

# PAUL OLDING

## Writer/Director & Show Runner

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💻 [paulolding.co.uk](http://paulolding.co.uk) 📺 [Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/paulolding) 🎬 [IMDB](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0647848/)

BAFTA nominated (Best Director), multi award winning writer/director with over 20 years' experience, delivering ambitious and visually creative films across serial drama, scripted drama docs, short films, branded content and factual programming, for UK and USA tv networks.

- Worked with a wide range of actors including Dudley Sutton, Gareth David-Lloyd, Georgina Rich, Jeff Rawle, Olivia Hallinan, Philip Glenister and Iain Glen
- Produced and directed nine Short Film dramas shown at film festivals around the world
- Accomplished writer, creating scripts & screenplays for factual drama, fiction Short Film and documentary
- Directed productions from low budget shorts to \$5million Tv series
- Experienced with logistics, film schedules, overseas shoots and working closely with HoDs, 1<sup>st</sup> AD and Producers
- Wide understanding of risk, compliance, duty of care and legal issues
- Well prepped creative relationship with editors and innovative with music and VFX
- Worked with animals and children, pyrotechnics, stunts, cars and horse drawn carriages
- Effective leader of large creative teams, driving a positive working environment

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### Serial Drama & Scripted Drama Doc

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#### *Eye Witness D Day*

Writer & Producer  
Rare Tv for National Geographic  
44mins 2019

Brought in to rescue and complete 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. **Comm Simon Raikes**

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

Writer/Director & Producer  
Elephant House Studios for Channel 5  
94mins 2018

Starring Gareth David-Lloyd (*Torchwood*) and Olivia Hallinan (*Larkrise*), exploring Prince Albert's rise to power and Victoria's dependence on him. Budget of £160k/hour with 60mins of scripted period drama (shot in 6½ days) and sourcing new BAME interviewees. 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 period piece starring Georgina Rich (*Black Mirror*), examining the life of Wallis Simpson from her point of view. Weaving 60mins of scripted drama with doc interviews, budget of £160k/hour. 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 Bee Gee Maurice Gibb, writing and directing emotional and often violent drama scenes (including firearms and drugs) 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 drama reconstruction, allowing contributors to speak through the actors. **Exec Andrew Cohen**

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### Non-Dialogue Drama Doc

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#### *Cleopatra's Lost Tomb*

Writer/Director/Producer  
Dragonfly for Channel 4 & PBS  
46mins 2015

Conducted complex access negotiations with authorities to follow a maverick archaeologist searching for Cleopatra's lost tomb. Used blueprint CGI visuals and stylized drama motifs shot on location 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, with alien sightings, UFOs, weird visions seen in space and covert secrets, from the Middle Ages, through the 20<sup>th</sup> century 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

Combined documentary filming in Russia with extensive drama recon 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

As part of the launch night for BBC 3, my episodes of this 6-part presenter-led science show used playful drama motifs to explore the underlying scientific narrative, including stylized sex scenes and a salsa dance off with live band. **Exec Phil Dolling**

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**Scripted Short Film**

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***A Day, A Life***

Producer/Director  
15mins 2014

Exploring the relationship between a husband and wife as their army son is sent 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*), combined innovative and quirky animation with live action for this experimental comedy film, exploring love and lust in a rehab clinic

***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 different screenwriters to each tell a different story which I then brought together as a single film. 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 (Dudley Sutton) tirelessly searching for his treasure, weaving vast, stark visuals of his search with cozy home set scenes

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**Factual Television (Selected Credits)**

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

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

Rejuvenated, revamped and re-energized this much loved BBC4 brand presented by Alice Roberts, including new graphics, stronger storytelling and better self-shot camera work. Scored largest ever audience for launch (900k). "Absolutely Brilliant" said Cassian Harrison. **Comm Abigail Priddle**

***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**

***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**

### ***The Mystery of Rome's X Tombs***

Writer/Director/Producer  
BBC Prod for BBC 2 & PBS Nova  
59mins 2013

Secured access to the Vatican to make this film presented by Dr Michael Scott, investigating an ancient mass grave through forensic cold case techniques and employing innovative CGI, to name the dead and also shine a light on life in Rome. **Comms Martin Davidson & Evan Hadingham**

### ***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 in-vision 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**

### ***What on Earth is Wrong with Gravity?***

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

Rebooted the dated BBC Horizon brand and was responsible for bringing new talent Prof Brian Cox to the BBC for his first presenting role. Filmed as a road trip of discovery across the USA, developing ground-breaking CGI to visualise 4 dimensional spacetime. **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**

### ***Naming the Dead***

Producer/Director  
BBC Prod for BBC2  
49mins 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**

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## Awards

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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  
Saltburn Shorts **Winner** Best Film 2010

Peabody Awards **Winner** 2011  
SCINEMA **Winner** 2016 & 2011 & 2010  
BANFF **Winner** 2013 & 2011  
RTS Nominee 2013  
RTS **Winner** 2010  
Athens Science Film Festival **Winner** 2010 & 2008  
Televisual **Winner** 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: Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, member of BAFTA, DACS and Directors UK

Full clean UK Driving Licence

Basic French

Leisure: Triathlon, wine making & viticulture (Wildwood Vineyard), clarinet