

# TESS BENJAMIN

## 2ND CAMERA OPERATOR



+447784142180



tessmbenjamin@gmail.com



www.tessbenjamin.co.uk

A versatile camerawoman with a wealth of location experience across adventure, travel and natural history 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. Solid understanding of filming techniques such as long lens, motion-controlled sliders, gimbals, timelapses and drone.

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### SKILLS

- Operating cine lenses including CN20 and CN7
- Filming with Sony Cinema and Alpha Line cameras
- Operating Gimbals and motion-controlled sliders
- Timelapses and starlapses
- DJI Inspire and Mavic drones
- Underwater filming using Nauticam FX3 housings
- Kit Prep and maintenance and managing kit lists/carnets for customs
- Data wrangling and logging 4k footage with ShotPut Pro

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### EXPERIENCE

#### Drone Pilot | 'Planes that Changed History' | National Geographic | July 2025 - September 2025

10x60 Archive history series based on aircraft, including location filming of aircraft and studio interview set ups

- Operating drones, creating flight plans, and conducting risk assessments prior to shoots
- Second camera operating on Sony FX9 and DJI 4D gimbal

Atomic Television

Series Producer - Trevor Manning

DOP - Ross Hamilton

#### 2nd Assistant Camera | 'Finding Harmony' | Amazon Prime | July 2025

Feature documentary film based on King Charles' conservation work around the world

- Assisting with rigging of multiple cameras including Ronin 4D gimbal
- Focus pulling for the DOP using DJI 4D Focus Control

PASSION PICTURES

Series Producer - Alice Henley

DOP - Hugh Campbell

#### 2nd Camera Operator | 'Square Route with Hannah Fry' | National Geographic | October 2024 - July 2025

Presenter led travelogue series following Hannah Fry to locations around the world

- Operating the Sony FX9 and Ronin 4D gimbal to cross shoot sequences and B roll
- Underwater filming using Nauticam housing with FX3 and atomos monitor
- Preparing all equipment and managing carnet documentation for shoots

Atomic Television

Series Producer - Alicky Sussman

DOP - Matt Norman

#### Camera and Ariel Photography | 'Countryfile' | BBC One | January 2024 - February 2025

- Filming presenter-led segments and B-roll with Sony Cinema and Alpha cameras and Ronin gimbals
- Operating drones, creating flight plans, and conducting risk assessments prior to shoots
- Directing and self shooting short 'post card' sequences

BBC STUDIOS

Series Editor - Mark Beech

Production Manager – Sophie Wright

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.

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.

Icon Films  
Series Producer – Sam Taplin

DOP - Laurence Hamilton-Baillie

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.

Icon Films  
Series Producer – Jo Robinson

DOP - Ross Hamilton

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.

Icon Films  
Series Producer – Nick White

DOP - Ossie Bacon

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.

Icon Films  
Series Producer – Nick White

DOP - Ross Hamilton

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## 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

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## REFERENCES

Available upon request