

LEIGH ELFORD

Director of Photography



📍 Auckland Based

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WORK EXPERIENCE

August 2019 - Video Content Producer

June 2020

[NZME \(click on me to view showreel\)](#)

My Role at the NZME corporation was to facilitate its brands with video promotional content. Taking each of the multiple jobs from Pre-Production through to Production and finally oversee the Post-Production process. During the Pre-Production phase, I'll be facilitating clients with NZME's talent pool. Building script development. Translating that to budgets and finally hiring cast and crew. The Production phase would see me behind the camera directing or simply making sure the client's requirements are being met. Finally, in post-production, I'll be guiding the editors through the story until the completed content is created.

2011 -

Current

Freelance Director Of Photography

As a cinematographer, I inspire to capture the highest quality images possible. My goal; to tell each story with the utmost respect and to allow the story to flourish visually. Making sure each frame is composed, to share information, lit to allow satisfactory and dynamic tonality and movement to shape or change perspectives.

2010 - 2015

First Assistant Camera (Focus Puller)

Freelance

I have been in the role of camera assistant on short films, music videos and feature films providing the Director of Photography with a high-level, energetic, professional camera assisting. Taking charge of delicate, expensive film equipment while keeping footage in focus.

2015

Project Manager

Tokaroa Cinemas

Key Responsibilities: With the change from analogue film to digital projection moving so fast many businesses find the change to digital distribution a difficult technical task to understand and implement. Having spent my career in the digital acquisition of movie making I have lent my technical skills to the change over of the Tokaro cinemas. As project manager I oversaw the removal of the old 35mm projection systems and installation of NEC NC900 and NEC 2000C digital projection systems. This included the integration of a server system. The cinema now capable of 2k and 3D projection can enjoy the benefits of the latest in what technologies can offer.

Show Reel Content

[ShowReel-1](#)

A collection of work demonstrating a high level of technical expertise. This work was shot on RED DRAGON, ARRI ALEXA, BLACK MAGIC, ARRI ULTRA PRIMES, ANGENIEUX ZOOMs, COOKE S4s, SUPER SPEEDS, STANDARD PRIMES. Special thanks to Grant Mckinnon at Volcano Lighting for providing Gaffing equipment to many of these shoots. Also Joe Lawry for providing SteadiCam.

Show Reel Content

[ShowReel-2](#)

This showreel showcases a strong amount of car rigs demonstrating a high degree of Gripping Practicality. This show Reel was shot on RED EPIC, CANON C300, ARRI AMERIA. Much of the Lighting comes from Kevin Riely's company CineStuff. While the Gripping equipment was provided by Harry Harrison.

Show Reel Content

ShowReel-3

High Degree of lighting was implemented during this showreel. Shot on RED EPIC, SONY F3, CANON 5D, ARRI ULTRA PRIMES, ANGENIEUX ZOOM.

EDUCATION

2008 - 2010 BACHELORS DEGREE: Screen Arts (majoring in cinematography)

Unitec Institute of Technologies

2017 Master Class

American Cinematographers Society

A week long course in Los Angeles where the worlds top cinematographers go through Master Techniques which elevate your skill set. Once I was accepted into the course the New Zealand Film Commission paid the course fees.

The class also focused heavily on the implementation of HDR acquisitions and distributions. This gives us the ability as cinematographers to future proof any production that may want HDR distribution. It also gives us the ability to converse with Producers and Prost Production on how to best proceed on a HDR production.

AWARDS



PORTFOLIO

Cinematography History



Work History



CV

REFERENCES

Leigh Elford

CHRISTOPHER PETERS (HE/HIM)

Consultant

Contact: 021 029 85485

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/christopher-peters-36157350>

Chris's Comments - Chris and I worked together on short films.

Leigh was Cinematographer on my short film '127'. It has been dubbed 'spectacularly shot', 'Beautiful cinematography', 'Excellent Visuals' by the few whom have seen the rough cut, and it is a testament to Leigh's mastery of his craft. Throughout the shoot Leigh consistently maintained great results and his ethic never faltered, he did his job and motivated his team so they were all giving it their 110%, which in turn made the shoot run all the more smoothly. He has a natural ability to use his knowledge of cinematography to visually tell the story, he can also communicate his creative and artistic vision to those around him with relative ease. Leigh is an open minded, innovative, calm and reassuring individual which makes him suitable for any leadership role. He was in charge of his team, high spec camera gear and all the responsibility that entails. He not only managed it well, he excelled at it. He was a crucial part in the success of my shoot and I hope to be working with him again in the near future.

DAN WAGNER

Senior Lecturer at Unitec Institute of Technology

Contact: dwagner2@unitec.ac.nz <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-wagner-538364a>

Dan's Comments - Dan Wagner was my senior lecturer while studying.

I first became acquainted with Leigh when he was my student in the Cinematography course at Unitec. From the beginning, he was always the first to step forward when someone was needed to shoot an outside project, to do some extra studio lighting or do complete any number of extra filmmaking tasks asked of our Department. He not only showed his keenness to embrace new filmic experiences, he also demonstrated his willingness and ability to work hard and to see a project through to completion. He's dedicated, tenacious and also very talented. Also to his credit, Leigh engaged avidly in his own personal education, alongside his Cinematography studies. He was one of the first students to buy a DSLR, and he taught himself to become proficient in complex post-production software, including AfterEffects and the grading platform Color, as well as Final Cut Pro. Leigh is the consummate craftsman. Leigh also was asked by several filmmakers - students, graduates and, as the word spread about him, people unrelated to the school - to shoot (be the Director of Photography on) their projects. This is due to his skill as a lighting cameraman combined with his affable nature. After he graduated, I've called on Leigh to take on key roles in the film projects I've DP'd. He devotes his full attention and energy to each shot and always brings a little something extra to any task he takes on.

GEMMA DUNCAN

Assistant Producer / Snr Production Coordinator

Contact: gemmaduncan.film@gmail.com Dan's Comments - Dan Wagner was my senior lecturer while studying.

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Other Freelancing Referees

-NZME Contact

Chris Campbell = 027 3845 956

Chris was my supervisor at the NZME corp while I became a content creator.

-Short Film Director

Dylan Pearce = 027 702 7707

I have worked with Dylan on his short films while in turn Dylan has worked on some of my videography Content Creation.