

Christian Baumeister

Light & Shadow GmbH

Profile

For the past fifteen years, Christian Baumeister and his company Light & Shadow, have received international acclaim for original wildlife films. Christian is known for his award-winning, breathtaking cinematography, detailed animal portraits and exquisite composition.

He has produced and directed more than 20 feature programs, including two major series, with leading broadcasters such as NDR, WDR, ZDF, BBC, ARTE, ORF, Smithsonian Channel, Discovery Channel, Servus TV and National Geographic Wild.

Passionate about wildlife photography from a very young age, Christian studied biology in his native Germany and wildlife filmmaking in the UK. Before founding Light & Shadow, his work as a wildlife cameraman took him to South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.



Latin America sparked a particularly deep and abiding love, and since Light & Shadow was established in 2001, Christian has built up a unique knowledge and expertise in filming spectacular animals and special places all across the South American continent.

Currently, Christian is producing a three-part series about the Andes, portraying the beauty and uniqueness of the longest mountain chain on Earth in unprecedented depth and visual quality.

The Company

MISSION STATEMENT

LIGHT & SHADOW is a film production company that makes factual programs focusing on nature and wildlife around the world. Our productions have garnered awards across the globe and been aired by leading broadcasters.

Founded in 2001 by Christian Baumeister, LIGHT & SHADOW has earned a reputation for high-quality programs that use creative and innovative visuals to tell previously-untold stories. Our aim is to touch global audiences with the beauty and wonder of our planet, subjects often ignored in our fast-paced world. Our productions promote environmental conservation as part of a worldwide effort to save our planet for future generations.

At the heart of our storytelling style is emotion. We use the finest visual artistry to create films that push the limits of factual entertainment, taking viewers on emotional journeys that are also educational and scientifically accurate.

TECHNIQUES

To achieve our lofty artistic ambitions, we take advantage of the most sophisticated tools available for capturing sound and vision. We use cameras that can capture up to 8K resolution, only the finest lenses, and numerous special filming techniques and technologies. These include extreme macro-lenses, ultra-high-speed cameras, time-lapse-in-motion, night-vision cameras and a number of gyro-stabilized motion devices such as drones and helicopter-mounted gimbals. Our exquisite soundscapes are recorded as 5.1 surround sound.

We love moving images and have a highly cinematic approach to film-making, creating what we like to call “emotions through motion”. Using careful framing and inordinate patience, we paint with light and shadow to produce imagery that is both stunning and atmospheric.

Selected Filmography

The Wild Andes (2018)

3 x 50 min / 1 x 90 min

Producer, director, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for WDR, Smithsonian Channel, NDR, svt, SRF, ORF

Iron Jungle – Nature’s Return to the Ruhr Valley (2016)

1 x 50 min

Producer, director, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for WDR, NDR, Albatross World Sales

Wild Brazil (2014)

5 x 50 min

Series producer, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for Terra Mater Factual Studios, Servus TV, National Geographic Wild

Raccoons- Immigrants from Wildwest (2012)

1 x 45 min

Producer

Light & Shadow GmbH for WDR, NDR, Albatross World Sales

Jaguar – The Phantom Cat (2011)

1 x 50 min

Producer, director, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for ARD, NDR, Arte, National Geographic Channel

Europe’s Last Wild Horses (2011)

1 x 50 min

Producer, director, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for ARD, WDR, NDR, Off the Fence

Amazon Alive (2010)

3 x 50 min

Producer, director, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for ARD, NDR, Arte, ORF, Parthenon Entertainment, National Geographic Channel International, Animal Planet

Real Guinea Pig (2010)

1 x 50 min

Producer

Light & Shadow GmbH for ZDF, Arte, ZDF Enterprises

Wild Russia – Kamchatka (2008)

1 x 50 min

Producer, director, director of photography

NDR Naturfilm for ARD, NDR, WDR, Parthenon Entertainment, NGCI, Animal Planet

The Falls of Iguazu (2006)

1 x 50 min

Producer, director, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for ARD, NDR, BBC, ORF, Parthenon Entertainment, National Geographic Channel International

Wild Rio (2004)

1 x 50 min

Producer, director, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for ARD, NDR, ORF, Parthenon Entertainment, National Geographic Channel International (S-16)

Viva Vicuña (2002)

1 x 50 min

Producer, director, director of photography

Light & Shadow GmbH for ZDF, Arte, ZDF Enterprises, Discovery Communications (S-16)

Awards (Choice)

- **IRON JUNGLE – NATURE’S RETURN TO THE RUHR VALLEY**
 - * Best Director, Kokata International Wildlife & Environment Film Festiva, India 2017
 - *1st Price (Category Environment), Woodpecker International Film Festival, India, 2017
 - *1st Price (Category Nature and Natural Science), Ekotopfilm (Slovakia), 2017
 - * Inspiration Award, TUR Festival (Czech Republic) 2017
 - * 4 Golden Omni Awards for Cinematography, Directing, Nature Category, and Musical Score, Omni Awards Spring-Competition (USA), 2017
- **BRAZIL – A NATURAL HISTORY – PART 1: FRAGILE FOREST**
 - * Gold World Medal (Category Nature & Wildlife), New York Festivals (USA), 2015
 - * Distinction for Best Picture and Immersion in Nature, Festival de l’Oiseau et de la Nature (France), 2015
 - * Certificate for Creative Excellence, US International Film & Video Festival (USA), 2015

