

Hein van Zijl

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An award-winning cinematographer with 22 years of film and television industry experience

Complements advanced technical skills with creative vision and sensitivity
Has received one SAFTA award, two SAFTA and one CANNES nominations since 2015
Experienced with Wildlife documentaries, soaps, short films, TV dramas, commercials, documentaries, reality tv, sport and still photography

PERSONAL PROFILE

A cinematographer, still photographer and team leader with a record of commercially successful productions. Now looking for a role that utilizes and develops these technical and creative talents.

- Determined and results-focused with a passion for the industry and a commitment to the highest professional standards
 - Able to lead, train and develop teams – works respectfully with people from different cultures and backgrounds
 - Friendly and outgoing with a strong work ethic; a thoughtful communicator who performs exceptionally well in teams and develops strong workplace relationships
- Very creative – forms partnerships with film directors to create powerful and original work

Professional Assets

Expertise in camera operation, sound and lighting for both studio and location shoots
Pragmatic and rational – focuses on the most efficient use of resources, time and money
Collaborative and adaptable – works effectively with very different personalities including sound and lighting crews, directors, box producers, actors and creative departments
Strong management and organizational skills – keeps the studio on-task and to schedule
Commercially astute and financially literate with experience in small business operation
Prioritizes conflicting demands, manages workloads and maintains integrity under severe time and financial pressure

SHOWREEL

This is a collection of recent and representative work across a variety of formats.

https://youtu.be/6GHpqlrC_ko (The Challenge)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKqY6Ckft_4 (Damaraland)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-aGwuus2-s> (BBC Cultural Story)

<https://www.today.com/video/meet-the-woman-fighting-to-save-endangered-cheetahs-from-extinction-88898117713> (Cheetah Fund)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFOAEpNwfDY> (BBC Herero Girl Story)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iC0eqXSLM_xWa3F2TfLlJlriNpLsf52b/view (BSFI 10min - 15min)
<https://youtu.be/lwgKFiTb5NI> (Desi Lydic)
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5NmYQZeb6I> (Drama Showreel 2017)
<http://linkedin.com/in/hein-van-zijl-932122119> (LinkedIn)

CAREER SUMMARY

Film Fixer

Variety of internationals clients, 2018 - Current

DP Film Fixer

BBC, ZDF, Galileo, NBC Universal & Nat Geo Variety Shows, 2018 - Current

Camera Operator

Dezi Lydic Productions, Comedy Central, USA, 2018

Camera Operator

The Challenge, MTV, USA, 2018

Head of Lighting

Collective Productions, #LandOfTheBraveFilm, Namibia, 2018

Head of Camera Department

Quizzical Pictures, South Africa, May 2007 – 2018

Owner & Director

ProVid Productions, South Africa, Jun 2011 – Sep 2016

Camera Operator

Backstage (E-TV), South Africa, Oct 2005 – Apr 2007

Junior Camera Operator

Danie Odendaal Productions, South Africa, Sep 2002 – Sep 2005

Production Assistant

Danie Odendaal Productions, South Africa, Sep 2001 – Aug 2002

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Film Fixer - Namibia - 2018 - Current

- Science North (Canadian) - Cheetah Film - July 2021
- BBC (British) - Herero Project - April 2019
- BBC (British) - Wildlife Project - September 2020
- Deutsche Welle (German) - Street Debates - February 2022
- Deutsche Welle (German) - 77 Percent - August 2022
- Galaxie Press (French) - Expedition - November 2022
- Dix Dix-Neuf Productions (French) - Desert Trekking - January 2023
- Max Contact Co. Ltd (Japanese) - Desert Lion Project - April 2023
- POA Network Inc. (Japanese) - Natural History - July 2023
- The Far Eastern TV Entertainment Inc. (Japanese) - Khoi San Project - August 2023

Freelance Filmmaker - Namibia - 2018 - Current

- Cinematographer on various international productions (Link references on request).

