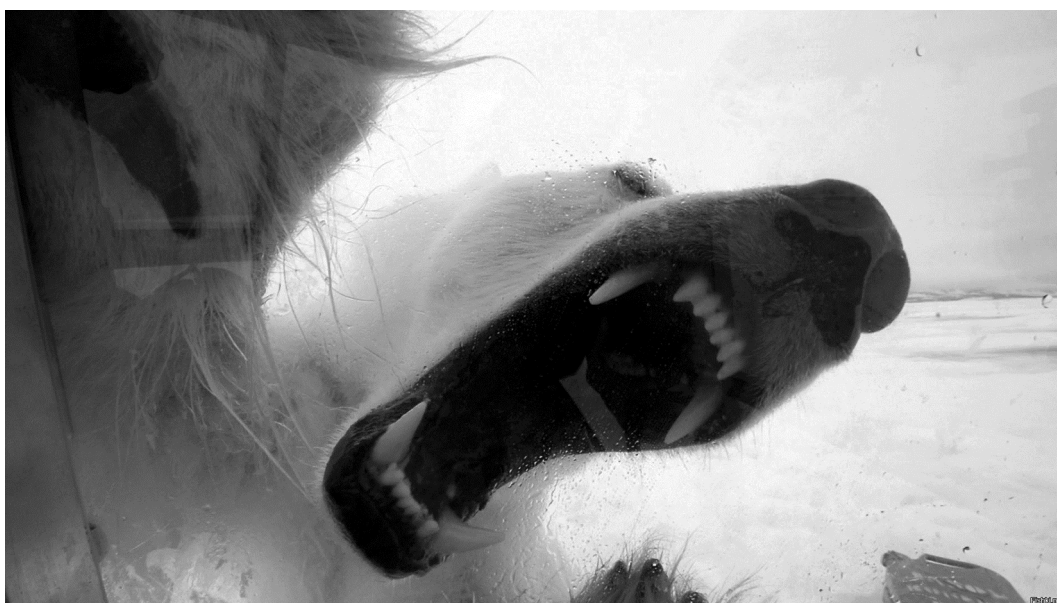


Polar bear sets its sights on cameraman

BBC cameraman Gordon Buchanan was shaken but not stirred by a terrifying encounter with a polar bear: thankfully his bulletproof Perspex hide was bear proof too. The filmmaker employed the portable hide – dubbed an ice cube – to record the polar bears at close quarters for his new documentary series *The Polar Bear Family and Me*.



“The aim wasn’t to have this terrifying encounter but to see these animals up close doing what they naturally do,” Buchanan told the BBC’s *Radio Times Magazine*. He had previously filmed tigers in Bhutan and brown bears in Minnesota, but said that his encounter with the 8ft polar bear was his scariest yet. “A lot of people think that carnivores are intrinsically dangerous but most aren’t. Polar bears are different. Without a doubt this female could smell me inside and wanted me for lunch. She was looking for a weak spot for almost 45 minutes. I was terrified.”



The mother bear was named Lyra by the film-makers, and her cubs Miki and Luca. The crew had to make long journeys over the ice to follow the bears into uncharted territory, often fleeing on snowmobiles when the giant predators came too close.

news.com.au, 2013