

PAUL OLDING

Writer/Director & Series Producer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Multi award-winning, BAFTA-nominated Director, Writer and Series Producer with 20 years experience who has made a wide range of highly-acclaimed single films and series for BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, BBC Four, Channel 4, Channel 5, Discovery, Animal Planet, National Geographic, PBS, Reelz, ABC and ZDF. With a successful career making documentaries and specialist factual programmes (15 years at the BBC), alongside independent short films, moved across to drama and drama/doc where I've successfully scripted, directed and produced both ongoing series and original commissions.

Passionate and ambitious filmmaker with a wide knowledge of filming styles and technologies and a drive for creating quality visuals onscreen. Alongside directing, experienced managing large production teams and crews, working with actors and presenters, setting the creative vision, scripting and storyboarding, scheduling, budgeting and overseeing shoots. Also skilled in the edit, working closely with editors, crafting narratives, incorporating graphics and animation and overseeing final post and delivery.

CAREER HISTORY: TELEVISION DRAMA & DRAMA/DOC

Writer/Director – *Albert: The Power Behind Victoria* – Elephant House Studios for Channel 5 – 2018

Starring Gareth David-Lloyd (*Torchwood*) and Olivia Hallinan (*Larkrise*), this 1 x 94' scripted drama/doc explores the Prince Consort's rise to power and Queen Victoria's dependence on her husband. With 60' of scripted period drama (shot in 6½ days) and new diverse interviewees sought for doc contributors. Narrated by Samantha Bond (*Downton Abbey*)

Writer/Director – *Wallis: The Queen that Never Was* – Elephant House Studios for Channel 5 – 2017

Rebooted C5's drama/doc output with this 1 x 94' scripted period drama/doc exploring the life of Wallis Simpson from her point of view, carefully weaving 60' of scripted factual drama with documentary interviews. Running a full drama crew of 30 people with lavish drama shot in 6 days. Starring Georgina Rich (*Black Mirror*), narrated by Ivanno Jeremiah (*Humans*)

Writer/Director – *Autopsy: The Last Hours of... (S.5)* – ITV Studios for Reelz – 2015

Joined this highly-acclaimed drama/doc series, looking after 2 x 60' films exploring the lives and deaths of Rodney King and Maurice Gibb, writing and directing emotional drama scenes drawn from clues hidden in their autopsy reports

Series Drama Director – *NASA's Unexplained Files (S.3)* – WAG TV for Science Channel (Discovery) – 2014

Responsible for over 130 drama sequences for this 8 x 60' scientific drama/doc series, delivering a new creative aesthetic, with scenes from the Middle Ages to the modern day, alien sightings, NASA mysteries and covert secrets

Writer/Director/Producer – *Monsters Behind the Iron Curtain* – Pioneer Productions for Animal Planet & NGCI – 2014

Combined extensive documentary filming with drama reconstruction for this 1 x 90' drama/doc, investigating strange creatures and occurrences hidden behind the Iron Curtain (narrated by Iain Glen)

Director – *Doctors* – BBC Productions for BBC One – 2012 / 2013

Worked across this award-winning, long-running serial drama, directing 6 x 30' episodes telling standalone stories alongside ongoing series narratives, covering medical conditions, diversity issues, aging and family fallouts. Shot at speed but maintaining high production values, directing series regulars and guest artistes and running a large crew

Writer/Director/Producer – *Horizon: The Genius Sperm Bank* – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2006

Scripted and directed both documentary and drama reconstruction elements of this 1 x 50' film about Robert Clarke Graham and his drive to breed intelligence with his Repository for Germinal Choice. Maintaining sensitive access to contributors and developing an innovative on-set playback system so contributors could speak through actors

CAREER HISTORY: SHORT FILM DRAMA

Director/Producer – *A Day, A Life* – Bongo Reef Pictures – Theatrical Release – 2014

This 1 x 15' drama follows the relationship between a husband and wife as their son is sent to war. Shot in documentary style, allowing for authenticity and rawness to come through as the varying emotions were explored

Director/Producer – *Junkie Love* – Bongo Reef Pictures – Theatrical Release – 2013

Working with writer and actor Dudley Sutton, combined animation with live action for this 1 x 2' experimental film looking at love and lust in a rehabilitation clinic

Director/Producer – *Losing the Plot* – Bongo Reef Pictures – Theatrical Release – 2010

Brought an authenticity and sensitivity to this 1 x 8' short-film, telling the story of a mother caring for her father (Dudley Sutton) who suffers from dementia while still being at the beck and call of her own grown up kids

