

LIVING WITH DEVILS



The unique and fascinating Tasmanian Devil stars in this stunning wildlife special

In a wild and windswept corner of Australia, acclaimed filmmaker and animal whisperer Simon Plowright spends a year living with the iconic but endangered marsupial, the Tasmanian Devil.



Deeply passionate about this often misunderstood marsupial, Simon devotes himself to recording these remaining animals in their natural habitat as a life and death struggle unfolds.

A rare, transmissible cancer has already devastated 80% of the devil population and is slowly making its way to the last stronghold of healthy animals. But amidst the crisis, Simon discovers there is also a glimmer of hope.

Living With Devils features a stunning score by Maria Grenfell performed by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and was made by the team behind hit ABC documentary *Quoll Farm*.

4K & HD 1 x 60'

Wild Creature Films and Smith & Nasht

A Unique Perspective



- Filmed 100% in the wild and led by natural devil behaviour
- Shot almost entirely by Simon Plowright and his wife Karen, with state-of-the-art cameras, embedded in the spectacular landscape of far northwest Tasmania
- Revolves around a mother devil and her four adorable, rascally youngsters
- Woven into their story are the dangers confronting devils; unseasonal weather patterns, persecution, loss of habitat and death by motor vehicles

Media & Awards



Screen Producers
Australia (SPA) Awards 2024
Nomination Feature
Documentary Production
of the Year



‘Simon Plowright... (has) a voice
MADE for nature docs, rivalling the
lower case godfather of them all,
Sir David himself. Seek this out –
it’s great’

– **The West Australian**

‘A beautiful work. I have never
seen better wildlife footage of
Tasmanian Devils... The magic
ingredient is something that not
even unlimited millions of dollars
could ever buy. Love.’

– **The Mercury**

A close-up portrait of Simon J. Plowright, a middle-aged man with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a dark, textured hat and a dark, heavy jacket. His hands are clasped together in front of his chin. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and foliage.

Simon J. Plowright

Writer · Director · Presenter · Cinematographer

Simon Plowright has spent the past 40 years in Tasmania dedicated to preserving its unique fauna and ecology. As an ecologist/naturalist he has run a successful environmental consulting business for the past 25 years working with many private and government organisations to help protect threatened species. Every new task is approached from an environmental bias in an endeavour to marry inevitable human development with ecological sustainability.

He's owned a private wildlife sanctuary and has gained international recognition for his nature photography and filmmaking. He has contributed to more than 20 natural history films, and presented, directed written and filmed hit documentary *Quoll Farm*.

Simon's work was recognised with the prestigious award of 'Best Presenter' at the 2021 World Congress of Science and Factual Producers Conference. He has assisted many national and international broadcasters find appropriate species and ideal filming locations for their TV series, including the BBC Natural History Unit, *Animal Planet*, *Crocodile Hunter* and *American Seaworld*. He has cinematographer credits on *David Attenborough's Tasmania*, *Natural World* and co-produced *Last Devils*. He has also created a library of wildlife footage, both still and moving, that he sells internationally.

A portrait of Simon Nasht, an older man with white hair and glasses, resting his chin on his hand. He is wearing a dark jacket over a striped shirt. The background is a wooden wall.

Simon Nasht

Producer

Simon Nasht is one of Australia's most experienced documentary producers. A former political reporter and foreign correspondent for *The Age* and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, author of best-selling non-fiction, and a lecturer in film studies at the European Film College in Denmark, **Simon is passionate about telling real stories that make a difference.** He has produced, directed or written more than 25 films that have been seen around the world, garnered many awards and have been watched and appreciated by millions of people.

After running successful production companies in the UK, Europe and US, Simon returned to Australia to establish Smith&Nasht with legendary Australian adventurer and entrepreneur, Dick Smith. This specialist factual company has **made films for the world's leading broadcasters and festivals, won many awards including Logies, AFIs, Jackson Hole, Eureka Prizes and accoladed from the Writers Guild and Directors Guild.** Simon previously worked with Simon Plowright on the hugely successful *Quoll Farm*.

Maria Grenfell

Composer

'The Tasmanian Devil is such an iconic animal to Tasmanians, and having worked with Simon and Darren on Quoll Farm I knew that Living with Devils would be fascinating and unique. It was a privilege to have a full orchestra to write for, and I was able to use a wide range of musical colours and rhythms to help depict the personalities of the animals. Watching the footage was a little addictive and I couldn't believe how loud they are! My favourite shot has to be the baby Devil with hiccups.'



Award-winning composer Maria Grenfell was born in Malaysia, and completed composition studies in Christchurch, New Zealand. She obtained a Master's degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and a Doctorate from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Maria's awards include 'Instrumental Work of the Year' for Tasmania at the 2013 Australian Art Music Awards for her septet 'Ten Suns Ablaze', commissioned by the Australia Ensemble, and the Tasmanian award for Orchestral Work of the Year in 2017 for her double concerto 'Spirals', commissioned by the Tasmanian

Symphony Orchestra. Maria's orchestral music has been commissioned, performed or recorded by all the major symphony orchestras in Australia and New Zealand. Her chamber music has been performed by ensembles worldwide. She wrote the scores to *Quoll Farm* and *Living with Devils*.

All about the Tasmanian Devil

The Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*) is the largest carnivorous marsupial in the world. It is also the most successful carnivore. With its powerful jaws, it can easily tear meat apart, and since it can devour a whole carcass overnight, it can be considered one of nature's most efficient cleaners.

The Devil became extinct on the Australian mainland some 4,000 years ago having been hunted to death by the dingo. It is now found only in Tasmania. With no dingoes living in Tasmania, and the Tasmanian Tiger (thylacine) having been trapped and hunted to extinction, the Tasmanian Devil is now Tasmania's top predator.

Devils play a crucial role in keeping the local ecosystem in balance but where DFTD occurs, it's rare to have a male devil over the age of two. Sadly, in many parts of Tasmania, Devils are functionally

extinct – meaning that there are Devils, but in such low numbers, they are unable to perform their role as the apex predator. It's the older, tougher males who suppress introduced predators but without them, the ecological balance falls into chaos. The feral cat population explodes, and many bird and mammal species – some unique to Tasmania – could be wiped out. In the end, all Tasmanian wildlife will suffer if Devils cease to exist.

