

NEIL RETTIG, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Neil Rettig Productions
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CURRICULUM VITAE

Neil Rettig is a filmmaker and naturalist who began his career in the mid-1970s after attending the Chicago Academy of fine Arts. His award-winning work has been instrumental in the conservation of rare and threatened animals and the establishment of protected ecosystems and breeding projects for endangered species.

Over the past three decades, Rettig has contributed to the production of hundreds of films for National Geographic, BBC, discovery, IMAX, and many others. His study of raptors, especially rare forest eagles, has contributed much to the scientific community's knowledge of critically endangered species such as Philippine and Harpy Eagles. Rettig is known for his innovative camera and technical work, inventive filming techniques, creative eye, artistic composition, and intimacy with the subject.

Rettig has produced and/or directed over 50 wide-ranging natural history films in such diverse and challenging environments as tropical rainforest canopies, jungle floors, the northern arctic, African volcanic mountains, and aquatic environments. Featured subjects include animal species, ecosystems, scientists and naturalists, rare diseases, evolution and behavior, and continental geology. His work combines storyline, cinematography, and artistic composition to immerse the viewer in the subject's world.

Rettig co-designed and implemented the only cable tracking system used by IMAX production equipment. He also designed and implemented the cable tracking system for the Emmy-award winning documentary "Heroes of the High Frontier", filmed in the rainforest canopies of French Guiana, Costa Rica, and Brazil. His ability to innovate around even the most challenging environments has yielded amazing footage of animals in their natural environments. Rettig is experienced in the newest technologies in cinematography including various High Definition cameras, the Phantom camera, and the RED camera.

Rettig is also a Master Falconer, accomplished still photographer, skilled climber, scuba diver, and animal trainer. He is a frequent lecturer on rainforest conservation, Harpy eagles and birds of prey.

RECENT FILM AWARDS

Great Migrations

Emmy Award, Outstanding Cinematography 2011

Swarm

Royal Television Society, Best Photography Award 2008/2009

Ape Genius

Peabody Award 2008

Nominated for Outstanding Science, Technology and Nature Documentary,
Emmy Awards 2009

Raptor Force

Best Achievement in Sound, Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival 2007

CINE Golden Eagle Film and Video Competition, Golden Eagle Award 2007

Mississippi: Tales of the Last River Rat

Emmy Award, Outstanding Individual Achievement in Cinematography 2006

Best Cinematography Award, Jackson Hole Wildlife film Festival 2005

Royal Television Society, Best Photography and Lighting Award 2005

Grierson Best Documentary Award 2005

Finalist, Best Cinematography Award, Wildscreen Film Festival 2006

Heroes of the High Frontier

Emmy Award, Best Documentary Film 2001

Japan Wildlife Festival Cinematography Award 2001

Earthwatch Film Award 2000

Grand Prize, Nature category, Grenoble Nature and Environment Festival 1999

Special Prize of the Jury, Festival international du film D'aventure 1999

Caccialanza Prize for best scientific content, Valle D'aosta International Nature
Film Festival 1999

The Living Edens--Denali

Best Cinematography Award, Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival 1997

Emmy Award, Outstanding Individual Achievement in Cinematography 1998

Mountain Gorilla

Outstanding Film Documentary, Genesis Award 1993

RECENT CONSERVATION AWARDS

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Silver Eagle Award for Conservation, 2008

Friends of the Upper Mississippi Fisheries Service Appreciation Award 2007

FILMS

Current Film Projects (still in production):

Secret Life of Predators

National Geographic Television
Director of Photography

The Magic of the Snowy Owl

Fergus Beeley Productions for PBS
Cinematographer

Wild Planet: North America

Wild Horizons Ltd for Discovery
Cinematographer

Wild Americas

National Geographic Television
Cinematographer

2012

Wild Mississippi

National Geographic Wild Channel
Director of Photography

2011

Earthflight

John Downer Productions for BBC and Discovery
Cinematographer

Saving the Delta

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
Cinematographer

Cameramen Who Dare

National Geographic Television
Onscreen talent

2010

Great Migrations

National Geographic Television
Director of Photography

Death Valley National Park

North Shore Productions
Director of Photography

How Man Tamed the Wild

National Geographic Explorer
Cinematographer

America Before Columbus

Gruppe 5 Filmproduction for ZDF/National Geographic Television
Director of Photography

