

Bill Mills

Director of Photography

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Summary

Bill offers production services for film, 4K digital cinema, web, and high definition broadcast. He brings a wide and diverse range of experience ranging from documentary to sporting events, commercials to corporate image and instructional programs.

As a Field Producer and/or Cinematographer, he has circled the globe filming projects for Nauticos, National Geographic, CBS's 60 Minutes, Discovery, NOVA, and a number of corporate clients including the Department of Defense and the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute.

Since 1997, he has been CEO for BMA Production Services of Florida, Inc. and successfully managed script to screen programs as the production company of record.

Bill is also well versed in a variety of post production workflows including DaVinci Resolve and Adobe Premiere.

BMA continues to remain at the cutting edge of technology with Sony's new 4K/2K camera, the PMW - F55, Sony FS-5, and Phantom Four Pro Plus AUV/Drone to compliment its inventory of HD and high speed cameras, lighting, and underwater specialty gear.

As an avid sailor, licensed Captain, FAA certified AUV Pilot, and Master SCUBA Diver Bill has combined his passion for cinema production with his love of the oceans and all things water.

Experience

Cinematographer-Phantom Cameraman & Tech at Digital Cinema HD

February 1997 - Present

Director of Photography/Cameraman for commercial, documentary, corporate image, and feature films. As an experienced camera operator and lighting cameraman Bill also offers specialties such as the Phantom Flex High speed system, underwater production, aerial cinematography, lighting, editing, and on site production management.

As a part of the production community in Atlanta for over 15 years Bill moved his home to St. Petersburg in 1998. He has worked for a variety of corporate and broadcast clients including CBS 60 Minutes, National Geographic, PBS, Discovery, and NOVA.

Director of Photography - Cinematographer at BMA Production Services, Inc.

October 1984 - Present

Film Production Services, management, location services, script to screen production.

Director of Photography/Media Producer

January 2017 - Present

Director of Photography and Media Production for the Eustace Earhart Discovery Expedition.

In late February a team from Nauticos with stratospheric explorer Alan Eustace and aviation pioneer Elgen Long will depart Honolulu for the vicinity of Howland Island, 1,600 miles to the southwest, to complete the deep sea search for Amelia Earhart's lost Lockheed Electra. Adding to the work conducted during prior expeditions in 2002 and 2006, the team plans to complete a sonar survey of about 1,800 square miles of seafloor, an area believed to contain the aircraft. The expedition will use autonomous underwater technology to image the ocean floor nearly 18,000 feet below.

The Eustace Earhart Discovery Expedition is an important step in human exploration, expanding the realm of human achievement, funded by an explorer who extends the range of human possibility and in honor of a great explorer lost in those causes. Alan Eustace, with a doctorate in computer science, has led developments in pocket computing and computer architecture, and most recently retired from Google as Director of Knowledge.

A pilot, skydiver, and adventurer, Alan made history in 2014 with a record breaking near-space dive from the stratosphere at 135,890 feet. Free-falling over 23 miles, he reached a speed of 821 mph (breaking the sound barrier at Mach 1.3) before slowing in the thickening atmosphere and parachuting safely to earth.

Besides conducting our own search operations, our expedition will be working with NOAA to support its upcoming exploration of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument as the research vessel Okeanos Explorer maps the deep seafloor near Howland Island in March. An education team on board our vessel will share the excitement of deep sea exploration and the fascination of robotic technology as we sail the central Pacific in our quest.

I will be capturing all images in ultra high-definition 4K resolution for future media releases and documentaries.

Production Management- Digital Cinema HD at Digital Cinema HD

January 1997 - Present

Equipment and services for the film and digital industry.

Director of Photography - Dispatches From the Gulf

August 2014 - Present

Director of Photography for an ongoing documentary series for The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI). Directed and Produced by Hal and Marilyn Weiner and narrated by Matt Damon, the shows examine the research efforts by a large consortium of scientists on the impact of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil spill.

Shot on locations around the south Mills is utilizing the Sony PMW F-55 as primary camera along with the Sony FS5, Letus Helix, and Phantom MIRO 320 high speed camera system.

