

Steve Downer

Film & Video Director-Cameraman, DOP & Photographer
Birmingham UK

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Videos: <https://vimeo.com/user4480715> www.youtube.com/user/stevedownerfilms

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

- Able to work in a wide range of genres, from nature & science documentaries to cinema feature & short films, music videos, theatre productions, and corporate & web commercials.
- Highly creative with meticulous attention to detail.
- Generating, writing & developing project ideas.
- Ability to give and accept direction.
- Team leading, including training & developing crew members.
- Effective 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.
- Naturalist with extensive knowledge of animals and environments across the world.

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 -

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

LIVE IN BIRMINGHAM, BREATHE IN THE WORLD / POST GRADUATE VIDEO OPENDAY INTERVIEWS - Birmingham University Media Centre (2015)

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

YELL.com – Filmed over 60 web commercials for businesses in the West Midlands region. (2011 -)

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

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

NADINE - Matchstix Productions (feature film 2006)

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

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.

2006 –

Worked as freelance Senior Cameraman at **ANIMALS ON BLUE**, a company specialising in producing footage of animals filmed against chromakey backgrounds, I was asked to bring my experience to the company by devising techniques for studio filming of small animals & invertebrates using high-end digital cameras. 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 -

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, Canada & Canadian Arctic, Africa, Arabia, China, Japan, India, Burma, Indonesia, and Australia. The programmes & projects include:

RSPB – cameraman on UHD 4K promotional film for RSPB Sherwood Forest reserve (2017)

- cameraman filming cinema 4K macro subjects for the RSPB video library (2016)

BLACK COUNTRY WILD – ongoing personal web project (2014-)

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

EXTRAORDINARY ANIMALS IN THE WOMB – PIONEER PRODUCTIONS (2008)

SPRINGWATCH - BBC (2006)

COAST - BBC (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)

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.

Began shooting stock HD & 4K wildlife video footage in 2013 for own sales and for sale through Nature Picture Library. Clients include Warner Brothers Pictures **GODZILLA**, 2014, BBC **NATURE'S WEIRDEST EVENTS**, 2016, Discovery Channel **OUTRAGEOUS ACTS OF SCIENCE**, 2016.

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.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- 30+ years experience of using professional 16mm/Super 16mm/35mm/Super35mm cinematography cameras, particularly AATON and ARRIFLEX.
- 20+ years experience of shooting on 5K, 4K, UHD, HD & 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 HD and 5K/4K cameras especially RED & SONY.
- In-depth knowledge of lighting equipment and lighting techniques.
- Specialist knowledge of macro & micro filming, time-lapse photography, high speed filming, blue/green screen filming, mini cameras.
- 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 & innovations.

COMPUTER / IT SKILLS

- Operational Systems - Microsoft Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10, and 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, Blackmagic Resolve.
- Microsoft Internet Explorer, Internet.
- Experience of website and blog page creation, HTML.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

EQUIPMENT

Equipment for major High Definition broadcast productions is normally supplied or hired in by the client for the duration of the shoot. The equipment listed below is available for the shoot if required and is included in the daily filming rate.

PANASONIC DMC GH4 UHD/HD video / stills, 16 MP 4/3 format sensor. 4K 100mbs / 1080p 200mbs 8/10 bit. >96 fps + timelapse.

PANASONIC DMC GH3 HD video / stills, 16 MP 4/3 format sensor. 1080p 72mbs 8bit. >60 fps + timelapse.

CinegearPro production cage & 15mm rig unit / follow focus / long lens support for GH4 & GH3 cameras.

OLYMPUS OMD E-M5 HD video / stills, 16 MP 4/3 format sensor.

GoPro Hero 5 Black 4K UHD / 1080 / 720 action camera, up to 120fps at 1080, 240fps at 720, timelapse, remote voice control.

