

# Hein van Zijl

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## **An award-winning cinematographer with 25 years of film and television industry experience**

Has received one SAFTA award, two SAFTA and one CANNES nominations since 2015.  
Experienced with Wildlife documentaries, soaps, short films, TV dramas, documentaries, reality tv.

## **PERSONAL PROFILE**

**A cinematographer, DoP, Camera Operator, Technical Director and Film Fixer with a record of commercially successful productions.**

- Determined and results-focused with a passion for the industry and a commitment to the highest professional standards
- Friendly and outgoing with a strong work ethic; a thoughtful communicator who performs exceptionally well in teams and develops strong workplace relationships  
Very creative – forms partnerships with film directors to create powerful and original work

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSETS**

Pragmatic and rational – focuses on the most efficient use of resources, time and money.  
Collaborative and adaptable – works effectively with different personalities.  
Strong management and organisational skills – Commercially astute and financially literate with experience business operation.  
Prioritises conflicting demands, manages workloads and maintains integrity under severe time and financial pressure.

## **CAREER SUMMARY**

### **Freelance Filmmaker 2018 - Current**

Cinematographer on various international productions (Link references on request).

### **Film Fixer & Local Producer 2018 - Current**

Discovery, BBC, National Geographic, Disney, DSTV, NHK, DW (More references on request).

### **Head of Camera Department – Quizzical Pictures 2007-2018**

Leading a technical & creative team of 20.

### **Owner & Director – ProVid Productions 2011 – 2016**

Managing a film production company.

### **Freelance Camera Operator 2005 – 2007**

7de Laan, Backstage, Binnelanders, Scandal, Isidingo

## **SHOWREEL**

This is a collection of recent and representative work across a variety of formats.

\*\*\*\*(More Links available on request)\*\*\*\*

**IMDb** [https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10487939/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_0\\_tt\\_1\\_nm\\_7\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_hein van Zijl](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10487939/?ref_=nv_sr_srsrg_0_tt_1_nm_7_in_0_q_hein%20van%20Zijl)  
[https://youtu.be/6GHpqlrC\\_ko](https://youtu.be/6GHpqlrC_ko) (Reality)\_ **Senior Camera Operator**  
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5NmYQZEB6I> (Drama)\_ **DoP**  
[https://youtu.be/WzCp-g\\_Ap0g?si=JKj66TiqUT4yFw5n](https://youtu.be/WzCp-g_Ap0g?si=JKj66TiqUT4yFw5n) (Series)\_ **DoP**  
<https://youtu.be/cQNDbSEnw3A?si=K-IO88kqjWqaLe4u> (Feature Film)\_ **Director & Producer**  
<https://youtu.be/KnoDHIC5bPo> (Documentary)\_ **Cinematographer**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-aGwuuS2-s> (Documentary)\_ **Cinematographer**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFOAEpNwfDY> (Documentary)\_ **Cinematographer**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKqY6Ckft\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKqY6Ckft_4) (Documentary)\_ **Cinematographer**  
<https://youtu.be/UiiQiw6D8qY?si=w1R8nCryzPtHI1Br> (Documentary)\_ **Fixer & Camera Operator**  
<https://youtu.be/-dJdT1rXihs?si=SMRXga5leZhbXs3B> (Survival)\_ **Fixer & Camera Operator**  
<https://youtu.be/6iv57z5i-Jw?si=MgroKaZriMB3c-Yv> (Documentary)\_ **Fixer & DoP**  
<http://linkedin.com/in/hein-van-zijl-932122119> (**LinkedIn**)

## **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Film Fixer - Namibia - 2018 - Current**

- Science North (Canadian) - Cheetah Film - July 2021
- BBC (British) - Herero Project - April 2019
- BBC (British) - Wildlife Project - September 2020
- Deutsche Welle (German) - Street Debates - February 2022
- Deutsche Welle (German) - 77 Percent - August 2022
- Galaxie Press (French) - Expedition - November 2022
- Dix Dix-Neuf Productions (French) - Desert Trekking - January 2023
- Max Contact Co. Ltd (Japanese) - Desert Lion Project - April 2023
- POA Network Inc. (Japanese) - Natural History - July 2023
- The Far Eastern TV Entertainment Inc. (Japanese) - Khoi San Project - August 2023

### **Freelance Filmmaker - Namibia - 2018 - Current**

- Cinematographer on various international productions (Link references on request).

