

Raised in the rural southern US, I began making movies as a child. That passion followed me to university where one of my shorts was selected by IMAX to play before their revival screenings of Ang Lee's Ride With the Devil. A year after, I landed my first feature & my career as a full-time filmmaker began.

In 2008, I shifted to Los Angeles, serving as DoP, editor, and/or colourist for features, shorts, and music videos. Couple years later I ventured into directing and producing features (Come Morning & The Perfect Host: A Southern Gothic Tale), and stretched my geographical bounds to Europe then New Zealand, my adopted home since 2016.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY						
2024	Shadow of the Deathbird	Television	Writer, Director, DoP	RED Dragon + Zeiss Ultra Primes		
	Zeffer Cider / Dyno	Advert	Director, DoP, Editor	RED Dragon + Zeiss CP.3 Primes		
	He Wai o Te Ao	Music Video	DoP, Editor, Colourist	RED Dragon + Zeiss CP.3 Primes		
	Inhale Exhale (dir. by Vincent Ward)	Art Film	Editor			
	Through a Glass, Lightly	Short	Producer, Director, DoP, Editor, Colourist	RED Dragon + Samyang Primes		
	Kea Kids (18eps)	Television	Camera Operator/Director	Sony FX6 + E Series Zooms		
	RE: News (5eps)	Television	DoP/Director	RED Dragon + Samyang Primes		
2023	NFT (UK)	Feature	Editor, Colourist			
	Water Horse (AU)	Feature	Colourist			
	Out There in Hustler Country	Advert x10 (International)	Director/DoP	RED Dragon + Samyang Primes		
	1978	Feature	First Assistant Camera	RED Dragon + Zeiss ZF.2		
	Juicy Fest	Event	Camera Operator	Sony HDC 5500 + Fujinon Zooms		
2022	Hustler Long Stem Hay	Advert (International)	First Assistant Camera	RED Monstro + Schneider Primes		
	Q+A with Jack Tame (TVNZ)	Television	Camera Operator	Sony FS700 + E Series Lenses		
	All Out	Music Video	Director, DoP, Editor	BM Ursa Mini 4.6k + Sigma Primes		
2021	Gravel and Tar	Event	Lead Camera Operator	BM Ursa Mini 4.6k + EOS Zooms		
	The Invisible Woman	Short	Producer, Director, Writer, DoP, Editor	BM Ursa Mini 4.6k + EOS Zooms		
2019	Bluegrass Spirits	Feature	Trailer Editor			
	The Reapers	Short	Director, Writer, DoP, Editor, Colourist	Canon C200 + Canon Primes		
	7 Days	Television	Camera Operator	Sony ENG + Fujinon Zoom		
2018	The Perfect Host: A Southern Gothic Tale	Feature	Producer, Director, Writer, Editor, Colourist	ARRI Alexa + Zeiss Standards		
2017	UCOL : BCM	Advert	Producer, Writer, Director, DoP, Editor	BM Ursa Mini + Canon CinePrimes		
	Small Blacks TV	Television	Camera Operator	Sony FS5		
2016	The Remains	Feature	DoP, Colour Consultant	RED Epic M + ARRI Alura Zooms		
	Dayspring	Advert	DoP, Editor, Colourist	RED Dragon + Zeiss Contax		
2015	Walmart Pay	Advert (National)	DoP, Editor, Colourist	RED Dragon + Zeiss Contax		
	Classroom 6	Feature	DoP	Nikon D4 + Nikkor Primes		
	Little Sparks	Television	Co-Writer, DoP, Editor, Colourist (6 Eps)	ARRI Amira + Fujinon Zooms		
	Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art	Advert (x2)	DoP	GH4 + Botlink Octocopter		
	Reunion	Feature	DoP	RED Epic + Zeiss Super Speeds		
2014	Walmart: Professor	Television	DoP, Editor	ARRI Amira + Fujinon Zooms		
	Preying for Mercy (dir. by Bill Duke)	TV Feature	A CamOp	Panasonic AF100 + Zeiss ZF		
2013	The 37	Feature	Camera Operator	Sony FS700 + Sony Primes		
	A Christmas Wedding	Feature	DoP	RED Scarlet + Zeiss ZF		
	University of Arkansas	Corporate/Advert	Cinematographer, Editor, Colourist Canon C	100 + Canon Zooms		
2012	Come Morning	Feature	Director, Writer, DoP, Editor, Colourist	RED One + Cooke S4s		
	Making Light in Terezin (CZ)	Feature	DoP, Co-Editor, Co-Colourist	Canon 5Dmkll + Canon Lenses		
	Who's Watching the Kids	Feature	Co-DoP	RED Scarlet + Canon Lenses		
2010	Late Bloomer	Feature	DoP, Editor, Colourist	Panasonic HVX200		
2008	The River Within	Feature	DoP, Editor, Colourist	Varicam + Fujinon Zoom		
2006	War Eagle, Arkansas	Feature	Camera Operator			

LINKS

HONOURS & AWARDS

2012

Austin Film Festival

youtube.com/derrickleesims	Official Selection	2024	Top of the South Film Festival
youtube.com/demakicesims	Official Selection	2022/23/24	Wairarapa Film Festival
linkedin.com/in/DerrickLeeSims	Wellington City Finalist x2	2019/2021	Vista 48hrs NZ
IIIIkediii.com/iii/DemckLeesiiiis	Telly Award x3 (USA)	2015/2016	Harps Heroes, Harps Farmers, Harps Holiday
instagram.com/dsimsdop/	Best of Fest	2014	Charles B. Pierce Film Festival
ilistagram.com/usimsdop/	American Cinematographer	2013	August Issue / Wild Horses w/ Bob Richardson
IMDh : 11 / 2207400	Official Selection	2013	White Sands Film Festival
imdb.com/name/nm2397480	Jury Prize for Best Cinematography	2013	Oxford Film Festival

Official Selection