

# Alex Steinitz

## Documentary Producer/Director

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- I am a documentary Producer/Director with years of experience making broadcast programmes on a wide range of subjects, from initial idea right through to edit, and always with powerful human stories at their heart.
- Experienced with actuality & fixed-rig filming, and also familiar with scripted Specialist Factual formats, including Science, Medical, History & Engineering docs.
- Many years experience at the BBC, scripting and editing hour-long programmes for primetime BBC1, BBC2, BBC3 & BBC4 - working across the Documentaries, Science & Business Departments. Since becoming freelance, I have also worked on popular factual shows for Channel 4.
- Skilled in directing crew, scheduling complex international shoots and working within budget.
- Also an experienced self-shooter on various camera formats including C300 & FS7. Practiced in covering observational actuality as well as lighting interviews including with mirror-box.
- A good track record in building and maintaining strong relationships with individual contributors during difficult times, as well as negotiating access with larger organisations and then working sensitively within them.
- Extensive experience working with high profile Presenting talent, including undertaking complicated foreign shoots.
- Track record in creating high impact charity campaign films that draw in donations and raise awareness.
- Familiar with self editing on Premier & FCP7
- BAFTA, RTS & Grierson nominations for programmes/series worked on.

### SP / PD CREDITS

#### **SURGEONS: AT THE EDGE OF LIFE S2** (BBC2; Exec Ruth Shurman) **Aug – Dec 2018**

- **Edit Producer.** 1x60 mins Primetime BBC2 programme following cutting-edge surgery.
- Worked with multi-camera footage shot on a fixed-rig, actuality, Interviews and GFX.

#### **CELEBRITIES ON THE NHS FRONTLINE** (BBC1; Exec Helen Thomas) **Jan – June 2018**

- **Shooting PD & Edit Producer.** Primetime BBC1 programme to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS.
- Filming celebrities (Stacey Dooley, Michael Mosley & Anne Widdecombe) working alongside frontline NHS staff to experience the real pressures.
- Self-shooting on FS7 while managing sensitive contributor relationships with patients, the demands of imposing long working hours on celebrity presenters, and on-going access with the Hospital.
- Edit producing 1 x 60 mins for 9pm broadcast on BBC1

#### **HUNTED S3** (C4; Exec Jonathan Smith / Matt Bennett) **April – November 2017**

- **Embed PD & Edit Producer.** Embedded with fugitive contributor on the run.
- Self-shooting with multiple cameras in high stress situations.
- Produced grand finale of main show.
- Thorough grasp of legal/compliance issues.
- **Edited** multi-camera footage to craft compelling 1x60' episode for 9pm.

**CELEBRITY HUNTED** (C4; Exec Matt Bennett / Ruth Shurman) **June 2017**

- **Embed PD.** Embedded with fugitive contributors Steph & Dom.
- Filming with multiple cameras in stressful situations with high profile contributors
- Produced finale of Celebrity show
- Series won a **Grierson** Award.

**LIFELINE – BBC1 CHARITY APPEALS** (BBC1; Exec Ruth Shurman) **2013-6**

- **Series Producer.** Responsible for all aspects of the strand, including managing relationships with the charitable sector and celebrity presenters, and thinking strategically about how to maximise donations and raise awareness. Managed small production team.
- Attended the **BBC's Appeals Advisory Committee**, which had oversight of all the BBC's charitable activity
- **PD** of monthly 10 minute charity appeal films that TX Sunday afternoon on BBC1.
- Directed a range of celebrities from Olivia Colman to Professor Green, some of whom required coaching on presenting.
- Responsibility for Producing the BBC's rapid response appeals for the **DEC** (Disasters Emergency Committee) in the event of major disasters. Sourced High Profile presenter and worked with News to quickly script and film an emotive appeal film screened on all BBC channels. Many millions of pounds raised via these appeals

**OPERATION WILD** (BBC1; Exec Helen Thomas) **2014**

- **Director** of a number of storylines for this Landmark documentary series about extraordinary animal operations presented by Clare Balding.
- Directing crew and some self-shooting.
- Complex foreign shoots involving careful consideration of Health & Safety matters

**HORIZON GUIDE TO TRANSPLANTS** (BBC4; Exec Sacha Baveystock) **2012**

- **PD.** Working with multiple sources of archive and shooting links with presenter Michael Mosley, to make a film about the history of organ transplantation.
- **Scripted & Edited** 1x60' for 9pm slot.

**BEAUTIFUL MINDS 2: JENNY CLACK** (BBC4; Exec Sacha Baveystock) **2011**

- **PD.** A series about the lives and work of leading scientists. Extended interviews with leading academic, self-shooting, use of archive, directing crew.
- **Scripted & Edited** 1x60' for 9pm slot.

**HOW TO BUILD: A SUPERJUMBO** (BBC2; SP Steve Crabtree) **2011**

- **PD.** Series about big engineering that took the viewer behind the scenes to meet the people who design and build the engineering giants of our age, in this case the Airbus A380.
- Working with motion graphics, glossy shooting style and maintaining complicated access with Airbus.
- Filming in various manufacturing and restricted access test facilities around the world, in accordance with all H&S requirements.
- Organising and undertaking complex multi-camera shoots internationally.
- **Scripted and edited** 1x60' for 9pm slot.

