

James Brooks

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I am a cameraman editor who has just returned from a 10 month solo travel through South East Asia, Australasia, the Pacific Islands and California. I have a passion for video and for adventure, which combined in two trips to Kenya to film wildlife and leisure activities for a client. My showreel is made up of 4 short videos using my footage from the trips. Prior to my travels I was completing a Ph.D. in renewable energy. While in parallel, for the last 8 years I have been working part-time for a production and multimedia company doing filming, editing, graphics, web programming ... whatever needed to be done. I would learn how and do it.

I've grown up around the media. My father is an ex-BBC radio and TV journalist whom I often accompany as a cameraman when he teaches media, communication and public relations. Christina Fox, a BBC Video Trainer, gave me my formal training in camera operation. During my work with White Hart Multimedia I have got used to news and documentary-style production, filming interviews from board level directors to shop floor workers. My first complete project, a promotional interactive CD for one of the country's top Event Riders, quickly gave him a host of new sponsors. My work has sent me to 'secret' underground military bunkers, secure psychiatric hospitals, the Beau Rivage Palace in Switzerland, and live operations in a hospital theatre room. But trumping all those trips was my visit to Kenya. Here I filmed a day and a night safari, flocking flamingos and the release of a sea turtle back to the ocean.

Due to the size of the company I have experienced almost all aspects of production at various levels; these have been focused on filming and editing but I have extensively used Photoshop and other similar packages. My most recent project involves creating an educational e-learning site for the British Horse Society's training program.

I am an active person. I've skydived over Lake Wakatipu in New Zealand; learnt to surf in Indonesia; scuba dived wrecks, walls and reefs around the world including Malaysia, Fiji, Kenya, and the Philippines (SSI Advanced Scuba Diver); I'm a 2nd Dan black belt karate instructor who has competed at the WUKO European and World Championships; I've rock-climbed Thailand's famous Railay Cliffs; I was a successful BSJA junior show-jumper and more recently competed in British

Eventing; I've trained my own horses and dogs; competed at the student championships in Modern Pentathlon; I've crossed a river with my motorbike on a bamboo raft in rural Vietnam; and last year some friends and I were the first of the season to hike the 2,970 metre summit of Schilthorn high in the Swiss Alps.

Academically I have a B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and I am in the final stages of completing a Ph.D. that deals with the technical challenge of integrating large scale renewable power into the national grid. It is a great passion of mine but I realised that engineering is not the field I want to pursue; this is. The electrical engineering background has however given me a high level of technical competency. During the course of my doctorate I have presented my work on quantifying and reducing risk of incorporating with wind power at international conferences in Italy and China.

During this time at University I was the chairman and eventually competition coach at the University Karate Club. As chairman I managed the organisation of the club and committee. The first task was fund-raising, resulting in sponsorship contracts negotiated with two companies leaving us as one of the most sponsored club at the University. The second task was to find a new coach and negotiate an acceptable contract. Another key achievement as chairman was my recruitment of new members; this involved organising and encouraging groups of old members to perform displays and inform other students about our club. These changes culminated in our team winning the UK student championships for the first time.

I was looking for a job where I can combine my love of the technical and the creative. This not only does that but it fits my sense of adventure and my moral ideals; I really do think it is a great fit. I hope you do too.

Regards,

James

p.s. Having dived with sharks in Fiji myself I was very pleased to see on your site that shark trading is to be banned in the country. While I was there a local dive-master taught me about the problems facing the regions sharks leading me to sign Project Aware's petition: 'Help Give Sharks A Fighting Chance'. This ban must feel like a great success for you and I would love to work in this area more.