

LANCE GEWER<sup>sasc</sup>

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## CINEMATOGRAPHER

Lance Gewer is an internationally recognized award winning filmmaker and cinematographer who worked in the field for 28 years. He photographed **TSOTSI** (Directed by Gavin Hood – Oscar for Best Foreign Film 2006, Peoples and Critics Award Toronto Film Festival), **BEAT THE DRUM** (27 International Awards), **MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS** (with Freddy Highmore and Vingh Rheimes), **OTELO BURNING** (over 70 film festivals internationally), **FLIGHT OF THE STORKS** (Directed by Jan Kounen with Ruttgaer Hauer), **SPUD** and **SPUD 2** (with Troy Sivan and John Cleese), **ELELWANI**, **JOZI** and others. Lance just completed production of **KITE**, with Samuel L. Jackson. He has filmed international feature documentaries, docu-dramas and dramas. He also directed and produced several short fiction and non-fiction films, and has lectured extensively over the last 20 years.

The feature articles in *American Cinematographer* (March 2006) and Kodak's "In Camera" (April 2006) were dedicated to his work.

*He has a very classical eye, as well as a certain restraint that really allows the performances in the pieces he photographs to shine, and that's very much what I needed for Tsotsi. I wanted to achieve a beautiful film that you only think about as beautiful after you've come out of the story. Gavin Hood – American Cinematographer – March 2006*

*Widescreen lensing by Lance Gewer is ace, offering a dense panorama for the drama. Several flashy crane shots capture the teeming township streets, while dramatic quasi-noir lighting that renders the seamy atmosphere of Tsotsi's hovel contrasts with jewel-like tones of Miriam's house. Variety Magazine - 2006*

## FEATURE FILMS

### MANDELA'S GUN

In 1962 Nelson Mandela went to Ethiopia to receive training in military combat in preparation for the armed struggle against the apartheid in South Africa. While he was there, he gets a special present from the Emperor Haile Selassie, one that today remains a mystery. Genre: Drama/ Doc. Prod: Claire Evans. Co-Prod: Jeremy Nathan/ Moroba Nkawe. Dir: John Irvin. RED Epic for Cinema release. IN PRE-PRODUCTION **2014**

## KITE

Based on the cult classic anime, a young girl's journey to discover who she is and who murdered her father. Starring Samuel L. Jackson, India Eisley, Callan McAuliffe. Genre: Anime thriller. Prod: Anant Singh/ Brian Cox. Detalle Films/ Distant Horizons/ Compass Films/Videovision. RED Epic for Cinema. Dir: Ralph Ziman. POST-PRODUCTION **2013**

## ONE

Tells the story of... well you'll have to wait to find out, it will be good, trust me. Prod: Kent Smith. Dir: Murali Thalluri. KOJO/ M2E. IN DEVELOPMENT **2014**

## THERE LIES HOPE

Based on Mark Mathabane's bestseller Kaffir Boy. Dir: Scott Hillenbrand. **2014**

## SPUD 2

THE MADNESS CONTINUES. The sequel in the series of John Van De Ruit's best-selling novel. Young Spud seeks revenge over Sparerib. Genre: Comedy. Starring John Cleese and Troye Sivan. Exec Prod: Ross Garland/ Brad Logan. Dir: Donavan Marsh. Rogue Star Films. Red Epic for Cinema. **2013**

## BEYOND THE HORIZON

A young German family living in remote Africa tragically loses their son and in an attempt to heal themselves, they adopt a young German convict who is part of a rehabilitation program. The new life for the young convict brings change to all. Genre: Drama. Prod: Gizelher Venzke. Two Oceans Prod's/ U5 Film Prod's/ ARD(Germany). Dir: Stefanie Sycholt. Arri Alexa. **2012**

## ONE LAST LOOK

While on their dream overland trip through Africa, a young backpacker disappears at a steam punk party and her sister risks all to try to find and save her. Genre: Horror. Producer: Dan Jawitz. Fireworx Media/ NFVF/ DTI. Dir: Philip Roberts. RED Mysterium X for cinema release. **2012**

## FLIGHT OF THE STORKS

A two-part thriller for television based on Jean-Christophe Grange's novel. Every year the storks set off on their 12 000 mile migration but one year, inexplicably numbers of them fail to return. Jonathan's journey to uncover why leads him deeper into a bizarre mystery that uncovers shattering truths about his past. Genre: Thriller. Exec Prod: Thomas Anargyros. EuropaCorp/TF1 International/Canal+/Moonlighting. Dir: Jan Kounen (Doberman, Stravinsky and Channel, 99Francs, Renegade). **S35mm2012**

## ELELWANI

A young Venda woman is ambushed by her family, ancestors and royalty is forced to abandon her journey to freedom. Elelwani takes her fiancée home to meet her family and is informed that from a young ageshe has been bequeathed to a King. Her fiancée must find a way to set her free. Genre: Love Story. Prod: Florian Schattauer. Keramix CC. Dir: Ntshavheni Wa Luruli (The Wooden Camera). Red Mysterium X for 2.35:1 cinema.

