

Simon Wells

Producer - Director - Writer

t: 07966 164408; e: simon.wells@crazyboytv.co.uk

About me:

I'm an award-winning series producer and producer-director with over 100 credits for broadcast TV - mainly for terrestrial primetime. My passion and specialist expertise is strong human interest stories: carefully observed programmes about people undergoing transformational experiences, sometimes under extreme circumstances!

For Channel 4 I produced and directed *The Big Trip* - four self-filmed one-hours about young people undertaking epic adventures; I produced and directed two series of *Faith & Music* for ITV1 - revealing and intimate films with major recording artists; I produced and directed three series of observational documentaries for ITV1 following helicopter search and rescue teams around British coasts. I've series produced a wide range of factual programming - everything from ob-doc to studio debates to constructed documentary and investigative current affairs: I developed the *Dispatches* programme for Channel 4, *Killing for Honour*, that broke the story about honour killings within the British Muslim community.

I'm fascinated by the possibilities new digital technologies bring to create new levels of interaction, new forms of storytelling and gameplay. As a recent graduate of the Crossover Digital Media Lab, I love the potential this holds to reach new audiences and create experiences that users can access on platforms beyond the limits of traditional TV broadcasting.

I live between Manchester and Leeds. I also have a base in the South East. I'm willing to work anywhere in the UK or overseas.

For more information, check out my website: www.crazyboytv.co.uk

Key Skills:

- Good story-teller with strong narrative and structural skills
- Respected and trusted producer-director-writer of factual programming for all stages: research and development, pre-production, production and post
- Skilled at project development, as former Head of Development at major indie
- Loves working with on-screen talent and coaxing great performances for the camera
- Delivers projects on time, to budget and specification
- Strong factual background with journalistic training and experience
- Team player or proactive self-starter
- Confident self-shooter and editor
- IT and internet literate including web development and DVD authoring

TV Credits and Employment History:

In development/production:

OLYMPIC HEALTH (WT) - Crazyboy TV and Numidia, 2011 - Series development for BBC1
17 x 30-minutes sports health project in association with Wellcome Trust

MEREDITH & THE ASSASSIN - Crazyboy TV and Dream Reality Media, 2011 - Documentary development for Discovery UK
1 x 60-minutes history documentary project

THE FAT LADY'S DAUGHTER - Crazyboy TV, 2010 - Documentary development for BBC4
1 x 60-minutes arts documentary project

COMEDY REHAB - Crazyboy TV, 2010 - Series development for BBC2
4 x 60-minutes observational documentary project

Past productions:

HEIR HUNTERS II - Flame TV for BBC1, 2007/8 - DV Producer/Director several episodes
20 x 60-minutes observational documentary series tracking down blood relatives of those who have died leaving no wills

FAITH & MUSIC IV - Chameleon TV for ITV1, 2006 - Series Producer
10 x 45-minutes interview and archive-based music series exploring the faith of leading recording artists

TESTED ON HUMANS - Chameleon TV for Sky One, 2005 - Development Producer
1 x 60-minutes popular science documentary on human experimentation

TED & SYLVIA, LOVE & LOSS - Chameleon TV for BBC North & BBC2, 2004 - Producer
1 x ½-hour on the marriage of poets Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath

FAITH & MUSIC III - Chameleon TV for ITV1, 2004 - Series Producer
8 x 45-minutes interview and archive-based music series exploring the faith of leading recording artists

LOVE2SHOP - Chameleon TV for ITV1, 2003 - Series Producer
43 x ½-hours daytime magazine series from the Trafford shopping centre, Manchester

KILLING FOR HONOUR - Chameleon TV for C4, 2003 - Development Producer
1-hour current affairs documentary: 'honour killings' within Britain's Muslim community for Channel 4 Dispatches.

THE BIG TRIP - Chameleon TV for C4, 2002 - Series Producer/Director
4 x 1-hours self-filmed travel/adventure stories: Going Vertical (aka Blood, Sweat & Bagels), Desperately Seeking Agharti, Three's a Crowd and Crossfire in Kashmir

BITCHES & BEAUTY QUEENS - Chameleon TV for C4, 2002 - Scriptwriter
1-hour documentary: the making of Miss India

CLIMBING FOR THE FATHERLAND - Chameleon TV for C4, 2001 - Producer
1-hour high-action history documentary investigating the men who climbed the North Face of the Eiger in the shadow of Hitler's Reich

GODFATHERS - Chameleon TV for ITV, 1999 - Series Producer/Director on 3 episodes, Series Producer on 3
6 x ½-hours investigative documentary series: organized crime in contemporary Britain

TRUCKERS - Chameleon TV for Five, 1998 - Director, 1 episode
6 x ½-hours human-interest documentary series: the culture and lifestyle of the truck-driving community

