

PAUL OLDING

Writer/Director • Producer/Director • Series Producer

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Key Competencies

- Multi award-winning filmmaker with 20 years' experience, delivering successful projects across scripted drama, drama docs, film shorts, branded content and specialist factual programming
- Increased ratings and AI with highly-acclaimed single films and tv series for all BBC channels, Channel 4, Channel 5, Discovery, Animal Planet, The Science Channel, National Geographic, PBS, Reelz, ABC and ZDF.
- Managed budgets up to \$5million
- Experienced with logistics and resource allocation, film schedules, overseas shoots and project management
- Wide understanding of risk, compliance, duty of care and legal issues
- Accomplished writer, creating scripts, screenplays, briefing documents and press packs
- Proven ability to establish and share a creative vision and with client/commissioner liaison
- Skilled at working with graphics companies, devising, directing and integrating CGI and VFX
- Worked with a wide range of actors (Dudley Sutton, Gareth David-Lloyd, Georgina Rich, Jeff Rawle, Olivia Hallinan, Philip Glenister) and presenters (Prof Brian Cox, Prof Alice Roberts, Dr Michael Scott)
- Skilled at overseeing multiple edits, working closely with editors and edit producers, crafting narratives, innovative use of music, incorporating graphics and animation and final post and delivery
- Effective leader of large creative teams up to 40 people, creating a positive working environment, where colleagues feel both valued and challenged, placing importance on mentoring and skills development

Awards

BAFTA Nominee (Best Director) 2011
BAFTA Nominee (Specialist Factual) 2008
EMMY Winner 2015
Broadcasting Press Guild Winner 2010
EuroPAWS Winner 2013
Rob Knox Film Festival Best Picture 2009
Saltburn Shorts Winner Best Film 2010

Peabody Awards Winner 2011
SCINEMA Winner 2016 & 2011 & 2010
BANFF Winner 2013 & 2011
RTS Nominee 2013
RTS Winner 2010
Athens Science Film Festival Winner 2010 & 2008
Televisual Winner 2008

Selected Credits

Recent Projects

Writer/Edit Producer *Valley of the Kings* (Windfall for Channel 4 & Nat Geo),
Writer *Egypt's Unexplained Files* (360 for Science Channel), Shooting
Producer/Director *Inside the Red Arrows* (ITV Shiver for Channel 5)

Drama & Drama Doc

Albert: The Power Behind Victoria

Writer/Director/Producer
Elephant House Studios for Channel 5
1 x 94mins 2018

Starring Gareth David-Lloyd (*Torchwood*) and Olivia Hallinan (*Larkrise*), this scripted drama doc explores Albert's rise to power and Victoria's dependence on her husband, as seen through his eyes. Budget of £160k/hour with 60mins of period drama (shot in 6½ days) and sourcing new BAME interviewees. Narrated by Samantha Bond (*Downton Abbey*). **Comm Lucy Willis**

Wallis: The Queen that Never Was

Writer/Director/Producer
Elephant House Studios for Channel 5
1 x 94mins 2017

Rebooted C5's drama doc output with this feature length scripted period piece examining the life of Wallis Simpson from her point of view, weaving 60mins of lavish scripted factual drama (drawn from personal testimony) with documentary interviews. Budget of £160k/hour. Starring Georgina Rich (*Black Mirror*), narrated by Ivanno Jeremiah (*Humans*). **Comm Lucy Willis**

Autopsy: The Last Hours of... (S.5)

Writer/Director/Producer
Potato (ITV Studios) for Reelz
2 x 60mins 2015

Exploring the lives and deaths of Rodney King and Bee Gee Maurice Gibb, writing and directing emotional and often violent drama scenes (including firearms and drugs) drawn from interviews and clues hidden in their autopsy reports. Ad-lib dialogue directed on set. **SP John Fothergill**

NASA's Unexplained Files (S.3)

Series Drama Director
WAG TV for Science Channel
2014

Wrote and directed over 130 drama sequences for this 8-part scientific drama doc series, delivering a new creative aesthetic, with alien sightings, UFOs, weird visions seen in space and covert secrets, from the Middle Ages, through the 20th century to the modern day, on Earth and in space. **Exec Greg Chivers**

Monsters Behind the Iron Curtain (AKA Russia's Mystery Files)

