

TESS BENJAMIN

2ND CAMERA OPERATOR



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A multi-skilled camera operator/assistant with abundant location experience within adventure and wildlife productions. I have gained strong technical knowledge whilst filming in extreme remote locations, from jungles and deserts to high altitude environments, often over a period of many months. A good understanding of filming techniques such as long lens, motion-controlled sliders, gimbals, timelapses and drone.

SKILLS

- Operating cine lenses including CN20 and CN7
- Shooting with Sony Cinema and Alpha Line cameras
- Operating Gimbals and motion-controlled sliders
- Timelapses and starlapses
- DJI Inspire and Mavic drones
- Drone Risk assessment writing including flight plans
- Kit Prep and maintenance and managing kit lists/carnets for customs
- Data wrangling and logging 4k footage with ShotPut Pro

EXPERIENCE

Camera and Ariel Photography | 'Countryfile' | BBC One | January 2024 - Current

- Filming presenter led sync and b roll on Sony Cinema and Alpha Cameras and Ronin gimbals
- Operating drones and creating flight plan and risk assessments prior to the shoots

BBC STUDIOS

Series Editor - Mark Beech

Production Manager – Sophie Wright

2nd Camera Operator | 'Square Route with Hannah Fry' | National Geographic | October 2024 - November 2024

Presenter led travel log series following Hannah Fry to locations around the world

- Second camera operating using Sony FX9 cross shooting interviews B roll

Atomic Television

Series Producer - Alicky Sussman

DOP - Ross Hamilton

Camera Assistant and DIT | 'Killer Crocs with Steve Backshall' | Channel 5 | August 2023 - September 2023

2 x 60 Presenter led wildlife series, filmed in remote locations across South Africa.

- Data wrangling and creating edit assemblies using Avid whilst on location
- Filming 2nd camera with Sony FX9/FX6 using CN7 and C20 lenses
- Shooting timelapses and operating gimbal

True to Nature

Series Director - Tom Whitworth

DOP - Graham MacFarlane

Additional Photography | 'Primal Survivor: Extreme African Safari' | National Geographic | October 2022 – March 2023

6 x 60 returning survival adventure series presented by Hazen Audel, filming in remote and challenging locations throughout Kenya and Tanzania with indigenous communities and wildlife.

- Shooting second camera on Sony FX6 and operating Ronin gimbals
- Managing kit in extreme dusty and sandy environments
- Data Wrangling using ShotPut Pro and logging footage
- Shooting timelapses using Rhino motion-controlled sliders

Icon Films

Series Producer – Sam Taplin

Production Manager - Jessica Chandler

Camera Assistant | 'Wild Dogs: Pack vs Pride' | Love Nature | August 2022 – October 2022

6 x 30 returning series combining observational documentary with blue chip natural history, following DOP/Presenter Julz Braatvedt, filming African Wild Dog packs in South Luangwa National Park, Zambia.

- Filming additional footage on Sony FX9 of the presenter and wildlife from a natural history vehicle set up
- Managing all kit on location in dusty environments, cleaning and charging everything ready for the next shoot day
- Preparing and packing kit prior to shoot and managing kit lists for customs
- Data wrangling and logging over 80TB of 4k footage with ShotPut Pro, backing everything up onto RAID towers

Icon Films

Series Producer – Jo Robinson

Production Manager - Andie Clare

Camera Assistant | 'Primal Survivor: Over the Andes' | National Geographic Channel | May 2022 – July 2022

6 x 60 returning survival adventure series presented by Hazen Audel, filmed across remote and challenging locations throughout the Andes. Filming with indigenous communities and wildlife in high altitude environments.

- Camera assisting and rigging equipment in extreme temperatures at high altitude
- Assisting with kit management on location
- Timelapses and stills photography
- Data Wrangling using ShotPut Pro and logging footage

Icon Films

Series Producer – Nick White

Production Manager - Jess Chandler

Camera Assistant | 'Primal Survivor: Escape the Amazon' | National Geographic Channel | May 2021 – August 2021

5 x 60 returning survival adventure series presented by Hazen Audel, filmed during the pandemic across remote and challenging locations throughout Guyana in the rainy season. Filming in the Amazon jungle, savanna and coast.

- Camera assisting and rigging equipment in extreme wet environments
- Assisting with kit management on location keeping everything dry, clean and in working order and using generators to charge batteries
- Timelapses and stills photography
- Data Wrangling using ShotPut Pro

Icon Films

Series Producer – Nick White

Production Manager - Lannah McAdam

Production Technical Assistant | 'Malawi Wildlife Rescue' Series 2 | Love Nature | January 2021 – December 2021

6 x 60 returning wildlife observational documentary series based at Lilongwe Wildlife Centre. I took on the responsibility of the extensive DIT and ingest process whilst on location, working with a large amount of 4k footage, dealing with regular power cuts and using generators.

- Data Wrangling with ShotPut Pro backing up a large amount of 4k footage onto RAID towers
- Assisting with mini cam set ups throughout the wildlife centre
- Remote ingesting and edit preparation on location, transferring mxf files and avid bins back to the office using cloud systems

Icon Films

Series Producer – Jo Robinson

Production Manager - Andie Clare

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Open Water Diving Qualification | PADI | 2023

Bespoke First Aid | First Option | 2022

GVC & A2 CofC Remote Pilot Certificates | CAA |

2021 Remote Location First Aid | First Option | 2020

COVID-19 Planning | Secret Compass | 2020

Driving Licence

University of Gloucestershire | 2015-2018

BSc Zoological Management and Conservation: 2:1

Cirencester College | 2013-2014

Advanced Level 3 Apprenticeship in Creative and Digital Media

REFERENCES

Available upon request