

Darryl MacDonald

About

Versatile and highly experienced Camera Operator based in Calgary, Alberta, with over two decades of international natural history filmmaking expertise. Seeking to contribute my unique skill set and extensive portfolio to visionary projects that demand exceptional dedication and innovation.



Website
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Experience

Cinematography / Photography

- Owner of a small company specializing in supplementing networks and media companies in specialty camera work including drone, FPV, underwater, high angle and motion timelapse.
- Regular contributor to various television, film, and sporting productions internationally.
- [Aerial drone cinematography](#), [travel photography](#), [underwater photography](#). Regular contributor to scientific articles, magazines, newspaper articles and books.

UAV Pilot

- I currently hold an advanced pilot's license in Canada as well as a Part 107 in the USA and a separate license for the European Union.
- Over 5K flights in 12 countries in complex environments.
- Ability to live stream for television and news broadcasts.
- Extensive experience flying in a variety of environments including both Arctic and Antarctic, deserts, cities and launching from vehicles and boats.

Underwater / High Angle

- I am a licensed commercial diver in Canada and a technical dive instructor with over 4000 dives and 30 years' experience. This combined with 20 years of videography and production experience using professional systems including Canon and RED cameras in a variety of environments internationally including operations in both polar regions, under broken and solid ice pack, open ocean, extreme currents. I have also worked with various animal populations including several whale populations, a variety of seals and sea lions, dense shark populations and others.
- I am an advanced rebreather diver on rEvo and Poseidon and certified Scuba service technician.
- I have been climbing with my camera equipment for over 10 years on rock, ice and in caving systems.
- I own redundant dive kits including rebreathers for all environments

Productions

Wild Oman - Wonder Of Arabia (BBC)
Director of Photography | Underwater & Terrestrial, long lens, infrared, camera trapping
Mammals (BBC)
Camera Operator | Drone & Jib Operator, Gimbal
Asia Home (National Geographic)
Camera Operator | Seasonal Transitions, Long-Term Timelapse, Drone
National Geographic - Pristine Seas
Underwater Director of Photography (DOP)
Asia (BBC)
Director of Photography (DOP) | Long Lens, Drone, Motion Timelapse, Underwater
Americas (BBC)
Second Camera | Drone, Timelapse, Gimbal
Our Water World (Netflix)
Camera Operator | Drone, Motion Timelapse, Underwater BTS
Our Oceans (Netflix)
Camera Operator | Drone, Underwater BTS, Safety Diver
The Nature of Things (PBS)
Drone Operator, motion timelapse
Sentience (Netflix)
Consultant
One Planet Seven Worlds (BBC)
Antarctic Sequence
Camera Operator | Motion Timelapse, Drone
Land (Feature Production with Robin Wright)
Camera Operator | Drone
ESPN (TSN)
Live Television Drone Ops for the Grey Cup, Jr. World Hockey, World Downhill, NA Curling various other events throughout the season
Stage 5 (Warner Bros.)
Camera Operator | Drone

Owned Equipment

Expedition Work (Working with scientists and NGO's)

WHERE [South Georgia](#) WHEN [2019, 2020](#) DURATION [18 weeks](#)

COLLABORATORS

British Antarctic Survey, BBC Natural History Unit, Friends of South Georgia, Government of South Georgia

EXPEDITION GOALS

- *Satellite tag southern Right and Humpback Whales*
- *Biopsy Blue Whales, Humpback Whales, Right Whales, Fin Whales*
- *3D map prey fields*
- *Photo ID capture*
- *Capture microbiome Samples using UAV's*
- *Capture overhead images of whales for body condition assessments*
- *with UAV's*
- *Capture aerial footage for BBC Frozen Planet 2*
- *Capture boat-based footage of feeding behavior for BBC Frozen Planet 2*
- *Capture footage for short documentary including interviews with scientists about the research project*
- *Capture images for project website, social media content and news coverage*
- *Aerial Survey mapping with a drone for BAS*

WHERE [Kenya](#) WHEN [2018 - 2021](#) DURATION [4 weeks/year](#)

COLLABORATORS

National Geographic, IUCN, Kenyan Department of Conservation

EXPEDITION GOALS

- *Long term project goal is to gather data that can be utilized to define a protection area for Humpback whales that have only recently (past 30 years) been recorded off the coastal waters of Kenya.*
- *Satellite tag Humpback Whales*
- *Biopsy Humpback Whales*
- *Photo ID capture*
- *Capture microbiome samples using UAV's*
- *Capture overhead images of whales for body condition assessments with UAV's*
- *Conduct interviews and capture photographs, video (aerial, underwater, boat based, and land based), audio and time lapse footage for use on Nat Geo website, social media, news articles and more*

WHERE [Oman](#) DATE [2010 - Present](#)

DURATION [2-5 weeks each survey & 1-2 surveys per year](#)

COLLABORATORS

IUCN, Environment Society of Oman, World Wildlife Federation, BBC, Ministry of Environment Oman

- *Deployment and recovery of long-term underwater acoustic recorders*
- *Satellite tag Humpback Whales*
- *Biopsy Humpback Whales*
- *Capture microbiome samples using UAV's*
- *Capture overhead images of whales for body condition assessments with UAV's*
- *Photo ID capture*
- *Assisted on production of BBC Wild Arabia*
- *Conduct interviews and capture photographs, video, audio and time lapse footage for use on website, social media, news articles and more*

Other Skills

- Licensed Primary Care Paramedic in Alberta
- Advanced Wilderness Life Support
- Personal Survival Techniques
- Coxswain Level 2 (over 3K hours of captain experience in 5 countries including Arctic and Antarctic)
- Highly competent mechanical and electrical skills,
- Comfortable with small engine repair, expertise in fixing electronics that have gone for a swim, great at most field repairs with limited resources
- Designed and built several custom remote camera set-ups for camera operation, triggering and gimbal control with motion time-lapse capabilities and remote live streaming
- Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Premier Pro, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Audition
- Microsoft Word, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel, SharePoint
- LRTimelapse
- Over 15 years' experience in lead rock climber, lead ice climber and caving
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Owned Equipment

- *RED Helium*
- *Red Komodo*
- *Canon R5, 5D Mk IV*
- *DJI Inspire 3 with RTK system*
- *DJI X9 (Full frame 8K RAW)*
- *DJI Inspire 2 with X7 x 2*
- *DJI Mavic 3 Cine*
- *Various custom built FPV Drones*
- *Custom cable cam system*
- *Nauticam Underwater Camera Housings*
- *Sliders Camera Traps, and more.*
- *DJI RS3 Stabilizer*
- *Over 20 lenses available*
- *Cinetics slider system*
- *Macro Slider*
- *Various Tripods*

References and Sample Footage Available Upon Request