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) will investigate the impacts of the oil, dispersed oil, and dispersant on the ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico and affected coastal States in a broad context of improving fundamental understanding of the dynamics of such events and their environmental stresses and public health implications. The GoMRI will also develop improved spill mitigation, oil and gas detection, characterization and remediation technologies.

Director of Photography at Pangolin Pictures

October 2016 - October 2016 (less than a year)

Cinematographer for Discovery documentary for Shark Week 2017. Location production in St. Maarten and Saba.

A Week in the Life of an NFL Player: Gerald McCoy, Tampa Bay Bucs at ESPN

September 2016 - September 2016 (less than a year)

DP for ESPN show about Gerald McCoy, DT for Tampa Bay Bucs. Exclusive access to behind the scenes of an NFL player's week of preparation before a game.

Producers Bob Holtzman and Jim Witalka.

Director of Photography at NATURAL HISTORY NEW ZEALAND LIMITED for NAT GEO WILD

September 2016 - September 2016 (less than a year)

DP for Out Run The Sun Productions/NHNZ filming series segment "Nature Calls: Bees" on location in Tampa area for Nat Geo Wild.

Provided Sony F-55 and FS/5 packages as well as sound recordist, lighting, and specialized high speed cameras.

Director - Iwonka Swenson

Director of Photography

January 2016 - February 2016 (1 month)

Director of Photography for documentary segment on Atlanta legend Tom Cousins for a program produced & directed by Sid Mathews on the history of the East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta. Utilized Sony F-55 camera for primary interview.

Director of Photography

May 2015 - December 2015 (7 months)

With Season 4, we have continued our work with the Sony F-55 cameras, including the addition of Canon super speed primes. We've also added the new Helix camera stabilizer system and the Sony A7S/Atomos Shogun combination for dynamic movement.

Director of Photography

October 2015 - November 2015 (1 month)

Director of Photography for Racing 2 Rio. Produced by Jennifer Barbaro and Todd Gould.

Racing to Rio is far more than the journey of a few elite athletes striving for world records, gold medals and personal bests. Racing to Rio is the story of transformation from individuals overcoming personal challenges to become world-class sailors and heroes who inspire others to face their challenges and live life to the fullest through the sport of sailing. Racing to Rio is literally about Brad Kendell's journey to the Paralympics in Rio 2016, but also serves on a larger scale as a metaphor for all people who face challenges and how they can take on life to win their own "races" by being the best they can be.

Director of Photography

August 2015 - August 2015 (less than a year)

Director of Photography for four day infomercial studio shoot at Sullivan Productions' new state of the art facility. Utilized Sony F-55 with variety of cinema lenses for 4k capture.

Director of Photography at Holden Productions

May 2015 - May 2015 (less than a year)

Director of Photography for Fox interview with golfer Greg Norman. Provided three camera production team including lighting, sound, and staging for interview and additional footage.

Phantom High speed Camera Operator/Tech at Bluewater Media

April 2015 - April 2015 (less than a year)

Phantom Camera operator and tech for location shoot utilizing Vision Research Phantom MIRO 320 for photographing explosions and other action sequences.

Cinematographer - Underwater - Apex Predator at Zero Point Zero Production Inc

February 2015 - February 2015 (less than a year)

Underwater cinematographer for segment on freediving and spearfishing for ZPZ's new series "Apex Predator"

Director of Photography

September 2014 - February 2015 (5 months)

DP for series with Emeril Lagasse. In season 3 we made the change to Sony's F-55 camera system for our principle A & B cameras. This enabled the use of Canon cinema style lenses.

Escape: The Wreck of the Costa Concordia at NBC Dateline

June 2014 - June 2014 (less than a year)

Underwater cinematographer for re-enactment scenes shot on location at Weeki Wachee Springs in Florida. Provided Sony F-55 with Gates underwater housing and multiple underwater lighting units. Worked in conjunction with topside lighting and grip operation.

Cinematographer/Underwater Director of Photography - 60 Minutes - A Forgotten Corner of Hell at CBS News - 60 Minutes

March 2014 - April 2014 (1 month)

Underwater DP and topside cameraman for CBS 60 Minute documentary segment on the efforts of the Bent Prop Project's efforts to locate and search the waters and jungles of the western Pacific island nation of Palau, for clues that may lead to the location and identification of wreck sites and remains of men who gave their lives in defense of America.

