

DR RACHELLE KEELING

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Producer/Director & Edit Producer (credited on 10x Programmes) with a PhD in Science & a decade of experience in factual TV – specialising in science, natural history & observational documentaries, shoots on the Sony FS7 & holds a valid USA visa (till March'21)

Employment

- July '19 – Aug '19 **How Do Animals Do That?** | **WAGTV** | **EDIT PRODUCER** | Animal Planet
Science & Natural History documentary series
- This science series seeks to answer intriguing animal behavioural questions, edit producing stories like “How do axolotl’s regenerate?” “What do dogs see when they watch TV?” & “How do spiders get bugs into their webs?”
- Feb '19 – June '19 **Nature's Strangest Mysteries: Solved (5x30')** | **Wall to Wall** | **EDIT PRODUCER** | Animal Planet
Science & Natural History documentary series at **8pm & 8.30pm** – **Edit producer on 5x episodes** of this 26 part series
- Grounded in solid science & exploring some of nature’s greatest animal & geological mysteries, edit producing stories like “Why crows gather around their dead?” and “Why some rattlesnakes don’t have a rattle?”
 - Wrote the script | Worked with the editor to prepare all cuts: first assembly, rough cut, fine cut, picture lock
- Mar '18 – Aug '18 **Stroop: Journey into the Rhino Horn War** | **SDBFilms** | **RESEARCHER** | iTunes, Amazon, Google Play
Independent feature-length **investigative** documentary (1x134') on the rhino poaching crisis
- Researched poaching facts, population stats & arrests | Contacted archive libraries re: footage rights & clearance
 - Winner of 23 International **Awards** including Best Independent Feature Film: International Wildlife Film Festival
- Oct '17 – July '18 **Observational Documentaries** | **Ipsos MORI**, London | **SELF-SHOOTING PD** | Online
- Extensive **observational** filming of on-the-go actuality & structured sit-down interviews, in a multitude of environments (indoors & outdoors), across various activities and working with both adults and children
- 2015 – 2017 **University of the Witwatersrand** | Completing PhD in Geoscience (Palaeoanthropology)
- Apr '14 – Aug '14 **Predator Fail: Seek & Destroy** | **Earth Touch**, Durban | **EDIT PRODUCER** | Nat Geo WILD
Natural History documentary series (3x60') at **8.30pm** on predators hunting & not always succeeding (archive & CGI)
- Briefed CGI team & feedback on created CGI | Sourced archive from footage banks, negotiated rates
 - Wrote script | Worked with editor on rough cut, fine cut & pic locks | Directed narration record & final mix
 - Stories: Komodo dragon, fish eagle hunting flamingo, bald eagle hunting coot, leopard, hyena & archer fish
- Feb '14 – April '14 **E.O Wilson – of Ants & Men** | **SHINING RED FILMS**, Washington | **ASSOCIATE PRODUCER** | PBS
2-hour special (1x112') at **9pm** – **Science** documentary on the life of American biologist Edward Osborne Wilson
- Sourced, booked and organised the equipment and production personnel required for the production
 - Coordinated with the production manager to oversee the budging process, crew and shoot schedule
 - **AWARDS**: Conservation Hero at **Jackson Wild** | Green Fire Award – 14th Annual American Conservation Film Festival | **FINALIST**: 37th **EMMY** Awards: Outstanding Music and Sound
- Aug '13 – Oct '14 **Dawn of Humanity** | **National Geographic** | **ASSOCIATE PROD** | Nat Geo Special for PBS/WNET
2-hour special (1x114') at **9pm** – **Science** documentary on the discovery and excavation of the *Homo naledi* fossils
- Researched & drafted questions, directed LIVE shoots & interviewed high-profile scientists like the Leakey’s
 - Sourced and hired production elements i.e. locations, props, costumes, actors, equipment, transport, crew
 - Coordinated talent & crew, secured locations | Worked with the PM re: budget, crew and shoot schedule
 - **FINALIST**: 37th **EMMY** Awards: Outstanding Science and Technology Programming
- Aug '11 – Sep '12 **National Geographic** | **SELF-SHOOTING PRODUCER/DIRECTOR**
In-the-moment **Science** content captured at the Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand
- National Geographic supplied the various cameras, audio equipment & funds for one year of coverage
 - Filmed and interviewed scientists examining, scanning and reconstructing the *Australopithecus sediba* fossils
- Nov '10 – July '11 **Caught in the Act** | **Aquavision TV Productions**, Joburg | **SERIES PRODUCER** | Nat Geo WILD
Natural History documentary series at **8pm** showcasing remarkable **animal behaviour** caught on camera
- Chose film style | Directed 33 interviews in USA, in 10 states | Sourced content and leading scientific experts
 - Oversaw scripting, shoot plans, filming, edit & negotiated rates | Managed the budget
 - Managed production team of editors, assistant editors, producers, researcher & production manager

