



## **MIKE HOLDING, S.A.S.C., B.Sc. (Hons) Zoology (UK)**

Full name:	Michael Holding
Occupation:	Wildlife Consultant, Filmmaker, Survey Pilot.
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Identity number SA: Botswana Res permit	580530 5015 189 (Full permanent residency) 1000043053
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Pilots Licence number (ZA):	0270439565
Education:	Hillcrest Primary, Nairobi, Kenya Pembroke House, Gilgil, Kenya  Abingdon Private School: 11 "O" Levels, 3 "A" Levels, UK  University of Exeter, UK: BSc (Hons) Zoology
Marital Status	Single

### **BRIEF HISTORY AFTER SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY**

Following University, Mike worked in a number of fields, including marine biology surveys and research work in Watamu on the Kenya Coast, scuba diving instruction on the Kenya coast, aerial photography and habitat mapping, commercial stills photography and environmental journalism.

### **FILM INDUSTRY:**

Mike is an accomplished director and cinematographer of international television wildlife documentary films and docu-dramas and has won numerous international awards over the years in recognition of his diverse talents as a filmmaker.

Mike has a varied set of skills gathered over many filmmaking disciplines over the years, and loves the fact that AfriScreen provides him with opportunity to carry out all the aspects of filmmaking that he enjoys. He conceptualizes, writes, shoots, edits, plans the complex logistics for remote location shoots and track-lays the music mixes for our films.

Mike Holding began his 23-year career in the communications field as a second unit cameraman for BBC Television News in Kenya in 1978. He filmed news footage of the Ugandan and Somali civil wars and a number of documentary programme inserts in several other African countries. This 18-month commission was followed by a year of commercial and industrial still photography in Nairobi, after which he moved to South Africa, shortly to take over as Editor of two successful leisure magazines – Great Outdoors and SA Boating.

After three years, he became involved as a director in corporate audio-visual and industrial theatre, first with Audio Image in Johannesburg, then as owner and Director of Audio Visual Creations, and subsequently as a Creative Director at Multivisio in Johannesburg. Mike then formed award-winning Catchlight Pictures, which undertook high-end blue chip corporate films for four years.

During this period, Mike honed his practical skills as director/producer, cameraman, video editor and audio engineer, personally undertaking all these aspects of his corporate films for over 40 blue chip clients including Coca-Cola, BMW, Mercedes Benz, SA Breweries, Nissan, Toyota and the United Nations Development Programme.

In 1993 he was awarded a 3-year commission as wildlife cameraman, for what was then one of the world's only current 35mm wildlife documentary productions, produced by Tim Liversedge Productions for National Geographic Television on location in Botswana. Mike subsequently edited the off-line cut for this film, *"Okavango - Savage Paradise"*. Thereafter Mike was commissioned by Liversedge and Partridge Films to off-line edit the one hour, 35mm documentary *"Painted Wolves of the Okavango"* produced for National Geographic TV, for which he also has cameraman credits.

After forming AfriScreen Films with Producer Tania Jenkins, he worked on the development of complex interactive wildlife scenes for feature film *"Manna"* (in development, Talisman Films, UK), directed numerous children's environmental inserts for K-TV during 1996/97 (which won AfriScreen some NTVA awards). He also directed and edited a 78-minute series for the Botswana Government Department of Tourism.

Mike was D.O.P. for Marathon Productions (France) on two episodes of the wildlife documentary series *"In Care of Nature"* ('97) and *"Natures Babies"* ('98), both featuring Wild Dogs, filmed on location in the Okavango. Also during 1998 he was cameraman for the ITV docu-drama series *"Wild Track"*. In 1999 he worked as wildlife advisor and cameraman on sequences for Green Umbrella's prestigious production, *"Triumph of Life"*, (W-NET / PBS) and as cameraman on sequences for Tigress Productions new *"Man-Eaters"* series. He also shot recreations and natural history film sequences for the Tigress Productions film on snakes, *"Africa's Deadly Dozen"*.

Mike is currently completing post production on a Natural World film **"A Wild Dog's Story"**, an independent commission from BBC NHU of a story put together by himself and Tania Jenkins, which Mike filmed and produced and Tania produced.

While filming the Natural World film in 2000 and 2001, Mike also filmed sequences for several other productions for the BBC, Tigress Productions and Green Umbrella (full list below).

Although he prefers a low-key approach to such things, his corporate work has been recognised by a number of Louie Creative Awards for 'Direction' and 'Cinematography'. The film "*Haunt of the Fishing Owl*" which he co-scripted with Brian Jackman for National Geographic TV, has to date won several international Wildlife Film Festival Awards, while "*Okavango-Savage Paradise*", for which Mike filmed a significant proportion of the footage, was a selected finalist in the Cinematography Category at the Jackson Hole Wildlife film festival.

AfriScreen Films continues Mike's involvement in wildlife and documentary film, with the aim of utilising his all-round skills for international television documentary and docu-drama productions.

Mike is a full member of the IWAF - International Association of Wildlife Filmmakers and is also an elected member of the South African Society of Cinematographers (S.A.S.C). Mike was recently chairman of the newly formed Wildlife Filmmakers Association of Southern Africa.

Born and raised in Kenya, Mike has a BSc. honours degree in Zoology, a Diploma in Business Management, is a keen naturalist and outdoorsman, holds a private pilots license, scuba diving instructors license, hang-gliding license, is an active conservationist, and has travelled very widely throughout Africa's wilderness regions for over 25 years.