Production included underwater filming with digital 4K/2K camera while capturing underwater dialogue of dive team, topside interviews and a variety of other supporting footage. Anderson Cooper - CBS Correspondent

Phantom Tech/Operator/DIT

February 2014 - February 2014 (less than a year)

ESPN Promo - 300 "Rise of an Empire"

Phantom Technician/Operator and DIT for ESPN promotional trailers shot with the high speed Phantom FLEX camera system.

Former Alabama linebacker C.J. Mosley was featured in the three trailers for "300: Rise of an Empire." The ads air on ESPN and were produced in partnership between Warner Bros. and ESPN CreativeWorks.

Director/Cameraman - TSA - ISL Training Program at Studio 14b

November 2013 - December 2013 (1 month)

Production services for e-learning program for the TSA. Photographed in 4K digital with Sony F55. Post production completed December 2013. Crew and equipment services.

Director of Photography

August 2013 - September 2013 (1 month)

Director of Photography for Season 2 of Emeril's Florida. Airing on the Cooking Channel, Emeril's Florida highlights the Sunshine State through the eyes of Emeril Lagasse, on-location, with a focus on food, cooking, events and activities around the state.

Cinematographer (Topside "B" & UW) - Return of the Humpback at CBS News - 60 Minutes

July 2013 - August 2013 (1 month)

Topside 2nd Unit Cameraman and principle underwater cameraman for project on Humpback Whales with Scott Pelley. Utilized variety of camera systems including the Aquatica/Canon 5D Mark 3 system and Gates UW housing with Sony F55 camera.

Travel included Rarotonga, Cook Islands; Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney & Cairnes, Australia.

Bob Anderson- Producer; Dan Ruetenik - Associate Producer

Director of Photography

June 2013 - June 2013 (less than a year)

Topside and underwater cinematography for pilot series with Josh Bernstein. Included segments with University of Miami's Dr. Neil Hammerschlag and his team from the RJ Dunlap Marine Conservation Program (RJD).

In addition the production team spent time filming at Jules Undersea Lodge and NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Lab in Key Biscayne, FL.

The production captured simultaneous 4K & 2K material using Mills' Sony PMW F-55 camera system as well as a Gates custom underwater housing and Ocean Technology System (OTS) Guardian full face masks. Rob Peterson provided audio support and Curt Bowen handled camera assist duties as well as dive coordinator.

Cinematographer at BBC Worldwide

May 2013 - May 2013 (less than a year)

Cinematographer for BBC program on marine mammal research, specifically dolphin acoustic tracking with Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, FL. Utilized the new Sony PMW F55 camera.

Director of Photography - Apollo 11 Expedition

March 2013 - May 2013 (2 months)

Cinematographer for expedition that required over 30 days at sea. More information can be found at <http://www.bezosexpeditions.com/updates.html>

Awarded - Explorer's Club Citation of Merit 2014 - Apollo F1 Expedition Crew

Director of Photography - Season 1

September 2012 - March 2013 (6 months)

Freelance Director of Photography for the series on the Cooking Channel, EMERIL'S FLORIDA. Great crew and wonderful talent. Second season begins soon.

High Speed Phantom Cameraman

November 2012 - November 2012 (less than a year)

Phantom high speed cameraman for the LPGA Player of the Year 2012 STACY LEWIS GOLF TIPS program, produced by otek.tv for KPMG.

Underwater Director of Photography - Rigs to Reefs at Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Inc.

October 2012 - October 2012 (less than a year)

Underwater DP for Gulf of Mexico Foundation's production on the artificial reef program in the western gulf.
Produced by Quadrant Productions.

Florida's Artificial Reefs at Discovery Communications

August 2012 - August 2012 (less than a year)

Underwater HD production for sinking of USS Mohawk near Ft. Myers and underwater airplane discovery near Jacksonville with the group TISIRI (<http://www.tisiri.org/home/aircraft-wreckage-crash-site-tisiri-investigation/twin-engine-wreck/>)

Big Cat Expose 2012 - Africa at Piper and Heath

April 2012 - April 2012 (less than a year)

Director/Cinematographer for 14 day expedition to MalaMala Game Reserve; Kalahari Plains, and Duba Plains i.e. Big Cat Exposures 2012. Produced by Chris Liebenberg of Piper and HeathTravel/San Diego. The three episodes include rare footage of endangered Cheetah, Lion, and Leopards as well as many other beautiful wildlife scenarios. Michele Westmoreland handled the still photography assignment.

