

Steve Downer

Film & HD Video Lighting Cameraman / Director of Photography
WILDLIFE - SCIENCE - FEATURES - COMMERCIALS

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CV, CREDITS & EQUIPMENT LIST

I'm a Film and High Definition Video Lighting Cameraman and Director of Photography with credits on over 100 television programmes, and the winner of numerous awards for cinematography including two News & Documentary Emmy's for **Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft - Cinematographers** for the National Geographic film **THE LAST FROG**, and for ABC's Living Edens – **DENALI, ALASKA'S LAST WILDERNESS**. My National Geographic film **KING COBRA**, won an Emmy Award for **Outstanding Program Achievement** in 1998 and was nominated for **Outstanding Cinematography**. In November 2006, **BROADCAST** magazine listed me as one of the **HOT 100** television talents of the year.

I began freelancing in 1981, after spending three years as assistant cameraman to filmmaker Ron Eastman on BBC wildlife programmes and the classic children's feature film **TARKA THE OTTER**, and a year as a staff cameraman at London Scientific films working mostly on the groundbreaking macro special effects series **BELLAMY'S BACKYARD SAFARI**.

Since then I've worked as a freelance Cinematographer in locations across the world including North, South & Central America, Alaska, India, China, Japan, Africa, Arabia, Australia, Indonesia, Burma, and the Arctic.

The prestigious series I have contributed to include the BBC's **PLANET EARTH**, **BLUE PLANET**, **WILDLIFE ON ONE**, and **THE NATURAL WORLD**, and National Geographic's **EXPLORER**, filming a diverse range of animals - from big cats and venomous snakes, to the microscopic mites that live in the ear of a moth.

Since 2003 I've been diversifying my skills and have worked on numerous non natural history projects as Director of Photography / Lighting Cameraman including two independent feature films, five short films, three music videos, and over thirty corporate & web videos.

I have experience of shooting on many film and video formats, including **Super 35mm**, **Super 16mm**, **RED**, **HDCAM**, **HDCAM-SR**, **DVC PROHD** (tape & P2), **HDV**, **DigiBeta**, **MiniDV**, and **DVCAM**.

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CREDITS / PROJECTS

1995 - 2011

2011

ANIMALS ON BLUE

Working as freelance Senior Cameraman with specialist chromakey company operating RED MYSTERIUM-X 4.5K camera to film commercials and TV inserts (most recently for CARTOON NETWORK) and library footage of wild and domestic animals. Also working with a subsidiary of this company, **NOAH'S APPS** to develop interactive websites and Smart Phone apps on animal subjects.

400 COMPANY

Specialist filming for a definitive video database of pest species for RENTOKIL. ProHD on JVC HD110.

YELL.com

Freelance regional video cameraman filming website commercials. ProHD on JVC HD110.

2010

AL AIN WILDLIFE PARK & RESORT PROJECT, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

West Park Pictures. Specialist wildlife cameraman on HD feature film for the Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Centre. HDCAM, Sony F900R.

BIZCLIP Inc / YELL.com / Touch Local

Freelance regional video cameraman filming website commercials. DV on JVC HD110

2009

THE SEASONS WITH ALAN TITCHMARSH

Tiger Aspect for ITV 1. Specialist Lighting Cameraman on 4 part High Definition Alan Titchmarsh series. Seasonal shooting from Autumn 2008 - Autumn 2009. HDCAM on Sony HDW F900R.

BIZCLIP Inc / YELL.com / Touch Local

Freelance regional video cameraman filming website commercials. DV on JVC HD110.

2008

THE SEASONS WITH ALAN TITCHMARSH

Tiger Aspect for ITV 1. Specialist Lighting Cameraman on 4 part High Definition Alan Titchmarsh series. Seasonal shooting from Autumn 2008 - Autumn 2009. HDCAM on Sony HDW 900R.

BIZCLIP Inc / YELL.com / Touch Local

Freelance regional video cameraman filming website commercials. DV on JVC HD110.

A TURTLE'S GUIDE TO THE PACIFIC

BBC. Contributing cameraman. Super 16

MY GENERATION

Project Monkey. Music video for British boy band, BILLIAM. ProHD on JVC HD110.

WINGS OVER WARMINGTON

Filed, edited and wrote 52 minute promotional DVD for Fir Tree Falconry Centre. DV

ANIMALS ON BLUE

Filming tropical butterflies against blue screen using the new Arri D21 High Definition digital cinematography camera. HDCAM-SR 4:4:4.

