

STEVE UNWIN

DOP ~ SELF-SHOOTING PRODUCER/DIRECTOR ~ DRONE OPERATOR



PROFILE

I'm an experienced Director of Photography, Self-Shooting Producer/Director, Camera Operator, and Inspire 3 Drone Pilot, working across documentary, and commercial projects for television, cinema, and digital platforms. With over 16 years in the screen industry, I have a proven track record of delivering bold, visually compelling, sync-driven, character-led storytelling in dynamic, real-world environments—combining creative vision with strong technical expertise, a collaborative 'can-do' spirit, and a distinctive cinematic style. My career has taken me around the globe from New Zealand to the U.S.A, Asia, Europe and the U.K. where I've honed my craft across a diverse range of genres, including observational and specialist documentaries, natural history, science, cultural, features, and factual formats. Technically adept with drones (including Inspire 3), GoPros, camera traps, timelapse, and in-field sound recording while self-shooting, I'm also a clear communicator and collaborative team player, adaptable to evolving editorial needs. Confident across the entire production process—from research and planning to field directing and location filming I've shot and produced content for leading broadcasters and platforms such as Universal Studios, Paramount Pictures, Discovery, Disney, TVNZ and Netflix.

EXPERIENCE

As Head of Media Production at Wētā Workshop (2008-2018), I led a team supporting major film and TV projects. As Creative Producer, I collaborated with studios to deliver high-quality imaging and EPK content, contributing on-camera work, camera tests, and behind-the-scenes footage for use in films, TV, and documentaries.

Since leaving Wētā in 2018, I've expanded my portfolio and skills across a broad range of projects aligned with my values - spanning short films, documentaries, features, commercials, TV, and digital content. I continue to produce behind-the-scenes and EPK content for major film studios, I've embraced diverse opportunities across conservation, cultural, arts and community initiatives. At the heart of my work is a deep passion for visual storytelling through the camera. I'm equally inspired by the natural world, and enjoy bringing its beauty and complexity to the screen. I'm always open to new projects that are meaningful, creatively engaging, and aligned with values I believe in.

When I'm not behind the camera, I love immersing myself in nature. Multi-day hiking through scenic trails, mountain biking along forest paths, and swimming in the ocean are some of my favourite ways to unwind and recharge. These outdoor adventures not only keep me active but also inspire my creativity and deepen my appreciation for the natural world.

SKILLS

Cinematography
Self-Shooting Producer/Director
102 Cert Drone Operation/Inspire 3
Stills Photography
Gimbal Operation
Kessler Motion Control
Film Lighting
Stills Strobe lighting
Resolve (Colour grading)
Adobe Premiere (editing)
Adobe Photoshop
Adobe Lightroom
Full Drivers license
PADI open water cert
Underwater camera
St John's First Aid Certificate

CONTACT STEVE

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WEBSITE

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EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS 2018 - 2025

M3GAN 2.0 - Universal Studios - 2025 - Feature Film - Self-Shooting EPK Producer/Director
Roger Walker 2025 - Phantom House Productions - Feature Documentary - Director of Photography & Drone Op
Wolfman - Universal Studios - 2025 - Feature Film - Self-Shooting EPK Producer/Director
Wolfman - Universal Studios - 2025 Feature Film - Drone Operator
Moving Houses 2025 TV Series - Camera Operator
I, Object - Scythia Films 2025 - Feature Film - Drone Operator
Colossal Docuseries - Underdog Films 2024 - Docuseries - Self-Shooting Producer/Director (NZ)
Yellow Eye Penguin Doco – UltimateBS TV 2023 - Docuseries - DOP/Drone Operator, Self-Shooting P/D
Into The Valley – Jawbone Pictures/WB/Discovery 2023 docuseries - Camera operator/Drone Operator
J - Style Trip - NZ – Netflix 2023 - Aerial Director of Photography (Drone Operator)
Alien Earth - TV series – Minim UK/Disney 2023 - Director of Photography (Test shoot NZ)
We're Not Your Dusky Maidens - Te Papa Tongawera - Director of Photography
Designing Dreams – Imagination TV 2023 - Aerial Director of Photography (Drone Operator)
Masters of the Muralverse Ep 1 – Good Times/TVNZ 2023 - Director of Photography & Drone Operator
Te Kahu Tōi– Ministry of Education - Teacup Prod 2023 - Doco shorts - Director of Photography
Still Running - Golden Coast Collective 2023 - Feature doco - Director of Photography (NZ)
Being Me: Julie Woods - Attitude/TVNZ 2023 - TV doco - Director of Photography/Drone Operator
Bulletproof: Jamie Nepia - Attitude/TVNZ 2023 - TV doco - Director of Photography
Being Me: Bailee Lobb - Attitude/TVNZ 2022 - TV doco - Director of Photography
Waka Ama Part 1 & 2 - Attitude/TVNZ 2022 - TV doco - Director of Photography
Dane Mitchell Iris, Iris, Iris – Te Papa Tongawera 2023 In exhibition doco short - DOP/Creative Producer
Simon Morris: Room of Time - City Gallery Wellington 2023 - Doco short - DOP/Creative Producer
My Perfect Family: Api Latu - Attitude/TVNZ 2023 - TV doco - Director of Photography/Drone Operator
My Perfect Family: Grace Payne - Attitude/TVNZ 2022 - TV doco - Director of Photography
My Perfect Family: Harper Arhern - Attitude/TVNZ 2022 - TV doco - Director of Photography
Being Me: Susan Williams - Attitude/TVNZ 2022 - TV doco - Director of Photography
Being Me: Jared Flitchcroft - Attitude/TVNZ 2022 - TV doco - Director of Photography/Drone operator
Muru – Jawbone Pictures - 2021- 2022 - Feature Film - EPK Doco Creative Producer/DOP
Ngā Pouwhenua - We Are Still Here - NZ Film Commission - 2022 - Feature Film - EPK DOP/Creative Producer
Atua - Piki Films - 2021- 2022 - Interactive promotion - DOP/Creative Producer
Red, White & Brass - Piki Films - 2021- 2022 Feature Film - EPK DOP/Creative Producer & Stills Photographer
Archives NZ - Film Unit Tour - Short doco - Director of Photography/Creative producer
M3GAN - Universal Studios - 2021-22 - Feature Film - EPK DOP/NZ Creative Producer
Surreal Toi - Te Papa Tongawera - Short Doco - Director of Photography/Creative producer
Toi Tū Toi Ora: Visual Sovereignty - Feature Doco - Director of Photography, (Wellington)
Powerswitch TVC - Consumer NZ 2021 - Director of Photography/Creative Producer
The Zealandia Story TVC - Zealandia - TVC - DOP/Director/Producer
Women's Refuge TVC - Double Fish - TVC - Camera Operator
Huggies Nappies TVC - Huggies - TVC - Camera Operator
Daybreak TVC - Hello Sunday Morning - TVC - Camera Operator/Motion Controller operator
Tāonga - SW1 Films - Short Film - Director of Photography
Avatar: The Way of Water - 20th Century Fox 2019 - Feature Film - EPK DOP/Creative Producer(NZ)
Raya and the Last Dragon - Disney Studios 2021 - Feature Film - EPK DOP/Creative Producer(NZ)
Millie Lies Low - Sandy Lane Productions 2021 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer
Olau'u Tatau - Te Papa Tongawera Short exhibition doco - Director of Photography
Gemini Man - Paramount Pictures 2019 Feature Film - EPK Director/Creative Producer (NZ)
Mark Adams, On Tamate - Te Papa Tongawera Short Doco - Director of Photography/Creative Producer