Series Writer/Director/Producer
Pioneer for Animal Planet & Nat Geo
2 x 60mins 2014

Combined documentary filming in Russia with extensive drama recon for this feature length drama doc, investigating strange creatures, unsolved deaths and mysterious and violent occurrences hidden behind the Iron Curtain (narrated by Iain Glen). **Comm Patrick Keegan & Hannah Demidowicz**

Doctors

Director
BBC Prod for BBC 1
6 x 30mins 2012 / 2013

Worked across this award-winning BBC serial drama, directing six episodes telling standalone stories alongside ongoing series narratives, covering medical conditions, diversity issues, sexuality, aging and family fallouts. Featuring Dudley Sutton & Jeff Rawle. **Prods Jonathan Philips & Carol Harding**

The Genius Sperm Bank

Writer/Director/Producer
BBC Prod for BBC 2
1 x 50mins 2006

Created a playful scripted drama doc about Robert Clarke Graham and his drive to breed intelligence with his Repository for Germinal Choice. Adeptly weaving documentary interviews with drama reconstruction, often allowing contributors to speak through the actors. **Exec Andrew Cohen**

History

Cleopatra's Lost Tomb

Writer/Director/Producer
Dragonfly for Channel 4 & PBS
1 x 60mins 2015

Conducted complex access negotiations with authorities to follow a maverick archaeologist searching for Cleopatra's lost tomb. Used blueprint CGI visuals and stylized drama motifs shot on location in Cleopatra's temple in Egypt (narrated by Paul McGann). **Comms Rob Coldstream & Steve Burns**

How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson

Producer/Director
Nutopia for BBC 2 & PBS
2 x 60mins 2014

Helped devise the series concept, narrative landscape and award-winning graphical design for this new series presented by tech author Steven Johnson. Took on two films of the 6-part series, exploring the invention and use of glass, and the innovations surrounding light. **Comms Martin Davidson & Bill Gardner**

The Mystery of Rome's X Tombs

Writer/Director/Producer
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & PBS Nova
1 x 60mins 2013

Secured access to the Vatican to make this film presented by Dr Michael Scott, investigating an ancient mass grave through forensic cold case techniques and employing innovative CGI, to name the dead and also shine a light on life in Rome. **Comms Martin Davidson & Evan Hadingham**

City Beneath the Waves: Pavlopetri

Writer/Director/Producer
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Discovery
1 x 60mins 2011

This underwater archeological documentary (narrated by Philip Glenister) used cutting-edge scanning technology and embedded CGI to reveal the secrets of a submerged Bronze Age city. Became one of the most repeated specialist factual docs on the BBC. **Comms Martin Davidson & Susan Winslow**

Science

Life of a Universe

Series Producer/Director
ABC Studios for ABC
2 x 30mins 2017

Developed and shot this 2-part documentary series, following Prof Brian Cox exploring the start and end of the universe. Filmed in just four days across Australia, interviewing the biggest cosmological luminaries on the planet, and remotely overseeing the edits. **Comm Steve Bibb**

What on Earth (S.3)

Series Producer/Writer
WAG TV for The Science Channel
10 x 60mins 2016

Showrunner on this 10-part series investigating unusual structures seen on Earth captured by satellite imagery. Successfully rebooted the creative vision, the on-screen aesthetic and the graphic style, scriptwriting multiple narratives in multiple edits and supervising a team of 20. **Comm Neil Laird**

World's Smart Cities: Amsterdam

Writer/Director/Producer/Camera
Shiver (ITV Studios) for Nat Geo
1 x 60mins 2016

Developed this film for the popular *National Geographic* brand, combining entirely self-shot footage with innovative embedded CGI to immerse the viewer in a tech-enhanced exploration of the city. **Comms Mark Francis & Carolyn Payne**

Wonders of Life (ep 4 Size Matters)

Producer/Director
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Science Channel
1 x 60mins 2013

Working with presenter Prof Brian Cox for this multi-layered award winning 5-part series, investigating the physics of life at the very small and the very large scales. With innovative macro CGI, lavish visuals and fun in-vision demonstrations. **Comm Martin Davidson**

