



Mark Lapwood

NZCS ACS

Cinematographer

Professional Summary

Award-winning cinematographer with 25+ years international experience on feature films, documentaries, television commercials & music videos.

Accredited member of the New Zealand Cinematographers Society (NZCS) 2021 and Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS) 2006.

Proven track record delivering compelling visual narratives for industry leaders including Netflix, National Geographic, BBC, Discovery, UK channel 4 and major commercials in 15+ countries.

Feature & TV Drama

Providing comprehensive cinematography services across multiple production formats and genres, with extensive experience in both studio and location filming worldwide. Recognized for masterful lighting design, natural beauty capture, and compelling visual storytelling.

- **Avatar** 2019 – B Camera Operator & Motion Capture Camera Operator, Dir. James Cameron, Walt Disney Co.
- **In A Flash** 2017 – Splinter Unit DP, Dir. Ric Pellizzeri, Screentime
- **The Waiting City** 2008 – DP 2U & B Cam Op. DP Denson Baker
NZCS ACS
- **The Little Godfather** 2008 – DP Mark Lapwood NZCS ACS
- **Cages** 2004 – DP Mark Lapwood NZCS ACS
- **Maya** 2001 – DP Mark Lapwood NZCS ACS

Documentary

Director of Photography for acclaimed documentary projects broadcast internationally. Recent highlights:

- **Human Tide** (2025) – Dir. David Ward, Atticus UK – Filmed across UK, Kenya, Uganda, Sweden, Saudi Arabia
- **Before the Moon Falls** (2024) – Dir. Kim Bassford, Making Waves
- **Defying the Nazi's | Stephen Fry: Willem & Freida** (2023) – Dir. John Hay, Atticus UK/Channel 4
- **Volcano: Rescue from Whakaari** (2022) – Dir. Rory Kennedy, Moxie Films/Netflix
- **More than Gold – Valerie Adams** (2022) – Dir. Briar March, Eight.com

Notable Earlier Work: International documentary projects for National Geographic (Tang Treasure, 2008), BBC (One Cup – 1000 Stories, 2021 & BBC Knowledge Vignettes, 2007), Discovery Channel (Hip Korea series, 2014; Tsunami Recovery, 2009) and Channel 5 UK (Who Killed Billie-Jo, 2021).

Contact

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Education

Master of Arts in Cinematography
Aust Film & TV School – AFTRS
1998–1999

Accreditation

NZCS New Zealand
Cinematographers Society
March 2021

ACS Australian
Cinematographers Society
November 2006

Skills

- Main Unit DOP
- 2nd Unit & Splinter Unit DOP
- Camera Operator – Wheels, Slider, Dolly, Gimbal & Handheld
- Timelapse Motion Control & Hyperlapse DOP
- Natural History & Wildlife DOP
- ARRI, RED, Sony, Canon, DJI
- 35mm & 16mm Film Trained



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Testimonials

Mark cares – treating each project with the respect it deserves, no matter the budget or subject matter. As a director I am always made to feel secure. Mark can problem solve logistical and aesthetic challenges under pressure, and at the same time receive creative feedback in an open and humble way. Thats a rare attribute.

• Briar March – Director

Mark's one of those special people who brings together the ability to capture the true essence of a story and combine it with his cinematic vision, making the ordinary, truly extraordinary. I have worked with Mark for a number of years and greatly appreciate the quality and professionalism he brings to set. Give him the right tools and he will make magic happen.

• Lucy Rei – Producer

Commercials

Director of Photography for major brand campaigns across multiple markets on 100+ productions

Recent Campaigns: eRides (2025), Fox Sports UFC Promo (2025), Vodafone – One NZ Launch (2022), Universal Homes (2021), Mastercard Americas Cup (2021), Instant Finance (2021), Villa Maria Wines (2020), Energy Online (2019), Selaks Wines (2019), Oceania Healthcare (2018).

International Portfolio: Major Campaigns for Ford, Holden, AMP, Oceania Healthcare, TSB Bank, Adidas (All Blacks Global Campaign), Two Degrees, Nokia, Pepsi, Airtel (AR Rahaman), Kingfisher Airlines, Yamaha and MTV across New Zealand, Australia, India, Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Dubai

Short Drama & Music Videos

Short Film Drama: Cinematographer on 35+ short films. Highlights include: Floundering (2021), Zero Dance (2020), The Coffin Club (2017), Hypothermia (2015), Between Me (2013), and Eclipse (2007)

Music Videos: Director of Photography for artists including Reb Fountain, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, AR Rahman, Something for Kate, Evermore (Running featuring 12 country shoot in 18 days), Lake Arrow, Sona, Black Smoke Trigger and 7 Billion Hera.

Awards & Recognition

Mark has over 27 years of international recognition, his work earning Gold, Silver and Bronze awards from the New Zealand Cinematographers Society (NZCS), Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS), Australian Film Institute (AFI) and European Cinematography Awards.

Highlights include:

- **2025** – Bronze Award, Experimental & Specialised (Auck Timelapse Homage), NZCS
- **2024** – Gold Award, Experimental & Specialised (More Than Gold – Valerie Adams), NZCS
- **2024** – Silver Award, Documentary (Willem & Freida), NZCS Awards
- **2023** – Best Documentary Cinematography (Willem & Freida), Euro Cinematography Awards
- **2023** – Silver Award, Documentary (Willem & Freida), ACS NSW Awards
- **2021** – Silver Award, Nature & Wildlife (Dolphin Encounter), ACS NSW Awards
- **2021** – Silver Award, Music Videos (Caught in the Undertow), ACS NSW Awards
- **2017** – Silver Award, Short Film Drama (The Coffin Club), NZCS Awards
- **2009** – Best Short Documentary (Eclipse), Honolulu International Film Festival
- **2008** – Best Experimental Short (Eclipse), Rhode Island International Film Festival
- **2008** – AFI Award, Short Film Screen Craft Cinematography (Eclipse), AFI Awards
- **2007** – Gold Award, Short Film Drama (Eclipse), ACS NSW Awards
- **2003** – Gold Award, Feature Film Drama (Maya), ACS NSW Awards

References

Briar March
Director

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Lucy Rei
Producer

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