EXTRAORDINARY ANIMALS IN THE WOMB

Pioneer Productions / National Geographic TV. Specialist filming in the USA of kangaroo joeys in their mother's pouches using high definition endoscope probe. DVCPROHD. **Winner of the Parthenon Entertainment Award for Innovation at the 2010 WILDScreen FESTIVAL in Bristol.**

2007

A MOMENT OF GUILT

Alex Lichtenfels/Steffan Aquarone. DOP on independent feature film shot in Birmingham. ProHD.

ANIMALS ON BLUE

Filming venomous snakes and birds of prey against blue screen using the Arri D20 High Definition digital cinematography camera. HDCAM SR 4:4:4.

NATURE OF BRITAIN

BBC. Filming freshwater invertebrates for Alan Titchmarsh series. ProHD on JVC HD110.

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ANIMALS ON THE EDGE

Windfall Films. Filming unique footage of the young of the world's smallest mammal & rarest bat, the Bumblebee Bat. on location in Burma. ProHD on JVC HD110.

LAST CHANCE ROMANCE

SHhhh...Entertainment. Short surreal film shot on location on Stiffkey Marshes, Norfolk, ProHD.

Winner of Best Short Film Montebello d'Oro award, Corto E Mangiato Film Festival, Italy 2009

THE CRIMSON WING - MYSTERY OF THE FLAMINGOS

Kudos/Crimson Wing/Disney Nature. Assisted with filming & lighting specialist sequence of flamingo eggs hatching for Disney feature film. Super 35mm - Arri 435.

THE URBAN FREESTYLER EXTREME

Brick Lane Films. Camera operator on a series of 12 urban freestyle extreme sports videos filmed in London, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham & Manchester. HDV / Canon XL H1.

60 DAYS OF GOODBYE POEMS OF OPHELIA / MICROCOSMOS

Wellcome Trust/Surrey University. Art installation project. The famous Pre-Raphaelite painting of Ophelia is recreated in coloured bacteria and using timelapse photography the image is seen to transform and decompose over a 60 day period. During the filming of **OPHELIA**, I also worked with microbiologist Dr. Simon Park to photograph digital still images of bacteria in extreme close up. The resulting images, set to music specially written by Milton Mermikides, Professor of Music Technology at the Royal College of Music, were used to create a stunning audio visual installation **MICROCOSMOS** shown during the Guildford Music Festival March 2007.

MACHINE

Letterbox Entertainment. Technical Advisor on music video for heavy metal band, **Rue the Day**.

SAUSAGES COME FROM PIGS

Market Square Creative Marketing. Promotional DVD for the UK Meat & Livestock Commission showing schoolchildren where their food comes from. DV on JVC HD110.

THE CHAUFFEUR'S HAT

Letterbox Entertainment. Camera operator on independent short film. DV on JVC HD110.

2006

ANIMALS ON BLUE

Filming a variety of animals against blue screen using the ARRI D20 High Definition digital cinematography camera. HDCAM SR 4:4:4.

NADINE

Matchstix Productions. Feature film for cinema, shot in ProHD on JVC HD110. Filmed on location in south London, the story of the final day in the life of a self-harming teenager.

SPRINGWATCH

BBC. Shooting macro DigiBeta footage of caterpillars, butterflies and spiders for for SPRING WATCH 2007.

COAST

BBC. Filming kittiwake behaviour with presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff around Bridlington. DVCAM

NATURE OF BRITAIN

BBC. Filming Super 16 macro footage of large blue butterflies hatching within an ants nest for the Alan Titchmarsh series.

INVASION OF THE BODY SCRATCHERS

Scream Films. Shooting macro HDV video footage of parasites for a 3-part SKY/BSB series.

SIGNING IN THE CITY OF LONDON

Corporate video and website material for Woodhouse plc showing the robotic manufacturing process used to produce signposts giving directions to London landmarks. MiniDV

HANS & STANLEY

Letterbox Entertainment /Tim Partridge. Independent short film shot on Super 16.

2005

SONY HDCAM SHOWREEL

High Definition material shot on HDW750P for Sony's HD showcase presentation at IBC 2005.

FORESTRY COMMISSION OSPREY CENTRE

Video of badgers & red squirrels for presentation at the Osprey Visitor Centre. MiniDV

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT TURNER?

