

James Cowley

Cinematographer

New Zealander based in New Zealand.



In 1976 James Cowley left school and started working for an equipment rental/ production company. The first few years were spent sweeping floors and general help with the shooting of commercials. There it became obvious that his passion was with the camera.

He spent six years on the rental side and gained substantial knowledge of the Arri cameras and lenses.

In 1982 he left the company and worked through from clapper loader through to focus puller on feature films.

In 1991 James went to India to shoot a documentary on the Dali Lama in Dharumsala. This was the point when he realized that he had to move into being a DP. He remained a focus puller while building a showreel and the transition was natural.

He still to this day loves putting his eye to that eyepiece and helping to create the frame.

James has been working on mostly television commercials. He specializes in aerial filming and was the first person in the world to take the Red in the air for Peter Jackson.

He has worked all over the planet. He enjoys a challenge.

Some of his clients include Lexus, Standart Chartered, Nestle, Wii and many many more.

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