

MELODY RUIZ, DEVELOPMENT PRODUCER / PD
ACCESS / LOCATION / CASTING / DEVELOPMENT
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PROFILE:

I specialise in doc, factual and fact ent programming. I have strong access skills and extensive experience in casting - particularly vulnerable contribs in films with sensitive subject matter. I am experienced on location, both in the UK and internationally, am able to shoot on the FS7 and C300, and have strong team management skills. I am experienced in developing and pitching both new ideas and projects that have been greenlit but need some secondary development. I am a strong writer with a solid understanding of channel needs and briefs, am an active participant in brainstorming, an avid consumer of a diverse range of TV content, and I excel at generating fresh, innovative ideas. I can cut on FCP and Premiere, have good editorial judgement, and the ability to sense and produce a great story. **I have been selected as one of Edinburgh TV Festival's 'Ones To Watch' 2020.**

I most enjoyed working on the Stacey Dooley films, *The Real Marigold Hotel* and *The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds*, because I had the privilege of coming on board at the start, helping to shape the programme/series, and then stayed on for production. I would love to take on more of these projects but am open to other challenges too.

CREDITS:

Producer, BBC Global News Virtual Upfronts, Ratchet **September - October 2020**

Overseeing filming including securing locations, liaising with clients, completing call sheets and risk assessments and overseeing COVID precautions before prior to and on the shoot. Edit producing the films.

Creative Director, Ratchet: Katherine Nathan | BBC Global News VP: Tim Anderson

Development Producer, Betty **February - April 2020**

HoD: Sean O'Riordan | CCO: Alex Menzies

Producer/Director (shooting), 'Filthy House SOS,' Gobstopper, 5STAR **October - December 2019**

SP: Kat Macintosh | Exec: Rebecca McLaughlin | Comm Ed: Kate Morey

Senior Development Producer, Polar Media **March - October 2019**

I joined the team to establish a television department to produce doc, factual and fact ent programming. I built a slate from scratch, managed the developments from conception through to pitch, and established relationships with commissioners across the major broadcasters. I oversaw a small, part-time development team and liaised with talent and their agents. As well as heading up weekly brainstorming sessions, and conceiving, writing and pitching new programme ideas, I advised on overall business strategy - from the best ways of getting in front of commissioners, to appropriate website content, to projecting departmental costs. *Owner & Director: Joe Kane*

Development Producer, Polar Media **May 2018 - March 2019**

Producer/Director (shooting), Unifrog **December 2017 - May 2018**

Leading the project. Casting, setting up, shooting and edit producing a series of short films. *Director: Alex Kelly*

Producer/Director (shooting), 'The Secret Helpers,' BBC Two **Oct 2016 - Apr 2017**

Producing, directing and filming contributors on location in New York, feeding into a team back in the UK.

SP: Chloe Court | Exec: Sam Bickley | SD: Chris Taylor | Comm Ed: Elliott Reed & Tom McDonald

Producer, 'Brainwashing Stacey: Living with Big Game Hunters,' BBC Three **Nov 2015 - July 2016**

Secondary development: finding contribs and stories, obtaining access to hunt lodges and hunters in America and South Africa, recce-ing them. **On shoot:** producing stories and talent on location, shooting B-cam.

SP: Joe Ward | Exec: Sam Bickley | Comm Ed: Jamie Balment

Producer, 'Brainwashing Stacey: Anti-Abortion Camp,' BBC Three **Nov 2015 - July 2016**

Secondary development: Flew to LA alone to shore up access, find stories and cast characters. **On shoot:** produced talent and shot B-cam. *SP: Joe Ward | Exec Sam Bickley | Comm Ed: Jamie Balment*

DV Director, 'The Real Marigold Hotel,' Twofour, BBC Two - SERIES ONE **September 2015**
 Producing, directing and filming talent on location in India.
Series Editor: David Vallance | Execs: David Clews & Andy Mackenzie | Comm Ed: Clare Sillery

Assistant Producer, 'The Real Marigold Hotel,' Twofour, BBC Two - SERIES ONE **May - Aug 2015**
Secondary development: I worked up the award-winning first series alongside the Series Editor, regularly meeting the commissioner to ensure we continued to meet the brief as the concept evolved. Responsible for researching and developing all content, obtaining access and casting characters.
SE: David Vallance | Execs: David Clews & Andy Mackenzie | Comm Ed: Clare Sillery

Shooting AP, 'Family Finders,' Ricochet, BBC One **March - May 2015**
 Casting, shooting and scripting stories. Researching, scripting and filming social history packages.
SP: Sandy Watson | Exec: Rob Butterfield

Shooting AP, 'Ultimate Airport: Dubai', Arrow Media, National Geographic **Sept 2014 – Feb 2015**
SP: Tom Thompson & Jon Bonny | Exec: Nick Metcalfe

Shooting AP, 'My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding,' Firecracker, TLC **July - Sept 2014**
 Casting new families, filming and cutting recce tapes. Scripting and filming the stories.
SP: Federico Ruiz | Exec: Mike Warner | Comm Ed: Cindy Kain

Assistant Producer, 'The Secret Life of Four Year Olds,' RDF Television, Channel 4 - PILOT **April - June 2014**
 Casting contributors and being responsible for contributor care involving extremely robust protocols throughout the filming period. *SP: Nicola Brown | Exec: Teresa Watkins | Comm Ed: Sara Ramsden*

Assistant Producer, Current Affairs Development / 'Slum Survivors,' BBC Three **February 2014**
SP: Caroline Matthews | Exec: Gian Quaglieni

Assistant Producer, 'Stacey Dooley in the USA: Kids in the Crossfire,' BBC Three **July – December 2013**
Secondary development: obtained access to US law enforcement, cast active and 'retired' gang members and helped shape Stacey's journey. Recce-d access, locations and contribs. **On shoots:** assisted PD and Producer.
Execs: David Vallance & Clare Sillery | Comm Ed: Darren Kemp

Assistant Producer, 'Stacey Dooley in the USA: Giving Up My Baby,' BBC Three **July – December 2013**
Secondary development: obtained access to abortion clinics and adoption agencies, cast teenage mums planning to have their babies adopted, and prospective adoptive parents. Recce-d access, locations and contribs. **On shoots:** assisted PD and Producer. *Execs: David Vallance & Clare Sillery | Comm Ed: Darren Kemp*

Other AP credits: *Extraordinary Pregnancies* (Curve Media, Discovery, 2015), *Dinner Date* (Hat Trick, ITV, 2014), *100 Year Old Drivers* (RDF, ITV, 2014), *Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents* (RDF, BBC Three, 2014).

Development Researcher, BBC Factual Entertainment - BBC One, Two and Three **Nov '11 - April '12**
 Participating in regular brainstorms and writing up paragraphs and one-pagers. Researching, writing pitches and helping to obtain access to institutions such as Tesco, The Metropolitan Police, Downing Street and Manchester United. *Heads of Development: Claire Morrison, Emma Lorenz & Olivia Simove*

Other Researcher credits: *Bodyshockers* (C4, Endemol); *Confessions* (C4, Silver River); *1949 Dole Office* (C4, Twenty Twenty); *Something for Nothing* (C4, RDF); *We All Pay Your Benefits* (BBC, Silver River); *Blow Your Mind* (Nat Geo, Twofour); *Richard Hammond's Secret Service* (BBC, Endemol); *Off Their Rockers* (ITV, CPL).

EDUCATION: BA Honours in Television and Radio (2:1), The University of Salford, September 05 – July 08
 The BRIT School of Performing Arts and Technology, Dance (Merit), Musical Theatre (Distinction), Sept 01 - July 05

References available upon request