

PAUL OLDING

Writer/Director • PD • Edit Producer • Series Producer

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BAFTA nominated (Best Director), multi award winning Writer/Director and Series Producer with over 20 years' experience, delivering ambitious and visually creative films across Specialist Factual programming, scripted drama docs and branded content, for the UK and American markets

- Skilled in remote working, recently overseeing two series edited in Dublin & Belfast while I was in London
- 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 Fac, Pop Feat, Drama, Dramadoc, 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, from blank paper to commissioned series, plus pitch polishing
- Experienced with resource and budget allocation, film schedules, overseas shoots
- Helped train and nurture new presenters (Prof Brian Cox, Prof Alice Roberts, Dr Michael Scott)
- Skilled at devising, remotely directing and integrating CGI and VFX
- Proficient self-shooter and now fairly adept at editing (Premiere)
- Accomplished writer, from series-wide scripts to drama screenplays to branded content shorts

Selected Credits

Digging for Britain (S.8)

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

Rejuvenated, revamped and re-energized this much loved BBC4 brand presented by Prof Alice Roberts, including 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 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 plus innovative CGI design. **Comm Simon Raikes**

Egypt's Unexplained Files

Series Writer
360 Prods for Science Channel 2019

Brought in as Series Writer to help deliver 9 episodes of this 10-part investigation series exploring secrets unearthed from Ancient Egypt. Working remotely. **Comms Neil Laird & Hannah Demidowicz**

Secrets of Egypt's Valley of the Kings

Edit Producer
Windfall for C4 & Nat Geo

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

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. With 60mins of period drama (shot in 6½ days) plus new BAME contribs. Narrated by Samantha Bond (*Downton*). **Comm Lucy Willis**

The Red Arrows: Kings of the Sky

Shooting PD
ITV Shiver for Channel 5 2017

Obs-doc following the Red Arrows as they perform a final show in Athens before handing over to the new season's team. **Comm Guy Davis**

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 insightful doc interviews. Narrated by Ivanno Jeremiah (*Humans*). **Comm Lucy Willis**

Life of a Universe

Series Producer/Director
ABC Studios for ABC
2 x 27mins 2017

Developed and directed this 2-part series, exploring the start and end of the universe with Prof Brian Cox. Filmed in 4 days across Australia, interviewing the biggest cosmological names on the planet, and remotely overseeing the edits. **Comm Steve Bibb**

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 & Shooting PD
ITV Shiver for Nat Geo
48mins 2016

Developed this film for the *Smart Cities* 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

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 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 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, 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 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**

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**

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 shine a light on life in Rome. **Comms Martin Davidson & Evan Hadingham**

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**

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 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**

Britain's Secret Seas (ep1 & 3 West & South)

Writer & Shooting PD
BBC Prod for BBC 2
2 x 59mins 2011

This 4-part series explored the natural wonders in the waters around the British coastline, presented by explorer 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 shooting 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 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, 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, with contributors often speaking through the actors. **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

Awards

EMMY **Winner** 2015

BAFTA Nominee (Best Director) 2011

BAFTA Nominee (Specialist Factual) 2008

Broadcasting Press Guild **Winner** 2010EuroPAWS **Winner** 2013Rob Knox Film Festival Best Picture **Winner** 2009Saltburn Shorts **Winner** Best Film 2010Peabody Awards **Winner** 2011SCINEMA **Winner** 2016 & 2011 & 2010BANFF **Winner** 2013 & 2011

RTS Nominee 2013

RTS **Winner** 2010Athens Science Film Festival **Winner** 2010 & 2008Televisual **Winner** 2008

Additional Roles

Short Films - Bongo Reef Pictures (2005 - Present)

Independently produced and directed 9 Short Film dramas, exploring dementia (*Losing the Plot*), loss (*Grandma's Funeral*), lust (*Junkie Love*), homicidal grannies (*Help Wanted*) and life in the back of black cab (*Taxi*)

Branded Content – Dionysus Films (2014 - Present)

Wrote, directed and produced films for digital and social media platforms, including *Icolube* product launch, kickstarter campaign video *Million Mile Light*, *Discover Freemasonry* for The UGLE and online resources for *Plumpton College*

Radio Broadcaster – Freelance (1995 - Present)

Developed, pitched and presented science and history radio reports for **The Science Show** on Radio National, Australia, including pieces on ancient plagues, English wine, sleep and Edward Lear, plus **BBC Radio 4** (*The Frog that Croaked*). Operations Manager for Kenya's **Metro East Fm** plus 350 hours of live programming 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: Fellow of the RGS, member of BAFTA, DACS, ALCS, and Directors UK

Leisure: Triathlon, viticulture (Wildwood Vineyard), clarinet