Pilot for a proposed television series bringing great art and artists to young people in a unique and

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entertaining way. MiniDV

GORGEOUS LABOUR OF LOVE

SHhhh... Entertainment. Surreal Victorian Gothic musical narrative of innocence corrupted. A ten-minute short shot on DigitalBetacam in locations around London. **Winner of Best Short Film Award, Dubrovnik International Film Festival 2006**

PLANET EARTH

BBC NHU. Filming birch tree defoliation in Abisko, Swedish Arctic. High Definition using Panasonic Varicam HDC 27FE.

LIFE IN THE UNDERGROWTH - The Silk Spinners

BBC NHU. Filming orb spider web building. Super 16 / miniDV realtime & timelapse.

Winner, Granada Wild Award for Animal Behaviour, WILDSCREEN 2006

2004

ATTACK OF THE GIANT GERBILS

Film Formations Singapore/National Geographic Channel Asia. A one-hour special about the plague of gerbils devastating the deserts of Xinjiang province, China. Filmed in extreme conditions in the Gobi Desert over a six-week period. Super 16/MiniDV/remote miniature cameras.

PLANET EARTH

BBC NHU. Filming deep ocean creatures, including the rare Vampire squid, in controlled conditions at Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, California. HD on Sony HDW750P.

GREENER GRASS

Uber Films. Dark short drama for theatrical release. MiniDV.

LIFE IN THE UNDERGROWTH

BBC NHU David Attenborough series. Timelapse sequences, filmed over a three week period, of butterfly lifecycles. Video timelapse using Canon XL1s and Apple computer system.

ANIMAL PARK

Endemol /BBC. Filming specialist macro and remote camera sequences (including "Sheepdog Cam") & presenting in front of camera with Ben Fogle and Kate Humble. MiniDV.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING VIDEO

Mike Bennett Associates. Filming training video at Severn Park Fire & Rescue Training Centre for Avon & Somerset Fire Service. MiniDV.

2003

DRAGONS ALIVE

BBC NHU. Blue chip series on reptiles. Filmed a large variety of species in India, Mali, Costa Rica, Bali, & Komodo, including King Cobra and Komodo Dragon. Super 16/MiniDV.

E SANAM

Corner Pocket Films. Director of Photography/Cameraman on a music video for the popular Indian singer, Kamaal Khan. Filmed on the streets of London and on a yacht on the River Thames. Released on MTV & music channels worldwide. Super 16.

RED SQUIRRELS

Red Alert charity/Center Parcs promotional video. MiniDV.

JOURNEY OF LIFE

BBC NHU. Timelapse sequences of swallowtail butterfly lifecycle. Video timelapse using Canon XL1s and FRAME THIEF capture software on Apple iMac computer system.

2002

ANIMAL CAMERA

BBC NHU. Contributing cameraman on a series showing how new technology can show animal behaviour in new ways. Developed deep focus lens system, and animal-mounted mini cameras.

THE BIG SQUEEZE

BBC NHU/Animal Planet. Filmed cyclorama title sequence of pythons and boas for this programme about constricting snakes. Super 16.

THE REALLY WILD SHOW

BBC NHU children's series. Filmed a series of stylised "animal dating classified ads" in which animals show off their best attributes to potential mates. MiniDV.

AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Artangel. Filmed traditional map making at the London A-Z Company for artist Richard Wentworth's

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exhibition showing the changes taking place around London's Kings Cross area. MiniDV.

2001

WILDLIFE SPECIAL - SERPENTS

BBC NHU. Major contributing cameraman on a programme showing why snakes are so successful. Many of my sequences were filmed at high speed - 500 frames per second, including an eyelash viper catching a hummingbird and the world's fastest snake strike. Super 16.

2000

SNAKE HUNTER USA / SNAKE HUNTER CENTRAL AMERICA

Zebra Films/National Geographic. Snake behaviour cameraman on two programmes following herpetologist Rom Whitaker on snake hunting trips. **Winner of Best Presenter Led Programme Award at Wildscreen Festival 2002.** Super 16.

1999

PREDATORS

BBC NHU. Filmed for two programmes in this innovative series, including the sequences of giant Japanese hornets being "cooked to death" by honeybees, and a spider being willingly fed upon by her offspring. Super 16.

AFRICA'S DEADLY DOZEN

Tigress /National Geographic. Cameraman on a one hour special on Africa's deadliest snakes. Super 16.