Opening Film Durban Film Festival **2012**

## OTELLO BURNING

3 Schoolboys living in a warzone in apartheid South Africa discover surfing as a means to escape the harsh realities of their lives. Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose. Genre: Political Drama. Prod: Kevin Fleisher. Cinga Films. Dir: Sara Bletcher. Red Mysterium X for 1.85:1 cinema. **2012**

Winner Best Cinematography Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) 2012

Winner One World Film Festival U.K. 2012

Winner Cape Winelands Film Festival 2012

Nominee: Golden Needle Award Seattle 2012

Opening Film Durban International Film Festival 2011

Winner: Adrienne Shelly Prize 2011

Official Selection: Moscow Film Festival 2012,

BFI Film Festival London 2012, Chennai Film Festival 2012,

Cinerama BC Brazil 2012, Lille Film Festival France 2012,

Seattle Film Festival 2012, Dubai Film Festival 2011

## ALGIERS MURDERS

Based on a true story - a drug war between mafia and police erupts in a small town called Algiers. Genre: Thriller. Starring: John Savage. Moments Entertainment. Dir: Faith Isiakphira. Red Mysterium X for 2.35:1. **2011**

## SPUD

Based on John Van De Ruit's best selling novel is a hilarious coming of age story about boarding school boys and their adventures. Genre: Comedy. Starring John Cleese and Troye Sivan. Exec Prod: Ros Garland/ Brad Logan. Rogue Star Films. Dir: Donavan Marsh. S35mm for 1.85:1 cinema. **2010**

## JOZI

A drug addict's journey to "normality". Genre: Comedy. Exec Prod: Anant Singh. Prod: Robbie Thorpe/ Akin Amotso. VIDEOVISION Entertainment/ TOM PICS. Dir: Craig Freimond. Arri D21 for 2.35:1 cinema. **2009**

## MASTER HAROLD & THE BOYS

Based on Athol Fugard's award winning play set in the 1950s. Genre: Drama. Stars Freddie Highmore, Ving Rhames. Prod: David Pupkowitz/ Nellie Nugent/ Zaheer ~ Goodman-Bhyat. Spier Films Focus Films(UK) Foxboro Inc(USA) Reuben Cannon(USA). Dir: Lonny Price. RED for 2.35:1 cinema. **2009**  
Winner Cape Winelands Film Festival 2010

## TSOTSI

Based on Athol Fugard's novel, a story of the events that lead to change in the life of a young criminal. Genre: Drama. Prod: Peter Fudkowski/ Paul Raleigh. Miramax Films/ Movieworld. Writer/Dir: Gavin Hood (Wolverine, Rendition). Kodak S35mm for 2.35:1 Cinema. **2005**

Winner Best Foreign Film, OSCAR, Academy Awards 2006  
Nominee Golden Globe - Films made in a foreign language 2006  
Winner M Powell Jury Award & Standard Life Audience Award, Edinburgh Film Festival 2005  
Winner Best Film, People's Choice Award, Toronto Film Festival 2005  
Winner Audience Award AFI, Los Angeles 2005  
Nominee Best Cinematography, CamerImage, Lodz, Poland, 2006  
Winner Best cinematography, Apollo Film Festival 2006  
Winner Best Cinematography, SAFTA Award 2006

## BEAT THE DRUM

The story of a young boy's journey from a rural village to the big city to make a life for himself after his family all died of AIDS. Genre: Drama. Prod Co: Z Productions LLC & New Africa Media Films (NAM). Writer/ Producer: David McBrayer/ Amy Moore. Dir: D. Hickson. Kodak S35mm for cinema. **2002**

Over 27 awards, including:

