

Graham Cooper - Series Producer/ Director

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ABOUT ME

An experienced Series Producer/ Self-Shooting Director I have over 25 years' production experience, more than 10 of these working at a senior level managing large teams on a wide variety of genres and formats: obs doc, presenter-led docs, formatted docs, fact ent, features and live OBs across a variety of genres including history, arts, travel, science and current affairs. I have made films in over 46 countries and am used to making films with complex editorial and legal issues. Hostile environments trained I have made films in some of the most difficult environments including warzones in Iraq and Afghanistan, jungles and deserts. I have successfully developed ideas to commission and have a proven track record in taking a programme from proposal through to delivery on time and on budget, managing teams and running multiple edits. I have experience of both presenter and contributor led programming and have negotiated difficult access, including with large institutions, Presidents and Royalty. I have excellent editorial judgement and strong story telling/ scripting skills. When not Series Producing I self-shoot and direct documentary films that interest me such as the **Horizon** Film on Alzheimer's and working with David Dimbleby on **Britain and the Sea**.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Self-Shooting Director & Sound Recordist** with many years of experience shooting on a wide range of cameras and formats including Canon C300 and Sony PMW-750.
- **Drone Pilot** - CAA Approved (CAA REF: 2676) & £5m public liability insurance with own drone (Phantom 4)
- **Hostile Environment Trained** – very experienced making programmes abroad in some of the toughest environments all over the world: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq/Kuwait, the jungles of Borneo and the Amazon, the Deserts of Namibia and the Hampton Court Flower Show!
- **Commercial Scuba Diver** - HSE Qualified permitting diving for work in the UK
- **Secret Filming Experience.**
- **Self Editing** – competent on Final Cut Pro and Adobe Premiere.

SELECTED PRODUCTION CREDITS

SERIES PRODUCER CREDITS (2002 – Present)

A proven team leader, I have managed productions as small as just myself and a camera operator to as large as 6 Producer/Directors, 7 camera crews, 6 self-shooters, multiple support staff and contributors.

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT – for One Tribe TV

Current

DIGGING FOR BRITAIN (BBC4) – for 360Production 3 x 60

July – Dec 2016

Presented by Prof. Alice Roberts. Showing casing the very best of the year's archaeological digs around Britain. Managing a team of Producers/Directors from production and into edits. I oversaw all elements of production including driving the editorial, signing-off VT inserts, scripting, over-seeing the edits and directing both on location and all the studio shoot. Exec Producer: Emma Parkins

MONSTER CARP (ITV) - for Korda Development Ltd 4 x 60

April-July 2016

Adventure-travel series fishing for Monster Carp in world-wide locations (Morocco, USA, Thailand, Croatia) managing a large team on location including three presenters, 2 camera crews, 2 self-shooters, location manager, fixers, etc. Exec Producer: Ali Hamidi

SPECIAL FORCES: ULTIMATE HELL WEEK (BBC2) 6 x 60 mins

Dec 2014 – July 2015

Presented by Freddie Flintoff. Developing & Producing new series (inspired by my original series "SAS: Are You Tough Enough?") I managed both casting and editorial team, finding all SF experts, found & recced all locations, devised the challenges, and on location managed the large team (which in the end numbered over 100 inc contributors).

TRUST ME I'M A DOCTOR (BBC2)

4 x 60 mins

June – Dec 2014

Senior London Producer, I managed the London team and directed films on subjects such as Manuka Honey and Vitamin supplements. Exec Producer: Jacqueline Smith

GENERATION WAR: FACT AND FICTION (BBC2)

1 x 60 mins

May 2014

Fast turn-around, as-live, studio debate discussing issues raised by ZDF WWII drama *Generation War*. Running team of researchers & AP's. Producing Presenter Martha Kearney. Liaising with Commissioning Editor, studio experts, signing off VT inserts and interviewing Polish Ambassador. Executive Producer: Tanya Hudson

BRITAIN'S GREAT PALACES (BBC4)

3 x 60 mins

Nov 2013 – Apr 2014

Presented by Dan Cruickshank. Running team of three researchers/AP's & a new director. Self-shooting on C300 & directing crew. Over-seeing all production processes from script to edits. Managing partnership with Historic Royal Palaces. Executive Producer: Basil Comely

TANKIES: TANK HEROES OF WWII (BBC2)

2 x 60

Apr 2012 – Sept 2012

Presented by Mark Urban. Devised, developed, produced, scripted, directed and edited. Directed reconstructions and documentary. Negotiated access with MoD and Royal Tank Regiment. On location, I led a large team including production, crew and multiple actors/extras. Location filming across Europe. Executive Producer: Dominic Crossley-Holland

REGIMENTAL STORIES (BBC4)

6 x 30

Jan 2011 – Sept 2011

Obs Doc. Leading a team of 4 directors & 2 researchers in the production of films about 6 Regiments in the British Army. Responsible for devising and developing the series to commission and then during the production guiding the team, script writing, negotiating access with the MoD and various Regiments, self-shooting and/or sound on location. Scheduling and budgeting. Etc Executive Producer: Chris Granlund

THE ONE SHOW – TOPICAL FILM UNIT

numerous films

July 2009 – Jan 2010

Leading a team of 4 researchers and 4 directors producing fast turn-around topical films for the One Show covering a myriad number of stories. I was responsible for scheduling, signing-off scripts and managing multiple edits to tight deadlines.

