

Matthew Graham Cooke – Senior Lighting Artist

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Profile

Senior Lighting Artist and Director of Photography with an advanced understanding of cinematography, lighting, and rendering technologies; specializing in real-time lighting for games.

Expertise

Cinematic and environmental lighting, either real-time, off-line, or practical cinematography.
Look development, lighting design, mise-en-scène, staging, blocking, lens choice and composition.
Real-time, baked and dynamic lighting setups utilizing PBR workflows.
Post process effects and color grading.
Team leadership, project management, cross-discipline collaboration, and team mentoring.
Pipeline development and performance optimization.

Professional Experience.

Senior Lighting Artist, Ready at Dawn Studios, Irvine, CA, USA.

March 2016 – Present.

Duties.

Work with custom in-house technologies to light the 'Lone Echo' series; the flagship IP for the Oculus Rift Virtual Reality gaming platform, as well as subsequent titles.
Use expertise in lighting and cinematography to create distinct atmospheres and memorable looks within the game environments, whilst working independently, as part of the team at large, and along-side the Art Director to achieve the intended overall vision, look and mood of the game, whilst maintaining target performance, as well as narrative and gameplay goals. Work with the tools and engine teams to develop the lighting pipeline and assist production in project planning.

Highlights.

Took responsibility for all of the cinematic character lighting across Lone Echo by leveraging cinematography experience and photographic shot lighting expertise.
Lead the efforts to improve the in-house photogrammetry workflow and refined the scanning light stage for optimal photographic conditions resulting in much higher fidelity human scans.

Lighting Artist, Splash Damage, London, United Kingdom.

November 2014 – February 2016

Duties.

Worked on the 'Gears of War' franchise with our partner studio, The Coalition, to create and maintained atmospheric and performant in-game lighting and post processing, which was attentive to narrative, atmosphere and game-play needs.

Worked with the Art Director and environment art team to create compelling compositions, color palettes, and set-pieces. Balanced visual quality, technical limitations and performance. Contributed to the advancement of lighting technology and pipeline.

Highlights.

Utilized photographic expertise to introduce a better overall camera exposure philosophy and practice to the team, and lead an effort to improve the studios' approach to lighting by highlighting problems in the existing PBR pipeline and presenting solutions to be implemented for future projects.

Mentored environment artists in lighting theory and practice, allowing them to help with support lighting tasks.
Raised awareness for best-practices in content creation to ensure assets were prepared to facilitate optimal lighting quality.

Director of Photography/Cinematographer and Camera Operator, Freelance, represented by Intrinsic London (formerly Dinedor management) between December 2007 and December 2014.

December 2005 – December 2014

Duties.

Director of Photography for Feature Films, Television, Documentaries, Commercials, Music Videos and Documentaries. Responsible for all photographic elements of filming, from pre-production to post-production; including but not limited to; lighting, framing, lens choice, camera movement, blocking, color palette, logistics, scheduling, as well as direct management of the camera, lighting and grips departments. Close collaboration with with the Director and all other heads-of-department. Collaboration and input with staging/blocking, art direction, production design, VFX, SFX, makeup, storytelling, and scheduling. In-depth knowledge and experience with 35mm, 16mm, Alexa, Red, along with most other major shooting formats, large-scale lighting set-ups, Motion Control, high-speed, chroma key, practical SFX, VFX and digital VFX.

Highlights.

Winner – Best Cinematography: Sydney Indie Film Festival 2016, Runner up: Limelight Film and Arts Awards 2011, Gold Award: California Film awards 2010, Winner: Grand Prix European Des Premiers Film 2010, Winner: Cannes ONF Short Film, Berlinale Talent attendee 2006.

Education

The London Film School – Master of Arts (MA), Film Making; specialising in Cinematography.

2003-2005, London, United Kingdom.

The University of Leeds – Bachelor of Arts, 1st class (BA, joint honours, 1st class) Communication and cultural studies, with media.

2000-2003, Leeds, United Kingdom

The University of Leeds – Certificate of Higher Education, Food Science.

1998-2000, Leeds, United Kingdom.

Framlingham collage – 3 A-levels, one AS level and 9 GCSE's

1994-1998, Suffolk, United Kingdom.

Organizations

Visual Effects Society (VES) - Member #5713

Talks/Panels

Game Developers Conference (GDC) 2017, San Francisco – 'The Future of Real-time Lighting.'

Games portfolio

Lone Echo 2 (PC/Oculus Rift)

Echo Combat (PC/Oculus Rift)

Lone Echo (PC/Oculus Rift)

Gears of War 4 (XBOX One/PC)

Gears of War Ultimate Edition (XBOX One/PC)

Software Proficiency

Maya, V-Ray, Blender, Cycles, Photoshop, Unreal Engine 3 & 4, Substance Designer, Substance Painter, Quixel Suite, Unity, Mental Ray, RAD Engine.

