

# PAUL OLDING

Writer/Director • PD • Executive Producer • Series Producer

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BAFTA nominated (Best Director), multi award winning Filmmaker with over 25 years' experience, delivering ambitious and visually creative films across factual programming, scripted drama docs and branded content, for the UK and American markets.

- Effective leader of large creative teams (up to 60 people), creating a positive working environment where colleagues feel valued and challenged, placing importance on mentoring and skills development
- Experienced across multiple genres: Spec Factual, Pop Features, Drama, Drama-doc, Studio, Obs-Doc, Fixed-Rig
- Adept with archive, able to conjure an engaging narrative with well-worn footage
- Created 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 with high ratings and generous AIs
- Wide experience of development, pitching and pitch polishing
- Experienced with resource allocation, filming schedules, overseas shoots and budgets up to \$5million
- Helped train and nurture new presenters (Prof Brian Cox, Prof Iain Stewart, Dr Michael Scott)
- Skilled at devising, directing and integrating innovative CGI and VFX
- Proficient self-shooter and editor (Adobe Premiere)
- Accomplished writer, from series-wide scripts to drama screenplays, to branded content shorts
- Executive Producer of Dionysus Films, delivering short form narrative docs to a wide range of clients

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## Selected Tv Credits

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### *Ryal Autopsy S1 & S2*

Creator/Writer/Director  
Phoenix TV for Sky History  
6 x 46mins 2023 / 2024

Lavish scripted costume dramas fused with detailed medical investigations plus as-real autopsies, exploring the final dying days of 6 British Monarchs. Presented by Prof Alice Roberts. Starring Linda Marlowe, Mark Wingett, Olivia Hallinan, Gareth David-Lloyd. **Comm Daniel Korn**

### *Inside the Great Vaccine Race*

Location Director  
Infield Fly for CBC 2021

Following attempts by UK researchers to develop, trial and produce a vaccine for the Covid-19 pandemic. Securing access, plus in-depth interviews and dynamic lab actuality. **Exec Duguld Maudsley**

### *Digging for Britain (S.8)*

Series Producer/Director & Camera  
Rare Tv for BBC4  
4 x 59mins 2019

Rejuvenated, revamped and re-energized this much loved BBC4 brand presented by Prof Alice Roberts, with new graphics, stronger storytelling and better self-shot camera work. Oversaw all edits remotely. "Absolutely Brilliant" said Cassian Harrison. **Comm Abigail Priddle**

### *Eye Witness: D Day*

Writer & Producer  
Rare Tv for National Geographic  
44mins 2019

Brought in to write and compete this scripted drama doc exploring five key turning points on D Day. Integrating archive footage with drama re-enactment and original testimony, driving a compelling narrative plus innovative CGI design. **Comm Simon Raikes**

### *Egypt's Unexplained Files*

Series Writer  
360 Prod for Science Channel 2019

Brought in to write 9 of the 10 episodes of this investigation series exploring secrets unearthed from Ancient Egypt. Working remotely weaving interview sync with archive to build mystery. **Comms Neil Laird & Hannah Demidowicz**

### *Secrets of Egypt's Valley of the Kings*

Writer & Edit Producer  
Windfall for C4 & Nat Geo 2018

Brought in to help finish this 6-part embedded obs-doc series following teams of archaeologists through a season digging in Egypt. Careful scripting to build tension and reveals. **Comm Carolyn Payne.**

### *Albert: The Power Behind Victoria*

Writer/Director & Producer  
Elephant House Studios for C5  
94mins 2018

Scripted drama doc starring Gareth David-Lloyd (*Torchwood*) and Olivia Hallinan (*Larkrise*), exploring Prince Albert's rise to power and Victoria's dependence on him. With 60mins of period drama (shot in 6½ days) plus new BAME experts. Narrated by Samantha Bond (*Downton*). **Comm Lucy Willis**

### *Wallis: The Queen that Never Was*

Writer/Director & Producer  
Elephant House Studios for C5  
94mins 2017

Rebooted C5's drama doc output with this scripted period feature starring Georgina Rich (*Black Mirror*), examining the life of Wallis Simpson from her point of view. Weaving 60mins of scripted drama with insightful doc interviews. Narrated by Ivanno Jeremiah (*Humans*). **Comm Lucy Willis**