THE ONE SHOW – SCIENCE & HISTORY FILMS (BBC1) 55 x 5

Jan 2009 – July 2009

Presenters: Michael Mosley & Dan Snow. Leading a large team of Producer/Directors and Researchers delivering 55+ short films to The One Show. Managing the relationship & expectations of the One Show Commissioners. Scheduling & Budgeting. Setting the style for the films. Scripting and managing multiple edits. Executive Producer: Anne Laking & Jane Aldous

ROGUE TRADERS (BBC1)

4 x 60

Jan 2008 – Dec 2008

Leading a large team of Producers, Assistant Producers and Researchers. I had to be across every aspect of this editorially and legally challenging series involving secret filming and door-steps, from scripting to managing multiple edits and final post. Executive Producer: Lisa Ausden

GO WILD IN YOUR GARDEN (BBC1)

6 x 60

Sept 2007 – Dec 2007

(successfully commissioned as "Wild About Your Garden" TX Autumn 2008)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES: "Ground Force" meets "Spring Watch" is the best way to describe this pilot which involves transforming gardens full of concrete and decking into wildlife havens and then over 6 months monitoring the different animals that are attracted. Responsibilities included recruiting & running the team; screen testing talent; developing the format; producing & directing on location; editing the programme; liaising with development and the commissioner. Executive Producer: Owen Gay

HOLIDAY & HOLIDAY HIT SQUAD (BBC1)

22 x 30/6 x 30

Mar 2006 – July 2007

Managing the team & presenters inc. Laurence Llewelyn Bowen & Nick Knowles. Updating Exec Producer. Budgeting and scheduling. Deciding on locations. Viewing & signing off film inserts. Assembling programmes. Over-all editorial control & responsibility (subject to exec). Also shot 3 films: Ecuadorian Amazon, New Zealand & Mekong River – Laos & Thailand. Executive Producer: Owen Gay

KICK ASS MIRACLES (BBC3)

6 x 30

July 2005 – Mar 2006

Developing the series. Managing the team & presenter. Updating Exec Producer. Budgeting and scheduling. Commissioning titles, graphics, music, etc. Setting the style of the series. Directing films (including self-shooting & sound) in Korea, Nepal (Hostile Environment), China, Hong Kong & Taiwan. Cutting individual films and compiling programmes. Over-all editorial control & responsibility for H&S on a high risk production. Executive Producer: Alan Hayling

HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW (BBC2) 1 x 30, 2 x 60 May-July 2005
Managing the large production team and multiple presenters. Negotiating and maintaining relationship with RHS. Updating Exec Producer. Budgeting and scheduling. Formulating series content and editorial. Scripting series. Assembling the series in edit. Particularly challenging due to the 7/7 bombings during filming. Executive Producer: Owen Gay

D-DAY: THE RAW RECRUITS (BBC1) 5 x 60 Dec 2003 – June 2004
Negotiating access with the MoD. Devising the content for the series. Managing a huge team – 3 Prod/Dir, 7 Ap's, 7 Digi-beta crews, army personnel, etc. Updating Exec Producer. Budgeting and scheduling. Commissioning titles, graphics, music, etc. Directing. Self-shooting. Setting the style of the series. Health & Safety. Overseeing edits. Executive Producer: Vikki Barrass

SAS: ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH? (BBC2) 6 x 60 2002 – Dec 2004
Devised & Produced all 3 Series. Commissioning music & graphics. Managing large production team – 3 x Prod/Dir, 6 x digi-beta crews, 6 x Ap's, 2 x researchers, 3 x Tech Assnts + managing SAS and presenter. Formulating content. Style. Self-Shooting. Multi-camera directing & editing. Health & Safety (high risk production). Liaising with MoD over Official Secrets. Finding & Recceing locations. Negotiating access. Sourcing military equipment and suppliers. Executive Producer: Vikki Barrass

BRITAIN'S STRONGEST MAN (BBC1 & TWI) June 2002 – Sept 2002
In overall charge on location of the event including managing the relationship with co-producer TWI. Directing links and insert films with John Inverdale and Paul Dickinson presenting. Editing the series.

