



Credit: Eric Milner

Vincent De Paula csc

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

At a very young age, I developed a love for painting. I discovered the masterly treatment of light by Vermeer, the use of colour and perspectives of De Hooch, the Chiaroscuro of Caravaggio or Monet, and the Impressionist style. I discovered the importance of an image and soon I started to pay close attention to the photography of Saul Leiter, André Kertész, Fan Ho, Robert Frank, Stephen Shore and also realized about all the things I could say with the use of light and composition. Painting and photography were quickly followed by an obsession for films, the great European masters and the very present American influence in Spain at the time were such an amazing influence.

How did you get started in the business?

I was at film school and I managed to get in the camera department of a local documentary and news channel that gave me my first opportunity at operating a camera at a very young age. Soon after I graduated, my ambition took me abroad and I started shooting independent films and commercials in London, UK, where I become a cinematographer.

Who have been your mentors or teachers?

I never assisted or operated for other DPs. I am a self-taught cinematogra-

pher; I have always been on my own and straight to filming after I graduated, so I didn't have the opportunity to see others working on set.

The *American Cinematographer* magazine became my bible and I read every single magazine religiously. And of course working as a young cinematographer on a large variety of projects while learning the craft, as well as life experience traveling and exploring different cultures.

What cinematographers inspire you?

There so many great cinematographers that have inspired me in one way or another, it is almost unfair to name only a few: Conrad Hall ASC; Caleb Deschanel ASC; Gordon Willis ASC; Sven Nykvist ASC; Ed Lachman ASC; Roger Deakins ASC, BSC; Christopher Doyle HKSC; Janusz Kaminski ASC; Jonathan Schwartzman ASC; Robert Richardson ASC; M. David Mullen ASC; Bruno Delbonnel ASC, AFC; Emmanuel Lubezki ASC, AMC; and Bradford Young ASC.

Name some of your professional highlights.

Being able to actually choose the projects I want to be involved with. I could have a much bigger list of credits, but I have always been quite picky on what I do. Doesn't work for everyone, and not everyone has to be that way, but I just need to have a connection with the story I want to tell. My latest

feature film *2 Hearts* is such an incredibly emotional true story that I immediately felt so strongly connected to it.

What is one of your most memorable moments on set?

I remember filming a feature in the UK in one of the coldest winters to date. We were shooting on film, and it was such a cold night that the mirrors and glass inside the viewfinder of my camera froze and cracked, making my viewfinder pointless. I managed to finish all the night scenes pretty much blind, slightly altering the amount of camera movement, especially shooting dark at night.

What do you like best about what you do?

The people that we meet and the great collaborations that come out of it. Being able to create all these emotional moments through lighting, framing and camera movement. Watching great performances by actors in the right environment that we all create as a team is what gives me goosebumps all the time. Of course, traveling the world doing what we do, we have to consider ourselves privileged.

What do you like least about what you do?

The pressure and limited time that we sometimes have to deal with, the very long hours that come with this profession and the politics of this business.

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

The film camera started it all, and I consider myself lucky to have been able to do a lot of film work, even to this day. Now we are very lucky to be dealing with the newest and latest technology in LED lighting and digital sensors that continue to improve every year.

How can others follow your work?

My website is vincentdepaula.com, and anyone can follow me on Instagram at [vincentdepaula_csc](https://www.instagram.com/vincentdepaula_csc) or find me on Facebook 📷.