Moment of Impact

New Pony Productions for PBS/National Geographic Television
Cinematographer

American Serengeti

National Geographic Television
Cinematographer

What Darwin Never Knew

John Rubin Productions for NOVA
Director of Photography

2009

Swarm

John Downer Productions for BBC
Cinematographer

Is That Skunk?

John Rubin Productions for PBS/Nature
Director of Photography

2008

American Eagle

John Rubin Productions for PBS/Nature
Director of Photography, Onscreen Talent and Narrator

Ape Genius

John Rubin Productions for NOVA
Director of Photography

Mysteries of the Great Lakes
Science North for IMAX
Cinematographer

Gabon--The Last Eden
National Geographic Television
Cinematographer

2007

Raptor Force
John Rubin Productions for PBS/Nature
Director of Photography and Onscreen Talent

King Bear-Planet Carnivore
National Geographic Television
Cinematographer

Spring Watch USA
Painless Productions for Animal Planet
Consultant and Contributing Director of Photography

2006

Titans of the North
National Geographic Television
Director of Photography

Animals Behaving Worse
John Rubin Productions for Animal Planet
Cinematographer

2005

Austin Stevens, Snake Master--Komodo Dragons
Tigress Productions for Discovery
Director of Photography

2004

Mississippi: Tales of the Last River Rat
AGB films for BBC/Discovery Channel

Director of Photography

Snake Wranglers--Eyelash Pit Vipers in Panama

National Geographic Television

Director of Photography, Onscreen Talent

2003

Medical Mysteries--In The Wrong Body

Cinenova Productions for Discovery Channel

Cinematographer

Papa Bear

Fleisher Film for Discovery Channel

Director of Photography

Young Fishing Guides

In Fisherman

Director of Photography

Catch and Release Salmon

Alaska Fish and Game

Director of Photography

2002

African Chronicle Updates

National Geographic Television and the Wildlife Conservation Society

Director of Photography

Medical Mysteries--Growing Up Old

Cinenova Productions for Discovery Channel

Cinematographer

2001

Jaguar--Eyes of Fire

National Geographic Special

Director of Photography

Primal Contact

A & E

Director of Photography

North America Series--Alligators

BBC
Cinematographer

Crocodile Chronicles--Cuba
National Geographic Explorer
Director of Photography

Owls--Silent Hunters
National Geographic Explorer
Cinematographer

Hornets From Hell
National Geographic Explorer
Director of Photography

2000

Life Among the Gorillas
National Geographic Explorer
Director of Photography

North America
BBC
Cinematographer

1999

Bear Man
National Geographic Explorer
Director, Producer and Director of Photography

Fabulous Animals
Gruppe 5 Film Production
Producer and Director of Photography

Salmon and People
National Geographic Explorer
Director of Photography

Inside Wolf's World
PBS Special
Cinematographer

1998

The Life of Birds

BBC

Cinematographer

1997

Heroes of the High Frontier

National Geographic Television/OSF Special

Director of Photography, Onscreen Talent

Seasons of the Salmon

National Geographic Explorer

Director of Photography

Otters

National Geographic Explorer

Cinematographer

Battle of the Sexes

BBC

Cinematographer

The Natural World--At the Edge of the Sea

Rodger Jackman Productions/BBC

Cinematographer

Mother Bear Man

National Geographic Explorer

Cinematographer

1996

The Ultimate Guide to Raptors

Discovery Channel

Co-producer, Director of Photography, and Falconer

Animal Tracks

Discovery Canada

Director of Photography

Dawn of the Cats

Wall to Wall TV/The Learning Channel/Paleoworld

Director of Photography

Boneheads

Wall to Wall TV/The Learning Channel/Paleoworld

Director of Photography

The Living Edens--Canyonlands

ABC/KANE Productions

Contributing Director of Photography

1995

The New Explorers--What Darwin Never Saw

Kurtis Productions, Ltd.