Freelance Phantom Flex Operator/Tech

December 2011 - December 2011 (less than a year)

Phantom Flex Operator/Tech for commercial production.

Director of Photography - Cinematographer

December 2011 - December 2011 (less than a year)

Director of Photography for commercial series.

Underwater Director of Photography at NBCUniversal, Inc.

August 2011 - August 2011 (less than a year)

Underwater DP for NBC/Peacock Productions' "Disappeared". HD production at Vortex Springs filming recreations and search/recovery recreations.

Director of Photography/Underwater Cinematographer - Cuba's Gardens of the Queen at for CBS - 60 MINUTES

June 2011 - July 2011 (1 month)

Underwater and topside cinematographer for CBS/ 60 MINUTES segment with Anderson Cooper in Cuba. Program explored the incredible coral reefs on Cuba's southern shoreline, in particular the area known as Jardines de la Reina (Gardens of the Queen).

The program was awarded a Edward R. Murrow Award in 2012 and is nominated as Best in Class (Broadcast Division) for the 2012 BLUE OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL in Monterey, CA.

Field Producer-Director of Photography/Underwater cinematographer

May 2011 - May 2011 (less than a year)

Location cinematography for Global Reef Expedition to Cay Sal. Responsibilities included underwater and topside HD cinematography aboard the M/Y Golden Shadow and M/Y Golden Osprey.

Director of Photography/Underwater Cinematographer - Shark Week with Craig Ferguson at Discovery Communications

June 2010 - July 2010 (1 month)

Underwater cinematography for Discovery Shark Week with Craig Ferguson. Responsible for underwater cinematography.

Directed by Rick King.

Director/Cameraman

June 2007 - March 2008 (9 months)

Production company and Director/Cameraman for 30 minute training film developed for the U.S.M.C. operations in Iraq as pertaining to Site Exploitation. Involved creative script development, acquisition of set, wardrobe, and special effects for multiple locations.

All location shooting and post production to delivery.

Director of Photography/Underwater Cinematography - Journey to the Planet Earth at Screenscope Productions - STATE OF THE PLANET'S OCEANS

July 2007 - August 2007 (1 month)

Segment for Hal and Marilyn Weiner's PBS series on the Journey to the Planet Earth. Shot on location in the Dry Tortugas, Melbourne and Key West.

Director/Cameraman

June 2005 - October 2006 (1 year 4 months)

Produced a series of instructional and training films for the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute and their clients Tactical Support Working Group (TSWG) and Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office (CTTSO) relating to IED Awareness for First Responders and Maritime Safety.

Director of Photography/Underwater Cinematography - Discovery at JWM Group

June 2005 - June 2005 (less than a year)

DP for segment on THE SEARCH FOR ATLANTIS. Produced by Jason Williams for Discovery Communications.

Director of Photography

August 2004 - October 2004 (2 months)

DP and Co-Producer for documentary program produced by Florida Association of Broadcasters & Tradewinds Video (Michael Babich) for the Florida Division of Emergency Management on the emergency response to the four major hurricanes that impacted Florida during the 2004 season.

Director of Photography at NOVA/WGBH - THE MUMMY WHO WOULD BE KING

April 2003 - February 2004 (10 months)

NOVA documentary on the discovery of Ramses I. Produced and Directed by Gemini Productions' Gail Willumson and Jill Shinefield.

Director of Photography - Cinematographer - Critter Cam International at National Geographic Television International

May 2003 - October 2003 (5 months)

Director of Photography for one hour NGT Special featuring Mike Heithaus and the specialized photography tool known as "Critter Cam".

Directed by Dara Padwo-Audick, the program follows NGT Host Mike Heithaus and "Crittercam" as they document the secret habits of creatures such as African Lions, Hyenas, and Orcas.