ARCTIC JOURNEY - Chameleon TV for C4/National Geographic 1998 - Producer

1-hour adventure documentary: two men walk unsupported across the frozen Arctic Ocean

UNSOLVED - Chameleon TV for ITV, 1997 - Series Producer/Director

6 x ½-hours investigative documentary series: unsolved crime stories in south-east England

COASTGUARD RESCUE - Chameleon TV for ITV, 1996 - Series Producer/Director

3rd series: 6 x ½-hours high-action observational documentary series: Coastguard Search and Rescue helicopters covering British shores

SHOUTING THE ODDS - Chameleon TV for ITV Yorkshire, 1996 - Producer

9 x 1-hours studio-based topical debate series

CHRIS BONINGTON'S PENNINE ROCK - Chameleon TV for ITV, 1995 - Series Producer/Director

6 x ½-hours adventure/history documentary series: the story of rock-climbing in the Pennines

COASTGUARD RESCUE - Chameleon TV for ITV, 1995 - Series Producer/Director

2nd series: 6 x ½-hours high-action observational documentary series: Coastguard Search and Rescue helicopters covering British shores

RESCUE INDIA JULIET! - Chameleon TV for ITV, 1994 - Series Producer/Director

6 x ½-hours high-action observational documentary series: Coastguard Search and Rescue helicopters covering British shores

GANGSTERS - Chameleon TV for ITV, 1993 - Series Producer

7 x ½-hours historical crime documentary series: London gangland

EVEREST: BLOOD SWEAT & TEARS - Chameleon TV for ITV1, 1993 - Producer

1-hour adventure documentary to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first ascent: narrated by Chris Bonington as a 1-hour special

THE LOGAN RUN - Chameleon TV for C4/WGBH Boston/Canal Plus, 1991 - Producer

1-hour adventure documentary: epic journey following husky dog teams to the summit of Canada's highest mountain

New Media & Multiplatform:

Through my company, Crazyboy TV, I bring broadcast production values to New Media and Multiplatform projects. I've created presentations, exhibitions and experiences for commercial companies, charities, museums and not-for-profit organisations. My clients include Yorkshire Water, Visa Financial Services, Lloyds TSB, KPMG, BT, the NHS and the Benjamin Franklin House Museum in London.

Working with clients to analyse their needs and identify the most effective solutions, I create distinctive projects that work across different media to reach specific audiences with specific messages in ways that will excite, entertain and capture their imagination. My experience working with broadcasters and top professionals in the creative industries means I can put the right talent to work behind the camera or on clients' web portals.

Case study: *The Journey* - the world's first Holocaust education project for children of primary school age. Based at the UK Holocaust Centre, Beth Shalom, *The Journey* is designed as an immersive learning experience for children, bringing archive and personal testimony dramatically to life through high quality AV presentation. The exhibition charts the story of fictional holocaust survivor Leo Stein using a series of video sequences and room sets to depict his life as a child in Nazi Germany and his escape to England. The project was awarded the Renaissance Heritage 'Best Exhibition 2009'.

Early career:

Assistant Producer/Researcher:

Travel and adventure documentaries including *The Yukon Quest* (Channel 4/CBC) and *Hidden Secrets of The Cigalere* (Channel 4/National Geographic)

Current affairs documentaries including *Nuclear India* (ITV)

Arts - *Yorkshire Glory* (ITV)

Scriptwriter:

Travel and adventure documentaries including *The Otter Hole*, *Hollow Mountain of Mulu*, *The Hidden Kingdom*, *Journey to the Jade Sea* (all for Channel 4/National Geographic)

Current affairs including *Moving Houses* (YTV) & *34 Middleton Row: The Jack Preger Story* (Channel 4/National Geographic)

Industry Training:

Crossover Digital Media Lab - *Crossover Play*, March 2009

01zero-one - *Making Films for the Internet*, October 2007

NFTS - *Shooting on HD for Producers & Directors*, September 2007

NFTS - *Introduction to Final Cut Pro*, February 2007

BBC - *Internet Research*, April 2004

BBC - *DV shooting course*, June 2003

Other Skills/Additional Information:

Experienced rock climber and mountaineer

Full driving licence - PLG and motorcycle

Trained in First Aid

Conversational French

Industry Recognition:

Judge at the Kendal Mountain Film Festival (one of my films won the "People's Choice" award the previous year).

Referees:

(Contact details available on request)

Kevin Sim, 2 times-BAFTA-winning documentary director; director of *Climbing for the Fatherland* for C4

Grant McKee, Executive Producer; Executive Producer of *Godfathers* for ITV

Charles Furneaux, Commissioning Editor, *Climbing for the Fatherland* and *The Big Trip*, C4