

SHURWIN BECKFORD

SERIES PRODUCER / SHOWRUNNER / PRODUCER / DIRECTOR

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SERIES PRODUCER / PRODUCER / DIRECTOR WITH WIDE-RANGING

EXPERIENCE – I am a versatile and enthusiastic series producer, Showrunner, producer and director. I am very strong on projects that require observational filming. I am adept at building relationships with contributors and constructing narratives to make entertaining and dramatic films. In the edit I am strong on structure, writing commentary and finding the heart of the story.

As a series producer I am comfortable running teams, planning logistics and delivering projects on budget. I am keen to support diverse talent in the UK TV industry.

As a director I bring flair, creativity and risk taking to every project.

My experience spans factual, fact ents and music.



MULTISTORY MEDIA - Showrunner - April 2023 - Present

FRESH CUTS 2023 - ITV1 & ITV X - 4 X 60 MINS

Showrunner on this new director's strand for ITV1. Giving up and coming black film makers the opportunity to produce and direct their first film. The films will air in October 2023 as part of the channels Black History Month programming.

AVALON UK - Series Producer - August 2022 - April 2023

TRIPPIN' WITH ANTHONY ANDERSON & MOM (W/T) - NBC/E!, 8 X 30 MINS

Travel doc-reality series that sees Hollywood star, **Anthony Anderson** invite his mum, **Doris**, on a trip of a lifetime across Europe. Part factual, all comedy. This series is all about their family dynamic, with some of Europe's most iconic cities as a backdrop.

PARAMOUNT / VIACOM CBS - Showrunner - MARCH 2022 - August 2022

THE MANDELA PROJECT - YOU TUBE ORIGINAL, 5 x 20 MINS

I conceived the creative for this ambitious series for YTO and helmed as Show runner. The series 'THE MANDELA PROJECT' was a short form documentary series that interwove Mandela's impact and the continued influence of his life's work through acts of service.

The series featured 5 episodes, each driven by a celebrated public figure participating in a one-day act of service - bringing together voices from the US, UK, and South Africa. The celebrities included 'Bel Air's' **Jabari Banks**, **Marsai Martin** from 'Black-ish', BAFTA winning **Big Zuu**, former Man Utd captain **Patrice Evra** and South Africa's first Miss Universe **Zozi Bini**. The episodes launched around Nelson Mandela's birthday in July, drawing inspiration from "Mandela Day," when communities are encouraged to partake in projects of social impact to create positive change and show how actions can speak louder than words.

BIG DEAL FILMS - Executive Producer - Nov 2021 - March 2022

ICONIC ALBUMS - BET UK / My5, 3 x 1 hr

Exec Produced this 3 part series for BET UK / Viacom. 'Iconic Albums' featured a forensic deep dive into the making of three albums from revered black British artists from the recent past - Chipmunk's 'I AM Chipmunk', Estelle's 'Shine' and So Solid Crew's 'They Dont' Know. Each film contained first hand testimony from the artists themselves, cultural commentators and contextual archive of the era and times.

OPTOMEN - Series Producer - May 2021 - Sept 2021

HIGHLIFE - CHANNEL 4 (TX'd Sept 2021) 4 x1 hr

I was Series Producer on this exciting hybrid mini-series that mixed documentary and reality, meeting a host of inspirational and aspirational British based West Africans who were all living and designing their lives on their own terms. Challenging conceptions and breaking down barriers. The series aimed to put black excellence at the beginning of the conversation and show how being British and African is undeniably positive and powerful.

SOMETHIN' ELSE - Producer / Director - February 2021 - May 2021

CLASSIC ALBUMS - GIL SCOTT HERON 'PIECES OF A MAN' - Sky Arts (TX'd Sept 2021)

Producer / Director on this episode of the long running music show that delves into the making and legacy of classic albums. The episode I P/D'd featured the amazing 1971 album by Gil Scott Heron, 'Pieces Of A Man'. The album that included the seminal track 'The Revolution Will Not Be Televised. Alongside some 'never before seen' archive. Featuring contributions from Gil's long time collaborator Brian Jackson, Chuck D of Public Enemy, jazz legend Gregory Porter, performance poet Ursula Rucker and playwright Bonnie Greer..

SOMETHIN' ELSE - Director - January 2021 - February 2021

'LIFE CINEMATIC' - AMMA ASANTE, BBC4 (TX'd March 4th 2021)

Director on episode 5 of this critically acclaimed series that asked eminent film directors to choose the films and film makers that have had the most impact on their careers. Amma Asante was the director that I was asked to build this episode around, Edith Bowman was again the presenter.

As well as talking through her list of favourites the episode covered conversations around her own career highlights such as the films 'Belle' and 'A United Kingdom', whilst also taking in issues around representation and diversity in the international film industry.

ELECTRIC ROBIN - Showrunner - Oct 2020 - Nov 2020 - Youtube Originals

'A DAY IN THE LIVE - WIZKID'

Showrunner on a brand new concept for 'YouTube Originals'. Featuring global African superstar - Wizkid. Wiz fans got to spend quality time with the biggest star in Afro-pop, LIVE across 3 hours. We went behind the scenes to see him make music, meet his friends and family and to see him prepare for a stunning, intimate one hour music performance. Achieving over a million views in its first week.

