

+2772 415 0515 • CRAIGJHB@GMAIL.COM

CRAIG MAARSCHALK

CINEMATOGRAPHER / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

• Premium Documentary • Factual Series • Wildlife •

Craig is a South African cinematographer specialising in documentary storytelling. He has extensive experience across premium documentary series, factual television, wildlife, scripted content and commercial production. His work includes productions for Showmax, Netflix, National Geographic, Amazon, the BBC, kykNET and M-Net, alongside award-winning work across film and television and film festivals.

Equally at home on large-scale, crew-led productions and agile location shoots throughout South Africa, across the African continent and around the world, Craig works closely with directors and producers to translate stories into compelling cinematic images. His approach to cinematography is patient and considered, with a strong focus on character, emotion and the human story. Whether capturing an intimate vérité moment, a cinematic recreation or wildlife in remote locations, he brings a strong visual sensibility and a commitment to serving the story.

Website and Showreel [www.craigmaarschalk.com]

IMDb [[imdb.com/name/nm4009335/](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4009335/)]

Kit & Delivery: Proficient with professional cinema camera equipment and production workflows. Own kit available for lean productions, with experience working across a range of crew sizes and technical requirements. Comfortable leading a full technical crew or working independently in remote, demanding locations.

AWARDS

- 2025: SAFTA Nomination for Best Made for TV Doc, Tracking Thabo Bester
- 2024: SAFTA Nomination for Best Feature Documentary, Beyond the Light Barrier
- 2023: Best Documentary, Al Jazeera Documentary Award. Beyond the Light Barrier
- 2022: SAFTA Winner for Best Made for TV Doc, Senzo: Murder of a Soccer Star
- 2020: SAFTA Nomination for Best Youth Programme, MTV Shuga IRL SE03
- 2019: SAFTA Nomination for Best Cinematography, TV Comedy, Hotel SE02
- 2018: SAFTA Nomination for Best Cinematography, TV Comedy, Phil101
- 2018: SAFTA Nomination for Best Current Affairs, Life Esidemeni
- 2018: SAFTA Winner for Best Youth Programme, MTV Shuga IRL Season 2
- 2016: SAFTA Winner for Best Youth Programme, Life in a Day MTVbase
- 2014: Best Cinematography (+ Best Film), Fusion Doc Challenge at Slamdance for I Am Juli
- 2012: PROMAX Award Winner. Mandela Day commercial for SABC
- 2010: Best Foreign Film, Istanbul Architecture Film Festival Litshe le Golide

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Motion Picture Medium, AFDA Johannesburg -
2008

SELECTED CREDITS

Documentary

- Showmax originals: DOP. Unspoken War // Tracking Thabo Bester - DOP. M-Net: Shape Shifters - DOP. Bad Behaviour // Convict Conman // Super Sport: Outside Lane - Contributing cinematographer. Idea Candy
- Amazon: Beyond the Light Barrier. Good Planets are Hard to Find - Contributing cinematographer. Towerkop Creations
- When I Grow Up I want to be a Black Man - DOP. Blackboard Trust
- Netflix: Senzo: Murder of a Soccer Star - Contributing cinematographer. Storyscope
- Timelines // Fatherland - DOP. TIA Productions
- META: African Innovator // MTV Shuga IRL (Nigeria + South Africa SE01-3) // Al Gore Climate Change documentary, South African leg // MTV 16 and Pregnant (Nigeria) // Miss Trans Diva // The Death of Gift Makau // Ward 22 // MTV Youth of Today // MTV Choose or Lose: Julius Malema, Helen Zille, Jacob Zuma // MTV Meets: Michelle Obama // MTV African All Stars (Nigeria) // MTV Coca-Cola Rock corp - DOP. TIA Productions

- M-Net's My Story - DOP. Lucky bean
- Chasing the Sun, Eziko kwaZama, The Heat - Contributing cinematographer. T&W
- Garden of Ancestors - DOP. Big Fish
- Flat 13 - DOP. Red Pepper

Wildlife

- InsideNatGeo: Africa Refocused/NEWF. Hluhluwe, Sodwana, Durban. South Africa // InsideNatGeo: Okavango Wilderness Project - Wild Bird Trust. Botswana - DOP. National Geographic Society
- National Geographic's Sun Gazer Lizard - DOP. Happy Hand Grenade

Narrative

- Outlaws S1 Establishers unit
- Hotel Season 1- 2 // Phil101 - DOP. NouVanaand

Art films and Museums

- Mary Sibande - Unhand me demon - Hello Circus
- Jess Webster, Givan Lotz - Artist films
- Hey Hilbrow Collective - Shade Productions
- 7 screen installation: Mphebotho Museum - Totem Media
- Museum Content: Oliver Tambo
- Funeka Peppeta's Perpetual - Primadonnna Productions

Features

- The Unforgiving - Kamakazi Productions
- Jozi Kings - Black Irish
- Litshe le Golide - Independent

Commercial, Corporate and Branded Content

- RCL Foods Manifesto // IIE Varsity College TVC - First Pencil
- Google Research: Open Buildings, Ghana - Across the Pond
- Liberty Life "in It With You" TVC - Hello Circus
- UNICEF Healthy Eating Advocacy, Shuga's Back // Vodacom Super Gees - Cheetahs TVC // USAID-Lesotho, BET Hunters Experience (NYC, LA) - TIA Productions
- LOTTO, Pedigree, KFC Add Hope, KFCMini Cricket With the South African Proteas - Happy Hand Grenade
- State of the Nation Address // Channel Editorial for SABC 1, 2, 3 // Mandela Day // Budget Speech // TeamSA - Lucky Bean
- Idwala Industrial Holdings // Exxaro Mining // Anglo America, the Expedition - Kumba Shoot - the Kinetic
- BidorBuy Online - Mamela
- Corporate: ABSA, Standard Bank, Bank of Athens/Grow Bank, SASOL, SAB, BMW, Toyota, Barclays, Karan Beef, SU Summit, AVON - Mann Made Media
- CSIR - SKA Telescope - I Love That Productions

Reality + Current Affairs

- Carte Blanche // Talk With Kwangu Season Two (Zambia), MTV Klipdrift Kasi Street Bash // MTV Interview With Busta Rhymes, Pharrell Williams // ENCA Mountain Bike Academy - TIA Productions
- Ones and Twos Season 3-5, TOMZ Season 1-2 - I Love That Productions
- Chefs in the Wild. Sabi Sands and Tengile & Beyond Lodge - Wakanda Media SA
- Abnormal Loads for Discovery - Oxyg3N Media
- Long Lost Family (UK) - Wall to Wall Media
- MK's Prikkepop, kykNET's Afri Visie - Admit One
- Health Line Season 6 (Ghana) - Launch Factory
- MasterChef SA Season 2 Johannesburg Leg - Quizzical Pictures
- Jan Braai Vir Erfnes - Stephanus Rabie Productions
- Vuzu: CremeCartel - New Vision
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REFERENCES (details on request)

Lindsay Blatt	National Geographic Society
Elle Oosthuizen	Idea Candy
Chris Green	Mamela / T&W
Tarryn Crossman	TIA Productions
Bryony Webster	Independent film/commercials producer
Jyoti Mistry	Blackboard Trust