

# STEALING THE SHOW

## Security risks to film and media productions

The open use of expensive equipment makes film crews attractive targets for criminals.

In March 2019, the film crew of prominent local investigative journalism unit, **Carte Blanche**, were robbed at gunpoint in Johannesburg while filming on location for a story covering a new surveillance camera system. The new surveillance system was due to be rolled out as a citywide CCTV network offering ultra-high-definition video feeds to security companies and law-enforcement agencies. The suspects stole film equipment and fled the scene.

The incident is one of many reported armed robberies targeting local film crews in South Africa. In **July**, a local news crew were robbed of film equipment and their personal belongings while filming on location in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, with a similar incident targeting the same crew in **May**. Local film crews are not the only ones targeted. In **2017**, an international film crew were robbed by a gang while shooting at the popular Silvermine Nature Reserve in Cape Town, whilst in **September** this year, a popular UK-reality show stated it planned to cancel filming in Cape Town due to the country's high crime rates.



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Praesidio Risk Managers offers emergency medical, personal accident, kidnap and ransom and travel insurance for people working in the film and entertainment industry.

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