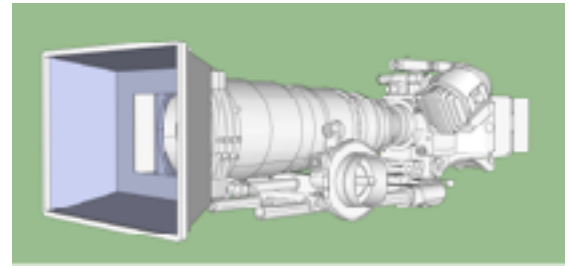


James Bayliss-Smith

cinematographer - documentary / wildlife / promos / aerials
crafting *beautiful* images and sequences

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James Bayliss-Smith is an award-winning cameraman and filmmaker based out of Bristol in the UK. His career was born out of a passion for adventure, travel, creativity and technology. James shoots documentaries, wildlife, aerials promos and is up for anything *adventurous*. He has filmed in over 20 countries and in doing so has developed a natural empathy with peoples from all cultures. Specialising as a sync cameraman on both character driven and presenter-led documentaries, he is experienced in shooting with a range of styles and on a variety of cameras. James has a eye for a beautiful shot and brings a developed aesthetic sense, and a feel for story, to each sequence and project he works on.

- CAA Licensed drone pilot - DJI Inspire 1 Pro Owner/Operator
- Letus Helix Gimbal Owner/Operator (the Helix is in the same class as the mōvi pro)
- Award-winning cinematographer (Australian Cinematographers Society award)
- Hostile Environment Trained by the ABC in Sydney - USA iVisa until 2021
- Experienced FCP X video editor/ BA International Relations with East-Asian studies - Leeds University
- British & Italian passport holder / EU and Chinese driving licence / Global Citizen

2018 - BBC 2 - Human Planet - Rituals Series; DoP. Documentary shoot for the BBC Natural History Unit in Papua New Guinea for the 'landmark' follow up series to the critically acclaimed Human Planet. James filmed a brutal scarification ritual for one of the stories in the initiations episode with producer/director Simon Bell.

2018 - Channel 5 - Tigress Productions - 'North Atlantic - A year in the wild'; Wildlife Cameraman. Sequence work with Eider Ducks and Arctic foxes filmed on location in Iceland over midsummer.

2018 - BBC 4 - Bungalow Town Productions; DoP. Observational documentary shoot in Thailand for ongoing feature documentary in production about a Thai Elephant Campaigner.

2018 - Feature Doc - The Alawai Way - drone and gimbal specialist cameraman. Documentary shoot in Kenya for ongoing documentary in production about the history of the Islamic tradition of Sufism. Drone DoP and gimbal operator.

2018 - Feature Doc - Lost in Vagueness, Cameraman, Observational documentary shoot initially over ten days at the Glastonbury music festival filming a behind-the-scenes documentary about the Lost Vagueness creative collective. First shoot was in 2007! Then more shoots in 2017.

2017 - Plimsoll productions - Channel 5 - 'Wild Great Britain'; Wildlife Cameraman. Sequence work with Sand Lizards and Smooth Snakes as well as sync with reptile specialist, the 'Lizard Wizard' for a contributor driven sequence for Channel 5's landmark UK-based natural history series.

2017 - BBC 2 - Springwatch; Wildlife Cameraman / Director. James Produced directed and shot one of Springwatch's "Cameraman Diary" [films](#) about James's grandfather who was a renowned bird photographer. Filmed behavioural sequences with migrating Dunlin on Hilbre Island in the Wirral. <https://vimeo.com/222347194>

2016 Promo - Tailfin; DoP, Director, Editor. Produced very successful Kickstarter campaign video for Bristol based mechanical engineering company Tailfin. This [project](#) involved lots of aerial work as well as extensive shooting on a gimbal (Letus Helix) and slider work.



2016 - Feature Doc - The Boy from Mushin; DoP. Travelled to Rwanda and South Africa to shoot observational sequences for the documentary 'The [Boy](#) from Mushin' about Nigerian Human right activist Bisi Almini

2015/16 - Vice; DoP. Ongoing documentary projects for Vice including a documentary on the Jewish Agency one on Euthanasia and a film about the migrant [crisis](#) on the Greek/Macedonian border

2015 - National Geographic, DoP / Director. Filmed & directed sequences for landmark National Geographic series 'China from Above'. In total James shot 8 stories for the series during 2 shoots. View a short visual documentary 'The Fujianese Seaweed farmers of Southern China' [here](#)

2014 - Tibet Feature Documentary (untitled) - DoP. Spent an unforgettable week living with a Tibetan farming family that practiced polyandry. James was shooting a documentary teaser with award winning Australian Director, Celeste Geer. She is used the material to try and secure further funding.

2011/14 - Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Lighting Cameraman & Editor. Full-time cameraman and editor at the ABC's Beijing news bureau. 3 years shooting and editing news features and breaking news. Click on [A](#), [B](#), [C](#), or [D](#) for some samples of James's work.

2014 - Punt Wars, 76 minutes, Fluvial Films, producer/director/editor/camera. Filmed and directed a feature-length observational documentary about the Cambridge Punt Wars. For a trailer click [here](#).

2010 - CCTV News (English), producer/director/editor/camera. Spent six months as a 'Foreign Expert' at CCTV's English language news channel producing documentaries for their reporter fronted documentary series Rediscovering China. James was the first foreigner ever allowed 'behind the camera' in the features department. See below for some more details of the films he made while he was there.

2010 - CCTV News - The Grape Wall of China, 27 minutes, producer/director/editor/camera. Documentary about the Chinese Wine industry made for reporter fronted documentary series Rediscovering China. Click [here](#) for full film.

2010 - CCTV News - Yushu, Rising from the Rubble, 27 minutes, cameraman / assistant producer. Documentary about the aftermath of the Yushu Earthquake in Tibet. Made for reporter fronted documentary series Rediscovering China. Click [here](#) for full film.

2009 - Current TV - Black Fortress of Opium, producer/director/editor/camera. Documentary about the Opium Poppy farmers of Turkey who cultivate the plant legally for its medicinal use. This was a second commission for Al Gore's network Current TV. Click [here](#) for full film.

2009 - Current TV - Why aren't I a Millionaire?, producer/director/editor/camera. Produced a short comic documentary about turning 30, commissioned by Current TV (and subsequently chosen as the best film) for their quarter life crisis season. Click [here](#) for full film.

2007 - Feature Doc -The Man Behind the Hit Man, camera operator. Flew to Las Vegas in December 07' to shoot a documentary about Ricky Hatton's coach Billy Graham during the build up to the Floyd Mayweather fight.