Dan Berens - Filmmaker

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Personal Profile:

Has over six years experience in filmmaking including experience in editing, focus pulling, camera operating & lighting on; commercials, branded content and factual content and on a variety of short and feature films (including content on Amazon Prime Video) and for broadcasters including Channel 4, the BBC, CNBC and LBC as well as numerous creative agencies. During this time he has gained almost daily experience on location and on sound stages including on big greenscreens with motion control rigs, as well experience in other areas including being a spark on large sets and piloting small unmanned aircraft for commercial aerial cinematography. Holds an Operational Authorisation from the CAA, allowing for flexible drone flights up to 25KG.

Actively embraces a “just culture” to improve health & safety and is eager to deliver first class results and contribute to a supportive and safe working environment.

Employment History

Freelance camera assistant - 2014 to 2015
Camera assistant/editor at Spectrecom Films - 2015 to 2016
Camera operator/editor at Spectrecom Films - 2016 to 2019
Camera operator/editor at Maia Films - 2019 to 2020
Camera operator/editor contractor at Tinker Taylor - February to March 2021
Video editor contractor at Jungle Creations (IR35) - April to May 2021
Camera operator/editor at Global - May to September 2021
Freelance filmmaker - 2020 to present

Skills/Expertise:

- Camera gimbal operating - Extensive experience with the Ronin 2, Ronin M and Ronin S. Some experience with Mōvi gimbals.
- Lighting and sparking in studios and on location
- Focus pulling (including with various wireless systems with extensive experience with the Arri WCU-4 and Cinetape/Udm)
- Drone piloting with a DJI Inspire 2 aircraft. Two years experience with qualifications and holds a current Operational Authorisation from the CAA.
- Long exposure timelapse photography
- Slating/clapper boarding
- Offline editing
- Editing content for social media
- Colour grading
- Film and digital photography
- Car owner with a full clean licence
- Multi-camera shoots
- Cameras: Arri cameras (including Alexa Mini, Amira and Alexa Plus), Sony cameras (including F55, FX9, FS7 and A7s iii), Red (Including Helium, Monstro and Dragon), Blackmagic cameras, Canon cameras and Panasonic cameras.
- Software: Adobe Premiere Pro, Davinci Resolve, OBS, Hedge, Tentacle Sync Studio, Audition, After Effects, Photoshop and Lightroom.
- Risk assessing/safety cases for SUA operations
- Experience as a grip with equipment including Egripment Matador dolly & track, Bazookas, Jibs, Ladder Pods and sliders
- Vision mixing and Live Streaming
- Sound Recording and mixing

Experience:

Filming in remote areas in challenging environments: Has experience working in unpredictable situations in remote areas (in Africa, China as well as in Europe) such as local kit hire & kit malfunctioning, travelling with kit across multiple countries in risky areas, clearing multiple customs, filming in torrential rain, hiking with kit up mountains and health & safety considerations. Has the patience and experience with the unpredictable nature of finding and filming rare animals such as lion tracking in Kenya and gorilla tracking in Uganda. In the recent example of filming the 'Tusk Conservation Award' films, the creative called for filming the key subject of each film in a studio-like environment against black. This initially posed difficulty when contending small interview locations in remote areas, which could not be totally controlled and blacked out, whistle under a fast-paced schedule with limited equipment and crew. By using creative solutions, safe improvised rigging and special lighting & camera techniques, the key contributor appeared to be in a studio-like setting despite the difficulties, helping to achieve the visual style that the director wanted and creating a new fresh aesthetic, highlighting a special moment for the Tusk awards being screened for the first time in IMAX.

Artistic collaboration: Has years of experience collaborating and working with a team of people including senior seasoned directors, producers, gaffers, cinematographers to produce successful films and campaigns reaching many and leading to happy repeat clients. A recent example in the commercial 'Legion of Leaders' where collaboration as the cinematographer with the director, gaffer and producer began in pre-production which was paramount in order to create an experimental and unique aesthetic the director had envisioned. This was achieved by injecting my own experience and creativity by selecting bespoke equipment choices, creating experimental moving filtration techniques and composition choices while collaborating with the director, production designer and gaffer to achieve camera movement, variable dynamic lighting design (from the DMX desk) and effects which would work and react together in synergy with the actor's movement to create the final product. Since there are many variables happening at once, collaboration with all departments was essential.

Credits:

Cinematographer

- 2019 - Tusk Trust award films. A series of 5 documentaries for Tusk to highlight the people who receive awards and nominations for their work in conversation. The films were made for IMAX release in Leicester square. **FS7** with **CP2 Primes**.
- June - 2019 - Legion of Leaders (Commercial for Chevening). Directed by Clemence Bartram. **FS7** with **uncoated Zeiss Super Speeds.**

Camera Operator

- July - 2021 - Vodafone and Heart Commercial Shoot. Directed by Jake Kelsall. **Arri Mini LF**, **Red Komodo** and **Backmagic Pocket camera** with **Sigma Cine Primes** and **Canon EF Lenses**.
- July - 2021 - LBC Interview - Nick Ferrari interviews the Prime Minister. **FS7** with **Sigma Cine Primes**.
- August - 2020 - WordPlay. Video educational series for children for Age of Learning. Green Screen Shoot. **FS7** with **Sigma Cine Primes.**

- January - 2020 - BBC Ideas: What If (Educational series commissioned by the BBC). Directed by Clemence Bartram. **FS7**

- July - 2019 - Tapi Carpets Dancing Feet (TV Commercial for Tapi Carpets) Directed by David Wyatt. **FS7**.

