

PAUL OLDING

Writer/Director

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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

Professional Theatre

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.

Tv Serial Drama & Scripted Drama Doc

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/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**

Non-Dialogue Tv Drama Doc

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**

Scripted Drama Short Film

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 inkings

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

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| <i>Taxi</i> 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 |
| <i>Grandma's Funeral</i> 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 (<i>The Durrells</i>) |
| <i>Treasure</i> 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) |

Tv Documentary (Selected Credits)

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| <i>How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson</i> 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 |
| <i>Wonders of Life (ep 4 Size Matters)</i> 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 |
| <i>City Beneath the Waves: Pavlopetri</i> 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 |
| <i>Wonders of the Solar System (ep 4 Dead or Alive)</i> 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 |
| <i>Earth the Power of the Planet (ep 1 Volcano)</i> 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 |

Awards

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| RTS Southern Winner 2023 | Peabody Awards Winner 2011 |
| EMMY Winner 2015 | SCINEMA Winner 2016 & 2011 & 2010 |
| BAFTA Nominee (Best Director) 2011 | BANFF Winner 2013 & 2011 |
| BAFTA Nominee (Specialist Factual) 2008 | RTS Nominee 2013 |
| Broadcasting Press Guild Winner 2010 | RTS Winner 2010 |
| EuroPAWS Winner 2013 | Saltburn Shorts Winner Best Film 2010 |
| Rob Knox Film Festival Best Picture Winner 2009 | Athens Science Film Festival Winner 2010 & 2008 |

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: BAFTA, DACS, WGGB, ALCS and Directors UK

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