

# BIOGRAPHY

## Denis LAGRANGE

Denis took his first underwater still photography shots while on vacation with his family in Rangiroa Atoll, French Polynesia, in 1982 when he was just 10 years old. Little did he know at the time, but this experience would significantly impact the future direction of his life.

The Nikonos underwater camera became Denis' closest companion during his early years. Later, he borrowed a Super 8mm camera from his father and, using a splash bag, ventured into underwater cinematography. This marked the beginning of his career in underwater motion picture production.

Back in France, Denis' childhood dream had always been to return to Rangiroa Atoll. However, life sometimes takes unexpected turns, and Denis shifted his focus to completing a Master's degree in Finance.

After finishing university, Denis had two years of compulsory military service as a dive instructor in the French Army, stationed in the French West Indies. In 1997, on his way back to Europe, Denis turned his attention to Technical Diving. He was one of the first cameramen to utilize technical diving techniques for underwater filming. Deep diving and closed-circuit rebreathers became invaluable tools in underwater cinematography.

In 1999, Denis returned to his roots: Rangiroa Atoll. With his best friend, they learned to dive in strong drifting currents. Over the next few years, they captured incredible wildlife images in this remote part of the South Pacific.

Various international productions expressed interest in Denis' work, leading him to film for the BBC, one of the best-known institutions for wildlife TV documentaries.

Denis' true passion was to work in motion pictures and large cinema projects. To facilitate this, Denis started developing his own underwater cinema housings and lighting systems in collaboration with a Swiss company. He also began assembling specialized teams for feature films, including Gaffers, Grips, 1st ACs, and safety divers.

Today, Denis works with some of the most demanding production companies globally, providing a full range of topside and underwater services, including crew and equipment.

Denis has been credited in major American productions such as "Point Break," "Fifty Shades Freed," and "Dark Tide," as well as in various IMAX movies and TV commercials as a Director/DoP. Alongside this, Denis continues to work on wildlife films. He recently served as one of the main Directors of Photography for the new Disney Nature film called "Dolphins Reef," the Emmy Award-winning Netflix TV series "Our Planet," and the BBC underwater series "Blue Planet II."

Denis is a member of the AFC (French Association of Cinematographers) and has received multiple awards and shared awards for best cinematography.

Denis continues to pursue his childhood dream of underwater cinematography.

