

# ZOË DOBSON



DIRECTOR  
SERIES PRODUCER  
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## PROFILE

I am a Bafta award-winning documentary and scripted filmmaker. My television credits include BBC 2, BBC 4, C4. My portfolio spans the genres: observational docs, scripted drama, specialist factual, factual entertainment and rigged documentaries. I have worked with high-profile talent, headed-up large production teams and negotiated access to subjects of a sensitive nature. I have a passion for telling stories and am happiest when chipping away at conventions. I have been working in the industry since I was making tea for the likes of Suede and Nick Cave at Maida Vale recording studios, as a researcher at BBC Radio 5's late night music shows. Music and the Arts are two of my passions, but equally I'm fascinated by people, everyday people, especially the ones with extraordinary tales to tell.

### Non-scripted

**BBC Four *Duran Duran: There is something you should know***

**DIRECTOR** Back2back Productions *Broadcast 2019*

60 mins. All-access doc following pop band Duran Duran. The film charts the band's incredible 40 year career, warts and all. Simon Le Bon drops in on his old choir master, John Taylor takes to the LA rooftop of Capitol records to hook up with the coolest man in pop - Mark Ronson and Nick Rhodes dusts off some of the 10,000 outfits from the band's fashion archive. BBC Commissioners **Emma Cahusac, Jan Younghusband**  
*Nominated for Best Single doc RTS awards 2019*

**Sky Arts *Why do we dance?***

**SERIES PRODUCER** Magnolia TV *Broadcast 2019*

5 X 60 mins. A major new documentary series that crosses the globe to find out what motivates and stimulates us to dance. Fronted by the acclaimed choreographer Akram Khan. The series gets up close to the most influential dance forms of our times and the artists who have helped to define them. Commissioners **Benedetta Pinelli, Phil Edgar Jones**

**BBC Four *Christo and Jeanne Claude: Monumental Art***

**DIRECTOR** IWC Media *Broadcast 2018*

60 mins. The artist Christo and his late wife Jeanne-Claude became famous for wrapping Germany's former parliament building the Reichstag with 100,000 sqm of silver fabric. This documentary charts Christo's latest epic work - a floating installation on the Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park. A cast of friends, artists and collectors lend their voices to the film, performance artist Marina Abramović, former New York Mayor - Michael Bloomberg and architect Sir Norman Foster. BBC Commissioner **Emma Cahusac**

**Sky Living *Cybersex, Love & Marriage***

**DIRECTOR** Back2back Productions

60 mins. Everyday an estimated 600 million people worldwide log out of their real lives and into a second life, on-line, where they live out their fantasies through their Avatars. This sensitive access documentary film followed five couples, their real-life scenarios are intercut with their virtual lives, and so documenting the most intimate acts of cyber-sex to the most mundane virtual shopping trips. Commissioner: **Siobhan Mulholland**

**Sky Arts *Lily Cole's Art Matters***

**SERIES PRODUCER** Back2back Productions

6 x 60 min Arts docs, fronted by the supermodel and Cambridge arts graduate, Lily Cole. Intimate and personal portraits of some of today's most celebrated and revered contemporary artists, Antony Gormley, Tacita Dean, Fiona Banner, Christo, Marc Quinn and Gabriel Orozco. Commissioner **Siobhan Mulholland**.

BBC Four **Living with Genius: John Ogdon**

**DIRECTOR** Back2back Productions

60 mins. Documentary on the rise and fall of one of Britain's most gifted classical pianists. The story of the first British pianist to win the Tchaikovsky prize in Moscow, his subsequent mental breakdown and staged comeback as told by his contemporaries and closest friends. Exclusive archive and interviews are weaved together with stylish re-constructions to tell this dramatic and emotionally complex life-story.

Commissioner **Jan Younghusband**

Channel 4 **Penelope Keith: At Her Majesty's Service**

**SERIES PRODUCER / DIRECTOR** Reef TV

4 x 60 mins. In celebration of The Queen's 90th Birthday, Penelope Keith goes behind the scenes of The Queen's official Royal residences, to the four corners of the Union: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Penelope meets the people who are *At Her Majesty's service*, from the Royal herb strewer to the Royal Falconer. Commissioner **Lizi Wooten**

Sky Atlantic **Jews on Bikes**

**SERIES PRODUCER** Back2back Productions

6 x 60 mins Observational doc in which seven motor-biking British Jews and one female Rabbi set off on a 4,000 mile road trip down the East coast of America. Their mission? To re-connect with their Jewish identity. The motor-biking British Jews met Orthodox Jews in New York, encountered antisemitism in the deep-south and helped out in Jewish soup kitchens in Miami. Commissioner: **Siobhan Mulholland**.

Channel 4 **The Changing Rooms**

**DIRECTOR** RDF TV

1 x 60 mins. Rigged observational documentary, filmed inside changing rooms of some of our best loved high street fashion stores, including John Lewis and New Look. A woman reveals her wedding day was the unhappiest day of her life and a middle-aged man talks about his obsession with food and fashion. I oversaw casting, directed the rigged units, and edit produced. Commissioner **Nick Hornby**

BBC Worldwide **Best in Town**

**SERIES PRODUCER** Predictable media

10 x 60 mins. Formatted reality series. Three small businesses compete to be the *Best in Town*. From dog groomers to hairdressers and dance teachers. I was responsible for shaping the format and editorial, for establishing a shooting style, managing the shooting and editing teams, commissioning the graphics and setting the tone of the series. Commissioner **Tracy Forsyth**

BBC2 **Escape to the Country** **SERIES PRODUCER** Boundless Productions

75 x 45'. Produced editorial content, managed team of 40 staff, liaised with talent and commissioners, supported location shooting teams, produced script, ran VO sessions with talent. **Commissioner: Pam Cavannagh (2008)**

Channel 4 **Wise up** **DIRECTOR** Carlton.

40 x 30' Multi award-winning, factual entertainment programme, presented by 8– 12 yr olds. Reports ranged from annoying tap-dancing sisters to third world debt and embarrassing Dads' nose hairs. **WINNER OF EMMY, BAFTA and ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY AWARDS.** Commissioner **Lucinda Whitely/ Andy Peters. (2002)**

CBBC 1 **The Stables** **SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR** Prism Entertainment (2006)

20 x 30'. Observational documentary following a group of inner-city kids at a charity run stables in Newcastle. Producing, scripting, directing, over-seeing editorial content and managing a team of 12 production staff. BBC commissioner **Roy Milani BBC**

Scripted

**THE CUNNING MAN** 2019

Scripted short. Co-writer and director. The Cunning Man is inspired by a real Cunning Man, John Harries (c.1785 – 1839). A modern-day enchanted tale of compassion set on a Welsh farm. Growing up on a farm, death is something you become familiar with, it's forever brutal and in the face of such beauty of the animals it's often hard to reconcile but The Cunning man was an opportunity to play at being a wizard, to do the impossible. The film resonates with Dutch Vanity paintings, or vanitas. Their themes - the transience of life and the certainty of death are key to the film. Cast: Simon Armstrong, Ian Kelly, Ali Cook. Producer Ross Williams

**BA Hons Degree in Creative Arts, Manchester Metropolitan University. BBC Trained. Def 11 Reportage Journalist. The Travel Show BBC2 Researcher. Selected as an Industry Hot Shot by The Guardian Referees: On request**