- March - 2019 - Virgin Media Fiber (Commercial for Virgin Media). Directed by Clemence Bartram. **Arri Alexa Mini** with **Cooke S4i.**

- February - 2019 - Naked Assault Course (Commercial). Directed by Clemence Bartram. **FS7**.

- 2018 - I.O.T. Powering the Digital Economy (TV Series commissioned by CNBC). **FS7.**

- 2018 - BBC Bitesize science films (Educational films commissioned by the BBC). Directed by Clemence Bartram. **FS7**

- **2019 - Safaricom Marathon (**Online Promo for Tusk Trust). Directed by Andrew Greener. **FS7 and A7S II.**

1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA

- May - 2021 - After Party (Music Video). Cinematography by Richard Boon. **RED RAVEN** with **DZOFILM Pictor Zooms**.

- February - 2021 - West Midlands Police Recruitment Film. Cinematography by James Stoneley. **FX9** with **Canon CN-E Primes.**

- January - 2019 - Met Police Female 100 (Commercial for the Met Police). Directed by Clemence Bartram. **FS7** with **CP2 Primes**.

- May - 2019 - Do you see the falling leaves? (Music Video). Directed by Martine Skogstad. **Arri Amira** with **uncoated Zeiss Super Speeds**.

- May-June - 2018 - 'My Father my King**'** (Short). Directed by Tom Pickard. **Arri Amira.**

- April – 2016 – 'Nestle Ski Yoghurt Commercial' (TV Commercial). Directed by Chris Karageorgiou. **Sony FS7** with **Zeiss CP2 Primes**.

- September (2015) and January (2016) – 'Posh Dogs'. (Short TV Series for Channel Four). Directed by Charlie Kinross and Matt O'Brien. **Sony FS7** with **Fujinon 19mm-90mm T2.9**.

- November – 2015 – 'British Heart Foundation: Wear it, Beat it' (TV Commercial). Directed by Peter Ford. **Canon C300** with **14mm Zeiss ZF2 lens**.

- August – 2015 – 'London Met Advert' (TV & Cinema commercial). Directed by Matt Farman. **Sony FS7** with **Zeiss CP2 Primes**.

- May – 2015 – 'The Break' (Short). Directed by Ross McGowan. **Red Scarlet** with **Red Primes**. This involved data wrangling, as well as focus pulling on the **RT Motion** remote follow focus system for numerous Steadicam scenes.

- September 2014 –'The Great Unwashed' (Comedy feature). Directed by Louis Fonseca. **Red One MX** with **Schneider Kreuznach Cine-Xenar III Primes**.

- September 2014 –'War' (Short). Directed by Nilesh Bell. **Sony F55** with **Zeiss CP.2 Primes**. Performed well using the **Cmotion** Lens Control System during Steadicam scenes where complex movement combined with wide open lens at short telephoto lenses made focusing challenging.

- July 2014 -'Matthias' (Short). Directed by Janusz Tomczyk. **Arri Alexa Plus** with **Zeiss Super Speed primes**.

- July 2014 –'Put Down' (Short). Directed by Rick Limentani. **BMCC** with **Zeiss CP.2 Primes**.

CAMERA TRAINEE

- March 2015 - 'Extremis' (Feature). Directed by Steve Stone. **Red Dragon**. Involved loading magazines, organizing and delivering equipment, building video village & camera accessories, keeping equipment on charge and optics & equipment clean.

RESEARCHER

- June 2012 - At True North Productions. Involved researching for 'Vet School' (for CBBC), 'Compare your life' (for Channel 4), transcribing for the BBC Three TV series 'Knocked up' and assisting in post-production of 'The Valleys' for MTV.

RUNNER

- July 2014 – At Red Bee Media for a CBBC channel ident. Involved looking after children, organising them and escorting them to set on time.

- November 2014 – At RDF Television Limited for Dickinson's Real Deal

Qualifications:

- BA (Hons) Film & Moving Image Production: Northern Film School (Leeds). Achieved a first class grade (2011-2014).
- Level 3 BTEC National Diploma in Media (T.V. and Film): Trafford College (Altrincham). Achieved 3 Distinctions (2009-2011).
- GCSEs: North Cestrian Grammar School (Altrincham). Achieved 9 GCSEs including 1 A*, 4 grade A's and 4 grade B's (2007-2009).

- Drone pilot qualifications: UK CAA NQE Approved qualification in Remote Pilot Theoretical Knowledge/ General Airmanship (2017) and UK CAA NQE Approved qualification of Practical Flight Assessment (2018).

- Blackmagic qualifications: DaVinci Resolve 16: Color Correction Certified End User (2021) and DaVinci Resolve 16: Fusion Certified End User (2021)

- BSAC qualifications: Nitrox Diver (2019) and Sports Diver (2019).

- BSAC SDCs: Advanced Twinset Diver (2020), Gold Standard Buoyancy (2020) and Accelerated Decompression Procedures (2020).

Personal Interests

- Recreational scuba diving both in the UK and abroad
- Natural history, wildlife and underwater photography
- Running ultra-marathon endurance trails and city marathons
- Medium format photography and C-41 film developing
- Flying drones

Address: Currently London based

References available upon request