MICRO FLYERS

Green Umbrella/WGBH-Nova. Filmed high speed insect flight, at 10,000 frames per second, for a documentary about man's attempts at building miniature flying machines. 16mm

1998

THE BLUE PLANET

BBC NHU. Four weeks filming coral sea life at a research centre on Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, including the spectacular annual spawning of the corals. DigiBeta.

SQUIRRELS UNDER SIEGE

BBC NHU - Wildlife On One. Three months filming Californian ground squirrels and their predators. Super 16.

LIVING BRITAIN

BBC NHU. Cameraman on Blue chip series about the natural history of the of the British Isles. Super 16.

1997

TOUGH DUCKS

BBC NHU - The Natural World. Filmed the UK behavioural sequences of this one hour film about the diverse and inhospitable places ducks inhabit, including underwater footage of eider ducks.

EXPLORING THE HIGH FRONTIER

OSF/National Geographic. Filmed high canopy invertebrates in Costa Rica for this multi-award winning documentary **Nominated for the 2000 Emmy Award for Outstanding Cinematography.** Super 16.

WHERE LEMMINGS DARE

BBC NHU - Wildlife On One. Two weeks filming lemming behaviour above and below the frozen tundra in Alaska. Super 16

1996

KING COBRA

Zebra Films/National Geographic. Five months in southern India filming the life of the world's largest venomous snake, which can reach 18 feet in length and has venom potent enough to kill an elephant.

Winner of the 1998 Emmy Award for Outstanding Program Achievement and nominated for Outstanding Cinematography. Super 16.

1995

THE LIVING EDENS - DENALI, ALASKA'S LAST WILDERNESS

ABC/Kane. Specialist macro cameraman. **Winner of 1997 Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in a Craft - Macro Cinematographer.** Super 16.

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OWN EQUIPMENT

(Other equipment hired in / provided by client depending on required format)

DIGITAL CINEMATOGRAPHY VIDEO CAMERA (HDV PROHD 720p)

JVC GY-HD110E 16:9 High Definition 3 CCD camcorder. HDV1 720p progressive PAL.

FUJINON Th16x5.5BRMU zoom lens. with Fujinon 0.8x wideangle adaptor.

RODE NTG-1 microphone & boom, DeadCat wind cover.

JVC / Nikon lens mount adaptor for fitting specialist telephoto and macro lenses..

7" 16:9 portable field monitor

Also shoots 16:9 or 4:3 standard DV PAL, & HDV 60/30 NTSC

SPECIALIST / MINI / POV HDV CAMERAS

SAMSUNG HMX R10 16:9 HD camcorder. 1/2.33" 5.3MP CMOS. MPEG-4.AVC / H.264 compression, shoots 1920 x 1080 HD (1080p / 1080i / 720p) to SDHC card. Also shoots 1080p timelapse with 1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 30 secs between frames. Excellent macro facility.

PANASONIC LUMIX GF1 12.1 megapixel stills / AVCHD video camera. 4/3 format sensor. Shoots 16:9 HD 1280 x 720p to SDHC card. With mounts for micro 4/3, C mount, Nikon and Olympus OM lenses.

POST PRODUCTION HDV WORKFLOW.

For editing I can convert the .M2T and MPEG-4 8 bit 4:2:0 files from these cameras to 10 bit 4:2:2 CINEFORM .AVI files using Cineform NeoScene software.

RED ONE DIGITAL CINEMATOGRAPHY CAMERA 4.5K / 4K / 2K MYSTERIUM-X SENSOR

Through my working relationship with **ANIMALS ON BLUE Ltd** I have access to a **RED ONE MYSTERIUM-X** camera system, which can be hired at preferential rates with myself as camera operator. The camera is fitted with a BNCR lens mount and the kit includes ZEISS DISTAGON 16mm, BAUSCH & LOMB 25mm, 35mm, 50mm & 75mm prime lenses and a LEICA ELMAR 100mm macro. The camera can also be retro fitted with the original PL lens mount.

STILLS / TIMELAPSE CAMERAS - DIGITAL SLR

SONY ALPHA 700 12.3 megapixel APS-C. RAW/JPEG 4272 x 2848 20mb RAW files

16-105mm SONY DT lens (24 - 160mm 35mm equiv)

70-300mm SIGMA APO macro lens (105 - 450mm 35mm equiv)

50mm SIGMA macro lens (75mm equiv), AF macro extension tubes, Timelapse remote release. Radio remote release. Adaptor for NIKON lenses. Right angle viewfinder. METZ 36-AF digital flash.

