

Jem Towsey

Gaffer / Chief Lighting Technician



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dedicated and technically proficient Gaffer with 18 years in the film industry, including 8 years as Chief Lighting Technician on feature films, TV series, and 400+ commercial productions throughout Australia. I excel at leading and managing diverse lighting crews, leveraging a profound understanding of lighting systems, rigging, and power distribution to achieve the Director of Photography's vision. My commitment to stringent safety standards, coupled with strong problem-solving skills and expertise in logistics, budget, and time management, ensures seamless execution and visually impactful projects in dynamic on-set environments.

FILMOGRAPHY / CREDITS

My experience encompasses a wide array of shoot types, from studio to remote locations, and from Volume screens to traditional sets. I'm adept at overseeing multiple complex set-ups and operating large-scale machinery across feature films, TV commercials, and music videos. A selection of credits:

- 2025 | "Penny Lane is Dead" | Feature Film
 - *Director of Photography:* Liam Gilmour ACS / *Role:* Gaffer
- 2025 | "The Stress Tester" | Short Film
 - *Director of Photography:* Adam Howden ACS / *Role:* Gaffer
- 2024 | "Better Man" | Feature Film
 - *Director of Photography:* Matt Toll / *Role:* Second Unit Gaffer
- 2023 | "Favourites" | Short Film
 - *Director of Photography:* Cesar Salmeron-Hoving ACS / *Role:* Gaffer
- 2023 | "Ratbag" | Short Film
 - *Director of Photography:* Liam Gilmour ACS / *Role:* Gaffer
- 2025 | "Snowblind" | Short Film
 - *Director of Photography:* Aaron Farrugia / *Role:* Gaffer
- 2020 | "The boy who cried mud" | Short Film
 - *Director of Photography:* Brad Francis / *Role:* Gaffer

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KEY SKILLS

- **Advanced Technical Mastery:**

I possess extensive technical expertise across all major lighting manufacturers, including Arri, Creamsource, Aputure, and Astera with all major lighting types - HMI, Tungsten and LED. My expertise extends from powerlock to 3-Phase power distribution, high-amperage generators, load balancing, and all associated cabling and safety protocols. I am highly skilled in advanced rigging, including overheads, truss systems, scaffolding, large-scale greenscreen/bluescreen lighting, vehicle rigs, and difficult/remote location setups. Furthermore, I have in-depth knowledge of DMX and wireless control systems for precise adjustments, expert application of light shaping and control techniques with various modifiers, and an advanced understanding of colour science to optimise light interaction with cameras and colour grading workflows.

- **Leadership & Crew Management:**

As a seasoned Department Head, I possess a proven ability to lead and manage entire lighting teams, including Best Persons, Electrics Assistants, and Trainees, effectively fostering a positive, productive, and safe work environment. My expertise includes efficient delegation and supervision, ensuring quality control and adherence to plans, coupled with a strong commitment to mentorship for junior crew development. I maintain excellent interpersonal communication and interdepartmental collaboration with DoPs and all other departments.

- **Collaborative & Creative Problem Solving:**

I excel at translating the Director of Photography's artistic vision into practical, achievable lighting solutions, demonstrating a proven ability for on-set adaptation to quickly resolve complex lighting and electrical challenges under pressure. My approach is characterised by resourcefulness, delivering innovative solutions within budget and time constraints, and seamless cross-departmental collaboration with Grip, Camera, Art, SFX, and VFX to integrate lighting flawlessly.

- **Logistics & Production Management:**

I bring robust experience in managing significant lighting department budgets, overseeing procurement, and implementing effective cost-saving strategies. My expertise extends to equipment sourcing from reputable vendors, proactive maintenance, and meticulous pre-production logistics including power requirements, rigging plans, and transport for

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complex multi-location or remote shoots. I am adept at time management to ensure strict schedule adherence and excel in contingency planning, proactively identifying potential issues and developing comprehensive backup solutions for lighting and power.

- **Safety & Compliance:**

I possess an advanced understanding of Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) regulations specific to the Australian film industry and electrical work, with an uncompromising commitment to electrical safety protocols, fault finding, and risk mitigation. My comprehensive High-Risk Work licenses include Elevated Work Platform (EWP) for all heights (WL, WP), alongside HR (Heavy Rigid) Driver's, Boat, and Motorcycle licenses, ensuring safe and compliant operations. I am also proficient in on-set emergency procedures for electrical incidents and accidents.

- **Software & Digital Proficiency:**

I possess comprehensive proficiency with all modern lighting software, coupled with the ability to read, interpret, and contribute to lighting plans.

TICKETS, LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Elevated Work Platform (EWP) License
- Boat License
- Heavy Rigid (HR) Truck License
- Motorbike License
- Scuba "Adventure" Level Certified
- Test and Tag Certified

REFERENCES

Available upon request