Director/Writer/Producer – Help Wanted, Lonely Boy & Run for Your Life – Bongo Reef Pictures – 2010

Created these 3 x 2' experimental shorts, shot on Super8 film stock. *Help Wanted* was for the one take (no edits) Straight8 competition about a difficult grandmother, *Lonely Boy* was about a boy who wishes for a friend and *Run for Your Life* told the story of a woman escaping a hidden menace

Director/Producer – Taxi – * Rob Knox Film Festival Winner * – Bongo Reef Pictures – Theatrical Release – 2008

Tasked four different screenwriters to each tell a different story set in the back of a London taxi, which I then brought together for this 1 x 15' film. From chess to transgender issues, an overprotective Dad and a date gone wrong

Director/Producer – Grandma's Funeral – Bongo Reef Pictures – Theatrical Release – 2008

Working closely with the screenwriter to bring comedic elements to this carefully crafted 1 x 10' film based on a true story following a family preparing for their grandmother's funeral

Director/Producer – Treasure – Bongo Reef Pictures – Theatrical Release – 2005

My first 10' short-film drama told the story of an old man (Dudley Sutton) tirelessly searching for his treasure

CAREER HISTORY: FACTUAL TELEVISION

Series Producer/Director – Life of a Universe: Creation & The End of Days – ABC Studios for ABC – 2017

Developed and pitched this 2 x 60' documentary series, following Prof Brian Cox as he explored the start and end of the universe. Filmed in just four days across Australia, gaining access to and interviewing scientific luminaries

Series Producer/Writer – What on Earth (S.4) – WAG TV for Science Channel (Discovery) – 2016

Managed production of this 10 x 60' series investigating unusual structures seen on earth captured by satellite imagery, rebooting the creative vision and on screen aesthetic, scriptwriting multiple narratives and supervising a team of 20

Director/Producer – World's Smart Cities: Amsterdam – Shiver (ITV Studios) for NGCI – 2016

Carried out initial development and pitching of this 1 x 60' film for the popular *World's Smart Cities* brand, combining self-shot footage with innovative embedded graphics to immerse the viewer in an exploration of the city

Writer/Director – Cleopatra's Lost Tomb – Dragonfly Film & TV for Channel 4 & PBS – 2015

Conducted complex access negotiations with authorities and contributors for this 1 x 60' presenter-led documentary, following Dr. Kathleen Martinez searching for Cleopatra's lost tomb. Used experimental visuals and stylized drama motifs to see the dig site through the eyes of the archaeologist

Director/Producer – How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson – * EMMY Winner * - Nutopia for BBC Two & PBS – 2014

Helped devise the series concept, narrative landscape and graphical design for this brand new series presented by author Steven Johnson. Took on 2 x 60' films of the 6-part series, exploring the invention and impact of light and glass

Writer/Director/Producer – The Mystery of Rome's X Tombs – BBC Productions for BBC Two & PBS – 2013

Secured access to the Vatican to make this 1 x 60' film presented by Dr Michael Scott, combining documentary with innovative CGI to examine an ancient mass grave through scientific analyses. Engineered a real time translation system to follow foreign language interviewees filmed on location

Writer/Director/Producer – Wonders of Life: Size Matters – * SCINEMA & EuroPAWS Winner * – BBC Productions for BBC Two & Science Channel (Discovery) – 2013

Working with presenter Prof Brian Cox for this multi-layered 5 part series, making 1 x 60' film investigating the physics of life at the very small and the very large scales. With innovative macro CGI and fun in-vision demonstrations

Writer/Director/Producer – City Beneath the Waves: Pavlopetri – BBC Productions for BBC Two & Discovery – 2011

This 1 x 60' archeological documentary (narrated by Philip Glenister) used cutting-edge scanning technology, embedded CGI and underwater filming to reveal the secrets of a submerged Bronze Age city.