KARMA PRODUCTIONS / CHAPTER 1 FILMS – Creative Director – Mar 2020 – August 2020

Retained to help launch TV Broadcast arm of award winning prod company – Karma Prods. Developed a slate of programme ideas for their new label (Chapter 1 Films) for mainstream broadcasters. Company is focused on diverse and challenging factual, fact ents, sport and music related documentaries.

THE REAL MICHAEL JACKSON (w/t) – BBC Studios - aired March 2020 (BBC2)

Producer / Director, 1 x 90mins – Produced, Directed and co-wrote this authored Jacques Peretti film for BBC2 . Featuring exclusive testimony from those that knew and worked with Michael Jackson, alongside never before seen archive footage. Exploring the life and career of one of the most famous and controversial pop stars in history, looking at his life in the round, asking how and why he became who he did. No clips available as under embargo.

THEY'VE GOTTA HAVE US – BBC2 / iPLAYER / NETFLIX– available on Netflix uk now

Series Producer, (AFL Films) 3 x 60 mins– Co-conceived and series produced this 3 part landmark series for BBC2 and Netflix Worldwide. This series gave over 40 of the world's biggest black film stars and film makers, including Harry Belafonte, Cuba Gooding, Amma Asante, Laurence Fishburne, Whoopi Goldberg, Don Cheadle, David Oyelowo and John Boyega, the opportunity to tell their stories about life inside Hollywood and the racism and prejudice they faced. Filmed on location in US & UK. Nominated for a BAFTA in 2019.

SPORTS LIFE STORIES– ANDY COLE (ITV1 & 4)

Producer / Director, 1x 60 mins ITV 1 & 4 (Hey Buddy Films)

Produced, wrote and directed this critically acclaimed episode in ITV's award winning series. Andy Cole is a mercurial but reclusive Mqnchester United legend, I gained exclusive access to him, his home, friends, family and club colleagues and managers. Featured contributions from Sir Alex Ferguson, Kevin Keegan, Ryan Giggs and Sol Campbell amongst others. Allowed him to speak candidly for the first time about his early years in Nottingham, his struggles with a variety of managers and the prejudice he faced in the game and how he overcame it to become a premiership superstar.

DON'T BLAME FACEBOOK, (CHANNEL 4),

Producer / Director, (Hey Buddy Films) 2 x 60 mins (channel 4)

Two part series for Channel 4, looking at the greatest faux pas on social media sites. From friends arrested on terror charges for a joke tweet, to a model suspected of harassing a celebrity. Was one of three most watched shows on Channel 4 for 16-34 demographic in 2018.

NELSON MANDELA SUPERSTAR (CHANNEL 4),

Producer / Director, (Hey Buddy Films) 1 x 60 mins (Channel 4)

Single film that takes a journey through the life of the legendary Nelson Mandela. It reflects his achievements via his influence on British pop culture with exclusive archive and comments from luminaries like Bob Geldof, Jim Kerr, Trevor Nelson and David Harewood.

OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS – London 2012 (LOCOG)

Series producer (sports presentation), basketball and wheelchair basketball.

I ran the Basketball and Wheelchair basketball sports presentation team at London 2012. The sport presentation team were responsible for all video production, in-venue presenters, sport announcements and commentary, music, audio, lighting and entertainment and the staging of Flower and Victory ceremonies at each competition venue. In effect I turned the Basketball Olympics into the NBA for a fortnight.

DIVERSE NATION, (CHANNEL 4 & SKY),

Producer / Director (Hey Buddy Films), 1 x 60 mins (Channel 4)

Documentary celebrating diversity in television, with contributions from award winning film makers and on screen talent. Contributions from Reggie Yates et al.

BECKII – SCHOOLGIRL SUPERSTAR AT 14 , (BBC3),

Conceived & Executive produced, (Hey Buddy Films)

Single doc film that explored the extraordinary world of Beckii Cruel. Ordinary Isle Of Man schoolgirl by day and huge internet sensation in Japan by night.
Commissioner –Danny Cohen

MOBO AWARDS, 2009, 2010 & 2011 (BBC 1 & BBC3)

Producer, (Done & Dusted) 2 hour live broadcast

Terrestrial tv's biggest and best long running urban music award show. Broadcast on the BBC and presented by Alesha Dixon, Jason Derulo, Keri Hilson Reggie Yates, .
I was asked to reinvent the format and freshen its appeal, which I achieved with increased audience share and critical acclaim from the music industry.

MTV AFRICA MUSIC AWARDS, (MTV Africa & MTV UK)

Producer, 1 x 90 mins

Produced this inaugural award show for MTV Africa in Abuja, Nigeria. Recorded live with huge local and international acts, special guest presenters and dynamic VT's. Hosted by Trevor Nelson. Included performances from Kelly Rowland, D'Banj and The Game.

CHANNEL MANAGER - MTV BASE

(JANUARY 2001 – OCTOBER 2005)

Responsible for all of MTV BASE'S output, including script & project development, talent liaison, forward planning, studio & facilities liaison, pre-prod, staffing & crewing, scheduling, budgeting & marketing. Turned channel into number one black television outlet in Europe.

QUALIFICATIONS

HND JOURNALISM London college of printing (1991)

COURSES

Developing Senior Managers (various management skills 2001 to 2004)

Studio Directing BBC Course 1999 & 2000

SKILLS

Negotiation & people skills.

Excellent tech knowledge of TV Production.

Good Computer Skills

References on request