

# MICHAEL JOHN TESSARI

*Cinematographer / Director of Photography*

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

## **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

\*WINNER OF THE MILTON INGERSON AWARD FOR BEST OVERALL ENTRY IN 2017,  
*AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY AWARDS\**

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

\*GOLD AWARD FOR "AWOKEN", *AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY AWARDS -  
FEATURE FILMS OVER \$2M\**

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

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

\*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 "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 Director of Photography working worldwide on feature films, television series and commercials. In 2013 Michael was awarded the Cliff Ellis Award for the young cinematographer in the Australian industry showing the most potential. Building upon that acknowledgement, in 2017 Michael had the honour of receiving the prestigious Milton Ingerson Award. This was awarded by the South Australian Cinematographers Society for the best entry of the year, across all categories. Michael followed that success as the DP on the \$2.7m feature film Awoken. Awoken was released theatrically in Australia and internationally in 2020 and earned Michael a Gold Award at the Australian Cinematographers Society Awards.

Following the success of Awoken, Michael expanded his skill set, landing the Netflix show Gymnastics Academy. The 10 part Netflix Original series was released in 2022 and trended at number 1 across 14 countries. 2022 also saw Michael's next film, the thriller Monolith, selected for SXSW and being honoured with a nomination for the Grand Jury Prize in Cinematography at the festival.

Already in 2023 Michael has been attached to the horror film Diabolic slated to begin production early in the year.

**MAJOR NARRATIVE AND DRAMA CREDITS**

| <b>TITLE</b>       | <b>GENRE</b>   | <b>DIRECTOR</b>    | <b>PRODUCER/COMPANY</b> | <b>FORMAT</b> | <b>YEAR</b> |                      |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|
| The Man Friday     | TV Pilot       | Matt Phipps        | David Ngo               | MINI LF       | 2023        |                      |
| Tambo              | Short Film     | Trav Akbar         | Cabana                  | MINI LF       | 2023        |                      |
| Monolith           | Feature Film   | Matt Vesely        | Bettina Hamilton        | MINI LF       | 2022        | *SXSW NOMINATION*    |
| Gymnastics Academy | Netflix Series | Clay Glen          | Maximum Effort          | RED Gemini    | 2021        | *NETFLIX ORIGINAL*   |
| Awoken             | Feature Film   | Daniel J Phillips  | Anomaly Pictures        | ALEXA MINI    | 2019        | *ACS GOLD WINNER*    |
| The Last Elephant  | Short Film     | Joho Lyons-Reid    | Piri Eddy               | ALEXA MINI    | 2021        |                      |
| Furblous           | TV Pilot       | Leela Varghese     | Kate Butler             | ALEXA MINI    | 2021        |                      |
| Butterfly          | Short Film     | Stephen DeVilliers | Chloe Gardner           | ALEXA MINI    | 2020        |                      |
| In the Wake        | Short Film     | Steph Jaclyn       | Jodie Kirkbride         | ALEXA MINI    | 2019        | *ACS GOLD WINNER*    |
| Treasure           | Short Film     | Robbie Greenwell   | Robbie Greenwell        | ALEXA MINI    | 2019        |                      |
| Candle Crush       | Short Film     | Leela Varghese     | Leela Varghese          | ALEXA MINI    | 2019        | *TROPFEST FINALIST*  |
| WILD               | Short Film     | Kiara Milera       | Bonnie McBride          | ALEXA MINI    | 2018        |                      |
| Release            | Short Film     | Daniel J Phillips  | Sinead Osborne          | ALEXA MINI    | 2017        | *Best in SA/WA 2017* |
| Losing Breath      | Music Video    | Michael Williamson | Mike Williamson         | ALEXA MINI    | 2018        | *ACS SILVER WINNER*  |
| Stuck in Time      | Micro Doc      | Stephen DeVilliers | Beyond Content          | SONY FS7      | 2018        | *ACS BRONZE WINNER*  |

**MAJOR ADVERTISING AND BRANDING CREDITS**

| <b>TITLE</b>            | <b>GENRE</b> | <b>DIRECTOR</b>   | <b>PRODUCER/COMPANY</b> | <b>FORMAT</b> | <b>YEAR</b> |                     |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Flinders Festival Plaza | National TVC | Michael Tessari   | MaeKing                 | MINI LF       | 2023        |                     |
| Mitolo - Coles          | TVC          | Michael Tessari   | Michael Tessari         | 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        |                     |
| 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        | *AADC AWARD WINNER* |
| 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        |                     |

**MAJOR ADVERTISING AND BRANDING CREDITS**

| <b>TITLE</b>                     | <b>GENRE</b>           | <b>DIRECTOR</b>    | <b>PRODUCER/COMPANY</b> | <b>FORMAT</b> | <b>YEAR</b> |                   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Free 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        |                   |
| MINELAB                          | International Campaign | Stephen DeVilliers | Beyond Content          | ALEXA MINI    | 2019        |                   |
| City of Adelaide - Creative City | Branding               | Michael Tessari    | Michael Tessari         | ALEXA MINI    | 2019        | *ACS GOLD WINNER* |
| 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        |                   |
| Uni SA - B part of It            | Branding               | Michael Tessari    | Michael Tessari         | ALEXA MINI    | 2018        |                   |
| SA Health - Modernising Health   | Web Campaign           | Daniel J Phillips  | Anomaly Media           | ALEXA MINI    | 2018        |                   |
| AnD - Protex                     | International Campaign | Daniel J Phillips  | Anomaly Media           | ALEXA MINI    | 2018        |                   |
| BlackChrome                      | International Campaign | Daniel J Phillips  | Anomaly Media           | ALEXA MINI    | 2017        | *ACS GOLD WINNER* |

