

AARON SCOTT

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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Introduction

Before I started my own company in 2017 as a freelance Director of Photography, I'd held the position of Head of Cameras at Sky for nearly a decade - managing over 50 crews, and setting and leading the style of internal productions.

I've worked behind the camera for my entire working life. In the beginning, I'd started on 16mm film - which has in turn led me through the multiple camera formats of SD, HD and 3D, through to high-end 4K/UHD Digital Cinematography. In an industry where technology is constantly evolving, I have aspired to maintain my knowledge of new formats and techniques as they develop.

My career has taken me all over the world covering documentaries, drama, sports, commercials and current affairs, and I have valuable experience in a studio environment - be it presentation, drama or commercial work. Lighting has always been a passion of mine, and I pride myself on my ability to produce quality product - both within a team and as a sole operator.

Some of my recent work has included covering the Royal Wedding of Harry and Meghan; the US Presidential visits of Donald Trump and Joe Biden; regular daily Covid briefings in Downing Street with the Prime Minister and Secretaries of State; and the Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey, with an estimated live viewing audience of over 2 billion people.

I also operate my own production kit - comprising of an HD Varicam camera, LED lighting, grips, monitors, lenses, audio equipment, and have field edit capability. I am also fluent with 35mm digital camera systems from Arri, RED, Sony and Panasonic, to name a few.

Outside of the broadcast environment, I'm a Fourth Dan Black Belt Judo Instructor - a sport I have been involved with since I was 5 years old, and where I have represented New Zealand on numerous occasions to an Olympic level. I also hold a Level-2 BTEC in teaching.

History

Present: Director of Photography - Aaron Scott Productions Ltd.

Credits include: Commercials and productions for M&C Saatchi and Strange Beast; various corporate productions and documentaries, international news and current affairs, and multi-camera coverage.

Notable highlights:

- Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey, with a live global viewing audience of over 2 billion people;
- Regular COVID-19 briefings within 10 Downing Street filming the Prime Minister and various Secretaries of State;
- Royal Rota and Diplomatic Camera for Royal events and accompanying various Heads of State, including US Presidents;

2008 -2017: Head of Cameras for Sky Sports, managing over 50 contract camera crews. Supervising the training and support of acquisition techniques and lighting to production staff, and involved in testing and implementing new camera formats, codecs and workflows. Resident in-house Director of Photography, delivering features and promos utilising Arri Alexa, Sony F55, RED and Panasonic Varicam 35/LT 35mm Digital Cinema Cameras.

Highlights include:

- covering the Ryder Cup in Scotland in ground-breaking 4K;
- managing the Sky Sports camera acquisition changeover from SD to HD in 2010;
- coordinating Sky Sports News' 2010 World Cup coverage in six locations across South Africa;
- designing operations logistics for Sky's Wimbledon and London Olympics studios;
- constant involvement and selection of contract and staff crews for Sky Sports;
- negotiating deals directly with suppliers to stay within prescribed budgets;
- maintaining a relationship with manufacturers to build the next generation of digital cameras for broadcast & acquisition;
- reducing costs by encouraging multi-skilling through tuition and support;
- working with Procurement to order and supply relevant equipment to production teams and crews across Sky Sports;
- devising workflows for 4K acquisition and ingest.

1999 -2008: Senior Lighting Cameraman for Sky News based in London - filming documentaries and breaking news stories around the world. Events covered include State and Presidential visits, Royal tours, sporting events, war zones and natural disasters. Required to assess, monitor and train staff in all aspects of camera operations.

Highlights include Director of Photography credits for:

- a series of films for Iraq Week filmed on location in the Middle East;
- a set of authored pieces for Sky News' Crime Week;
- a collection of self-produced and filmed pieces featuring various celebrities entitled "If I Were Prime Minister";
- Nominated for RTS Camera Operator of the Year 2007;
- Recipient of New York Film Festival's Cinematography Award - Highly Commended: "The Invasion of the Euro" - 2001;

1998 - 1999: Senior Lighting Cameraman for ATN-7's Production Unit in Sydney - working on both location and in studio on dramas, outside broadcast sports events, and current affairs programmes - operating and supervising Steadicam, Radomac robotic systems, studio pedestal cameras and single & multi-camera EFP units.

1996 - 1998: Freelance Lighting Cameraman based in London, UK - filming documentaries, current affairs, news, and sports productions internationally.

1992 - 1996: Freelance Lighting Cameraman based in Sydney, Australia - globally covering documentaries, current affairs, news, lifestyle programmes, sports and corporate productions.

1988 - 1992: Freelance Camera Operator for TVNZ and TV3 - covering news, current affairs and sports - including core camera operator for the 1990 Whitbread Round-the-World Yacht Race for the Auckland leg and the 1990 Commonwealth Games.

1985 - 1988: Freelance Camera Assistant for TVNZ based in Auckland, using 16mm film (CP16/A, Bolex H16 & Arriflex 16BL), U-Matic and Betacam/SP.