

Bret McDowell
Film Technician (Grip)

Personal Details

- Nationality: South African / Irish
- Location: United Kingdom
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Professional Summary

- 20+ years experience – Grip Department (Film/TV/Commercials/Docs)
- Team leadership, equipment management, custom rig solutions
- On-set problem-solving, logistics, fabrication, welding

Skills

- Grip operations – Feature Films, TVCs, Documentaries
- Team leadership & administration
- Camera/lighting rigging
- Fabrication, welding, custom rigging
- Telehandler, forklift, cherry picker operation
- Location preparation
- Client & production liaison
- Photography (on-set & studio)

Experience

- Company Grip / Key Grip / Best Boy / Rigging Grip (2000–2025) – Various Productions
- Managed teams, scheduling, logistics, equipment, custom rigging
- Feature films, TV commercials, documentaries

Bar Manager – Café Camisa, Cape Town (1999)

Help Desk (6mo Contract) – Reuters, MTC Docklands (1998)

Construction Temp Worker – London (1997–1998)

Waiter – Various, Cape Town (1995–1996)

Camera Sales – CAS Camera (1994)

Photographic Lab Assistant – Translab/Print Studio (1992–1994)

Selected Credits

- 2025 – Convoy – Speciality Rigging Grip
- 2024 – How to Train Your Dragon – Company Grip
- 2023 – Wicked 2 – Company Grip
- 2022 – Dune 2 – Camera Rigging Grip
- 2022 – Jack Ryan S3/S4 – Key Rigging Grip

- 2021 – Luther, Aquaman, The Man Who Fell to Earth, Witcher 2nd Unit
- 2020 – Batman (Vengeance 2nd Unit) – Camera Rigging Grip
- 2018/2019 – Terminator 6, TWIST, White Lines
- Additional: Tomb Raider, Silent Witness, Blended, Long Walk to Freedom, Safe House
- Full listing of projects available on request

Education

- Joubert Park College – N3 Senior Certificate (1991)
- South African Defence Force – National Service (1990–1991)
- Joubert Park College – N1/N2/N3 (1989–1990)
- John Orr Technical High School (1988)

Additional Training & Interests

- Photography, carpentry, metal fabrication, welding
- Plant equipment operation, vehicle customization
- Property renovation, guest accommodation
- Outdoor activities, cycling, motorcycles, travel

References

- Guy Micheletti – guy@dragongrips.com
- Robert Gilman – bigrobgil@me.com
- Myrto Makrides – mmakrides@yahoo.com