Winner Best Cinematography - SAFTA Award -2007

Winner Best Feature Film - Montreal World Film Festival

Winner Best Feature Film - Monaco International Film Festival

Winner Best Feature Film - Urban World Film Festival, New York

Winner Best cinematography - Apollo Film Festival 2006

Winner Best Cinematography - Guerilla Film Festival, Washington 2005

Winner Best Cinematography - Newport Beach Film Festival 2004

Winner Silver Medal for Cinematography - Visible Spectrum Awards, South Africa, 2003

Special Jury Award - Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival

## ***DOCUMENTARY FEATURES***

### HIDDEN GENDER

Feature Doc. Gay married couple jailed in Malawi. Cinga Films. Sara Bletcher. **2010**

### DANCING WITH THE DEVIL IN THE CITY OF GOD

Feature Doc. Rio de Janeiro. CH4. Dir: Jon Blair. JBFC. **2009**

### TURN IT LOOSE

RED BULL.B.C.2 Feature Doc. Follows contenders for the Red Bull world BBoy dance championships that took place in Soweto in 2007. Red Bull/ Partizan/ Renegade Films. Prod: Tom Roberts. Dir: Alaister Siddons. **2007**

### OCHBERG'S ORPHANS

Feature Doc. 1920, business tycoon rescues 200 orphans from East Europe & takes them to South Africa. BBC/ Rainmaker Films. Prod: Paul Goldin. Dir: Jon Blair (FINAL 8 OSCARS **2008**)

### MURDER MOST FOUL

Feature Doc. Author: Sir Anthony Sher explores the high-profile murder of actor Brett Goldin & designer Richard Bloom. Ch4/ Jon Blair Films. U.K. Prod/ Dir: Jon Blair. **2007**

## THE GLOW OF WHITE WOMAN

Feature Doc. An irreverent documentary that explores a "coloured" man's obsession for white women during Apartheid. BBC2/ Little Bird. Ex Prod: James Mitchell. Dir: Yunus Valli. **2007**

## SOWETO BLUES

Feature Doc. Tells the story of 1976 and the musicians' fight against apartheid through music. SABC/ Moments Ent. Dir: Faithlsiakphira. **2006**

## WHITE FARMERS BLACK LAND

PRODUCER & DOP. Feature Doc. White farmers emigrate to Niassa in north Mozambique to escape a democratic South Africa. **CANAL+** Dir. Aldo Lee. Prod P. Brooks/ L. Gewer. **2002**

## MAPUNGUBWE, SECRETS OF THE SACRED HILL

PRODUCER/ DIRECTOR/ WRITER & DOP. South Africa's first city of gold, true kingdom with ruling elite and inland international trading post was kept secret since its discovery. Icon Entertainment. 52min. **2001**

## SHARP EDGE OF THE KNIFE

Parallels of poverty: Scotland & South Africa. **BBC**. Dir Barbara Orton. **2000**

# ***DOCU-DRAMA (2005 – 2010)***

## SAS HEROES

A series that re-enacts heroic and memorable operations undertaken by Britain's Special Air Forces. 3 EPISODES: "**MIRBAT**", "**FLIGHT181**", "**OPERATION BARRAS**". Film Afrika/ Dangerous Films. **BBC5**. Dir. Nick Green.

## KIDNAPPED ABROAD

The series re-enact stories of major historical political kidnappings. 3 episodes:

**UGANDA** Paul Berzellar. **PHILLIPINES:** James Bryce. **MALAYSIA:** Katinka

Newman. Exec Prod: Dimitri Doganis. **NAT GEO/CH5-UK.** Raw TV.

## I SHOULDN'T BE ALIVE

"**TERROR ON THE ZAMBEZI**". By the producers of "Touching the Void".

Stranded in the Zambezi River a group of friends miraculously survive.

**DISCOVERY US/ Ch4.** Darlow Smithson. Dir: Jenny Ash.

## OPERATION CERTAIN DEATH

Drama-doc about the recapture of British troops from the West Side Boys in Sierra Leone. **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.** Darlow Smithson. Dir: Matt Catling.

## OPERATION CERTAIN DEATH

"**Zero Hour**" High-end drama-doc about the recapture of British soldiers from the West Side Boys in Sierra Leone. Ex Prod: Simon Berthon. **DISCOVERY US.**

3BM TV. Dir: David Hickman.

# **SHORT FORM (1989 – 1998)**

## COME SEE THE BIOSCOPE

DOP/ DIRECTOR. Set 1927, Sol Plaatjes, co-founder of the ANC, writer, editor and Bioscope-man brings cinema to the people. Prod. Richard Green.

