

Humans in the Wild: The Canadian Toddler

Directors Intent

I want the feel of this documentary to be sincere & playful, creating an air of authenticity that pulls the audience in & makes them feel like they are watching your typical unobtrusively shot nature documentary.

Lighting will be minimal, enough to accentuate the subjects' faces but not be obstructive or distracting to the baby. High key lighting set ups with battery powered LED's should illuminate the INT. shots & a grip following Jackie with a bounce board should focus the lighting in the EXT. shots.

Sound will be mostly added in post with narration & FOLEY/SFX to focus the viewers attention & guide the story. If possible I would like to get clear, on location sound of the main subject Jackie reacting to things, especially because there is an emphasis on her developing communication skills.

Camera shots will mostly be simple handheld coverage with a light battery powered camera for maximum freedom of movement. Camera movement should be smooth & not distracting. No shaky cam. Equipment, shots & setups need to be as simple as possible so that we can focus our efforts on getting creatively framed shots that tell the story while also accentuating the 'hidden camera/nature doc' vibe (spy shots, panning landscapes, CU inserts of very specific actions, etc).

Majority of shots should be framed with Jackie as the centre of attention, parents are important but rarely focused on in solo shots. Camera should be knee or hip level so that we experience the world through a toddler's eyes. I want mostly MCU & MS shots, with CUs to accentuate special moments/reactions. We are up close & personal with our subject, doing all the tricks that professional nature documentaries use to humanize the animals & make you care about them.

I ideally want a camera A & camera B in important scenes because getting maximum coverage & angles will really help us capture the unpredictable movements of a toddler, but if we don't have the crew then its more important to have a focus puller on camera A & we can set up a Gopro for a backup wide shot when needed.

The most complicated shots should be the opening montage & location establishing shots because I want to take extra care to ape the 'sweeping landscapes' drone footage of Nature docs. Getting nice landscape shots & using a drone will dress up the simple, relatively basic footage that makes up the rest of the doc & will really sell the illusion of the alien film crew being far off & unseen by their human subjects.