

# PAUL OLDING

## Writer/Director

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💻 [paulolding.co.uk](http://paulolding.co.uk) 🎥 [Showreel](#)  [IMDB](#)

BAFTA nominated (Best Director), multi award winning writer/director with over 25 years' experience, delivering ambitious and visually creative films across serial drama, high end scripted drama docs, short film, branded content and factual programming, for UK and USA tv networks.

- Accomplished writer, creating scripts & screenplays for HE historical drama, short films and documentary
- Independently produced and directed 12 drama Short Films shown at film festivals around the world
- Worked with a wide range of actors including Dudley Sutton, Gareth David-Lloyd, Georgina Rich, Jeff Rawle, Olivia Hallinan, Philip Glenister and Iain Glen
- Directed productions from low budget shorts to \$5million Tv series to Professional Theatre
- Attended various courses at the Raindance Film School, plus Robert McKee Story
- Experienced with logistics, film schedules, overseas shoots and working closely with HoDs, ADs and Producers
- Wide understanding of risk, compliance, duty of care and legal issues
- Creative relationship with editors and innovative with music and VFX
- Worked with animals and children, plus pyrotechnics, stunts, cars and horse drawn carriages
- Effective leader of large creative teams, driving a positive working environment

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### Professional Theatre

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#### ***Before Nell/After Agincourt***

Director  
Crooked Billets  
2024/2025

Historical double bill set in the world of Shakespeare's Henry V. *Before Nell* - A boy Actor recounts his difficult upbringing before stepping out onto stage as Nell Quicky. *After Agincourt* - Pistol recounts and relives the battle of Agincourt in all its gory detail. Starring Gareth David Lloyd and Felix Uff.

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### Tv Serial Drama & Scripted Drama Doc

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#### ***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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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/Showrunner  
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. Exploring medical ailments, grief and loss, royal households, historical medical interventions. **Comm Daniel Korn**

#### ***Eye Witness D Day***

Writer & Producer  
Rare Tv for National Geographic  
44mins 2019

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

#### ***Albert: The Power Behind Victoria***

Writer/Director & Producer  
Elephant House Studios for Channel 5  
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. Expert insight woven into my 60min screenplay (shot in 6½ days). Narrated by Samantha Bond (*Downton*). **Comm Lucy Willis**

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

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

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

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

Writer/Director & Producer  
ITV Potato for Reelz  
2 x 44mins 2015

Exploring the lives and deaths of **Rodney King** and **Maurice Gibb**, writing and directing emotional and often violent drama scenes (including firearm and drug use) drawn from personal testimony and clues hidden in their autopsy reports. **SP John Fothergill**

**Doctors**  
Director  
BBC Prod for BBC 1  
6 x 29mins 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  
49mins 2006

Wrote and directed 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 scripted drama reconstruction, often allowing contributors to speak through the actors. **Exec Andrew Cohen**

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## Non-Dialogue Tv Drama Doc

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**What on Earth (S.3)**  
Series Producer/Director & 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, using drama scenes showing detective work to help explore the narrative. **Comm Neil Laird**

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

Stylized drama motifs shot on location at Cleopatra's temple in Egypt and along the Nile, woven into a documentary following a maverick archaeologist searching for Cleopatra's lost tomb. 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 130 drama sequences for this 8-part scientific drama doc series, delivering a new and improved creative aesthetic. With alien sightings, UFOs, strange visions and covert secrets, from the Middle Ages through 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  
90mins 2014

Extensive drama recon combined with documentary filming in Russia 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**

**Body Hits (S.1)**  
Writer/Director & Producer  
BBC Prod for BBC 3  
2 x 29mins 2003

Part of BBC3's launch night, I shot playful drama motifs to help visualize the underlying scientific narratives of natural highs and detox, including stylized sex scenes and a salsa dance off with live band. **Exec Phil Dolling**

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**Lockdown Shorts**  
Writer/Director & Editor  
3 x 10mins 2020

Three drama shorts shot on mobile phones and cut in the 'zoom genre' style. **Stranded**: a woman is stuck in New York who doesn't want to come home. **Quiz Night**: an old college friend joins an online quiz but his past actions come back to haunt him. **Writers' Room**: 3 writers share their recent inklings

**A Day, A Life**  
Producer/Director  
15mins 2014

Exploring the strained relationship between a husband and wife as their army son is sent off to war. Shot in documentary style, giving an authenticity and rawness to the rollercoaster of emotions

**Junkie Love**  
Producer/Director  
2mins 2013

Working with veteran actor and poet Dudley Sutton (*Lovejoy*), combining innovative and quirky animation with live action performance for this experimental comedy film, exploring love and lust in a rehab clinic

**Losing the Plot**  
Producer/Director  
8mins 2010

Exploring the tensions of a middle-aged woman caring across the generations, looking after her elderly father (Dudley Sutton), while still having a daughter and grandchildren dependent on her

**Help Wanted, Lonely Boy & Run for your Life**  
Writer/Director & Producer  
3 x 2mins 2010

Three experimental shorts shot on Super8 film. **Help Wanted** was for the linear shot (no edits) Straight8 competition about a homicidal grandmother; **Lonely Boy** is a fairy tale about a young boy who wishes for a friend; and **Run for Your Life** tells the story (in Welsh) of a woman escaping a hidden menace

**Taxi**  
Producer/Director  
15mins 2008

Award winning film set in the back of a London taxi. Tasked four screen-writers to tell 4 stories. From a pregnant couple confusing life with chess, to a man considering a sex change, an overprotective dad and a date gone wrong

**Grandma's Funeral**  
Producer/Director  
10mins 2008

Working closely with the screenwriter to bring comedic elements to this emotional film based on a true story, following a mum and her two daughters preparing for their grandmother's funeral. Starring Anna Savva (*The Durrells*)

**Treasure**  
Producer/Director  
10mins 2005

Debut drama short film telling the gentle story of an old man tirelessly searching for his treasure, weaving vast, stark visuals of his search with cozy home set scenes. Starring Dudley Sutton (*Lovejoy*)

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## Tv Documentary (Selected Credits)

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**How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson**  
Producer/Director  
Nutopia for BBC 2 & PBS  
2 x 44mins 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**

**Wonders of Life (ep 4 Size Matters)**  
Producer/Director  
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & Science Channel  
1 x 59mins 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 on screen demonstrations. **Comm Martin Davidson**

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

**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 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**

**Earth the Power of the Planet  
(ep 1 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**

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## Awards

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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

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## Education & Courses

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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: BAFTA, DACS, WGGB, ALCS and Directors UK

Leisure: Wine making & viticulture (Wildwood Vineyard), clarinet, SA work