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS WĒTĀ WORKSHOP 2008-2018

Avatar - Way of Water - 20th Century 2022 - Feature Film - EPK DOP (NZ)
Rampage - Warner Bros 2018 - Feature Film - EPK DOP (NZ)
Ghost In The Shell - Paramount Pictures 2018 - Feature Film - EPK DOP/Creative Producer (NZ)
Blade Runner 2049 - Alcon Media 2017 - Feature Film - EPK DOP & Stills Photographer (NZ)
Power Rangers - Lionsgate 2017 - Feature Film - EPK DOP & Stills Photographer (NZ)
The Great Wall - 2016 - Feature Film - EPK DOP (Weta NZ)
Spectral - 2016 - Feature Film - EPK DOP (Weta NZ)
Thunderbirds Are Go! - 2015-2020 - TV Series 26 Eps - Stills Photographer
Krampus - Universal Studios 2015 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer
Building Gallipoli - Te Papa 2015 - Short Doco Series - DOP/Creative Producer
Furious 7: Home In Ruins - Universal Studios 2015 - Feature Film - EPK DOP/Creative Producer (NZ)
The Devil's Rock - 2014 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer
The Wotwots - 2014 - TV Series 41 eps - Stills & additional cinematography
Elysium - 2013 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer (NZ)
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies - 2014 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug - 2013 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey - 2012 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer
The Adventures of Tintin - 2011 - Feature Film - Mocap Stills Photographer
Avatar - 20th Century Fox- 2009 - Feature Film - EPK DOP (NZ)
District 9 - TriStar Pictures 2009 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer (NZ)
Daybreakers - Lionsgate 2009 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer (NZ)
Reclaiming The Blade - Galatia Films 2009 - Feature Documentary Film - DOP (NZ)
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian - 2008 - Feature Film - Stills Photographer (NZ)
Te Taiao Nature Exhibition - Te Papa Tongwera 4 x Promotional Mini Docos DOP/Director/Producer
Adam Savage's Tested VR – 2019 TV/On Demand - Director of Photography

PERSONAL PRIMARY CAMERA EQUIPMENT

I come equipped with various kit options, if required:

Basic Camera Kit

- Sony FX6 4K Cine Camera & Rode NTG5 on-camera mic and tripod.
- Sony A1 50MP 8K DSLR Video/Stills Camera (back up, B-cam or gimbal/action cam)
- Full range of professional Sony lenses 16mm to 600mm including primes
- DJI High-bright HD 7" Directors Monitor with DJI wireless transmitter/receiver

Drone Equipment:

- DJI INSPIRE 3 Cine 8K DRONE - (full production kit if required)
- DJI Mavic 3 Cine 4K Drone

Basic Self-Shooting Director/Producer Interview Additional Kit

- Sony dual channel 2 x radio lav mics.
- Sennheiser MK-50 mic & boom
- Extensive interview lighting kit and lighting control equipment

Lots more gear available including Ronin gimbal, Kessler sliders, macro and long lens set ups.

Contact me for a full list of gear.