- **BRAZIL – A NATURAL HISTORY – PART 2:**
 - * Deutscher Wildlife Filmpreis, NaturVision (Germany), 2015
 - * Gold World Medal (Category Nature & Wildlife), New York Festivals (USA), 2015

- **UNTAMED AMERICAS**
 - * Best Cinematography Award, Emmy Awards New York (USA) 2013

- **JAGUAR – THE PHANTOM CAT**
 - * Best Photography Award, International Animal and Nature Film Festival (China) 2013
 - * Audience Award, FIFA Albert (France) 2013
 - * Price of the Deputy Governor of the Moravian-Silesian Region, Ekofilm (Czech Republic) 2012
 - * 2 Golden Omni Awards for Cinematography & Nature Category, and 3 Silver Omni Awards for Writing, Editing & Documentary Category, Omni Awards – Fall Competition (USA) 2012
 - * Grand Prix, Green Vision Festival (Russia) 2012
 - * Best Story, Naturvision (Germany) 2011

- **EUROPE’S LAST WILD HORSES**
 - * 1st Price Green Planet, Ekofilm (Czech Republic) 2012
 - * 2 Golden Omni Awards for Cinematography & Nature Category, and 3 Silver Omni Awards for Writing, Editing & Documentary Category, Omni Awards – Fall Competition (USA) 2012
 - * Audience Award, Greenscreen (Germany) 2012

- **AMAZON ALIVE – PART 1: JUNGLE OF THE MIND**
 - * Best Script Award, Wild Talk Africa – Roscar Awards (South Africa) 2013
 - * Scientific Award & Special Award for Best Screenplay, FIFA Albert (France) 2012
 - * Gran Prix, Namur (Belgium) 2011
 - * 3 Golden Omni Awards for Cinematography, Writing & Nature Category, Omni Awards – Spring Competition (USA) 2011
 - * Intermedia-Globe Gold, World Media Festival Hamburg (Germany) 2011
 - * Special Jury Award, International Forest Film Festival (USA) 2011

- **AMAZON ALIVE – PART 2: HIDDEN SECRETS**
 - * Seris Award, CMS Vatavaran Environment & Wildlife Film Festival (India) 2011
 - * Price of the First Deputy Governor of the Region, International Film Festival Tur Ostrava (Czech Republic) 2011
 - * Golden Omni Award for Nature Category (USA) 2011

- **AMAZON ALIVE – PART 3: FOREST OF THE FUTURE**
 - * Jury Diploma for Courage and Mastership of the Cameramen, The World of Knowledge Filmfestival (Russia) 2012
 - * Best Author’s Award, TV Festival Bar (Montenegro) 2011
 - * Best Film in Category „Tiere & Lebensräume“, Darsser Naturfilmfestival

(Germany) 2011

* Special Price of the State Forest Management Center, Matsalu Nature Film Festival (Estonia) 2011

- **WILD RUSSIA – KAMCHATKA**

* Best Environmental Film, Neuquen Mountain Film Festival (Argentina) 2011

* Ya-An Award, China International Animal & Nature Film Festival (China) 2011

* Jean Bovon Award for Best Photography, FIFAD (Switzerland) 2011

* Best Theatrical Release (Cinema version: Russia - Realm of Tigers, Bears and Volcanos), International Wildlife Film Festival (IWFF) Missoula/Montana (USA) 2011

* City of Vaasa Special Award, Wildlife Vaasa (Finland) 2010

* Price F.E.E.C. & Silver Edelweiss for Best Photography, Torello Mountain Film Festival (Spain) 2010

* Jade Kunlun Award for Best Photography, World Mountain Festival of Qinghai (China) 2010

* Gold World Medal, New York Festivals (USA) 2010

* Prix du Public, Festival International du Film Animalier (France) 2010

* Main Award, Waga Brothers International Festival of Nature Film (Poland) 2010

* Prize Montagna Italia for Best Film, Orobie Film Festival (Italy) 2010

* 2 Golden Omni Awards (USA) 2009

* Gold Panda Award, Sichuan TV Festival (China) 2009

* Le Lirou D'Or for Best Documentary, Festival International du Film Ornithologique (France) 2009

* Stelvio National Park Award & Students' Award, Sondrio (Italy) 2009

* Best Film, Matsalu (Estonia) 2009

* Best Series, Greenscreen (Germany) 2009

* Best German Series, Naturvision (Germany) 2009

- **THE FALLS OF IGUACU**

* Silver World Medal, New York Festivals (USA) 2008

* Special Award for Best Photography, Waga Brothers International Festival of Nature Film (Poland) 2008

* Special Jury's Award, The World Of Knowledge (Russia) 2008

* Prize of the Major Hygiener, Ekotopfilm (Slovak Republic) 2007

* Best Photography Award, Matsalu Film Festival (Estonia) 2007

* Golden Crane Award, Nature Film Festival Darss (Germany) 2007

* Stelvio National Park Award, Sondrio (Italy) 2007

* Mountain Wilderness Prize, Torello Film Festival (Spain) 2007

- **VIVA VICUÑA**

* Best Conservation and Environment & Merit Award Photography, IWFF Missoula (USA) 2004

* Special Jury Prize & Public Prize, Festival de L'Oiseau e Nature Abbeville (France) 2004

* Prix Relation Homme e Animal, FIFA Albert (France) 2004

* Prix Paysages, Festival International de Ornithologique Menigoute (France) 2003

* Golden Lynx Award, Ökimedia (Germany) 2003

* Conservation Award & Special Jury Award, Photography Telenatura (Spain) 2003

* Finalist Newcomer, Jackson Hole (USA) 2003



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