

Casebook Documentary Production

Dancing Fox Pictures tours Ireland with JVC GY-LS300 to shoot documentary

October, 2018

The Customer:

Dancing Fox Pictures in St. Louis, MO



The upcoming documentary *My Ireland* was shot in locations across Ireland using two JVC GY-LS300 4KCAM Super 35 camcorders.

The Challenge:

Shoot interview and B-roll footage across Ireland for My Ireland documentary.

The Solution:

Dancing Fox co-founder Elliott Geolat purchased two GY-LS300 4KCAM Super 35 camcorders.

The Result:

Geolat wanted to create a cinematic look for *My Ireland*, so he paired his GY-LS300s with three Rokinon Cine DS prime lenses and shot in 4K/24p in J-Log mode, which expands dynamic range by 800 percent with film-like latitude. "I didn't want to make a documentary with a small-chip look," Geolat explained, "so that Super 35 sensor gave plenty of depth of field."

The documentary, which should be completed in early 2019, explores several causes of Irish displacement. Most of the interviews were scheduled, but some were added during the shoot. For the impromptu interviews, Geolat needed to be able to setup quickly, often in locations where lighting was far from ideal.

"We needed something portable and cinematic, and something that would be fast to use," said Geolat. "The GY-LS300 is a cinema camera that handles like an ENG camera. I spent more time leveling the tripod than prepping the camera for a shot."

While he avoided on-screen zooms, Geolat did use the camera's Prime Zoom feature, which allows fixed-focal lenses to zoom in and out without losing resolution or depth of field. "The Prime Zoom feature is amazing," he noted. "If I needed to zoom in a pinch, I could get closer without moving the tripod."

Geolat praised the GY-LS300's streamlined menu, built-in neutral density filters, and low-light performance. "Usually the words 'cinema' and 'budget' don't go together, but they do in this camera," he said. "At its price point, it offers a set of features that you just don't find. This is the best budget cinema camera in the world."

