

CHRIS BATES - UAV PILOT & CAMERA OPERATOR

SUMMARY

After 5 years working in the camera department on commercials and features, I became a CAA-approved drone pilot and aerial camera operator in 2012 - almost at the start of the UK drone industry.

This experience from the fledgling days of the technology, tied with my keen eye for composition and detail, and my knowledge of ever-evolving drone law across the world stands me in good stead within this dynamic market.

My company Skyhook Media Ltd has grown over this time, winning work, developing solutions and providing kit and crew for the majority of credits shown below.

EXPERIENCE

Drone Camera Operator – Selected Credits 2016–present

DRAMA:

- Vikings - srs 6 (Amazon Prime) | Arri Alexa Mini
- His Dark Materials - srs 1 (BBC) | Arri Alexa Mini, DJI X7
- Cursed - srs 1 (Netflix) | RED Helium 8K
- Liar - srs 1 (ITV) | Arri Alexa Mini
- Poldark - srs 5 (BBC) | DJI X7
- Keeping Faith - srs 1 (BBC) | Arri Alexa Mini
- Sex Education - srs 1 (Netflix) | RED Weapon
- Curfew - srs 1 (Netflix) | Red Helium 8K

COMMERCIALS & PROMO:

- Mercedes Benz World (Grip Productions) | DJI X7 | Dir. Neil Carey
- Chelsea Barracks Living (Imaginateur) | DJI X7 Raw | Dir. Ross Cairns
- Ford 'Backbone of Britain' (CRXSS) | DJI X7 Raw | Dir. Simon Puschmann
- Jaguar XE 300 Sport '2 cars, 1 DNA' (Foxtrot Papa) | DJI X7 | Dir. Jon Richards | DoP. Toby Wilkinson
- EDF Energy 'Electric Adventures' 5 part series (Be The Fox) | DJI X7
- McLaren F1 eSports promo (Dialect Inc.) | DJI X7
- Legoland 'Ice Cream Drone Delivery' 2-drone air-to-air stunt | DJI X7
- Jaguar XE 'Project 8' (76 Films) | DJI X5 Raw | Dir. Nigel Simpkins | DoP. Paul O'Callaghan
- SOCAR, Marsaxlokk Gas Power Plant, Malta (Brandcast Media) | DJI X5S
- Ford 'Go Faster' (Carnage) | Feature Film trailer | Dir. Konrad Begg
- Kenzo fashion film, Lanzarote (Creative Blood) | Dir. Thomas Traum
- Land Rover Discovery Sport train pull, Switzerland (Foxtrot Papa) | Sony A7Rii | Dir. Adam Kaleta | DoP. Steven Gray
- Renault Kadjar idents for Discovery (Publicis) | Sony A7Sii | Dir. Adam Kaleta | DoP. Duane McClooney
- William Hill - JP McCoy for ITV Racing (Mob Film) | Sony A7S

FEATURE FILMS:

- School's Out Forever | DJI X7 Raw | Dir. Oliver Milburn
- Summerland | DJI X7 Raw | Dir. Jessica Swale
- Dream Horse | Arri Alexa Mini | Dir. Euros Lyn
- Nativity Rocks! | DJI X7 Raw | Dir. Debbie Isitt
- AMS Secrets | DJI X7 | Dir. Andy Newbery

TV / DOCUMENTARY:

- Top Gear - srs 27 (BBC) McLaren 600 LT vs. Ferrari 488 Pista
- Europe from Above (Windfall Films) | DJI X7
- The Grand Tour - srs 1 & 2 (Chump Productions) DJI X5, X7
- Blue Peter 60th Anniversary, Lapland (BBC) - DJI X5
- Grand Prix Driver (McLaren F1 doco) (Amazon Prime) - DJI X7
- Bear Grylls 'Mission With' series (Betty TV) | DJI X5S
- Family (long term doco series) (Sky Factual) | DJI X7 |
- Hidden Britain by Drone - srs 1 & 2 - Windfall Films
- Bear Grylls 'The Island' srs 4, Panama (Shine TV) | DJI X5
- VW Tiguan 'The Second Speech' (Outsider) | DJI X5S
- Speed with Guy Martin, F1 Special (North One TV) | Panasonic GH4

Drone Pilot – Selected Credits 2016-present

TELEVISION:

- Sheep Herding on ScaFell - 'Slow TV' film (Windfall Films) | DJI Mavic 2
- Drive Thru Histories (US series) | DJI Inspire 2
- Mary Berry's Big Xmas Thankyou (BBC) | DJI Inspire 1

COMMERCIALS & PROMO:

- Toyota 'Driven' series (Hotel Bulgaria) | DJI Inspire 2 w. X7
- Glen Grant Highland Whisky - 360° film | Freefly ALTA
- Rémy Martin Cognac 'Harvest', France (Brooklyn Brothers) | DJI Inspire 1
- Imperial Tobacco promo (CWA Studios) | DJI Mavic 2 Pro
- Roberts Limbrick Architects, 3D Model Animation | DJI Inspire 2 w. X7

FEATURE FILMS:

- 'Jhimma' Bollywood film | Dir. Hemant Dhome | DJI Inspire 2 w. X5S

EDUCATION

Birmingham University – BSc Technology & Sustainable Development **2:1**

2002 - 2005, Birmingham

After a false start with a Mechanical Engineering degree, I chose this course which focussed on the engineering world, but looking at it from more of a socially engaged angle. My dissertation was delivered in documentary video form, which inspired me to take up filmmaking full-time after graduation.

Met Film School – BA Filmmaking w. Cinematography

2010 - 2012 | Ealing Studios, London

After 5 years as an independent shooter and editor, I enrolled in this intensive course which covered all aspects of the filmmaking process, and I specialised in cinematography and camera operation.