissioned television commercials as well as shooting library footage. Also worked with a subsidiary of this company, **NOAH'S APPS** to develop websites and Smart Phone Apps on animal subjects, e.g. www.noahsdogs.com , launched 2013.

1981 - Present

Worked as Director-Cameraman and Specialist Camera Operator on over 100 broadcast television productions for clients worldwide. These are mostly blue-chip natural history and science documentaries and have involved travelling to locations across the world including North, South & Central America, Canadian Arctic, Africa, Arabia, China, Japan, India, Burma, Indonesia, and Australia. The programmes worked on, either as the main cameraperson or a major contributor include:

THE SEASONS, WITH ALAN TITCHMARSH – TIGER ASPECT (2008-2009)

EXTRAORDINARY ANIMALS IN THE WOMB – PIONEER PRODUCTIONS (2008)

NATURE OF BRITAIN - BBC (2007)

SPRINGWATCH - BBC (2006)

COAST - BBC (2006)

INVASION OF THE BODYSCRATCHERS - FOX TV (2006)

PLANET EARTH - BBC (2005)

LIFE IN THE UNDERGROWTH - BBC (2005)

ATTACK OF THE GIANT GERBILS – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV (2004)

ANIMAL PARK - ENDEMOL/BBC - Also appeared on-screen discussing filming techniques with Ben Fogle & Kate Humble. (2004)

DRAGONS ALIVE - BBC (2003)

JOURNEY OF LIFE - BBC (2003)

ANIMAL CAMERA - BBC (2002)

WILDLIFE SPECIAL - SERPENTS - BBC (2001)

SNAKE HUNTER USA / SNAKE HUNTER CENTRAL AMERICA – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV (2000)

PREDATORS - BBC (1999)

AFRICA'S DEADLY DOZEN - TIGRESS/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV (1999)

THE BLUE PLANET - BBC (1998)

KING COBRA – ZEBRA FILMS/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV (1996)

Also worked as a freelance film and digital photographer on a wide range of commissions including weddings, child & family lifestyle portraiture, equine photography, pet photography, property photography, web & printed catalogue photography, and supplied nature photographs to numerous books and publications through the **ARDEA** image library.

1980 - 1981

Employed as a specialist camera operator and stills photographer at **London Scientific Films Ltd** in London. Roles included filming for the groundbreaking BBC series, **BELLAMY'S BACKYARD SAFARI**, and taking still images for numerous veterinary and educational publications. I also worked with LSF's sister companies, MediCine and Bolsover Press, and spent two months photographing over 1000 historic medical specimens at the Royal College of Surgeons.

1976 - 1980

Worked as stills photographer on freelance projects, including two years working for **Tor Films Ltd / The Rank Organisation** on the classic children's feature film **TARKA THE OTTER**. As well as being the films publicity photographer, producing material for books and magazines, I also worked as an assistant film camera operator and helped with the handling of the otters and other animals used in the film.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- 25+ years experience of using professional 16mm/Super 16mm/35mm/Super35mm cinematography cameras, particularly AATON and ARRIFLEX.
- 15+ years experience of shooting on HD and SD video formats – RED, HDCAM, HDCAM-SR, DVCPRO-HD, P2, All-Intra, AVCHD, HDV, DigiBeta, Beta SX, DVCAM, miniDV.
- Undertaken training in the use of particular High Definition cameras - ARRI D20 / D21, Panasonic F27 VariCam, SONY HDW750P, SONY HDW900R CineAlta, RED ONE, RED EPIC.
- In-depth knowledge of lighting equipment and lighting techniques.
- Specialist knowledge of macro & micro filming, time-lapse photography, high speed filming, and blue/green screen filming.
- Experience of recording sound on location and in studio.
- Able to conceive, design and construct specialist items of equipment for the particular needs of a production. In the past, these have included deep focus optical systems and computerised time lapse units and motion control rigs.
- 30+ years experience of using location and studio stills photography and lighting equipment.
- Fully conversant with the latest digital technology.

COMPUTER / IT SKILLS

- Operational Systems - Microsoft Windows XP/Vista / 7, 8, Mac OS.
- Word processors - Microsoft Word, Open Office.
- Image manipulation - Adobe Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, Adobe Light Room, Portrait Professional.
- Video editing - Apple Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere Pro, Sony Vegas.
- Microsoft Internet Explorer, Internet.
- Experience of website creation, HTML.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Driving Licence. Full, clean UK licence.
- Holder of UK Passport.