

Johan van der Merwe

CINEMATOGRAPHER, DIRECTING DOP

SHOWREEL

triangle-mgmt.com/cinematographers/johan-van-der-merwe

BASED IN

Vienna, Austria & Cape Town, South Africa

LANGUAGES

English · German · Afrikaans

Growing up between South Africa and the United Kingdom, Johan van der Merwe developed a distinctive visual sensibility that balances contrast — light and dark, raw and polished. After completing his studies in economics, he chose to follow his passion for filmmaking and built his craft at top-tier production companies across Europe.

Johan has worked for several years as a Director of Photography, shaping the visual language of commercial projects through naturalistic, moody lighting, precise composition, and dynamic camera movement. His approach aims to create visually realistic worlds that feel elevated without breaking the viewer's immersion — enhancing emotion through subtle contrast, ratios, and carefully considered lighting rather than overt stylisation.

In recent years, Johan has expanded into directing, often working as a Director/DoP, combining conceptual storytelling with a strong cinematic vision. His background behind the camera allows him to move seamlessly between crafting high-end, stylised spots and building quiet, grounded scenes with emotional depth.

His portfolio includes campaigns for major clients such as Netflix, BMW, Raffaello (Ferrero), Gardena, and Silhouette. Johan's commercial work spans a wide range of genres — from VFX- and CGI-heavy productions to AI-generated imagery, as well as projects involving children, food, and automotive.

Currently based in Vienna, Austria, Johan works across Europe and regularly in Cape Town, and is available both as Director of Photography and as Director/DoP for selected projects.

BOOKING

Maria & Sebastian · TRIANGLE creative mgmt

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