Writer/Director – Britain's Secret Seas: Giants of the West & Bustling South (S.1) – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2011

Oversaw 2 x 60' films of this 4-part series, looking at 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 stage through to production and post. The series became the British Sub Aqua Club's most promoted DVD

Director/Producer – Origins of Us: Brains – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2011

In this 3 part series presented by Prof Alice Roberts, my 1 x 60' film examined the evolution of the human brain using both modern science and moments where Alice connected with the past through direct contact at sites across the world

Writer/Director/Producer – Wonders of the Solar System: Dead or Alive – * BAFTA Nominee / Peabody & RTS & SCINEMA Winner * – BBC Productions for BBC Two & Science Channel (Discovery) – 2010

Raised the bar in science programming with this ambitious 5 part series presented by Prof Brian Cox. Helped to shape and develop the series and made 1 x 60' film, shooting at sites across Earth to explore the alien worlds of the planets and moons of our solar system, including a lake of molten lava in Ethiopia and a total eclipse over the Ganges

Director/Producer – Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Life and Death – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2009

Andrew Marr fronted 3 part series looking at Darwin's theory of evolution. Made 1 x 60' film seeing how death and extinction are key to evolution, filming at places Darwin visited himself, turning a complex topic into an engaging narrative

Director/Producer – *Horizon: Do You Know What Time It Is?* – * Athens Intl Science Film Winner / SCINEMA Winner * - BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2008

Ambitious 1 x 60' film presented by Prof Brian Cox, examining the concept of time. Using innovative filming techniques to expand and compress time. Filmed around the world gaining access to high-profile interviewees

Writer/Director/Producer – *Horizon: What on Earth is Wrong with Gravity?* - BBC Productions for BBC Two & Science Channel (Discovery) – 2008

Rebooted the dated Horizon Science documentary genre bringing to the BBC brand new talent Prof Brian Cox for his first presenting role on this 1 x 50' film investigating the nature of gravity, filmed as a road trip of discovery across the USA

Writer/Director/Producer – *Earth The Power of the Planet: Volcano* – * BAFTA nominee / Televisual Winner * - BBC Productions for BBC Two, National Geographic & ZDF – 2007

Managed complex global logistics when making this award-winning documentary series with Prof Iain Stewart, exploring the Earth's geology and the heat engine that powers it. First BBC Specialist Factual series to use high speed slow-motion cameras, heli-gimbals and Hi Def cameras outside of the Natural History Unit.

Additional Director & Producer Roles

* Development Producer – Sundog Pictures – 2016

* Development Producer – Nerd TV – 2015

* Development Producer – STV Productions – 2014

* Director/Producer – *Dara O'Briain's Science Club* – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2012

* Director – *Horizon Tsunami: Naming the Dead* – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2005

* Director/Producer – *Horizon: Titan - A Place Like Home?* – * Athens Intl Science Film Winner * – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2005

* Director/Producer – *Journeys from the Centre of the Earth* – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2004

* Director/Producer – *Horizon: The Diamond Labs* – BBC Productions for BBC Two – 2003

* Director/Producer – *Little Angels (S.1)* – BBC Productions for BBC One & BBC Three – 2003

* Director/Producer – *Body Hits: Natural Highs & Detox Devils (S.1)* – BBC Productions for BBC One & BBC Three – 2003

* Director/Producer – *Holiday: You Call the Shots* – BBC Productions for BBC One – 2003

Assistant Producer – BBC Productions – 2001-2002

Moving between some of BBC One's most iconic factual programmes, including *Animal Hospital*, *Tomorrow's World* and *Holiday*, duties included sourcing stories, developing content ideas, setting up shoots and directing and self-shooting VTs

Researcher – BBC Productions – 1998-2001

Worked across *Tomorrow's World* (BBC One), becoming one of the BBC's very first "self-shooters". Responsible for researching and breaking down complex scientific topics, finding stories and producing, directing and self-shooting VTs

ADDITIONAL CAREER HISTORY

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

Writer/Director (Branded Content) - Freelance - 2014- Present

Worked with clients including oil company *Icolube*, *Million Mile Light* and *Elephant & Castle Urban Forest*, creating engaging short form banded content for digital platforms, ensuring the editorial narrative and visualisations supported the commercial objectives

Radio Broadcaster – Freelance – 1995-Present

Developing, pitching, presenting and editing a wide range of science and history themed radio programmes for key networks in both the UK and Australia, including *The Science Show* (Radio National, Australia), and standalone commissions such as *The Frog that Croaked* (BBC Radio 4), plus 350 hours of live programming for *Oxygen 107.9fm*

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

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

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

Additional Courses – Screenwriting Certificate (Raindance Film School, 2015) / Drama Directing Foundation Certificate (Raindance Film School, 2012) / HSE First Aid at Work (2016) / Compliance Course (BBC, 2013) / HSE Media Scuba Diving Course (2010)

4 x A-Levels / 1 x AS-Level / 9 x GCSEs

Full, Clean UK Driving License

Basic French Speaker

References available on request