

## **James Brickell**

### **Wildlife Filmmaker**

James Brickell has a passion for wild animals and has directed some of the most highly regarded UK presenters in wildlife filming. His TV filming career to date has included the *Really Wild Show*, *Wildlife on One*, *Big Cat Diary* and most recently, the ground-breaking, highly acclaimed series with Sir David Attenborough: *Life in Cold Blood* (2008). This series won the prestigious best of festival award 'The Golden Panda' at Wildscreen (the wildlife film equivalent of the Oscars) in 2008.

James has moved from the relatively sedate world of an Attenborough series to the role of series director on an all-action adrenalin-filled production called 'deadly60'. James and his crew have been all over the world with star presenter Steve Backshall on the hunt for deadly animals. Their adventures have taken them from Great White Sharks off the Cape Coast, to abandoned caves in Australia on the hunt for Ghost Bats, to the Bahamas to dive with Tiger Sharks. He's had some close calls - none more scary than a surprise run in with a stropky hippo in South Africa.

James Brickell is a wildlife filmmaker at the prestigious BBC Natural History Unit. His work includes some genuine world-firsts in wildlife filming. James managed to capture a wild rattlesnake hunting (never previously observed) and snakes jumping across a mudflat in the Far East (behaviour which is new to science). Despite spending a great deal of time in close proximity to a wide range of dangerous animals including Polar Bears, Lions, Cheetahs and Crocodiles, he has so far escaped largely unscathed with only a small Piranha bite.

Inspired by Gerald Durrell, Jacques Cousteaux and Sir David Attenborough,

James became fascinated by animals from a young age (he filled his parents' house with a menagerie of tarantulas, snakes and lizards). After reading Zoology, he followed his dream and joined the BBC Natural History Unit and has since worked with his childhood hero, Sir David Attenborough. During his career he has also directed Steve Backshall, Michaela Strachan, Nick Baker, Simon King and Charlotte Uhlenbroek among others. His work as a filmmaker has taken him all over the world from the jungles of South America to the Mojave Desert, from the Arctic Circle to the West African Plains (and just about everywhere in-between).

James is a fresh face and a new talent for after dinner speaking engagements and keynotes. With numerous entertaining anecdotes and some simply stunning film footage to share, James shares his story of life behind the camera. He gives an insight into how his teams are able to deal with the pressures of time and budget as well as working alongside dangerous animals in the wild (where risk management is not an optional extra). James explains how creativity, patience and the latest technology can help Directors capture extraordinary animal behaviour. He reveals a fascinating perspective on what goes on behind the scenes, and how they manage to capture extraordinary footage in the most ethical way possible.

James Brickell entertains and engages the non-specialist audience and brings alive the sheer wonder and magic of nature.

“Filming animals is a privileged way of earning a living. I don't think it overstates thing to say that capturing a unique moment in an animal's life can be a humbling, even life-changing experience. But the build-up to what can be a few brief moments of airtime is where the real story lies. The planning, the teamwork, the decision-making and to be honest, some of the utterly ridiculous situations we find ourselves in, that is what I love talking to people about.” **James**

## **Testimonials**

‘The presentation James gave was thoroughly enjoyed by a mixed audience of students, lecturers and some children that attended the event. James is an excellent speaker and really connected with the audience, he was quick witted with comments that were thrown his way and very natural with the way he came across. James obviously has a passion for his subject and he is a real pleasure to listen to.’ (University of Gloucestershire)

‘James's talk was superb - he was informative, entertaining and his audio visual material was out of this world. He has some amazing stories from his time at the BBC NHU, but was able to engage on a personal level with all of our varied audience. We would happily recommend James to talk at any event - he was the highlight of our seminar and is a true professional. ‘ (Full Circle Expeditions)