Freelance Scout & Location Manager - Namibia - 2018 - Current

- One Strange Rock - Nutopia - UK
- Honda - Gatehouse - SA
- The Challenge - Bunim-Murray Productions – USA
- Genesis – Stilling - SA
- The Power - Film Africa - SA
- Blackbird - Metafilms – Canada
- San - Amnesty International – SA
- Fascination Earth – ZDF – Germany
- Wild World Diaries – FOP – SA
- Natural History – NHK - Japan

Head of Camera Department - Quizzical Pictures - 2007-2018

The company has approximately 150 employees and is one of South Africa's major film and television production houses. It is frequently contracted for production work by e.tv, (one of the largest television channels in South Africa) and the state-owned South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

- Leading a team of six in the Camera Department and managing technical operations on the studio floor including lighting and sound crews
- Structuring of training and development programs
- Training and development of junior crew members
- Formulating daily feedback reports of training and development progress
- Managing and directing of internships
- Working on the filming and production of a wide variety of content including television dramas, soap operas, documentaries and short films
- Ensuring that content is complete and ready to go to the post-production process
- Establishing a creative relationship with each film director – developing rapport and finding a consistent style of filming that reflects and complements their interpretation of the script
- Developing a common understanding with the director on the approach for each episode; helping the director steer actors and creative departments in this direction
- Reviewing shoots with the whole production team and making changes and revisions
- Staying calm and patiently working with others – including sometimes flamboyant or emotional personalities
- Showing respect at all times to people with different cultural perspectives and backgrounds
- Working as efficiently as possible under considerable time pressure due to high production costs
- Regularly multi-tasking by planning the setup for up a shoot as the director does the preliminary walk-through with the actors
- Reduced production downtime by developing the capacity to fix a number of technical issues on the spot without having to wait for engineers
- Improved the resilience of the production process by cross-training a number of junior operators to fill in for other roles if needed
- Staying creatively fresh by examining the work of renowned cinematographers worldwide and keeping up with trends

- Conducting location shoots as the Director of Photography; dealing with the physical and technical challenges of the environment, weather and natural light

Owner & Director – ProVid Productions Jun 2011 - Sep 2016

- Managing a small, private professional photography and film- production company
Concentrating primarily on the corporate market and supporting brand activations through the creation of video, photographic and multi-media content
- Major clients include Bossaball Sports (International), Zinto Marketing, Kruger National Park and Pilanesberg Resorts Working end-to-end from the initial filming or photographic work, through to edited, production-ready content
- Developing a network of contacts in the corporate sector to drive additional business and managing all financial aspects of the company

Camera Operator – Backstage (E-TV) Oct 2005 - Apr 2007

- Second-in-charge to the Head of Department and worked predominantly on the channel's news production and creative content including soap operas
- Managed all technical aspects of the shoots

QUALIFICATIONS

Certificate in Advanced Art Photography

National College of Photography, South Africa 2003

Certificate in Film, TV and Multimedia

Institute of Film, TV and Multimedia, South Africa 2001

**Note: Awarded 'Best Student' in the graduation year and directed a short film as part of the course*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Received in-house training from Quizzical Pictures on the core functions and responsibilities of a Director and Producer.
- Trained as Box Producer by Sam Martin, a leading figure in the South African television industry.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ◆ Cinematography
- ◆ Sound
- ◆ Vision control & mixing
- ◆ Jimmy Jib operator
- ◆ Photography
- ◆ Lighting
- ◆ Drone pilot
- ◆ Final cut pro editor

Awards

- Won a SAFTA (South African Film and TV Award) for best 'Soap of the Year' (2015/16)
- Two SAFTA nominations for 'Best Cinematographer in a TV Soap' (2008 and 2015/16)
- SAFTA nomination for 'Best Cinematography in A Short

^{*}
Film' (2016/17)

*Note: developed a strong relationship with a leading director, Darren Kelfkens, on this project.

References:

Justin Booth

Executive Producer, Burnam & Murray Productions, USA

Joseph Guidry

Director of Photography, MTV, USA

Joel Haikali

Owner, Director, Joe Vision Productions, Namibia

David Benade

Owner, Director, Collective Productions, Namibia

Sam Martin

Technical Head, Quizzical Pictures, South Africa

Leon Kriel

Director of Photography, Ferguson Films, South Africa

Darren Kelfkens

Actor/Producer/Director, Adjustment Bureau, South Africa

Andy van Eeden

Head of Sound, E-TV, South Africa

Denny Miller

Director, Backstage, South Africa

Contact details for all referees are available on request.