



# Brad Rushing csc

## What films or other works of art have made the biggest impression on you?

Before I became a filmmaker, I was a student of fine art, and many of the artists, whose work I studied influenced my own. One in particular whose fantastic imagery inspired me is Hieronymus Bosch. Another is Edvard Munch. With respect to films, I remember being mesmerized by the eerie and frightening images of *Nosferatu* on television as a child, a movie which remains evocative for me today. I love the characters, thrills and gritty realism of Ridley Scott's *Alien*, which is my favourite film. I also love the beautiful, painterly qualities of many of the French movies I have seen, like *Jean de Florette*, *Camille Claudel*, *The City of Lost Children* and *Queen Margot*.

## How did you get started in the business?

When I was in art school, a filmmaking major asked for an artist to volunteer to draw cels for an animated film. I eagerly accepted and when I saw my artwork in motion I was spellbound! I began volunteering on other student movie shoots, helping out in any way I could. My first feature was a low-budget 16 mm indie where I got to work in a variety of positions in the sound, lighting and camera departments. I even helped out with some assistant editing on a KEM flatbed. During that first experience, I decided I wanted to be a cinematographer, so I began working as a camera assistant on indie projects and

commercials and also as a camera operator for live events like sports and concerts.

## Who have been your mentors or teachers?

In college I studied film history and animation history with Dr. Raymond Fielding, who had worked as VP for Francis Ford Coppola's *Zoetrope*. He is a gifted instructor and was largely responsible for my exposure to and love of the history of cinema. Patrick Coakley, who I had taken some media classes with in art school, became a supporter in my early years as a filmmaker. As a young cinematographer, I was fortunate to receive priceless advice from people like Steven Poster ASC, Roy H. Wagner ASC, Allen Daviau ASC and Robert Primes ASC. Each of them was so generous in taking time out to speak with me and share their wisdom. I will always be grateful for that and have paid it forward by sharing my knowledge, experience and support with young filmmakers for many years now.

## What cinematographers inspire you?

Caleb Deschanel ASC; Fritz Arno Wagner; Darius Khondji ASC, AFC; Roger Deakins ASC, BSC; and Vittorio Storaro ASC, AIC are a few among many.

## Name some of your professional highlights.

I have photographed award-winning feature films, such as *Cook County* and

I am very excited about recent projects, like *Doolittle's Heroes* and *Sanitatum*. I have shot many memorable commercials for brands like British Telecom, Disney, McDonald's, SC Johnson and Vodafone, and music videos for artists including Britney Spears, Eminem, Placebo and Moby. I have won an MTV Video Music Award and a CSC Award for my music video cinematography.

## What is one of your most memorable moments on set?

Some of my most memorable experiences have been working in exotic and interesting places like Brazil, Thailand, Colombia, Australia, Spain and, just this year, China. A recent feature project was *Doolittle's Heroes*, a WWII-era film about the 1942 Doolittle Raid. We shot on the aircraft carrier *USS Hornet* in original, restored B-25 bombers and in actual locations where some of the events of the story took place. It is a powerful and inspiring movie that has been a privilege to be a part of.

## What do you like best about what you do?

I love helping to evoke and modulate a world the characters inhabit to tell their story which complements and amplifies that experience for the audience.

## What do you like least about what you do?

The unpredictable, fickle nature of work in our business.

## What do you think has been the greatest invention (related to your craft)?

Obviously, the original motion picture film cameras were the greatest invention because without them the business would not have existed to develop and become what it is today. I think the greatest modern invention are the excellent digital cinematography cameras we have to work with.

## How can others follow your work?

My website is [BradRushing.com](http://BradRushing.com) and I have a public profile on Facebook.