

Zoe Cousins

Having studied Zoology I took to filmmaking to tell the stories I was learning about in the science and conservation world. This alongside my interest in technology and camera work has led me to writing and shooting films on topics I am passionate about around the world. I am constantly on the look out for new exciting projects to bring my story-telling, knowledge and expertise to as well as getting involved in new filmmaking techniques that bring something extra to the table.

Experience

Researcher // March 2019 - CURRENT // BBC STUDIOS

Working on a new blue-chip VFX landmark series, I assisted with story-telling, editing reels, filming behind the scenes sequences as well as creating intensive research packs on prehistoric fauna and flora across multiple episodes which focused on Frozen, Desert and Water environments. Had opportunities to create and lead sequences, work with other production companies in VFX and animation using lidar scanning and photogrammetry as well as location scouting, setting up shoots and working on location nationally and internationally.

Whilst at the studios I was also flexible with my role working on other projects when the occasion arose, for example, international location scouting for a special one hour documentary on mythical beasts.

Was promoted from Junior Researcher to Researcher during this project.

Edit Assistant // October 2018 – December 2018 // RAZORBILL FILMS

I assisted with pre and post production for a one hour special on Bird of Prey competing for nest space within the UK. This included researching, editing behaviour reels and filming. Shoots included a set build for Birds of Prey in a studio, recording flight patterns, their strengths and sounds. Also worked as a DIT.

Past Production Experience

February 2018 // SILVERBACK FILMS

Over two weeks of work experience at Silverback Films I worked with many producers on various series. Finding example clips for shooting scripts, writing research fact-sheets and finding the best locations for future filming trips which included Canada, Africa, Mongolia and China. Working with and organising the companies equipment, such as Cineflex and drones.

November 2017 // FILMS AT 59

For one week work experience I was able to discuss with many different directors, producers, editors and sound designers about multiple projects. Assisted in a sounding mixing session for a Canadian wildlife series.

June 2017 // AMMONITE FILMS

Within two weeks work experience, completed transcribing, logging and editing a wildlife program on interconnected ant colonies in Switzerland. Researched 'Big Cats of the World' for their Tv series as well as completed research for a Risk Assessment for a filming trip to Sri Lanka.

Personal Information

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Skills and Qualifications

Drone complete PFCo

Mavic Pro 2

Camera Operator

Sony, Canon, Nikon, Panasonic, Long lens, Macro, Timelapse, Set Builds

Scuba diving: Rescue diver and Emergency First Response. Working towards Master Diver.

Video Editing

Adobe Premiere Pro, Avid Pro

Graphic Design

Adobe Indesign, Photoshop, Lightroom, After Effects

Colour Grading

Da Vinci Resolve, Avid Pro

Set Building

Forest, Small Freshwater Aquatic, Macro, Grassland

Photography

Nikon, Canon, Sony

Remote Locations First Aid

Full Clean UK Driving License

Conversational French

Education

MA DIRECTING AND PRODUCING SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY// 2017-2019 // National Film and Television School

Experience of entire filmmaking process: directing, producing, writing, researching, finding contributors, planning shoots, shooting, editing, sound design. Filmed throughout the UK, Australia and Indonesia. See below for productions.

BSc ZOOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE // 2013-2016 // University of Manchester

Completed Final Year Dissertation and Science Media Project titled 'The Evolution of Feathers and Birds from Theropod Dinosaurs'. Included written articles in the style of New Scientist and Biological Science review magazines as well as a museum workshop aimed at families visiting the museum. Also completed a dissertation on Palaeobiology and evolution of Stegosaurid dinosaurs. Completed field work in UK Marine Biology.

Productions



2018 - Among The Eucalyptus - 26' Director, Producer, Writer, Camera

A blue-chip conservation documentary telling of Australia's Eucalyptus ecosystems and how whilst the animals are suffering with the effects of climate change, the trees are thriving. Gained entry into Wildlife Conservation Film Festival (WCFF) and the Environmental Film Festival Australia (EFFA). Passion project achieved through MA.



2018 - Now or Never - 23' Camera and Field Assistant

A conservation documentary telling of the recently discovered tapanuli orangutan and its immediate struggles against deforestation. Project carried out within MA.



2017 - Rats With Wings - 10' Director, Producer, Writer, Camera, Editor

A science bluechip documentary investigating pigeons, their extraordinary history with humans and how they become the 'pests' we see them as today. Gained entry into Wildlife Film Festival Rotterdam (WCFF). Passion project achieved through MA.



2017 - Wildcats: Breeding to Extinction - 10' Director, Producer, Writer, Camera, Editor

A conservation bluechip documentary investigating the decline, conservation and reintroduction of Scottish Wildcats whilst following the team from Wildcat Action behind the scenes. Gained entry into Wildlife Film Festival Rotterdam (WCFF). Passion project achieved through MA.

Miscellaneous Wildlife Experience

MANCHESTER MUSEUM PALAEOLOGY VOLUNTEER // September 2015 – April 2016

Took photos of the museums earth science collections and uploaded them onto their computer system for their online Nature Library. Hands on experience allowed me to improve my fossil handling skills and photographing specimens to keep track of the fossils in storage.

OPERATION WALLACEA RESEARCH ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER // June 2015 – August 2015

I spent six weeks in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and Akumal marine site as a research assistant conducting transects to record the biodiversity of the jungle and marine environments. I also qualified up to Advanced Diver with PADI and passed a week long Caribbean Reef Ecology course.

My individual project was learning and documenting the locals' relationship with the animals and environment they lived in which allowed me to adapt my directing and cinematography skills in the field.

I gained knowledge in forest and marine ecology and the practical skills involved as well as leadership skills in a potentially dangerous isolated environment.

References available on request.