# CURRICULUM VITAE

Full names:	Pierre-Jacques Kotzé
ID number:	8506235008081
Nationality:	South African
Gender:	Male
Postal address:	Hollybank A4
	20 Atherstone road
	Illovo
	Johannesburg
	2196
	South Africa
Website:	www.bonanzafilms.co.za
Education	
Tertiary education	
The Open Window School of visual communication	
BA Visual Communication	2009
Subjects: Film major, Film minor, Interactive media design, Visual culture, Communication design	
BA (Hons) Visual Communication (Film)	2011
Experience	
Synopsis	

Before venturing into the world of visual communication and film, I spent two years abroad sailing and working as a chef, skipper, dive master and professional fishing guide along the east coast of Africa. After obtaining a B Hons Degree in Visual Communication specialising in film, I taught directing and cinematography at the Open Window institute before venturing permanently into the film and television industry and starting a production company called Bonanza Films which focuses on producing travel and adventure content and telling South African stories.

I have directed and filmed numerous music videos and short films and have filmed and directed four international travel series including Survival of the Species (currently still in post production) with Ben Fogle where I was the Director of Photography. I am currently producing, directing and filming a feature length documentary about artisanal fishermen along South Africa's coast and recently the travel show, Elders: Japan which I produced, directed, filmed and edited with a micro crew of three, hiking through Japan in 2019 won the South African Film and Television award for Best Lifestyle Show. In 2020 I produced and edited another season of Elders which was filmed in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa and was also fortunate to work with the renowned underwater cinematographer Roger Horrocks while filming a Sardine Run sequence for a Silverback Films production where I fulfilled the roles of camera assistant, dive supervisor and DIT. Although I have filmed and directed numerous narrative pieces, my true passion lies in creating documentary content especially underwater cinematography and natural history work although my love for human stories keeps one of my feet on the ground engaging with authentic South African content.

As a passionate outdoorsman, free diver, rock climber and sailor, I am at my happiest when I can combine my passion for storytelling with extreme scenarios and the ocean and thrive in difficult and exciting filming environments. I am comfortable filming with all major camera systems and have an extensive knowledge of most cameras, gimbal and lighting solutions as well as the post-production process.

I have been working in the film and television industry for almost ten years now.

PADI Dive Master Coral Divers – Sodwana Bay 2004 - 2005

Guiding SCUBA divers professionally and teaching refresher courses

Skipper / Fishing guide/ Chef S/Y Maximillien 2005 - 2006

Assumed responsibility of 7 to 10 day fishing and diving charters aboard the 50ft Sailing Catamaran, Maximillien operating out of Pemba, Mozambique.

Designer / Business owner Planet Future Media 2010 - 2012

**Graphic Designer** 

Film producer / editor Interface designer Web developer Client relations Director Junior Lecturer - The Open Window Institute 2010 - 2012 Interactive media design lecturer at the Department of Interactive Media **Subject Manager - The Open Window Institute** 2013 - 2016 Head of Film and television and Film practical and Film Theory lecturer in the Film Arts department Business Owner / Director / Founder - Bonanza Films 2016 - Present Writer, Director, Director of Photography and Colourist at Bonanza Films. Director of Photography / Director - *Oorsee* (VIA TV) 2017 Filmed the reality travel series *Oorsee* across Europe for VIA TV Editor - *Oorsee* (VIA TV) 2017 Edited and delivered the reality travel series *Oorsee* for VIA TV Camera Operator / Lighting - Edik Van Nantes 3 (kykNET) 2017 Filmed the reality cooking and travel series *Edik Van Nantes 3* in France for kykNET

2017

Director of Photography - Noodlig (VIA TV)

Filmed the reality documentary series *Noodlig* for VIA TV.

Editor - Elders: Die Camino (kykNET)

2017

Edited and delivered the reality documentary series *Elders: Die Camino* for kykNET.

**Director of Photography - Die Ongenooides (Silwerskerm Film Festival)** 

2018

Producer / Director / Cinematographer / Editor - Elders: Japan (kykNET) 2018/19

Produced, Directed, Filmed, Edited and Delivered the documentary travel series **Elders: Japan** for kykNET. Winner of the 2019 SAFTA for best lifestyle program.

Director of Photography - Survival of the Species with Ben Fogle

2018/19

Director of Photography for the international conservation wildlife program "Survival of the Species" starring British explorer and presenter Ben Fogle. Filmed in Uganda, Namibia and South Africa.

Producer / Offline /Online Editor - Elders: Pelgrimstog van Hoop (kykNET) 2020

Produced and fulfilled online and offline editing duties on the kykNET documentary travel series, Elders: Pelgrimstog van Hoop in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa.

Dive Supervisor / 1st Camera Assistant / DIT - Life on Our Planet (Netflix) 2020

Fulfilled the roles of Dive Supervisor, Camera Assistant and DIT on a blue chip wildlife sequence with the underwater cinematographer Roger Horrocks for Silverback Films.

**Currently Producing Elders: Namibia (kykNET)** 

2021

## **Screenings and Exhibitions**

### Screenings:

Leibrandt Niemand – SWART KOFFIE (22mins), Screening 2011, IMPAC Film Festival, Pretoria

Ons het geklim (5min), Screening 2014, BANFF Mountain Adventure Film Festival, Ster Kinekor Theatres. South Africa.

In Search of Our Own – The Forgotten legacy of Norman Eaton (76min), Screening 2014, Cool Capital Biennale – Atterbury Theatre, Pretoria

*In Search of Our Own – The Forgotten legacy of Norman Eaton (76min),* Screening 2015, Encounters Documentary film festival – Venues around South Africa

OOM (23min), Screening 2016, Silwerskerms Film Festival and competition - Camps Bay, Cape Town.

#### Exhibitions:

Mega Bonanza – Maybe you just have bad taste, Part of the artists' collective Mega Bonanza, Kalashnikov Gallery 25 July 2013

*Mega Bonanza – Bazooka,* Part of the artists' collective Mega Bonanza, Kalashnikov Gallery 25 September 2014

*Mega Bonanza*, Part of the artists' collective Mega Bonanza, Turbine Art Fair, Kalashnikov Gallery 16 July 2015

## Skills

Language skills: Speak, write, and read English and Afrikaans, Basic operational French.

Computer skills: Intermediate to avanced Apple Macintosh and OSX skills

Software skills: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Aftereffects, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Indesign, Final Cut Pro, DaVinci Resolve and common Microsoft products.

Film production: Camera operation, Cinematography, Lighting, Sound recording, Directing, Data management, Editing, Scouting, Colour Correction and Grading, Underwater photography and cinematography. Medic First aid and Oxygen Provider.

Other: Royal Yachting Association Yachtmaster Ocean and Offshore skipper, PADI Divernaster, Diploma in Culinary Arts. IANTD Closed Circuit AP Inspiration Advanced Nitrox Rebreather diver. 25m Freediver.

## **Bursaries, Awards and Achievements**

High School Academic Honorary Colours

Among top 2 BA (Hons) students: The Open Window school of visual communication

Finalist and Nominee for Best Editing, Best Director, Best Short Film and Best Screenplay at the 2016 Kyknet Silwerskerm Film Festival for the short film *OOM*.