<p><b><i>Life of a Universe</i></b> Series Producer/Director ABC Studios for ABC 2 x 30mins 2017</p>	<p>Developed and directed this series, following Prof Brian Cox exploring the start and end of the universe. Filmed in four days across Australia, and at the Starmus conference, interviewing the biggest cosmological luminaries on the planet, and remotely overseeing the edits. <b>Comm Steve Bibb</b></p>
<p><b><i>What on Earth (S.3)</i></b> Series Producer &amp; Writer Wag TV for Science Channel 10 x 44mins 2016</p>	<p>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. <b>Comm Neil Laird</b></p>
<p><b><i>World's Smart Cities: Amsterdam</i></b> Writer/Director/Producer &amp; Camera Shiver (ITV Studios) for Nat Geo Intl 46mins 2016</p>	<p>Developed and pitched this film for the popular National Geographic brand, combining self-shot footage with innovative embedded CGI to immerse the viewer in a tech enhanced exploration of the city. <b>Comms Mark Francis &amp; Carolyn Payne</b></p>
<p><b><i>Autopsy: The Last Hours of... (S.5)</i></b> Writer/Director &amp; Producer ITV Potato for Reelz 2 x 44mins 2015</p>	<p>Investigative narrative exploring the lives and deaths of Rodney King and Maurice Gibb, writing and directing emotional and violent drama scenes (including firearms and drugs) drawn from interviews and clues hidden in their autopsy reports. <b>SP John Fothergill</b></p>
<p><b><i>Cleopatra's Lost Tomb</i></b> Writer/Director &amp; Producer Dragonfly for Channel 4 &amp; PBS 46mins 2015</p>	<p>Conducted complex access negotiations to follow a maverick archaeologist searching for Cleopatra's lost tomb. Used innovative blueprint CGI visuals and stylized drama motifs shot at Cleopatra's temple in Egypt. Narrated by Paul McGann. <b>Comms Rob Coldstream &amp; Steve Burns</b></p>
<p><b><i>NASA's Unexplained Files (S.3)</i></b> Series Drama Director Wag TV for Science Channel 2014</p>	<p>Wrote and directed over 130 drama sequences for this 8-part scientific drama doc series, delivering a new creative aesthetic. Including alien sightings, UFOs, strange visions and covert secrets, from the Middle Ages, to the modern day, on Earth and in space. <b>Exec Greg Chivers</b></p>
<p><b><i>Monsters Behind the Iron Curtain</i></b> Writer/Director &amp; Producer Pioneer for Animal Planet &amp; Nat Geo 1 x 94mins &amp; 2 x 44mins 2014</p>	<p>Combined investigative documentary filming in Russia with extensive drama recon for this feature length drama doc, exploring strange creatures, unsolved deaths and mysterious and violent occurrences hidden behind the Iron Curtain. Narrated by Iain Glen. <b>Comm Patrick Keegan &amp; Hannah Demidowicz</b></p>
<p><b><i>How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson</i></b> Producer/Director Nutopia for BBC 2 &amp; PBS 2 x 52mins 2014</p>	<p>Helped devise the series concept, narrative landscape and award-winning graphical design for this series presented by US 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. <b>Comms Martin Davidson &amp; Bill Gardner</b></p>
<p><b><i>Doctors</i></b> Director BBC Prod for BBC 1, 6 x 29mins 2013</p>	<p>BBC Serial Drama telling standalone stories alongside ongoing series narratives, covering diversity issues, sexuality, aging and family fallouts. Featuring Dudley Sutton &amp; Jeff Rawle. <b>Prods Jonathan Philips &amp; Carol Harding</b></p>
<p><b><i>Wonders of Life (ep 4 Size Matters)</i></b> Producer/Director BBC Prod for BBC 2 &amp; Science Channel 1 x 59mins 2013</p>	<p>Working with Prof Brian Cox on 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 on screen demonstrations. <b>Comm Martin Davidson</b></p>
<p><b><i>City Beneath the Waves: Pavlopetri</i></b> Writer/Director &amp; Producer BBC Prod for BBC 2 &amp; Discovery 59mins 2011</p>	<p>Underwater archeological documentary (narrated by Philip Glenister) using 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. <b>Comms Martin Davidson &amp; Susan Winslow</b></p>
<p><b><i>Britain's Secret Seas (ep1 &amp; 3)</i></b> Writer &amp; Shooting PD BBC Prod for BBC 2 2 x 59mins 2011</p>	<p>This 4-part series explored the wonders in the waters off the British coast, presented by Paul Rose. Managing and leading a large team from development and research through to production and post, above and below the waves. Became the British Sub Aqua Club's most promoted DVD. <b>Exec Gary Hunter</b></p>
<p><b><i>Wonders of the Solar System (ep 4 Dead or Alive)</i></b> Writer/Director/Producer BBC Prod for BBC 2 &amp; Science Channel 1 x 59mins 2010</p>	<p>Raised the bar in science programming with this ambitious, multi-award winning 5-part series presented by Prof Brian Cox. Helped shape and develop the series, then filmed 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. <b>Exec Andrew Cohen</b></p>