- July '10 – Oct '10 **Cameramen who Dare: Bear Battleground** | [Aquavision](#) | **EDIT PRODUCER** | Nat Geo WILD **Natural History & Adventure** series (3x60') at **10pm** on how DOPs capture incredible natural history behaviour – like deadly Japanese hornets attacking honey bees & fish cleaning everything from a hippo's toes to massive teeth all UW
- Mar '10 – June '10 **Leopard Queen** | [Aquavision](#) | **PRODUCER/DIRECTOR & EDIT PRODUCER** | Nat Geo WILD **Natural History** documentary (1x60') at **9pm** follows one leopard filmed over 17 years by cameraman John Varty
- Directed John Varty on location and directed crew | Sourced and telecined 16mm & 32mm film footage
 - Worked with the editor to compile compelling sequences and tell the most engaging story
 - Reviewed edited footage & worked with the editor to prep the rough cut, fine cut and picture locks
 - FINALIST: Best Animal Behaviour at **Jackson Wild** & 34th IWFF | Featured: **Nat Geo's Big Cat Week**
- May '09 – Feb '10 **Caught in the Act (2x60')** | [Aquavision](#) | **PRODUCER/DIRECTOR & EDIT PRODUCER** | Nat Geo WILD **Natural History** documentary series at **8pm** on remarkable **animal behaviour**: **Edit Producer on 2x Episodes – Caught in the Act: Leopard vs Porcupine & Caught in the Act: When Prey Fight Back**
- Sourced content | Directed & interviewed contributors | Directed crew | Researched animal behaviour facts
 - Wrote script | Worked with the editor on rough cut, fine cut and picture locks | Directed narration record
 - Oversaw final mix, colour grading & online | Commissioned music, oversaw track lay & final mix of films
- Dec '08 – Apr '09 **Mother Warthog** | [Aquavision TV Prod](#) | **ASS. PRODUCER & ASS. EDITOR** | Nat Geo Channel **Natural History** documentary (1x60') on a mother warthog raising her piglets & trying to protect them from predators
- Worked with the producer to provide feedback to the crew in field during pre-production, in post: involved in the creative process discussing story arc, order of scenes & feeding back on edited sequences
 - Assisted with story, edit prep (logging, digitising, editing stringouts), research, deliverables, script annotation
 - AWARDS: 8th Matsalu Nature Film Festival (Estonia) & 5th Golden Horn, SA Film and TV Awards
- July '08 – Nov '08 **Lion Army: Battle to Survive** | [Aquavision TV Prod](#) | **ASSISTANT PRODUCER** | Nat Geo Channel **Natural History** documentary (1x60') at **8pm** on a mega pride of lions in South Africa's Kruger National Park
- Worked with the producer to feedback to the crew in field during pre-production, then in post involved in the creative process discussing story arc, order of scenes & fed back on edited sequences
 - Assisted with story, research, deliverables & script annotation
 - FINALIST: 33rd International Wildlife Film Festival & SA Film & TV Awards | Featured: **Nat Geo's Big Cat Week**
- June '07 – June '08 **Aquavision TV Productions, Joburg** | **DEVELOPMENT PRODUCER**
- Brought story ideas in development to life, wrote treatments and prepared documentary sizzle reels

Education

- Degree: **PhD Palaeoanthropology (MSc converted to PhD), University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 2017**
- A first-time, multidisciplinary scientific study that investigated whether original skin from *Australopithecus sediba*, an almost 2-million-year-old hominin (human-like ancestor), had been preserved
- Degree: **BA (Hons) Anthropology, cum laude, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, 2004**
- Visual Anthropology, Anthropology of the Media, Anthropology of the Body, Statistics & Methodology
 - Independent Fieldwork: An ethnographic study exploring belonging and identity in the Gothic subculture
- Degree: **BA Audio-Visual Production Management, Rand Afrikaans University, South Africa, 2003**
- Included **Producing, Writing, Directing, Script Writing, Storyboarding, Editing, Lighting & Sound**
 - Major subjects: Audio Visual Production, Anthropology & Media Studies (Communications Degree)

Other Skills and Achievements

- Computers:** 62 WPM | Excellent MS Office and use of Mac & PC | Intermediate proficiency using Adobe Photoshop.
- Gear:** Confident shooter on **Sony FS7** (completed 2-day DV Talent Course – June'19), XDCam, DSLR, DJI Osmo & GoPro Comfortable cutting assemblies on Adobe Premier & Final Cut Pro & pulling contributor sync in the edit or on Forscene
- Journalistic:** Images published in National Geographic Mag [Oct 2015](#) | Article & images featured in Africa Geographic [May 2015](#)
Ethnographic study: Gothic subculture featured on [Talk Radio 702](#) and published as a book available on [Amazon](#)
- Voluntary:** Judge at **Jackson Wild**: Conservation Category (2015)
- Other:**
- Full, clean driving licence | NAUI Open Water scuba certification: dived in 3 countries (Egypt, Malawi & South Africa)
 - Directed and filmed in the United States, South Africa, Tanzania, Nigeria and the United Kingdom
 - PhD research into the preservation of hominin skin with *Australopithecus sediba* featured in [Scientific American](#), [New Scientist](#), [Science News](#), [Archaeology](#), etc. and presented at conferences in South Africa, the USA, Ireland & Kenya