

MICHAEL TESSARI

Director of Photography

Email- info@michaeltessari.com
Location - Australia
Mobile - +61 431 950 031
IMDB - <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4106989/>

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

NATIONAL AWARD OF DISTINCTION - "WITH OR WITHOUT YOU", NATIONAL ACS AWARDS, FEATURE FILMS UNDER \$3M

NATIONAL AWARD OF DISTINCTION - "MONOLITH", NATIONAL ACS AWARDS, FEATURE FILMS UNDER \$2M

GRAND JURY NOMINATION FOR BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY - "MONOLITH", SXSW FILM FESTIVAL, AUSTIN 2023

IF MAGAZINE RISING TALENT 2024

WINNER OF THE MILTON INGERSON AWARD FOR BEST OVERALL ENTRY, AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY AWARDS

WINNER OF THE CLIFF ELLIS AWARD FOR CINEMATOGRAPHER WITH THE MOST POTENTIAL, AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY AWARDS

GOLD AWARD FOR "THE RUN", AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY AWARDS - FEATURE FILMS

GOLD AWARD FOR "WITH OR WITHOUT YOU", AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY AWARDS - FEATURE FILMS

GOLD AWARD FOR "MONOLITH", AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY AWARDS - FEATURE FILMS

GOLD AWARD FOR "AWOKEN", AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY AWARDS - FEATURE FILMS

GOLD AWARD for "SA Police", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - TVC's

GOLD AWARD for "I'm The Most Racist Person I Know", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Short Films

GOLD AWARD for "Bloom", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Tv series

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY for "Music SA", Adelaide Advertising and Design Club - Craft

BEST DIRECTION for "Music SA", Adelaide Advertising and Design Club - Craft

GOLD AWARD for "Freezing Point - Uni SA", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Corporate/educational

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY for "In the Wake", Soul Punch Film Festival

GOLD AWARD for "In the Wake", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Short Films

GOLD AWARD for "City of Adelaide - Creative City", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Advertising - Local

GOLD AWARD for "Release", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Short Films

GOLD AWARD for "BlackChrome", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Advertising (National / International)

GOLD AWARD for "Isis", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Student Cinematography

SILVER AWARD for "Diabolic", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - feature films

SILVER AWARD for "Flinders University", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Advertising - Local

SILVER AWARD for "RSL - ARVL", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Advertising - Local

SILVER AWARD for "University of SA", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Advertising - National

SILVER AWARD for "Losing Breath- W.M.N", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Music Video

SILVER AWARD for "City Living", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Corporate Video

BRONZE AWARD for "Health Partners", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Advertising National

BRONZE AWARD for "Gymnastics Academy", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - TV SERIES

BRONZE AWARD for "AMSA", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Advertising (Local / Regional)

BRONZE AWARD for "Stuck In Time", Australian Cinematographers Society Awards - Documentary

BIO

Michael Tessari is an Australian cinematographer working on narrative films, series and commercials. In the last 24 months Tessari has served as Director of Photography on the Screen Australia financed feature drama, With or Without You, the horror film Diabolic, the action film The Run and the anticipated, yet to be released thriller - The Debt. With or Without You, Diabolic and The Run have all been released across Australian/international Cinemas and various streaming platforms. Additionally each has received accolades at the Australian Cinematographers Society Awards.

Other recently released films include the sci-fi thriller Monolith, Tessari's work on which earned a nomination for the Grand Jury Prize in Cinematography at the 2023 SXSW festival, alongside a National ACS Award of Distinction. Monolith had a successful festival run across the world at SXSW, AFF, FrightFest, Bifan, MIFF and Sitges before landing on VOD.

Tessari has consistently worked on successful narrative projects. The horror film Awoken was released theatrically across North America and the world; The Netflix Original Series Gymnastics Academy trended at #1 across multiple countries and many of his short films have premiered at film festivals across the globe. Tessari has worked as a camera operator on major television series including Netflix's My Brilliant Career and ABC's Treasure and Dirt and in 2024 Tessari was listed in IF magazine's Rising Star list.