<p><i>Britain's Secret Seas</i> (ep1 & 3 <i>West & South</i>) Writer/Director/Producer/Camera BBC Prod for BBC 2 2 x 60mins 2011</p>	<p>This 4-part series explored the natural wonders in the waters around the British coastline, presented by explorer Paul Rose. Managing and leading a large team from development and research through to production and post, above and below the waves. The series became the British Sub Aqua Club's most promoted DVD. Exec Gary Hunter</p>
<p><i>Wonders of the Solar System</i> (ep 4 <i>Dead or Alive</i>) Writer/Director/Producer BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Science Channel 1 x 60mins 2010</p>	<p>Raised the bar in science programming with this ambitious, multi-award winning 5-part series presented by Prof Brian Cox. Helped to shape and develop the series and shot at sites around the globe to explore the alien worlds of the planets and moons of our solar system, including a lava lake in Ethiopia and a total solar eclipse over the Ganges. Exec Andrew Cohen</p>
<p><i>Do you know what Time it is?</i> Producer/Director & Co-Writer BBC Prod for BBC 2 1 x 60mins 2008</p>	<p>Ambitious award-winning Horizon film presented by Prof Brian Cox, examining the concept of time. Filmed around the world, gaining access to high-profile interviewees and using innovative in vision filming techniques to expand and compress time. Exec Andrew Cohen</p>
<p><i>What on Earth is wrong with Gravity?</i> Writer/Director/Producer BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Science Channel 1 x 50mins 2008</p>	<p>Rebooted the dated BBC Horizon brand and was responsible for bringing new talent Prof Brian Cox to the BBC for his first presenting role. Filmed as a road trip of discovery across the USA, developing ground-breaking CGI to visualise 4 dimensional spacetime. Exec Andrew Cohen</p>
<p><i>Earth the Power of the Planet</i> (ep1 <i>Volcano</i>) Writer/Director/Producer BBC Prod for BBC 2, Nat Geo & ZDF 1 x 60mins 2007</p>	<p>Managed complex global filming logistics making this award-winning 5-part series with Prof Iain Stewart, exploring Earth's geology and the heat engine that powers it. First BBC specialist factual series (outside of the Natural History Unit) to use high speed slow-motion cameras on location, helicopter mounted camera gimbals and Hi-Def cameras. Exec Phil Dolling</p>
<p><i>Naming the Dead</i> Producer/Director BBC Prod for BBC 2 1 x 50mins 2005</p>	<p>Emotional access obs-doc for Horizon revealing the untold story of the international forensic effort to identify the victims following the Boxing Day tsunami in Thailand. Filming inside field morgues, exploring forensic science and raw human emotion. Exec Andrew Cohen</p>

Additional Roles

Author - *The Urban Vineyard* (2015)

A 'how to' guide and day to day chronicle of how I established a small urban vineyard in Lewisham, southeast London

Branded Content - Freelance (2014 - Present)

Wrote, directed and produced short films for digital and social media platforms, including product launch for *Icolube*, kickstarter campaign video *Million Mile Light* and charity film *Elephant & Castle Urban Forest*

Short Films - Bongo Reef Pictures (2005 - Present)

Independently produced and directed 9 Short Film dramas, exploring dementia (*Losing the Plot*), loss (*Grandma's Funeral*), lust (*Junkie Love*), homicidal grannies (*Help Wanted*) and life in the back of black cab (*Taxi*)

Radio Broadcaster - Freelance (1995 - Present)

Developing, pitching and presenting science and history radio reports for *The Science Show* on Radio National, Australia, including pieces on **ancient plagues**, **English wine**, **sleep** and **Edward Lear**, plus BBC Radio 4 (*The Frog that Croaked*). Operations Manager for Kenya's *Metro East Fm* and 350 hours of live programming for *Oxygen 107.9fm*

Education & Courses

DPhil Australian Frog Calls - Department of Zoology, University of Oxford (1994-1998)

BA Biological Sciences (First Class Honours) - Jesus College, Oxford University (1991-1994)

4 x A-Levels / 1 x S Level / 1 x AS-Level / 9 x GCSEs - Colfe's School (1984-1991)

HSE First Aid at Work (2016) / Raindance Screenwriting Certificate (2015) / Robert McKee Story (2012) / Raindance Drama Directing Foundation Certificate (2012) / BBC Compliance Courses (1998-2011) / HSE Media Scuba Diving (2010)

Professional Associations: Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, member of BAFTA, DACS and Directors UK

Full clean UK Driving Licence

Basic French

Leisure: Triathlon, wine making & viticulture, clarinet

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