SELECTED PRODUCER/DIRECTOR CREDITS (2003 – 2016)

HORIZON – ALZHEIMER'S (BBC2) 1 x 60 mins March-April 2016

BAHRAIN UNCOVERED (BBC World Service) 2 x 60 mins Feb-March 2016
Developing & negotiating access to Bahrain to examine its history, culture and politics and how the state survived the Arab Spring up-rising.

ROYAL WIVES AT WAR (BBC2) 2 x 60 mins Dec 2015
Directing dramatic reconstructions with principal talent in this drama-doc telling the story of the enmity between Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Wallis Simpson

VARIOUS PRODUCTIONS (BBC 1 & 2) June 2014 – Dec 2016
Obs Doc - Shut-down of Camp Bastion, Afghanistan
Obs Doc - Tough Mudders
Obs Doc - John Lewis At Christmas

BBC ON-LINE IWONDER GUIDES
WWI fighter pilots with Martin Shaw
"What WWI means to the Modern British Army"

BRITAIN & THE SEA (BBC1) 1 x 60 June 2013 – Nov 2013
Producing David Dimbleby on location around coast of Scotland on his boat. Scripting, directing & editing. Executive Producer: Basil Comely

THE SILENT WAR (BBC2) 2 x 60 Sept 2012 – June 2013

3 years access negotiations documenting Submariners during the Cold War. Producing, scripting, directing & editing. Negotiating access with MoD, US Dept of Defence and former-Soviet submariners. Self-shooting on C300 and directing crew in UK, USA & Russia. Executive Producer: Chris Granlund

BRITAIN'S SECRET SEAS (BBC2)

4 x 60

June 2010 – Dec 2010

With a HSE Commercial diving qualification I produced, scripted, directed and edited the "North" programme. I led a large team on location in Scotland including production, crew, divers and multiple presenters. Executive Producer: Gary Hunter

MAPS: POWER, PLUNDER & POSSESSION (BBC4)

4 X 60

Apr 2010 – June 2010

Edit Producer. I Scripted & Edited Programme 3 of 3. Executive Producer: Chris Granlund

ADVENTURES IN ARCHITECTURE - AFGHANISTAN (BBC2)

6 x 60

July 2007 – Sept 2007

Presented by Dan Cruickshank. Leading the team to be the first and to my knowledge only film crew to film the 12th Century Minaret of Jam. One of the greatest examples of Islamic Architecture it is located in an isolated area of the Central Afghan Highlands. Executive Producer: Basil Comely

PAKISTAN'S WAR ON TERROR (BBC2)

1 x 60

Jul 2004 – May 2005

Obs Doc. Negotiating access to Pakistani PM, Secret Service & Army, Day to Day Scheduling. Assessing high risks (CAT I Hostile Environment), Scripting, editing, self-shooting on PD150 & Digi-beta. Working as soundman with mixer. Filming in NW frontier and Afghanistan. Executive Producer: Sandy Smith

FIGHTING THE WAR (BBC2)

6 x 60

Jan 2003 – July 2003

Obs Doc. Embedded with RAF and British Army and on location in Kuwait and Iraq. Maintaining relationships with RAF, Army and MoD. Identifying developing storylines and pursuing them. Managing a crew & 2 Ap's in a CAT I hostile environment. Self-shooting. Keeping SP updated of events. Editing film. Executive Producer: Simon Ford

OTHER PRODUCER CREDITS

SKY AT NIGHT (BBC2) Exec: Vikki Barras

March 2002 – April 2002

SCHOFIELD'S QUEST (LWT) Exec: Michael Hurll

2002

THE EXPERIMENT (BBC2) Exec: Nick Mirsky

December 2001

ESTHER CHAT SHOW (BBC2) x4 series Exec: Patsy Newey

1996 - 2000

LIVE EVENTS PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – Various Dates

Live Earth, Queen Mother's Birthday Celebration, Trooping the Colour (x2), Crufts (x3), The Cenotaph (x2) Festival of Remembrance, The Golden Jubilee, Queen Mother's Funeral. Large live OB's. Role varied from VT Producer working in a scanner, to directing, to fast turn around edits. It has involved managing staff and on-screen talent; making editorial decisions, creativity and thinking on my feet to produce results. Producing & Directing Philippa Forester & Fiona Bruce during major events. Executive Producer: Nick Vaughn-Barrett

DEVELOPMENT WORK – Various Dates

Track Record working as a senior development Producer devising new programme ideas. I have been instrumental in developing a number of commissions including "SAS: Are You Tough Enough?", "SAS: Survival Secrets", "Red Flag" "Go Wild In Your Garden", "Pavlopetri – Lost Underwater City", "Regimental Stories" "Tank Heroes of WWII", "The Silent War" many many short films for *The One Show* and most recently "Special Forces: Ultimate Hell Week", "Unexploded" and "Bahrain Uncovered".