CARL ZEISS DISTAGON T* **28mm** f2.8 lens (covers Super 35mm format)

CARL ZEISS PLANAR T* **50mm** f1.7 lens (covers Super 35mm format)

PANASONIC LUMIX G **14mm** f2.5 lens (Micro Four Thirds format)

SIGMA EX DN **30mm** f2.8 lens (Micro Four Thirds format)

PANASONIC DMW MA-1 Four Thirds to Micro Four Thirds adapter

OLYMPUS MMF-2 Four Thirds to Micro Four Thirds adapter

OLYMPUS ZUIKO **11-22mm** f2.8 -3.5 lens. (Micro Four Thirds format)

OLYMPUS ZUIKO **14-54mm** f2.8 - 3.5 lens. (Micro Four Thirds format)

OLYMPUS ZUIKO **40-150mm** f4 - 5.6 lens. (Micro Four Thirds format)

SIGMA DC **55-200mm** f4 - 5.6 lens. (APS-C format)

NIKON MICRO NIKKOR **55mm** f2.8 macro (covers Super 35mm format)

NIKON MICRO NIKKOR **60mm** f2.8 macro (covers Super 35mm format)

SIGMA EX **105mm** f2.8 macro (covers Super 35mm format)

NIKON IFED **300mm** f4.5 with 2X extender (**600mm**) (covers Super 35mm format)

TOKINA SD **400mm** f5.6 (covers Super 35mm format)

SONY DT **16-105mm** f3.5 - 5.6 lens (APS-C format)

SONY DT SAM **55-200mm** f4 - 5.6 lens (APS-C format)

SIGMA APO macro **70-300mm** f4 - 5.6 lens (APS-C format)

SONY MACRO DT SAM **30mm** f2.8 (APS-C format) + Century DS-55WA-37 0.55x wide angle adapter for 45% image increase

SIGMA EX **50mm** f2.8 macro lens (covers Super 35mm format)

NIKON & SONY AF macro extension tubes for 2:1 magnification

NANOHA AF 10mm & 16mm macro extension tubes for Micro Four Thirds lenses

LENS MOUNT ADAPTERS to fit all of the above lenses to PANASONIC LUMIX GH3 & GH4 cameras

LENS MOUNT ADAPTERS to fit above Nikon mount Super 35mm lenses to Canon EOS mount cameras

Own design Macro/Borescope/Periscope deep-focus lens system. Can be mounted to Panasonic GH4 / GH3

LEICA HI Plan 4X infinity microscope lens system with focussing slide. Can be mounted to Panasonic GH4 / GH3 to film subjects from 8.5mm to 2mm frame width.

Radio remote control (ON / OFF / AF) of Panasonic GH4 & GH3 cameras.

Wi-Fi remote control of all functions & monitoring of video image of GH4 / GoPro using **SAMSUNG** Galaxy Tab4 7" tablet.

TASCAM DR-60D 4 Track Stereo / Mono Field Recorder 44.1/48/96 kHz 16/24bit WAV / BWF. SD/SDHC media

RODE NTG-1 shotgun microphone phantom power XLR **RODE** DeadCat wind cover

RODE VIDEOMIC microphone. 3.5mm or XLR 2x wired Lavalier microphones

RODE VIDEOMICRO compact on-camera microphone, 3.5mm, with furry wind cover

RODE 2 meter boom pole **AKG** K518 closed back headphones

MANFROTTO 510 100mm bowl fluid head. Tall & short tripod legs.

MANFROTTO 502 Bridge Technology 75mm bowl fluid head & legs.

ACUTER MERLIN remote pan & tilt head for realtime and timelapse filming.

DAGU ROVER 5 remote tracked vehicle for low level tracking shots. 7.5kg payload.

RATRIG 100cm V-slot slider unit with stepper motors for manual or computerised control. 5kg payload.

2x 21.5w 1800 lumen 240 volt LED floodlights **CN126** 126LED 7.6w 540 lumen battery lights (2 hrs) (x2)

LED 12 volt cold lights for macro filming (x10) **F&V** K160 24LED 160 lux battery lights (30 mins) for location macro filming (x3)

DIALL 10w 600 lumen single LED lithium battery (3 hrs) waterproof floodlight for location filming

SCHOTT KL1500T fibre optic unit & flexible light guides for studio macro & micro filming.

SUZUKI JIMNY VVT 4x4 All Terrain vehicle.