



Craig Leeson is an award-winning filmmaker, television presenter, news correspondent and entrepreneur. He is the global evangelist for the Plastic Oceans Foundation, a charity dedicated to ending humanity's single-use plastic addiction within a generation. Craig's debut cinematic feature film, "A Plastic Ocean", which he wrote, directed and executive produced, was ranked the number one documentary on iTunes in the U.S., the U.K., and Canada and is also available globally on Amazon, and Netflix with the backing of Leonardo DiCaprio. "A Plastic Ocean" has won more than 15 film festival awards and has been screened in over 70 countries on 6 continents. There have been over 1,200 screenings globally hosted by government agencies, non-profits, schools, universities, individuals, multilateral institutions, corporations, aquariums and others, including the Smithsonian Institute and the Australian and UK Parliaments. The film has been subtitled into 15 languages. A shorter 22-minute version of the film was premiered at the UN General Assembly, in conjunction with the Permanent Mission of Colombia, on June 6 in New York City, to more than 500 people. The film counts among its patrons UNESCO.

Craig is the CEO of Leeson Media International and Ocean Vista Films and founder of the I Shot Hong Kong Film Festival. He has worked with the world's major broadcasters including BBC, CNN, Bloomberg, PBS, National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel, Bio Channel, Universal, Al Jazeera and the Seven Network. He began his career as a newspaper journalist before moving to radio and television as a news correspondent and anchor for ABC TV Australia.

His documentary filmmaking career began in 1999 and since then he has won the Asia TV Awards for "Rebel Impasse", on the Maoist rebels of Nepal; "*Marco Polo: The China Mystery Revealed*", (National Geographic Channel); and a New York Festivals medal for Best International Affairs Documentary on "The fall of President Suharto".

Craig has produced and directed NGC's top Asia television programmes and projects including The Making Of A Gala (first insider look at the workings of the Peninsula hotel), GeoWatch Asia, the Top 30 Countdown for NGC's 10th anniversary special, and Earth Day promos shot in multiple countries. He produced and directed Asia's first extreme sports television series - the Action Asia Challenge – and screened it on two networks simultaneously, NGCI and ESPN. He is the first film director to stage a fashion show at the UN headquarters in Geneva. He worked as media strategist and executive liaison on Asia's biggest joint-venture business deal between Telstra Australia and PCCW, reporting directly to both boards. He is committed to charity work, primarily through the Plastic Oceans Foundation, which he helped set up globally, and through producing successful fundraising films for Room To Read, Operation Smile, The Sovereign Art Foundation and FilmAid.

Craig is a passionate oceans and mountain explorer, adventurer, surfer and diver. He is a qualified bronze medal certified surf lifesaver having represented his home state Tasmania at the Australian titles, and holds medical, CPR and surf rescue crew certification as well as a surf rescue boat license. He is also a qualified advanced SCUBA diver and holds an FAA-rated private pilot's license. Craig plays guitar in a published rock band. He is the fourth generation media entrepreneur in his family.

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