

PAUL OLDING

Writer/Director • PD • Executive Producer • Series Producer

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BAFTA nominated (Best Director), multi award winning writer/director and camera operator with over 25 years' experience, delivering ambitious and visually creative films across factual programming, scripted drama docs, serial drama 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 Lighting Cameraman with full 3 camera kit, plus ronin and drone
- Accomplished writer, from series-wide scripts to drama screenplays, to branded content shorts
- Proficient editor (Adobe Premiere)
- 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
- Executive Producer of Dionysus Films, delivering short form narrative docs to a wide range of clients

Selected Tv Credits

Witches of Essex

Writer/Director/Showrunner
Mindhouse for Sky History
3 x 46mins 2024/2025

Gritty scripted costume dramas fused with detailed cold case investigation exploring three disturbing witch trials in 16th and 17th century Essex. Emotional and violent scenes, exploring misogyny, state sanctioned torture, wife abuse, belief systems. **Comm Daniel Korn**

Royal Autopsy S1 & S2

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

Lavish scripted costume dramas intercut 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**

What on Earth (S.3)
Series Producer & Writer
Wag TV for Science Channel
10 x 44mins 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 Intl
46mins 2016

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. **Comms Mark Francis & Carolyn Payne**

Autopsy: The Last Hours of... (S.5)
Writer/Director & Producer
ITV Potato for Reelz
2 x 44mins 2015

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. **SP John Fothergill**

Cleopatra's Lost Tomb
Writer/Director & Producer
Dragonfly for Channel 4 & PBS
46mins 2015

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. **Comms Rob Coldstream & Steve Burns**

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. Including alien sightings, UFOs, strange visions and covert secrets, from the Middle Ages, to the modern day, on Earth and in space. **Exec Greg Chivers**

Monsters Behind the Iron Curtain
Writer/Director & Producer
Pioneer for Animal Planet & Nat Geo
1 x 94mins & 2 x 44mins 2014

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. **Comm Patrick Keegan & Hannah Demidowicz**

How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson
Producer/Director
Nutopia for BBC 2 & PBS
2 x 52mins 2014

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. **Comms Martin Davidson & Bill Gardner**

Doctors
Director
BBC Prod for BBC 1, 6 x 29mins 2013

BBC Serial Drama telling standalone stories alongside ongoing series narratives, covering diversity issues, sexuality, aging and family fallouts. Featuring Dudley Sutton & Jeff Rawle. **Prods Jonathan Philips & Carol Harding**

Wonders of Life (ep 4 Size Matters)
Producer/Director
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Science Channel
1 x 59mins 2013

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. **Comm Martin Davidson**

City Beneath the Waves: Pavlopetri
Writer/Director & Producer
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Discovery
59mins 2011

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. **Comms Martin Davidson & Susan Winslow**

Britain's Secret Seas (ep1 & 3)
Writer & Shooting PD
BBC Prod for BBC 2
2 x 59mins 2011

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. **Exec Gary Hunter**

Wonders of the Solar System (ep 4 Dead or Alive)
Writer/Director/Producer
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Science Channel
1 x 59mins 2010

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. **Exec Andrew Cohen**

What on Earth is Wrong with Gravity?

Writer/Director/Producer
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Science Channel
49mins 2008

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.
Exec Andrew Cohen

Earth the Power of the Planet (ep1 Volcano)

Writer/Director/Producer
BBC Prod for BBC 2, Nat Geo & ZDF
1 x 59mins 2007

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**

The Genius Sperm Bank

Writer/Director/Producer
BBC Prod for BBC 2
49mins 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, having contributors often speaking through the actors. **Exec Andrew Cohen**

Naming the Dead

Producer/Director
BBC Prod for BBC2
50 mins 2005

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**

PLUS

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

[Full Credit List](#)

Awards

RTS Southern **Winner** 2023
EMMY **Winner** 2015
BAFTA **Nominee** (Best Director) 2011
BAFTA **Nominee** (Specialist Factual) 2008
Broadcasting Press Guild **Winner** 2010
EuroPAWS **Winner** 2013
Rob Knox Film Festival Best Picture **Winner** 2009

Peabody Awards **Winner** 2011
SCINEMA **Winner** 2016 & 2011 & 2010
BANFF **Winner** 2013 & 2011
RTS **Nominee** 2013
RTS **Winner** 2010
Saltburn Shorts **Winner** Best Film 2010
Athens Science Film Festival **Winner** 2010 & 2008

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