
SOPHY CRANE

Fixer and Assistant Producer (self-shooting)

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As a self-shooting assistant producer I work efficiently and effectively leading teams on location and during pre-production. For the last five years I have been living overseas, mainly in Australia, managing shoots both within the country and further afield, gaining experience on blue chip documentaries as well as observational documentaries with sensitive subjects and difficult access. I am experienced with complex dive logistics, equipment and safety having most recently worked across natural history marine documentaries and adventure series including *Secrets of the Octopus*, *Limitless: With Chris Hemsworth*, and *Baby Sharks*. My ability to self-shoot and dive has allowed me to direct shoots including underwater, macro, FPV, drone, gimbal and tank. Further, my interest in producing wildlife and conservation content can be seen in my portfolio of documentaries that I have produced as a Video Journalist for the likes of Yahoo! and 60 Second Docs, and my current role as a Digital Producer in impact at the NHU.

EXPERIENCE

Digital Shooter / Producer, BBC Natural History Unit

JUL 2022 -
PRESENT

'Our Green Planet' Impact Campaign

- Shooting, directing and editing short conservation documentaries and content.
- Supervising two researchers whilst working collaboratively to curate engaging content.
- Directing and shooting conservation hero stories using drone, gimbal, hand held and macro.
- Editing and post-producing scripts and storylines, whilst managing vast deliverable requirements.

NDA Assistant Producer, SeaLight Pictures

SEP 2021 -
AUG 2022

"Secrets of the Octopus" (3 x 1 hr Disney+/National Geographic)

- Three-part natural history series featuring blue chip underwater behavioural sequences.
- Scripting and directing complex international, natural history sequences with multiple cameras including five underwater rigs (macro, probe, wide, zoom and stills) and drone, FPV, gimbal and tank operations.
- Working closely with the producers and PM to manage cost trackers and shoot budgets.
- Crafting clear and creative shot lists for each sequence and for crews filming remotely.
- Managing safety on location by working closely with dive supervisors and skippers, managing crews on long rebreather night dives by monitoring diver oxygen saturation and dive logs, and maintaining safety equipment and tank fills.
- Innovating in technology and working closely with engineers to develop custom builds. Camera assisting on RED, Z Cam, Sony, sliders, jibs, Nauticam & Gates housings, and BTS shooting.

Shooting Assistant Producer, SeaLight Pictures

APR 2021 -
OCT 2021

"Baby Sharks" (1 x 1 hr Disney+/National Geographic)

- Researching and pitching six behavioural and character-led sequences about the challenges baby sharks face with serious fishing pressures and a rapidly changing climate.
- Scripting and directing four out of the six stories using multiple cameras including underwater, macro, tank, drone, and gimbal, as well as conducting contributor interviews.
- Setting up complex international marine shoots, managing tank shoots in Australia and negotiating access to tricky locations including culturally significant marine national parks.
- Managing safety on location and writing risk assessments and animal welfare declarations.
- Topside shooting (FS7 and A7S iii and Ronin RS2 Gimbal).

Shooting Assistant Producer, Ronde Media (freelance)

JUN 2021 -
NOV 2021

"Big Miracles" (8 x 1 hr Channel 9)

- Building relationships and negotiating access to IVF patients and their families in order to film their pregnancy journeys from conception through to birth.
- Filming sensitive subjects during medical procedures whilst directing talent and crew on location.

EXPERIENCE CONT.

Video Journalist/Producer, Verizon Media / Yahoo

JAN 2020 -
MAR 2022

- Freelance shooter/producer/editor pitching short conservation and wildlife focused documentaries for online platforms, self-shooting using FS7 and self-recording audio.
- Over 12 films went 'viral' and reached over 10 million views each.

Shooting Assistant Producer, CJZ

DEC 2020 -
FEB 2021

"Bondi Rescue S16" 8 x half hr Channel 10

- Fast-paced and high pressure directing and self-shooting in the hot Australian summer for this popular observational-documentary series.
- Operated as the main underwater camera on jet skis, SCUBA and freediving.

Researcher, Beyond Productions

AUG 2019 -
JAN 2020

"Cocaine Trade Exposed: The Invisibles" SBS and National Geographic.

"Great White Double Trouble" Discovery Shark Week

Researcher, World Animal Protection

AUG 2019 -
NOV 2019

"Suffering in silence - uncovering the cruelty of the global trade in Ball pythons"

PA and Second Camera, Pinky Productions

AUG 2018

"Swim with Whale Sharks" Blue Marine Foundation

- Filming whale shark behaviour and the conservation work of researchers in the Maldives.
- Negotiating access and diving on SCUBA to film the human/wildlife conflict.

Remote Camera Operator and Director, Hawk-Eye Innovations

JUL 2018 -
MAR 2020

Live world ATP and WTA tennis tour. BBC, ESPN, Sky Sports, Channel 7, BT Sports

SKILLS AND STRENGTHS

Directing & Producing

With strong communication skills, an eye for framing and a clear creative direction, I have directed underwater, drone, tank, FPV, macro, underwater, and gimbal shoots.

Research & Coordinating

An ambitious storyteller, I am a creative and imaginative script writer willing to push the story to curate emotionally-engaging character-led narratives, whilst working closely with PCs and fixers to set up complex international and remote shoots within budget restraints.

Relationship Building

My ability to build strong relationships with scientists, organisations, councils and fixers has provided unprecedented access to sensitive locations, as well as gaining valuable resources for stories and behaviours.

Safety

Having worked extensively on boats, remote locations and travelled widely for work, I understand the risks particularly around dive shoots. I have written many risk assessments and work closely with dive supervisors, safety divers and skippers to ensure a safe shoot.

Shooting & Equipment

Being a confident self-shooter for actuality and interviews (I own an FS7 kit) means I have a strong interest and understanding of camera technologies and custom built equipment. I have also assisted cinematographers using RED, Z Cam and Sony cameras, whilst maintaining Gates and Nauticam housings, so am technically inclined and enjoy innovating in this space.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Biological Sciences (BSc) - University of Sheffield
- ICS Rescue Diver, PADI Dry Suit, SSI Advanced Open Water, SSI Open Water
- Emergency First Response First Aid (Valid to Feb '23)
- Full current drivers license (UK and Australia) and proficient at towing trailers