<p><b><i>What on Earth is Wrong with Gravity?</i></b>  Writer/Director/Producer  BBC Prod for BBC 2 &amp; Science Channel  49mins 2008</p>	<p>Rebooted the BBC Horizon brand and brought new talent Prof Brian Cox to the BBC for his first presenting role. Filmed as a road trip of discovery across the USA, including ground-breaking CGI to visualise four dimensional spacetime.  <b>Exec Andrew Cohen</b></p>
<p><b><i>Earth the Power of the Planet (ep1 Volcano)</i></b>  Writer/Director/Producer  BBC Prod for BBC 2, Nat Geo &amp; ZDF  1 x 59mins 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. <b>Exec Phil Dolling</b></p>
<p><b><i>The Genius Sperm Bank</i></b>  Writer/Director/Producer  BBC Prod for BBC 2  49mins 2006</p>	<p>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, having contributors often speaking through the actors. <b>Exec Andrew Cohen</b></p>
<p><b><i>Naming the Dead</i></b>  Producer/Director  BBC Prod for BBC2  50 mins 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. <b>Exec Andrew Cohen</b></p>
<p><b>PLUS</b></p>	<p><i>Tomorrow's World. Holiday on a Shoestring. Holiday You Call the Shots. Summer Holiday. Harry Enfield's Big Arts. Body Hits. Child of our Time. Animal Hospital. Little Angels. Horizon. Origins of Us. Darwin's Dangerous Idea</i></p>

[Full Credit List](#)

## Awards

<p>RTS Southern <b>Winner</b> 2023  EMMY <b>Winner</b> 2015  BAFTA <b>Nominee</b> (Best Director) 2011  BAFTA <b>Nominee</b> (Specialist Factual) 2008  Broadcasting Press Guild <b>Winner</b> 2010  EuroPAWS <b>Winner</b> 2013  Rob Knox Film Festival Best Picture <b>Winner</b> 2009</p>	<p>Peabody Awards <b>Winner</b> 2011  SCINEMA <b>Winner</b> 2016 &amp; 2011 &amp; 2010  BANFF <b>Winner</b> 2013 &amp; 2011  RTS <b>Nominee</b> 2013  RTS <b>Winner</b> 2010  Saltburn Shorts <b>Winner</b> Best Film 2010  Athens Science Film Festival <b>Winner</b> 2010 &amp; 2008</p>
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## Additional Roles

### Drama Short Film - Bongo Reef Pictures (2005 – 2014)

Independently produced and directed 12 drama Short Films, including **Losing the Plot** exploring dementia; bittersweet comedy **Grandma's Funeral**; animation/live action fusion **Junkie Love**; Straight8 single take entry **Help Wanted** about a homicidal granny; **Taxi** exploring life in the back of black cab and my **Lockdown** zoom trilogy

### Branded Content – Dionysus Films Ltd (2014 - Present)

Wrote, directed, shot and edited short films for digital and social media platforms, including wine producer **Sugrue South Downs**; artwork **Uplift**, teaching resources for **Royal Society**; **Open House London: Freemason's Hall, WineGB, Icolube, Million Mile Light**, and online resources for **Plumpton Wine Division**

### Radio Broadcaster – Freelance (1995 - 2014)

Wrote and presented science and history reports for **The Science Show**, Radio National, Australia, plus **BBC Radio 4** (The Frog that Croaked). Operations Manager for Kenya's **Metro East Fm**, plus 350 hours of live shows 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: Member of BAFTA, DACS, ALCS, WGGB and Directors UK

Leisure: Triathlon, viticulture (Wildwood Vineyard), clarinet