

**LOUIE BLYSTAD-COLLINS**  
**Cinematographer /Director of Photography**  
**Camera & Lighting**

**CV**

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I am a Bristol based Cinematographer, who has also been an avid, award-winning photographer since childhood. I now light and shoot a large variety of work, spanning from dramas, commercials, documentaries, interviews, music videos, promos, art installations and the occasional event/fashion show/performance/World Championship martial arts for Live Broadcast.

My work has taken me all over the world from India to France, Siberia, Italy, Holland, Norway, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, Tibet, Scotland, Greece and many more. I have worked for clients such as BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Film4, National Geographic, American Sci-Fi Channel, Unilever, Sony, IBM, Motorola, Hewlett Packard, Microsoft, The Home Office, MoD, COI + many more organisations, and I regularly work on both independent and commissioned productions.

This has led me to meet and work with many leading figures such as the Dalai Lama, Tony Blair, and many accomplished artists and talents, from World Class gold medal athletes to Nobel Prize winning scientists. My work has won many awards over the years, both for cinematography and the films themselves, and continues to take hold in the film and media industry. I work on any format, depending on the project, which normally varies from things like, ARRI-Raw, HDCAM, XDCAM, DVCproHD, 4K Raw, Red-Cam, P2cards, Solid State Drives, 8mm/16mm to Super 35mm and anything in between.

I take pride in being able to adapt to any style necessary, as my work is very versatile, but my personal preference seems to lie in a range from cinematic and atmospheric Film Noir, to gritty modern realism, up to stylized visual choreography. My favourite challenge in my work is to be given a very specific brief for every project, and creating a unique style and atmosphere designed for each production.

In addition to a variety of 'normal' production work, I also occasionally shoot and light specialist work. This includes anything from macro/greenscreen /chroma&lumi key/ident /branding logos for website banners, abstract graphic cinematography, pack shots of products, puppets, stop frame animation, and any potential image plates or footage needed for SFX compositing and motion graphics. I have also shot various projects using time lapse, or super slow-mo cameras (up to 1000fps), as well as night vision and thermal imaging. I have also used specialist rigs like gyros/gimbals and helicopter remote units, and filmed in many challenging circumstances like under water/ helicopter/ plane/ submarine/ hanging over a waterfall/ on an elephant/ on a motorbike/ being surrounded by armed terrorists/ on an iceberg/ on top of a skyscraper/ in trees/ in tunnels/ in a speedboat/

in several high security prisons/ of live euthanasia/ Live broadcast Sports Championships etc.

In addition to my Camera/Lighting work, I am also a mixed martial-arts self defence instructor, but I rarely get the chance to choreograph hand to hand fight scenes, which I would love to do more of. I am currently working on a series of instructional DVDs, where I am directing/choreographing, lighting and shooting the authentic 34<sup>th</sup> generation Shaolin Warrior Monk, Kung Fu Master Shi Yan Xin, which is a great privilege and honour.

## **Education:**

Completed and passed 6 A-levels at Hartvig Nissen Vidregaende Skole in Oslo-Norway, (can be specified by N.A.R.I.C)

BA Honours degree in Film & Video Production at Surrey Institute of Art and Design which also included modules like: Running a Business and Sponsorship & Funding. As my passion has always been in photography, I focused and specialised my degree on Cinematography from day one, and have over the years constantly self educated by attending numerous courses/master-classes/workshops etc, as I found formal education to be lacking in vital skills and specialist subjects.

## **Teaching:**

I have run many workshops and master-classes in both Photography and Cinematography in both England and Norway over the years. I also regularly mentor and supervise productions for selected students, at the Bristol Old Vic Broadcast Production School, where I have also run lighting master-classes. I also customise training courses for independent companies/individuals who want to bring their work to the next level.

## **Training:**

I have spent many years training, both in England and abroad, with some of the top Academy Award winning Hollywood Cinematographers. Some examples are:

K.N Sing BSC –Masterclasses : With Bolex 16mm/35mm and Arri SR2+SR3 Film cameras.

Freddy Francis- Masterclasses -BSC : Arri/Panavision 16mm and 35mm Film cameras.  
This also included lighting, push processing and professional etiquette.

Owen Rosman –Masterclasses –BSC: Using latest Panavision Millennium Cameras  
Lighting set-ups and use of Dolly/Cranes.

John Mathiesen-Masterclasses –BSC: Lighting set-ups –Blocking a scene,  
design for sets – Using smoke in lighting.

Roger Deakins-Masterclasses –BSC: Covering the professional relationship with the Director-Using Deakins' work with the Cohen Brothers as an example.

Billy Williams –Masterclasses –BSC: Using Panavision Cameras and lighting techniques.

Oliver Stapleton-Masterclasses–BSC: Light and reflections-blocking and improvisation.

