

LIVING THE DREAM

Not sure you're in the right job? Neither was Krystian Winszewski. Today, he's an in-demand DOP, with CVP integral to his journey

KRYSTIAN WINSZEWSKI'S ADVICE to those considering a career as a DOP couldn't be more succinct. "Don't think about it, just do it," he advises. "Too many talk about it, then never do anything. Follow your dream!"

If anyone should know, it's Winszewski. Around 16 years ago, he was working full-time in construction and doing well. He had his own business and site-managed major projects – hospitals, schools, universities. But despite being financially stable, it wasn't enough. "I was making money, looking after my family, but wasn't happy," he explains. "Creating images and movies excited me. I was in my mid-30s and realised if I didn't make a change then, I'd never do it. So I began a slow transition, starting with taking more pictures, then progressing to movies."

Already a keen photographer, Winszewski did the obvious and initially focused on making images of his family.

As his confidence grew, so did his portfolio, then his contacts. The real turning point came not with the opportunity of work, but the purchase of a camera. He bought a Canon EOS 5D Mark II and, unwittingly, started defining a visual approach that he maintains to this day. "The 5D Mark II was a lovely full-frame camera. For me, that's the best format. Super 35 is fantastic, Super 16 is great, but full-frame has something I love," he admits. "It's the closest to the way we see the world, plus the big sensor and fast lenses create very creamy bokeh; it makes things more beautiful than real life."

"It inspires," he continues. "Some focus pullers hate me because working in full-frame demands precision, but they learn a lot because I shoot most of my stuff wide open. That's the price you pay; it's harder, but get full-frame right and it looks amazing."

MAKING THE SWITCH

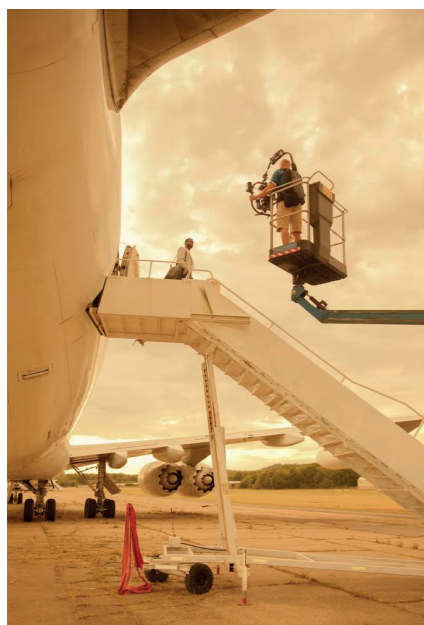
As time progressed, Winszewski started to pick up work and, as earnings grew, so did his camera needs. He turned to CVP, first buying a C500 Mark II, then a C300. "I could use the lenses from my 5D Mark II, but the transition from stills to video was a challenge," he confesses. "My knowledge of lighting and composition from stills did help in film, but it was more about telling stories. In a few seconds of film, you can switch from one object to another and tell the story in-between; with stills, you're missing that link. You're also creating just one image and can do a lot with that in post. With film, you're dealing with 25 images per second, so you need to be really careful in what you do to cut down post work."

"Looking back, I did lots wrong – I was trying to do everything myself," he continues. "If you have the knowledge, that's fine, but you won't have enough time in the day to do it all – it's about teamwork. Over the years, I've learned to work with a small crew. You can create amazing



A SEARCH FOR GREATNESS Winszewski went with CVP early in his career, and the kit specialist has helped upgrade his set-up ever since

© Christopher Baker



RIISING TO THE OCCASION Despite some long hours, Winszewski loves the thrills of DOP work



VENTURING FORTH With more than 16 years of experience as a cinematographer under his belt, collaborating on content with numerous world-famous brands, Winszewski is due to start work on his first feature film

stuff with just a couple of people – all the way up to 30 or 40 strong.”

One thing Winszewski didn't get wrong was his choice of retailer. When starting out, he picked CVP because they were the biggest in the country – it was important to find a company he could trust. But he stuck with them as his career blossomed because of the service. “They were so supportive of someone taking their first steps, giving me great technical advice, and I took advantage of their financing options to fund the purchase of Canon C500 Mark II,” he tells us. “I went on to buy an Arri Alexa LF and Signature Primes from them. Most recently, I bought the Arri Hi-5 focus puller. They gave me a great deal and were able to deliver when there was a shortage in

“It helps that you can go and see them – grab a coffee, have a chat. You're dealing with human beings, not a faceless entity”

the market. I always get a quick response, plus it helps that you can go and see them – grab a coffee, have a chat. You're dealing with human beings, not a faceless entity.”

SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Winszewski left construction for good seven years ago. He now has a full diary, travels the world – we caught him between trips to Germany, Brazil and Iceland – and loves focusing on real stories about real people. This year sees him reach a career milestone, as he starts work on his first feature film. “At the back of my mind, I always wanted to make a movie. I know the director well and am confident it'll be great,” he smiles. “We'll take it to festivals and see if we can garner enough support to get to the cinema, but this is happening regardless, fitting it around our other jobs.”

That, in a nutshell, is what it means to follow your heart and pursue your dreams. Winszewski enjoys real job satisfaction. So much so, he's happy to work long hours for clients, and slot other projects into his spare time. “I did a 20-hour day yesterday, but came back with a smile on my face,” he jokes. “I met a great director, on a great set, and did some great work. That's my life now and I love it!” ●



Build your perfect kit with CVP



CVP is home to a full spectrum of production equipment that's ready to see, combine and evaluate. Its creative and technical staff are committed to finding the right solution for every production need. To arrange an online demo, or book a one-to-one consultation, call 8208 380 7400 or visit cvp.com

CVP

● cvp.com