

# LARS SCHWINGES

## Series Producer and Director

+44 7518 943039

www.schwinges.co.uk

@ lars@schwinges.co.uk

London, United Kingdom



## INTRODUCTION

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I am a producer and director with over 25 years of television experience, specialising in factual entertainment, lifestyle and reality programming. Television has been my passion since I was a child. Over the decades I have evolved from being a cameraman and editor to becoming a producer and director for many of South Africa's leading lifestyle television shows, including *Top Billing* and *Afternoon Express*.

Since 2015 I have worked on 11 primetime competition reality series. Extensive experience with advertiser funded programmes has honed my skills in client relationship management whilst pushing creative boundaries.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Television Producer / Director

#### Tswelopele Productions & Cardova Trading

04/2008 - 12/2019 Cape Town, South Africa

Tswelopele Productions and its sister company Cardova Trading are leading television production companies in South Africa. The companies currently produce two daily live studio shows (*Expresso Morning Show* and *Afternoon Express*), and until 2019, had produced its flagship magazine programme *Top Billing* for 27 years.

- Series Producer - *My Design Rules* - seasons 1 & 2 (Interior design challenge reality show - Amazon Prime - 2019)
- Producer - *The Next Brand Ambassador* (SABC 3 'Apprentice'-style search for marketing talent - 2019)
- Director - *Tropika Island of Treasure* - seasons 7, 8 & 9 (SABC 3 celebrity reality series 2017 to 2019)
- Director & Producer - *Presenter Search on 3* - seasons 1 & 2 (SABC 3 talent search - 2015 & 2018)
- Producer - *Win a Home* - seasons 1 to 5 (Interior design challenge reality show - 2014 to 2018)
- Executive Producer - *Pasella* (SABC 2 Afrikaans lifestyle magazine show - 2016)
- Show Producer - *Afternoon Express* (SABC 3 Daily live chat show - 2015)
- Director & Producer - *Hayden Quinn South Africa* (Cooking travelogue series - TLC Asia, SBS Food Australia - 2014)
- Director & Producer - *Top Billing* (SABC 3 lifestyle magazine show - 2008 to 2017)

Highlights:

Season 8 of *Tropika Island of Treasure* was the most watched show in the LSM 8-10 category on SABC 3 in 2018.

Respected South African TV critic Thinus Ferreira chose *Presenter Search on 3* as his favourite local television show of 2018.

*Win a Home* season 4 trended as number 1 on Twitter in South Africa on 80% of the episodes.

Travelling to over 25 countries with *Top Billing* and interviewing celebrities including; Pharrell Williams, David Hasselhoff, Felicity Huffman, Gordon Ramsey, Vanessa Williams, André Rieu, Adam Lambert, Billy Zane, Ruby Wax and many more.

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### Offline Producer

#### DigiOutsource (Formerly ForwardSLASH)

03/2005 - 12/2007 Cape Town, South Africa

ForwardSLASH was a marketing service provider for an international online gaming client. As Offline Producer, I coordinated a creative studio team of Copywriters, Designers and Art Directors.

- Project Manager - Exhibition stand creation and facilitation at conferences in Las Vegas, London, Amsterdam and Barcelona - including staging a Porsche giveaway (2005 to 2007)
- Producer - Online VIP Casino Host Portal - using virtual sets and interactive video (2006 to 2007)

# EXPERIENCE

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## Television Producer / Director / Cameraman

### Underdog Productions

📅 06/2001 - 02/2005 📍 Johannesburg, South Africa

Underdog is a content creation, marketing and entertainment company that specialises in television.

- Director – **Below the Belt** (Adult Variety series – 2003)  
SABC 3 (South Africa), Foxtel Comedy Channel (Australia) & Timm TV (Germany)
  - Director & Director of Photography – **The Women of the Year Awards** (Nominee profiles - 2005 to 2007)
  - Producer & Director of Photography – **Black Beulahs** (documentary on gay men in Soweto – 2005)
  - Producer & Director of Photography – **Two Moms** (documentary on same-sex adoption – 2004)
  - Producer – **By Night** (documentary on people who work at night – 2002)
  - Director of Photography – **Flush** (a two part documentary on toilets – 2004)
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## Director of Photography

### Endemol SA

📅 03/2001 - 05/2001 📍 Cape Town, South Africa

Endemol is a leading television production company with offices worldwide.

- Cameraman – **Citylife** (e-tv lifestyle magazine show – 2001)
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## Executive Assistant

### The British Council

📅 05/2000 - 12/2000 📍 London, United Kingdom

The British Council specialises in international cultural and educational opportunities.

- Worked as Executive Assistant to the South East Asia Pacific and Americas Directorates.
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## Creative Director / Producer / Project Manager

### HyperActive Productions

📅 09/1997 - 03/2000 📍 Cape Town, South Africa

HyperActive was a media production company that specialised in corporate video productions, presentations, events, touch screen kiosks and web development.

- Director & Producer – various corporate videos
  - Event Coordinator & Project Manager – various casino licensing bids for UK gaming company
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## Video Director / Producer / Cameraman / Editor

### Hirt & Carter

📅 1992 - 08/1997 📍 Cape Town, South Africa

Hirt & Carter was South Africa's premier repro company that expanded into digital media and television for several years. It was first a Facility House, where I worked as in-house cameraman and AVID editor for hire. Then the company restructured and became a Production House and I became a producer and director.

- Cameraman & Online Editor – **Inside Sport** (SABC sports celebrity magazine show)
  - Director & Producer – **Cape Town's Olympic Bid for 2004** (presentation videos for bid committee)
  - Cameraman & Online Editor – **Pick n Pay Green Adventures** (kids environmental series)
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# FIND ME ONLINE

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IMDb

[www.IMDb.me/Lars](http://www.IMDb.me/Lars)



LinkedIn

[www.linkedin.com/in/Lars-TV](http://www.linkedin.com/in/Lars-TV)



Website

[www.schwinges.co.uk](http://www.schwinges.co.uk)