

# MARK ORTON

*Shooter-Director-Editor*



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## PROFILE

As a Self-Shooting Director, Editor and Producer, I specialize in work that requires a tech savvy all-rounder who thinks 'story', works fast and most importantly; brings style and vision to the projects I take on. I am experienced at managing teams or working as a one-person crew, coping with inhospitable locations, handling any multitude of cameras and meeting tight broadcast sturnarounds.

## RECENT BROADCAST CREDITS

### HIGHWAY COPS-TVNZ

*Shooting PD October 2022-April 2023*

For this the 9th season, I travelled further and worked in areas not previously covered in previous seasons. Working alongside a selection of Highway Patrol Officers, the goal as always, is to showcase the work done by the Police who work in some of the most remote parts of New Zealand...and meet the characters who travel through these areas.

### GOLD RUSH-DISCOVERY US

*Shooting PD Aug 2022- October 2022*

When an opportunity came up to visit the Yukon again (after a 2-year hiatus due to a global pandemic) to work on the 13th season of Gold Rush, I jumped at the opportunity. It was great to explore the remote North-East Canada again and get amongst the mad miners and international crew who put the show together.

### MOVING HOUSES-MEDIA WORKS-IMAGINATION TV

*Camera April 2022- Present*

A spin off from Grand Designs, and hosted by Clarke Gayford, this show details the lengths that people will go to get a dream home...without building one. Following the very talented house moving companies as they seemingly do the impossible by transporting massive buildings through some of NZ's gnarliest highways.

### MAN EATS WILD-THE OUTDOORS CHANNEL

*Editor-May-July 2021*

Commissioned to edit six episodes of a brand new show based on the escapades of hunter-chef Mario Kalpou. Given masses of footage shot over a 12 month period, my role was more like a 'Predator' where I had to craft the stories while cutting the footage, select and mix music and then grade the shows ready for broadcast.

### DEMOLITION NEW ZEALAND-PRIME TV-SKY

*Shooting PD October 2019- August 2020*

Armed with PPE gear, I was let loose on three construction sites to showcase the work being done by Demolition experts. Working alone and with multiple cameras, this is the ultimate fly-by-the seat of your pants shoot. No scripts, gnarly characters and mountains of debris, it was hardcore.

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## CREDITS CONTINUED

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### **GOLD RUSH-DISCOVERY US**

*Shooting PD May 2019- August 2019*

When an opportunity came up to visit the Yukon to work on the 10th season of Gold Rush, I made sure my work schedule could accommodate. It was an amazing experience to be based in a fascinating and beautiful part of the world and work with the experienced U.K. and Canadian crew who keep this production rolling.

### **AUSTRALIA'S GOT TALENT-CHANNEL 7**

*Shooting PD April 2019 - May 2019*

Without a wealth of experience working on formatted studio shows, I gave this a go to hone my skills in another environment. My role was filming the be-spoke overlay and reality scenes.

### **TOP ROADS CHINA- SHANGHAI MEDIA GROUP**

*Director-Camera July 2018 - August 2018*

China has undergone unparalleled economic growth in the past 30 years. None more so, than in some of the amazing engineering achievements made to create sensational roads and bridges. My role was to research, script and direct two episodes of a six-part series dedicated to roads that both crossed water and headed skyward.

### **THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BAKE-OFF / TAKE ME OUT-FOXTEL-CHANNEL 7**

*Shooting-Producer April 2018 - July 2018*

Based out of Sydney, I travelled around Australia producing and shooting the back-stories for the fifth season of the Great Australian Bake-off and the very first Australian season of the global phenomenon, Take Me Out. This involved liaising with talent, locking in locations, scheduling shoots, writing scripts and fulfilling all aspects of image acquisition.

### **CHINA'S AMAZING SUPER PLANTS-DISCOVERY INTERNATIONAL**

*Director-D.O.P January 2017 - April 2017*

Working with renowned British botanist, Dr. Mark Spencer, I directed and filmed a show about Spencer's quest to discover the secrets behind some of China's most remarkable plants in Yunnan province. One of the world's most fascinating biological hot-spots, we interacted with people from the Yi and Naxi ethnic groups as they shared their secrets for health and longevity through the traditional use of plants.