Selected Filmography

See addendum for credit list.

Addendum - Selected filmography.

Date Production

Feature films

2012 The Thompsons (DOP)
2012 Jump (2nd Unit DOP)

TV drama

2014 Mr. Selfridge (Camera Operator)
2014 The Wrong Mans II (Camera Operator, dailies)
2014 Two Doors Down (Camera Operator)
2013 The Psychopath Next Door (Camera Operator)

Commercials (selected)

2014 The Telegraph (DOP)
2014 Nokia (DOP)
2014 Dubai First Group (DOP)
2013 Lacoste (DOP)
2013 Optimax (DOP) x2
2013 Zurich Insurance (DOP)
2012 Hyundai (DOP)
2012 Oakly (DOP)
2012 Samsung (DOP)
2012 Samsung (DOP)
2010 Waitrose (DOP) (Motion Control)
2010 Yell.com (DOP) (Motion Control)
2010 CNN (DOP)
2009 CNN (DOP)
2009 Harper Collins (DOP)
2009 COI (DOP)
2008 Walls Sausages (DOP)
2008 V-Cashpoint (Viral) (DOP)
2007 Penguin Books 'Future' (2 x Virals) (DOP)
Winner of 3 IVCA 2008 Bronze awards
2007 British Airways 'Baby' (web advert) (DOP)
2007 Gordon Ramsay's Demand for Perfection (DOP)

Music videos

2009 Evailo (DOP)
2009 The Hot Melts (DOP) (Motion Control)
2009 The Kooks (Live) (DOP)
2009 The White Lies (DOP)
2008 Richard Hawley (live) (DOP)
2008 Eugene McGuinness (DOP)
2008 Feeder (DOP)
2008 Nick Harrison (DOP)
2008 The Whip (DOP)
2008 Keith Caputo (DOP)
2006 Goodbooks (DOP)
2006 Cherry Blackstone (DOP)

Branded online content

Clients Include: John Lewis, Lexus, Sony computer Entertainment, Linklaters, Glaxo Smith Kline, T-Mobile, Nokia, Action on Addiction, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Samsung, British Airways, Greenpeace, BAA, BBC Worldwide, Boots, Virgin Atlantic, & Lloyds Ban

Short films

2015 Another Love
(Winner – Best Cinematography Sydney Indie Film Festival 2016. Winner – Accolade Competition, Winner – California Film Awards, Winner – Marbella Film Festival, Winner – Visioni Corte Film Festival, Winner – WorldFest Houston)
2012 Project Artichoke
2010 The Find
2010 The Marionette Unit
(Winner Images Festival - 5e GP Européen des Premiers Films)
2007 Withdrawal
Winner - Cannes ONF/NFB 2007)

Director / Production company

The Butcher Brothers / Film Harvest
Kieron J Walsh / Cyprus Avenue Films

Lawrence Till / ITV Studios
Jim Field Smith / Hulu
Catherine Morshead / BBC Scotland
Kieron J Walsh / ITV Studios

Matt Simmonds / The Telegraph
Sebastian Barner-Rasmussen / Activeark JWT
Terry Gross / The Wild Night Company
Tim Walker / Theabold Fox
Bernard Pucher / Element 26
Robin Schmidt / Chrome Productions
Azhur Saleem / Irresistible Films
Warren Bramley / Four23
Alex Vero / Pendragon Films
Patrick Gather / Pendragon Films
Charlie Paul / Itch Film
Charlie Paul / Itch Film
Georgi Banks-Davies / Play People
Susan Moss / PlayPeople/CNN
Ben Collier-Marsh / Addiction London
Peter Cattaneo / Academy Films
Mytherapy Films
Thirty-Two / Pulse Films
Marco Espirito Santo / Pulse Films

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Charlie Paul / Itch Films

Alex Herron / Jalla Films
Charlie Paul / Itch Films
Charlie Paul / Itch Films
Fred and Nick / Pulse Films
Danny O'Connor / Document UK
Thirty-Two / Southern Lovelace Productions
El Skid / Chrome Productions
Thirty-Two / Pulse Films
Berlin and McCool / Pulse Films
Corin Hardy / Academy Films
Ferry Gouw / Draw Pictures
Basil El Titi / Orangestick Pictures

Victor Perez / Masked Frame Productions

Azhur Saleem / Sahil Gill
Azhur Saleem / Funsized Studios
Azhur Saleem / Funsized Studios

Mark Conn / Step Productions