



Luke Wiles

DOCUMENTARY DIRECTOR

PERSONAL SUMMARY

An accomplished multi award-winning Director with decades of experience making emotionally compelling documentaries and commercials across 5 continents.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Visual Originality
Leading-edge Techniques
Drama-Documentary
Studio Direction
Team Leadership
'A' List Contributors
Hostile Environments

After shooting over 100 commercials, including award-winners in New York and Auckland, I now focus on creating high rating, visually exciting, emotive documentaries in genres that range from cinematic events to intimate portraits.

Consistently I make films that receive Critic's Choice. I've directed two of the highest-ever rated documentaries for Animal Planet, short films for CNN that have won the prestigious Peabody Award, and am widely praised for both my storytelling skills and my distinctive visual style. In recent years my documentaries have been shortlisted for RTS, Emmy, BAFTA, IWFF, Banff and Televisual awards.

I have a simple goal: to provoke a change in how you think and feel, while keeping you entertained.

DOCUMENTARY

The White Mountain

Theatrical Feature

Writer / Director

Two elite athletes battle physical and emotional extremes on the deadliest mountain on Earth, pitting risk against reward to overcome the threat of crevasses, avalanches and above all, their own fear.

Welcome to Earth

1hr Disney+

Director

Working with filmmaker Darren Aronofsky to create a cinematic event series exploring the fragility and wonder of planet Earth. Will Smith guides viewers on an unprecedented series of challenging expeditions.

<https://vimeo.com/661731996>

Secret Life of Twins

1hr ITV

Series Director

Emotive stories and cinematic studio sequences reveal how, after months together in the womb and sometimes decades outside, identical twins possess astonishing synchronicity and yet surprising differences.

★ Winner Royal Television Society Documentary Award

<https://vimeo.com/134294687>

The Life of Earth

90' Smithsonian

Director

How did the world we call Home come to be? It's a question as old as humankind itself. Now, space tech is gaining us new insights into our solar system's formation and how life on Earth has influenced the rise of humans.

Nature Untamed

1hr National Geographic Producer / Director

An American sports hunter shoots what he believes is a polar bear. He is mistaken and faces a criminal inquiry. Combining dramatization and science documentary to decode one of nature's great mysteries.

★ IWFF Award for Storytelling

<https://vimeo.com/8704281>

Secrets of Growing Up/Old

2 x 1hr ITV

Series Director

Character-driven stories unite with imaginative explanatory sequences to unravel the extraordinary benefits of aging – and reveal astounding facts about our childhood development – so that we never see these remarkable periods of our lives in the same way again.

'These uplifting films reveal surprising facts and meet inspiring people. Brilliant! 5*' *TV Times*

<https://vimeo.com/165167810>

Flesh Eating River Monster

1hr Animal Planet

Producer / Director

The film that launched the River Monsters brand – an action-adventure investigation - led by Jeremy Wade, exploring unmappped Indian borderlands to discover the identity of a predator that's terrorising villagers.

★ Winner Royal Television Society West Specialist Factual

★ IWFF Award for Storytelling and Investigative Reporting

'The Network's best performing Prime Telecast ever.' *Marjorie Kaplan, President, Animal Planet*

<https://vimeo.com/8697348>

24 Hours Inside the Human Body

1hr Channel 4

Director

A ground-breaking obs doc following two people across one day, discovering the highs and lows of what happens to their bodies in intricate detail using the latest forensic filming techniques in the first full human body rig.

Secret Life of Cats

1hr ITV

Producer / Director

Innovative filming techniques - and heart-warming storytelling about those that love them - uncover the awe-inspiring qualities that each and every feline possesses.

★ Winner Royal Television Society West Award

'Outstanding. A great balance of storytelling and observation.' *Peter Fincham, Director of TV, ITV*

'A gorgeous piece of telly.' *Grace Dent, Independent*

<https://vimeo.com/99979645>

Spawn of Jaws

1hr Discovery

Producer / Director

Observational documentary following *Fast and Furious* star Paul Walker as he joins a maverick scientist on a dangerous mission to solve the mystery of where the ocean's fiercest predators are born.

SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Heroes

CNN

Director

In Bali extraordinary midwife and *Hero of the Year* Robin Lim touchingly reveals her passion for free, heartfelt healthcare to supermodel and activist Christy Turlington.

<https://vimeo.com/33488886>

An affecting tribute to Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow whose work to feed vulnerable malnourished children in Haiti and around the planet is driven by a humble need to make a difference.

<https://vimeo.com/17326271>

★ George Peabody Award

★ My Hero Media Award

DRAMA-DOCUMENTARY

Fatal Attractions

1hr Animal Planet

Producer / Director

It's a basic instinct for humans to want to love and be loved. But for some, this simple desire can take them into complex, obsessive and terrifying territory. This visually powerful drama-doc looks deeply into the character of those who take one step too far.

We were on the edge of our seats. Fantastic!! *Erin Wanner, Animal Planet*

<https://vimeo.com/75297848>

The Snake That Exploded

1hr Five

Producer / Director

Dramatized reconstruction of the events that surround the discovery of a bizarre, mangled corpse in Florida's Everglades National Park: the bloated remains of a huge, scaly creature with two tails, two legs and no head.

Critic's Choice *News of the World, Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, Daily Record*

<https://vimeo.com/35368319>

Jago: A Life Underwater

1hr Netflix

Executive Producer

The 4K visually spectacular and dramatic story of Rohani, an 80 year-old Indonesian hunter, who hobbles around on land, yet dives like a fish on a single breath.

★ Winner Jackson Hole Festival - Grand Teton Award

PRESENTER-LED

Egypt's Sunken City

1hr BBC2

Director

Overnight a legendary, lost city is re-found in Egypt - discovered by chance – buried underwater for 1200 years. Lucy Blue finds out what the city of Heracleion was, and why it vanished from sight beneath the waves.

Critic's Choice – *Daily Telegraph*

World's Deadliest Towns

1hr Discovery

Producer / Director

Tiger attacks are devastating Indian communities in West Bengal. Host Dave Salmoni is on a mission to find out why this area has become the frontline in the conflict between man and man-eater.

Critic's Choice – *The Guardian*

<https://vimeo.com/19900309>

COMMERCIAL

Peugeot 206 / Toyota Brand / OCS / Durex / Refresh / Channel Z

Director

★ Moebius Silver New York

★ Axis Silver Auckland

SHOWREEL

<https://vimeo.com/662644355>

PERSONAL

Nationality

British

US iVisa

NZ Resident Visa

Industry

Directors UK Member

Documentary Emmy Judge, Science and Nature 2011 - 2023

Documentary Emmy Judge, Sports 2017 - 2023

National Geographic Field Ready Mentor 2020 - 2021

EDUCATION

Loughborough University

B.A. Hons. Design

Fakenham Grammar School

REFERENCES

Please call or e.mail for contact details of appropriate references.

www.lukewiles.com

lukewiles@blueyonder.co.uk

+44 [0]794 123 2568