Director of Photography

The New Explorers--On a Wing and a Prayer

Kurtis Productions, Ltd.

Director of Photography

1994

Arctic Kingdom--Life at the Edge

National Geographic Society/NBC Special

Director of Photography

The New Chimpanzees

National Geographic Society Special

Director of Photography

1993

Nomads of the Wind

BBC

Director of Photography

The Valley of 10,000 Smokes

National Geographic Society Explorer

Cinematographer

Play

National Geographic Explorer

Contributing Director of Photography

1992

Mountain Gorilla

IMAX

Director of Photography

1991

Flight of the Harpy Eagle

National Geographic Explorer

Co-Producer and Director of Photography

Lake Wales Ridge

Kurtis Productions Ltd.

Director of Photography

1990

The Blue Planet

IMAX

Director of Photography

The Rain Forest Imperative

Kurtis Productions Ltd

Director of Photography

1989

Monkeys on the Edge

WNET/Barry Clark Productions

Director of Photography

Bald Eagles

BBC

Cinematographer

Gorillas in the Midst of Man

BBC/WNET

Director of Photography

Land of the Eagle

BBC

Director of Photography

Snakes of the World

Partridge Films/ABC

Cinematographer

1988

Fire

CBS/WBBM
Cinematographer

A Habitat Oasis

US Fish and Wildlife Service/US Justice Department
Producer, Director of Photography, Editor

Voice of the Planet

GAIA
Director of Photography

Eagles of the World

RSPB
Director of Photography

1987

The New Explorers--Flight for Survival

CBS/WBBM
Director of Photography

Turtles

F.R.E.E. Ltd.
Director of Photography

Timberdoodles of Moosehorn

Marty Stouffer Productions
Cinematographer

The New Explorers--Dolphins

Kurtis Productions, Ltd.
Director of Photography

1986

White on White

Marty Stouffer Productions
Cinematographer

New Explorers--The Nazca Lines

CBS/WBBM
Director of Photography

Mindscape

Commercial for video game
Director of Photography

The Nature of Australia

Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Director of Photography

A Separate Creation

Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Director of Photography

The Land of Flood and Fire

Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Director of Photography

The First Eden

BBC
Cinematographer

1985

The Making of a Continent-Part II

BBC
Director of Photography

New Explorers--Islands in the Jungle

CBS/WBBM
Director of Photography

Saguaro, Sentinel of the Desert

Wolfgang Bayer Productions/Nature
Cinematographer

World of Birds

BBC
Cinematographer

1984

Roadrunner -- Clown of the Desert

Wildlife on One/BBC
Director of Photography

Redtail, the Story of a Hawk

Wildlife on One/BBC
Director of Photography

Jaguars, Great Horned Owls and Timber Wolves

Marty Stouffer Productions
Cinematographer

1983

The Making of a Continent -- Part I
BBC
Director of Photography

1982

Oddie in Paradise
Wildlife on One/BBC
Director of Photography

1981

The Living Planet Series
BBC
Cinematographer

Plant and Animal Communities
Encyclopedia Britannica
Director of Photography

Why We Need Our Forests
F.R.E.E. Ltd
Director of Photography

1980

The Flight of the Condor
Nature/PBS
Cinematographer

The Orinoco Hog
Wildlife on One/BBC
Director of Photography

To Free an Eagle
BBC/F.R.E.E. Ltd
Director of Photography

American Sportsman
ABC
Contributing Director of Photography

1977-1979

To Live and Be Free

F.R.E.E. Ltd

Director of Photography, Researcher

Harpy Eagle

N/A (footage sold to Survival Anglia as “Fury of the Forest”)

Cinematographer and Researcher

Animal Attraction

National Geographic Explorer

Cinematographer