## **Experience:**

I have shot and lit over 600 films/projects over about 13 years now, but here I have only listed a small variety of work to give you an example of what I do:

**'Life Out There'** : Short Drama produced for Film4 and BSLBT about a young deaf man and his tentative relationship to his father (35mm HD Sensor)

**'Seconds To Disaster' – The Utoya Massacre'**: An episode of the long running series for National Geographic, following the 2011 killings of 77 people in Norway by Anders Behring Breivik. I lit and shot interviews with survivors, witnesses, Special Intelligence Agents, Police Swat, and filmed Breivik's route as the slaughter unfolded. (HDCAM)

**'Our Time Alone'** : A short drama about a young Indian girl who lives alone with her father, who is suffering from increasing mental illness. They share an empty house that appears to hide dark forces. All shot on the 4K RedCam, with Zeiss Pro 35mm Super-speed lenses.

**'Krispy Kreme Doughnut Commercial'**- Commercial for the famous company, shot in a stylized and comedy format. (Red Epic 5K with Zeiss Primes)

**'Betty Crocker + Stork Commercials'**– Commercials made for brand giant Unilever, lit and shot in a 'how to' format made popular by celebrity chefs. (Canon C300 HD with Cook Prime lenses)

**'World Judo Championships Live'**– I regularly work with Fighting Films, who cover all the major world championships, and this year we covered the event set up by Vladimir Putin in Tyumen, Siberia. Our coverage is usually broadcast by Sky Sports, Eurosport, Canal+ and other broadcasters around the world.

**'The Right To Choose'** : Award winning observational-doc. following the legal position of doctors committing euthanasia in England and abroad– (DigiBeta/DVCAM)

**'The Overdose Notes'**: Award winning short film made for the Home Office following the tragic death of a drug addict after his release from prison.(DVCAM)

- ‘Evil Nine’ Music Videos** : A trilogy of zombi themed music videos, made for the successful DJ duo, Evil Nine.
- ‘Nieve’** : Drama documentary based on the true story of an American girl, who was locked up all of her life by her father, and deprived from any communication and human interaction.(Super16mm)
- ‘Be The Best’** : Observational doc. following the British Army’s Para-troopers, Boxing Team-(Super 16mm/DigiBeta/DVCAM)
- ‘Hardware’** : Observational doc. Following the production of famous metal artwork.- (Super16mm)
- ‘Reflections’** : A short story about a man who whilst facing his own death, discovers that he has a daughter he never knew about. (Super16mm)
- ‘Kodak Commercial 2001’** : (Arri SR2/SR3 16mm/35mm + Lee Lighting)
- ‘A Fall From Grace’** : A gritty/violent short film about a man who’s life is rapidly going down hill after the break-up of a long term relationship. (16mm)
- ‘A Floating World’**: A documentary about the home of the Dalai Lhama, Dharamsala in India, and the mixture of cultures and races that live there.(DVCAM)
- ‘The Long Walk’** : A short film noir about the search for identity and self. (35mm)
- ‘Indians’** :Award winning short film about a man who in his dying moments, reminisces his childhood, his first love, and the war that changed him forever. (DVCAM)
- ‘Sony Z1 Advert’** : A commercial made for Sony to promote their, then new range of HDV Cameras prior to release. (HDV Z1+FX1)
- ‘On Ice & In the dark’**: Two short films made for the BBC covering issues that concern teenagers: bullying, relationships etc. (HDV)
- ‘Hedgewitch’** : Short film about a young girl’s experience of bullying in school, and her encounter with a young gypsy girl, set in a rural landscape. (DVCAM)
- ‘Dawn Chorus’** : A highly successful art installation/exhibition made with the artist Marcus Coates, consisting of 16 projected films of people in their ‘natural’ environment, singing along to slowed down birdsong, then the footage was sped up until a fascinatingly, realistic ‘human birdsong’ was achieved. This was projected at the Tate Modern Art Gallery with 16 projectors in a huge hall, and sold tickets in their tens of thousands.(HDV)
- ‘The Bent Penny’** : A short film noir that follows one coin through 5 peoples hands, and

explores their differing relationships to the value of money.(HDCAM)

**‘Little Face’** : A short film starring Adam Buxton, about a man who on his trip back to his home town, bumps into his imaginary best friend, whom he left behind many years ago.

**‘Luke and the void’** : A short film set in the 80’s, about a lonely boy who builds a rocket, in order to escape the reality of his battling parents.

**‘Reno’ – Music Video** : A music video for the Liverpool band Reno, set in the 1950’s and shot on authentic 8mm film using all antique equipment.

**‘Middlesex University Promo’** : A high end university promo shot on the RedCam with 35mm prime lenses. It was all shot at high speed (slow-mo) and was screened in various cinemas prior to feature film presentations.

**‘Beyond The Gates’**: A documentary shot as a pilot for broadcast, following and creating media projects with violent offenders serving time in prison. (HD)

Here you can see a small mixture of the type of work that I do, but I am currently updating my website [www.louiebcollins.com](http://www.louiebcollins.com) with an up to date show-reel with many more visual references, including more commercial work, which will show you the variety of styles that I work with, and the standard that I deliver. The site currently contains one of my older Drama reels + many still images from some of my work, as I prefer to strip back all the production benefits, and display the imagery in a simple form, irrelevant of budget size and other beneficial elements. This is because I regularly see show-reels that are ‘glossed up’ with expensive post production and brands/names, which to me covers up and misrepresents the original footage, and work of the cinematographer.