## **FILM AND PRODUCTION WORK and AWARDS**

Commissioned by the BBC Natural History Unit for *Natural World* in co-production with Animal Planet

### **ELEPHANTS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Awards:

- Honorable Mention for Conservation Message - International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula
- 2nd Best in Festival - NaturVision Film Festival
- Animal Planet submitted the film for Emmy nominations in 3 categories, including Photography

### **SWAMP CATS**

Awards:

Winner of 5 merit awards for Editing, Narration, Photography, Script, Music - International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula

### **A WILD DOG'S STORY**

Awards:

- Best 'Wildlife & Human Interaction' Award - International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula
- Best 'Newcomer' Award - International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula, 2003
- Nominated Finalist - Royal Television Society, RTS Awards 2002
- Nominated Finalist - International Wildlife Film Festival, Albert, France.2003
- Nominated Finalist - Naturvision International Film Festival, Germany 2003

For NHU Africa:

## **PASEKA – THE EASTER ELEPHANT**

Awards:

- Finalist in Human/Wildlife Interaction - 35th International Wildlife Film Festival (IWFF)
- Merit Award for Conservation Message - International Wildlife Film Festival (IWFF)
- Winner - BEST STORY at the International Green Screen Festival in Germany
- China Animal & Nature Film Festival - Finalist and selected for screening.
- Selected for special screenings at various festivals, most recently the Cape Winelands Green Festival

## **For the BBC Natural History Unit:**

### **PLANET EARTH**

In 2007 AfriScreen completed 2 years of intensive sequence filming and production facilitation in Botswana for the prestigious High Definition BBC / Discovery / NHK Series PLANET EARTH which enjoyed hugely publicized worldwide broadcast in 2007. According to the international press, PLANET EARTH changed the trends in natural history viewing and was the catalyst in a rebirth of the genre.

Botswana was one of the countries most heavily featured in PLANET EARTH and AfriScreen are proud we made that happen.

Awards in which Mike Holding shared cinematography credits

- Emmy Awards
- Peabody Award – Worlds' most Prestigious International Media Award
- Golden Panda, Wildscreen Festival – Cinematography – Pole to Pole
- Saturn Award - Best TV Series
- British Film & TV Awards (BAFTA) – Best Photography
- Huw Weldon Award - for Specialist Factual
- Jackson Hole Film Festival – Cinematography – Pole to Pole
- Broadcasting Press Guild Awards – Best Documentary Series
- Missoula Wildlife Film Festival – Best Cinematography
- National TV Awards UK – Most Popular Factual Programme
- Royal Television Society – Best Photography
- TV Critics Award – Outstanding Achievement Series
- TRIC Awards – Best Documentary Programme

### **“EARTH - THE MOVIE”**

A major US release by DISNEYNATURE on Earth Day in April 2009, “EARTH - THE MOVIE” is a full-length feature film version of this spectacular series.

The film has garnered many awards and accolades.

We're very proud that Mike was one of the principal cameramen on the film.

The AfriScreen team filmed and Produced a full 1-hour episode “**OKAVANGO-THE GREAT FLOOD**” for the BBC's flagship natural history series “**Natures Great Events**” which was broadcast on BBC1 during February and March 2009, and on Discovery in May 2009. The series has won multiple International Awards including :

- International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula Cinematography
- Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival - Best TV Series

**Other productions for the BBC – all filmed in Botswana - include:**

- "LIFE" which forms part of the BBC's blue chip 8-hour series for 2009.
- WILD AFRICA – LAKES AND RIVERS - an episode of the BBC's 6-hour series.
- THE LIFE OF MAMMALS - BBC1 Series
- ULTIMATE KILLERS - Wild Dog sequences for 2 episodes of the BBC1 Series
- LION BATTLEFIELDS – 1 hour special BBC1
- INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS-WILD DOGS – BBC 1 Series
- NATURE'S MICROWORLDS
- SUPER SMART ANIMALS

**Filming & Facilitation or Tigress Productions:**

- Lion sequences for the "MAN EATERS" Series.
- Recreations and natural history sequences for AFRICA'S DEADLY DOZEN
- Sequences for an episode of the "AFRICA" Series.
- Recreations with elephants for THE LOST ELEPHANTS OF TIMBUKTU – BBC Natural World
- CELEBRITIES ALONE IN THE WILD
- NAKED SURVIVOR
- HIPPO – NATURE'S GREAT FEAST (Mike on camera presenting as well as filming)

Other natural history production credits include:

- RICHARD HAMMOND'S MIRACLES OF NATURE - Oxford Scientific Films - (additional photography & facilitation)
- TRIUMPH OF LIFE – Green Umbrella – sequences, aerals and SFX shots of elephants and wild dogs.

**For Botswana Department of Tourism:**

A series of 7 videos used to promote Botswana internationally, produced in collaboration with Tim Liversedge.

AfriScreen has also provided production facilitation for various international documentary production companies and commercial producers

Productions that have been in a different genre to natural history include:

- TOP GEAR - BOTSWANA SPECIAL
- TOP GEAR - AFRICA SPECIAL filmed in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania
- AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WAYS
- AFRICAN HORSEBACK SAFARIS – Promotional marketing film
- WILDFITNESS KENYA – Promotional marketing film
- LONELY PLANET – BOTSWANA
- ONE DAY ON EARTH



- NATURE'S MICROWORLDS
- THE AMAZING RACE – Season 22 (Botswana 2 episodes)

## **REFERENCES**

Numerous – contacts available on request