### **MYSTERIES OF THE MEKONG-SMITHSONIAN**

*Director-D.O.P April 2017 - May 2017*

Along with my work on observational documentaries and reality television, I have also directed and shot 'Blue Chip' Natural History shows. For this job I travelled with my own kit to South East Asia, and spent a month shooting various animals, insects and scenery around the Mekong River in both Thailand and Vietnam.

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## CREDITS CONTINUED

### FRONTIER BORNEO-DISCOVERY INTERNATIONAL

*Shooting-Producer-Director June 2016 - November 2016*

The opportunity to direct and film a show in Borneo for four months was an amazing experience. My role was to follow scientific experts and eco-warriors as they worked to protect the wildlife of Sabah and Sarawak. Often based for weeks at a time off the beaten track, this was a massive exercise in resourcefulness, patience and cunning.

### ABALONE WARS-DISCOVERY INTERNATIONAL

*Shooting-Director-Editor March 2016 -April 2016*

The chance to hang out with the gnarly abalone divers from South Australia as they battled the dangerous water off the Great Australian Bight was pretty cool. Put together from a mixture of observational documentary and scripted story telling, I spent a month with these hardy characters as they battled the elements to collect the precious Abalone.

### GIANT PANDA-BORN TO BE WILD-ANIMAL PLANET-FRANCE 5

*Shooting-Director-Editor July 2015 -December 2015*

In 2014, I made three trips to Sichuan province to produce and shoot a show about China's most revered animal. To say that this assignment was tricky is a massive understatement. Not only did I need to collect enough material to make a 6 part series, as well as a 2-Hour special, the Chinese are massively protective of The Panda and were very concerned that the story I was making wouldn't do justice to the work that they are putting into their breeding program. However, they were extremely happy with the final product, especially as the show featured a panda birth that had never been filmed at one of the breeding centers before.

### THE SLUM-AL JAZEERA

*Shooting-Editor October 2014 - June 2015*

Based in Manila for four months, this experience still rates as one of the highlights of my career. The goal was to shed light on some of the poorest people in South East Asia. The material was all shot from an observational perspective and the show was edited almost entirely in Tagalog, which was real challenge for the series producer and myself.

### TOP TEN SHARKDOWN -DISCOVERY

*Producer-Director-Editor April 2014 - September 2014*

Commissioned for The Discovery Channel 'Shark Week', my task was to create a countdown show from archive footage. This involved researching shark behaviour, scouring archives, finding expert talent, writing the script, filming interviews, editing all the footage, keeping it under budget and making sure that it was a hit on Shark Week.

### I SURVIVED -A & E-NHNZ

*Editor November 2013 - April 2014*

NHNZ made more than 100 episodes of this top-rating cable show and I edited 14 episodes, including a one-off two hour special on the Norwegian Massacre.

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## SKILLS

- Story telling. I started as a Story-Post Producer, trained as an Editor and now work as a Shooting PD-DOP
- Fully conversant with Full HD, UHD and 4K work flows.
- Able to edit on Avid Media Composer-Premiere Pro CC-FCPX
- Certified drone pilot (Inspire-Phantom 4 Pro -Mavic)
- Experienced at working in and around helicopters, on boats and in fast moving vehicles
- Have extensive experience working alongside various law enforcement agencies
- Used to long location shoots in often demanding and inhospitable locations
- Natural History cinematography-long lens work

## EDUCATION

### PGDIP NHFC (HONS)

*University of Otago /Dunedin / New Zealand / 2006 - 2007*

Post Graduate Diploma in Natural History Filmmaking and Science Communication

### BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS)

*University of Otago / Dunedin / New Zealand / 2001 - 2003*

Major in Communication Studies / Film and Media with a Minor in English

## EQUIPMENT OWNED

A complete Sony FX6 ENG kit including camera rig, multiple lens options, full audio setup, lights, tripods and slider  
Panasonic S5 and DJI RS2 Gimbal  
Mavic 2 Pro Drone  
3 x Go Pro cameras and accessories  
Time-lapse Rig