Cinematographer - Pearl Harbor: Legacy of Attack at National Geographic Society

June 2001 - July 2001 (1 month)

DP/Cinematographer for Nat Geo/NBC Special, "Legacy of Pearl Harbor". Directed by Michael Rosenfeld and Kirk Wolfinger, the program featured Robert Ballard's search for a Japanese mini submarine and extensive segments on Pearl Harbor survivors.

Shot on Super 16mm film.

Director of Photography - Cinematographer - Extraordinary Birds at Public Broadcasting Service

April 1999 - April 1999 (less than a year)

A variety of segments featuring amazing avian characters. Produced by Tom Simon (Working Dog Productions) for WNET/NATURE.

Super 16mm.

Director of Photography/Underwater Cinematography - Pursuit of the Giant Bluefin at National Geographic Society

April 1998 - February 1999 (10 months)

DP for Nat Geo Special on the plight of the giant Bluefin Tuna. Global production included extensive work with Dr. Sylvia Earle, Dr. Carl Safina, and Dr. Barbara Block as the team, led by Director Mark Stouffer, documented the present and future perils of one of the ocean's greatest fish. Super 16mm film.

Director of Photography/Underwater Cinematography/MIR Cameraman - Search for the Submarine I 52 at National Geographic Society

October 1998 - January 1999 (3 months)

DP and MIR Submersible cameraman for 5 week expedition to locate and film Japanese Sub I-52 in mid Atlantic. Included shipboard cinematography, SCUBA operations, and deep diving camera work aboard the Russian MIR 2 submersible to 17,500 feet.

Additional assignment included filming in the Canary Islands, Falmouth, England and Tokyo, Japan.

Director of Photography/Underwater Cinematography - Tiger Shark at National Geographic Society

May 1998 - June 1998 (1 month)

NGT Special on the elusive Tiger Shark of the Pacific. The production required extensive underwater remote location filming at French Frigate Shoals in the Pacific as well as aerial and topside work with Dr. Kim Holland of the University of Hawaii.

Directed by Greg Marshall and Kevin Bachar, Mills utilized Super 16mm and Digital Betacam to capture the story.

Cinematographer

July 1996 - August 1996 (1 month)

Film cinematographer for Bud Greenspan's documentary on the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Director of Photographer - Tigers of the Snow at National Geographic Television International

June 1994 - February 1995 (8 months)

Director of Photography for National Geographic Special "TIGERS OF THE SNOW". Produced and Directed by Mark Stouffer, Exec. Producer Nick Noxon, the one hour special focused on the plight of the highly endangered Siberian Tiger and the joint Russian-American team of biologist who worked to save the species from extinction.

Shot on location in the Russian Far East, Mills spent over 120 days shoot Super 16mm film to document the efforts.

Winner of a Prime Time Emmy Award, the show received four additional nominations.

Production Management/Cinematographer at Turner Broadcasting

April 1981 - June 1984 (3 years 2 months)

Production Manager/Director of Photography for television series , "Portrait of America", hosted by Hal Holbrook. Responsible for budgeting, crew hire, equipment and resources, and location management. In May of 1982 Mills moved into the position of primary DP for the series after handling 2nd unit photography for "Georgia", . He went on to lens the "Florida", "Nevada", and "Virginia" programs.

Director/Cinematographer - Commercial Sales Division at WSB-TV

May 1980 - August 1981 (1 year 3 months)

Production management of film and video operations and commercial production for Retail Sales Division

Documentary Cameraman at Gannett

May 1977 - April 1980 (2 years 11 months)

Documentary and news cinematographer at WXIA, 11 Alive, in Atlanta.

Education

The University of Georgia

BA-Journalism, Film & Television, 1972 - 1975

Activities and Societies: Photography - Head Lab Instructor at UGA's School of Journalism - Photo Department - 1975

American Public University System

Masters Program, Emergency Management, 2009 - 2016

Activities and Societies: IAEM, ESF 14 (SERT)

Maine Photographic Workshop

Cinematography/Steadicam, 1981 - 1981

Honors and Awards

2016 EMMY AWARD - Photography - Broadcast/Non-News, BLUE Ocean Film Festival - Best Broadcast Program, 2016 EMMY NOMINATION - National News & Documentary Emmy Awards Sailing, High speed cinematography, SCUBA diving, Emergency Management, Weather

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