

Justin Bonello

Justin was born in Durban, South Africa, grew up in Cape Town and has been burning his fingers on the open fire for longer than he can remember.

He has worked in the film industry since the age of 14, spent 13 years honing his skills in the Cape Town commercial television industry, and in the past 12 years his production companies, *Cooked in Africa Films* and *Justin Bonello Film Productions* have delivered more than 180 hours of programming across various genres, to broadcasters as diverse as BBC International, National Geographic, Discovery and local South African broadcasters MNET, SABC and ETV.

He studied *Information Systems, Analysis and Design* at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) – although he says that “I’ve become a bit of a dinosaur when it comes to the fast moving IT industry.”

He has published 7 recipe books with Penguin and is working on his next two publications, including *Neighbourhood Farm* (due for release in October 2018) – the proceeds of which will be donated to the *Neighbourhood Farm NPC*.

Has won multiple awards for his reality television shows, including best reality show at the South African Film and Television awards (SAFTA’s) for three years in a row (2013, 2014, and 2015).

As South Africa’s most well known and loved *Bush Cook* through his multiple publications and globally aired television series – Justin feels that is high time we start looking at how we can lighten our footprint on the planet and educate urban dwellers by looking at how we can change the way we live in urban environments. To this end, he started the *Neighbourhood Farms NPC* and has been filming a documentary about the Leopards of the Cape Fold Mountains.