### **Freelance Scout & Location Manager - Namibia - 2018 - Current**

- One Strange Rock - Nutopia - UK
- Honda - Gatehouse - SA
- The Challenge - Bunim-Murray Productions – USA
- Genesis – Stillking - SA
- The Power - Film Africa - SA
- Blackbird - Metafilms – Canada
- San - Amnesty International – SA
- Fascination Earth – ZDF – Germany
- Wild World Diaries – FOP – SA
- Natural History – NHK - Japan

### **Head of Camera Department – Quizzical Pictures - 2007-2018**

The company has approximately 150 employees and is one of South Africa's major film and television production houses. It is frequently contracted for production work by e.tv, (one of the largest television channels in South Africa) and the state-owned South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

- Leading a team of 20 in the Camera Department and managing technical operations on the studio floor including lighting and sound crews
- Structuring of training and development programs
- Training and development of junior crew members
- Formulating daily feedback reports of training and development progress
- Managing and directing of internships
- Working on the filming and production of a wide variety of content including television dramas, soap operas, documentaries and short films
- Ensuring that content is complete and ready to go to the post-production process
- Establishing a creative relationship with each film director – developing rapport and finding a consistent style of filming that reflects and complements their interpretation of the script
- Developing a common understanding with the director on the approach for each episode; helping the director steer actors and creative departments in this direction
- Reviewing shoots with the whole production team and making changes and revisions
- Staying calm and patiently working with others – including sometimes flamboyant or emotional personalities
- Showing respect at all times to people with different cultural perspectives and backgrounds
- Working as efficiently as possible under considerable time pressure due to high production costs
- Regularly multi-tasking by planning the setup for up a shoot as the director does the preliminary walk-through with the actors
- Reduced production downtime by developing the capacity to fix a number of technical issues on the spot without having to wait for engineers
- Improved the resilience of the production process by cross- training a number of junior operators to fill in for other roles if needed
- Staying creatively fresh by examining the work of renowned cinematographers worldwide and keeping up with trends
- Conducting location shoots as the Director of Photography; dealing with the physical and technical challenges of the environment, weather and natural light

### **Owner & Director - ProVid Productions Jun 2011 - Sep 2016**

- Managing a small, private professional photography and film- production company  
Concentrating primarily on the corporate market and supporting brand activations through the creation of video, photographic and multi-media content
- Major clients include Bossaball Sports (International), Zinto Marketing, Kruger National Park and Pilanesberg Resorts Working end-to-end from the initial filming or photographic work, through to edited, production-ready content
- Developing a network of contacts in the corporate sector to drive additional business and managing all financial aspects of the company

### **Camera Operator – Backstage (E-TV) Oct 2005 - Apr 2007**

- Second-in-charge to the Head of Department and worked predominantly on the channel's news production and creative content including soap operas
- Managed all technical aspects of the shoots

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Certificate in Advanced Art Photography**

National College of Photography, South Africa 2003

### **Certificate in Film, TV and Multimedia**

Institute of Film, TV and Multimedia, South Africa 2001

## **REFERENCES:**

### **Justin Booth**

Executive Producer, Burnam & Murray Productions, MTV, USA

### **Sam Martin**

Technical Head, Quizzical Pictures, South Africa

### **Darren Kelfkens**

Actor/Producer/Director, Adjustment Bureau, South Africa

### **Abe Sitzer**

Creative Director & Producer, Discovery, USA

### **David Benade**

Owner, Director, Collective Productions, Namibia

### **Andy van Eeden**

Head of Sound, E-TV, South Africa

### **Denny Miller**

Director, Backstage, South Africa

\*\*\*\*\**(Contact details for all referees on request)*\*\*\*\*\*