MAJOR NARRATIVE AND DRAMA CREDITS

TITLE	FORMAT	DIRECTOR	PRODUCER/COMPANY	CAMERA	YEAR	
The Debt	Feature Film	Johanis Lyons-Reid	Sly Fox	MINI LF	2026	*UNRELEASED*
Burnout	Short Film	Johanis Lyons-Reid	Dinosaur Disco	MINI LF	2026	
Bloom	Series	Stephen De Villiers	Arterial Films	MINI LF	2025	*ACS GOLD WINNER*
The Run	Feature Film	Stephen De Villiers	Arterial Films	MINI LF	2024	*ACS GOLD WINNER*
Diabolic	Feature Film	Daniel Phillips	Phillips, Mann, Salom +	MINI LF	2024	
Im the Most Racist...	Short Film	Leela Varghese	Suri Sivashanker	MINI LF	2024	*SXSW 2025*
Dead Dog	Short Film	Kieran Altmann	Katie Schiller	MINI LF	2023	
With or Without You	Feature Film	Kelly Schilling	Su Armstrong/Caro Johnson	MINI LF	2023	*ACS NATIONAL AWARD*
Tambo	Short Film	Trav Akbar	Cabana	MINI LF	2023	
Monolith	Feature Film	Matt Vesely	Bettina Hamilton	MINI LF	2022	*ACS NATIONAL AWARD*
Gymnastics Academy	Netflix Original Series	Clay Glen	Maximum Effort	RED Gemini	2021	*NETFLIX ORIGINAL*
Awoken	Feature Film	Daniel J Phillips	Anomaly Pictures	ALEXA MINI	2019	*ACS GOLD WINNER*
Furbulous	TV Pilot	Leela Varghese	Kate Butler	ALEXA MINI	2021	
In the Wake	Short Film	Steph Jaclyn	Jodie Kirkbride	ALEXA MINI	2019	*ACS GOLD WINNER*

MAJOR ADVERTISING AND BRANDING CREDITS

TITLE	GENRE	DIRECTOR	PRODUCER/COMPANY	FORMAT	YEAR
SA Tourism Comm	TVC	Nick Meucke	Maeking	MINI LF	2026
CFS	TVC	David Ockenden	Proetic	MINI LF	2025
SAPOL - recruitment	State TVC	Tom Schaefer	Stepney Studios	MINI LF	2025
Instant Finance	NZ TVC	David Campbell	Truman Films	MINI LF	2025
SAPOL	State TVC	David Ockenden	Proetic	MINI LF	2024
Fantastic Snacks	National TVC	Alex Feggans	ShowPony	MINI LF	2023
Flinders Festival Plaza	National TVC	Michael Tessari	MaeKing	MINI LF	2023
Mitolo - Coles	TVC	Michael Tessari	BAD	MINI LF	2023
Freezing Point - UNI SA	Branding	Daniel J Phillips	Anomaly	MINI LF	2022
UNI SA	National TVC	Alex Feggans	Clockwork	MINI LF	2022
SA HEALTH	TVC	Richie Coburn	Firebox	MINI LF	2022
Kleenex	TVC	Michael Tessari	Electric Lime	MINI LF	2022
CFS	TVC	Roh Smith	Firebox	MINI LF	2022
OTR	TVC	Tom Schaefer	Stepney Studios	ALEXA MINI	2022
RSL Care SA	TVC	Michael Tessari	Michael Tessari	ALEXA MINI	2022

Health Partners	TVC	Riley Blakeway	Yah Yah	MINI LF	2021
Fruit Fly Awareness	TVC	Amy Gordon	Rowdy Group	ALEXA MINI	2021
ICC Women's World Cup	Branding	Phill Moule	KOJO SPORT	ALEXA MINI	2020
Music SA	Branding	Michael Tessari	Michael Tessari	ALEXA MINI	2020
Bickfords- CleanSA	Branding	Phill Moule	KOJO	ALEXA MINI	2020
Suzuki in the City	TVC	Daniel J Phillips	Anomaly Media	ALEXA MINI	2020
Mazda	TVC	Daniel J Phillips	Anomaly Media	ALEXA MINI	2020
Freo Dockers- Hype	Branding	Phill Moule	KOJO SPORT	ALEXA MINI	2019
Adelaide Strikers	Branding	Phill Moule	KOJO SPORT	ALEXA MINI	2019
MOD - Seven Siblings	Museum Installation	Daniel Phillips	Anomaly Media	ALEXA MINI	2019
City of Adelaide - Creative City	Branding	Michael Tessari	Michael Tessari	ALEXA MINI	2019
SA Health - Connecting Care	Web Campaign	Mike Williamson	Mixed Mediums	ALEXA MINI	2019
City of Adelaide - City Living	Branding	Johanis Lyons-Reid	Michael Tessari	ALEXA MINI	2020
Dept Transport/ Infrastructure	Branding	Stephen DeVilliers	Beyond Content	SONY	2019
CNPC - Myanmar	TVC	Stephen DeVilliers	Skyward Films	RED	2019
Adelaide Symphony Orchestra	TVC	David T & Emma M	Red Fox Films	ALEXA MINI	2018
St Hallet Winery	Branding	Dan P & Marcus M	Cinêmachè	ALEXA MINI	2018