26min. S16mm. MNET (Nominated for Fespaco Film Festival).

## SACRIFICE

DOP/ PROD/ CO-DIR/WRIT: Family suicide.

Best Short & Best Fiction, Weekly Mail Film Festival 2000. 32 min.

## ANGEL

Prod. Richard Green. MNET. Dir. Barry Berk. S16mm.

## CHRISTMAS WITH GRANNY

Prod. Richard Green. MNET. Dir: Dumisani Phakati. 35mm.

## BRAVE WORLD

DOP/ PRODUCER **Best Short Film** Weekly Mail Film Festival 1999. 12 min. 16mm

# ***TELEVISION DRAMA***

## 90 PLEIN STREET

26 part thriller based on real South African political scenario. Prod: Carolyn Carew. SABC/ Born Free Media. Canon 5D III. Dir: Khalomatabane. **2011**

## WILD AT HEART

Pilot for series. A New York vet who starts a new life in South Africa. **CBS/ PARAMOUNT/**Company Pictures/ Out of Africa. Ex Prod: Michael Rauch/ Charlie Pattinson Prod: Lance Samuels Dir: Bryan Gordon.

## NOAH'S ARC

4 part TV drama. The arrival of an unknown child into a man's life, exposes weaknesses in the family and throws their lives into disarray. SABC/ Born Free Media. Prod: Carolyn Carew. Dir: Teddy Mattera, Penny Flascas.

## THE OTHER WOMAN

A television film, about a high-powered black advertising executive who rediscovers her compassion when she crosses paths with a childhood friend who is dying of Aids. SABC/ Curious Pictures. Dir: Cindy Lee.

## CROSSING THE LINE

4 part TV series. A taut thriller which tells the story of a black political journalist who delves into the murky underworld of crime and corruption in the new South Africa. SABC. Big World Cinema. Dir: Brian Tilley.



## **COMMERCIALS, CORPORATE & MUSIC VIDEOS**

Commercial Clients: MACDONALDS, TELE-2-EUROPE, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NANDO'S, MTN, ABSA, NASHUA, TASTIC, LOVELIFE, S.A GOV'T, FIFA, ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD, ESKOM, NETCARE. NOVARTIS, RIO TINTHO, JET.

Over 30 music videos including artists: HUGH MASAKELA, ARTHUR, DON LARKA, SENYAKA, BROTHERS OF PEACE, ROBYN AULD.

## **LECTURER**

Lance has lectured extensively at The Big Fish Films School, AFFDA, Monash University, Newtown Film & Television School, South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), Rand Afrikaans University.

Lance is the current Disciplinary Chair of Cinematography at AFFDA.

## **LANCE GEWER ONLINE**

<http://www.lancegewer.com>

### **FIND ME ON IMDB**

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1486670/>

### **MEDIA LINKS**

AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHER

<http://www.ascmag.com/magazine/March2006/>

<http://www.ascmag.com/magazine/March2006/Tsotsi/page1.php>

KODAK – IN CAMERA

<http://motion.kodak.com/motion/uploadedFiles/tsotsi.pdf>

### **FEATURE FILMS LINKS**

FLIGHT OF THE STORKS by Jan Kouen. 2012

<http://vimeo.com/44226105?action=share&ref=nf>

ELEWANI by NtshaveniWaLuruli. 2012

<http://buni.tv/video/elelwani-trailer>

ONE LAST LOOK by Philip Roberts. 2012

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fwoc3VDrS7U>

OTELO BURNING by Sara Blecher 2010

[www.oteloburning.com](http://www.oteloburning.com)

SPUD by Donovan Marsh 2010

<http://spudthemovie.com>

MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS by Lonny Price 2009

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FdolA5LbUo>

JOZI by Craig Freimond 2009

<http://www.jozi-movie.co.za>

TSOTSI by Gavin Hood. 2005

[www.tsotsi.com](http://www.tsotsi.com)

BEAT THE DRUM by David Hickson 2002

<http://www.beatthedrumthemovie.com/>

## DOCUMENTARY LINKS

DANCING WITH THE DEVIL by John Blair 2009

<http://dancingwiththedevilthemovie.com/>

OCHBERG'S ORPHANS by John Blair 2009

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xjn86k\\_ochberg-s-orphans-history\\_shortfilms](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xjn86k_ochberg-s-orphans-history_shortfilms)

TURN IT LOOSE by Alaister Siddons 2007

<http://www.turnitloosemovie.com/>