OLYMPUS E1 PRO 5 megapixel 4/3 format. RAW/JPEG/TIFF 2560 x 1920 11mb RAW files

OLYMPUS E400 10 megapixel 4/3 format. RAW/JPEG 3648 x 2736 22mb RAW files

OLYMPUS 14-54mm ZUIKO lens. (28 - 108mm 35mm equiv)

OLYMPUS 17.5-45mm ZUIKO lens. (35 - 90mm 35mm equiv)

SIGMA DC 55-200mm lens. (110 - 400mm 35mm equiv)

Adaptor for NIKON lenses 28 - 600mm & macro listed below (to 1200mm 35mm equiv)

PANASONIC LUMIX GF1 12.1 magapixel Micro 4/3 format RAW/JPEG 4000 x 3000

With adapters for C mount, NIKON and OLYMPUS OM lenses.

OLYMPUS M Zuiko Digital 14-42mm f3.5-5.6 ED

OLYMPUS Zuiko MC 50mm f1.8

TOKINA RMC 28mm f2.8

LENSES, for 35mm, SUPER 16, JVC HD110 & Panasonic GF1.

NIKON MICRO NIKKOR 55mm f2.8 macro

NIKON MICRO NIKKOR 60mm f2.8 macro.

TAMRON SP 90mm f2.8 macro.

SIGMA EX 105mm f2.8 macro.

NIKON MICRO NIKKOR 200mm f4 macro.

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NIKON IFED 300mm f4.5 with 2X extender
NIKON mount ARSAT 300mm f2.8.

LENSES, SPECIALIST

Own design Macro/Borescope/Periscope deep-focus lens system. Can be fitted to JVC HD110 camera.

LENS MOUNT ADAPTOR - SONY B4 to NIKON

Adaptor for fitting NIKON macro lenses to SONY B4 mount video cameras (eg. SONY F900R)

HIGH DEFINITION TIME LAPSE - DIGITAL STILLS CAMERA SYSTEM

HD quality, with capture to memory card or computer hard drive, using Olympus E1 and E400 digital cameras. Frames are captured at 2560 x 1920 or 3648 x 2737 pixels.

TRIPODS & HEADS

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

KONIG KN100 75mm bowl fluid head & legs.

RED SNAPPER stills tripod.

Camera saddle.

Suction & clamp camera mounts.

NINJA radio controlled remote pan & tilt head for use with small HD camcorder. Can be programmed to repeat moves. 180 degree pan, 32 degree tilt up, 38 degree tilt down.

REMOTE PAN & TILT HEAD (for Time Lapse filming using digital stills camera)

ACUTER MERLIN remote pan & tilt head. 6 programmed speeds, with ultraslow speeds suitable for timelapse filming. At slowest speed (Sidereal) can keep track with movement of the earth. Can also be operated in the field by laptop PC USB connection using PapyWizard software, which gives infinitely variable & repeatable moves.

ASUS Eee PC 1001 10" netbook with 7+ hours battery life.

LIGHTING

800 watt redheads (3)

2000 watt blonde.

50 watt/12 volt cold lights for macro filming (10)

Schott KL1500T fibre optic unit for macro filming.

PAG C6 20/30watt camera mounting video light. Gives approx 2 ¼ hours use from 6v battery.

Various studio & portable electronic flash units.

Interfit Stellar 300 studio flash head head with soft box. Bowens 400 studio flash heads (2)

SPECIALIST KIT

Infrared beam trigger unit for Sony A700, Panasonic GF1, Olympus E400, Olympus E1.

POST PRODUCTION HARDWARE / SOFTWARE

ACER Aspire 6930G 16" laptop. Intel Core2 Duo P7450 2.13GHz 1066MHz, NVIDIA 9600M GT with 2.3Gb cache. 320Gb HDD.

CINEFORM NEOSCENE HDV/AVCHD capture/conversion software. Converts 8 bit 4:2:0 files to 10 bit 4:2:2.

SONY VEGAS MOVIE STUDIO HD Platinum 10.0, for editing HDV/AVCHD footage with realtime playback.

SONY DVD ARCHITECT STUDIO. For DVD & BlueRay production.

SONY SOUNDFORGE AUDIO STUDIO. Soundtrack editing in stereo or 5.1.

ADOBE Photoshop Elements 7.0

ADOBE Photoshop Lightroom

ANTHROPICS TECHNOLOGY Portrait Professional 10

VEHICLE Vauxhall Zafira MPV