**THE BRAIN: A SECRET HISTORY** (BBC4; SP Kate Townsend) **2010**

- **PD.** Series about the dark history of psychology experiments.
- Scripting complex narrative, organising international shoots with crew, working to tight budget and shooting with presenter Michael Mosley
- **Scripted and edited** 1x60' for 9pm slot.

**BBC SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT** (Development Exec Nigel Paterson) **2010**

- Developed ideas & pitch documents for Science docs. One of which was commissioned.

- BANG GOES THE THEORY** (BBC1; SP Ed Booth) **2010**
- **PD.** Shooting and editing various VT films for this popular science strand in the 7.30pm slot.
  - Working to tight deadlines and shooting with presenters
- DIET: A HORIZON GUIDE** (BBC4; SP James Van Der Pool) **2009**
- **PD.** Working with multiple sources of archive and shooting links with a new presenter, to make a film about the history of food production.
  - **Scripted & Edited** 1x60' for 9pm slot.
- HORIZON: FIX ME** (BBC2; SP Kate Townsend) **2009**
- **PD.** Self shot film looking at the future of stem cell science. A stylistic departure for Horizon, the film followed three people with currently incurable disabilities visiting cutting edge researchers around the world to discover if one day they might be cured.
  - **Scripted and edited** 1x60' for 9pm slot.
  - Organised complex filming schedule across multiple locations worldwide, including caring for the needs of contributors with disabilities and life threatening illness.
- BUILDING THE OLYMPIC DREAM** (BBC2; Exec Nick Mirsky) **2008**
- **PD.** Obs Doc on London 2012's preparations for the Olympics, in particular the Ceremonies Team who ended up producing the celebrated Opening and Closing ceremonies
  - Navigated my way through difficult access issues with the Olympic organisers.
  - 2 week foreign shoot in China, self shooting on DSR. Shot with crew in UK
  - **Scripted and edited** 1x60' for 9pm slot.
- ON THE FIDDLE?** (BBC1; SP Ruth Shurman) **2007**
- **PD.** Second series about Benefit Fraud Investigators and those under investigation
  - Maintained complex access with all levels of the Department for Work & Pensions, from senior personnel to individual investigators. Gained filming access with those under investigation
  - Undercover filming & self shooting. Handling complex Legal & Ed Pol issues.
  - **Scripted & Edited** 3x30' for 8.30pm slot.
- BRAIN HOSPITAL** (BBC1; SP Helen Thomas) **2006**
- **PD.** Moving Obs Doc series about Neurosurgery, based at the National Hospital in London.
  - Filmed 3 patients and 3 surgeons over a period of nearly a year, maintaining complex access with contributors under considerable stress. Self shot in part.
  - **Scripted and edited** 1x60' for 9pm slot.
- SUPER VETS** (BBC1; Exec Jane Aldous) **2005**
- **PD.** Doc series about the extraordinary work of the Vets of the Royal Veterinary College
  - Self-shooting stories for across the series.
  - **Scripted & Edited** 2x30' for 8.30pm slot, including the series opener which set the template for the rest of the run.
- GUERRILLA HOMES** (BBC3; SP Bernadette O'Brien) **2004**
- **PD.** Magazine architecture show presented by Charlie Luxton
  - Worked with a very low budget and quick turnaround time. Self-shooting and writing script for presenter.
  - **Scripted & Edited** 2x30' for 8.30pm slot
- LIVING THE DREAM** (BBC2; SP Ruth Shurman / Gabe Solomon) **2004/7**
- **PD.** Obs docs following dramatic tales of families relocating abroad to start new lives. Required an eye for the absurd. **Scripted & Edited** 3x60' for 9pm slot.
  - Filming abroad, working with crew, self shooting, maintaining good relationships with contributors over an extended period as they lived through a stressful period.

## AP CREDITS

**YOUR LIFE IN THEIR HANDS** (BBC1; PD Annie Kossoff) **2004**

- **AP** 1x60' for 9pm slot. Obs Doc following a brain surgeon. **BAFTA** nominated

**TROUBLE AT THE TOP** (BBC2; PD Sara Tibbetts) **2001**

- **AP** 1x60'. Obs doc about Spanish nurses recruited in to the NHS

**WELCOME TO BRITAIN Series 1** (BBC1; SP Colin Barr) **2000**

- **AP** 2x30'. Obs doc series about the Immigration Service. **BAFTA** nominated

**BBC PRODUCTION TRAINEE SCHEME** **1998-2000**

- **AP** placements on **Everyman** (RTS nomination), **Airport**, **Home Front**, **Mean Streets**
- Radio placement as **Radio Producer** on **Front Row**.

## BBC TRAINING

Robert McKee story telling course; Safe Management of Productions; Editorial Policy; Data Protection; Working with Children; Lighting Safety; Directing for TV; Writing for TV; Radio Production, researching for TV.

## EDUCATION

**MA Visual Anthropology** (Manchester University GCVA) **1995-7**

- Course in **ethnographic documentary production**. Sound theoretical grounding but also a large practical/craft component in directing, especially self-shooting. Taught in part by Anthropologists, working directors (in particular from the **Disappearing World** series), and tutors from the **NFTS**. For my graduation film, I went to St Petersburg, Russia, for 3 months to make a 30 minute documentary which won best of festival award at the Manchester Cornerhouse's **Northern Exposure** festival.

**BA SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY** (Manchester University) **1992-5**

- **First class** honours degree

**GODALMING VI FORM COLLEGE** **1989-91**

- A-levels - Maths **A**, Economics **A**, History **B**, Psychology **B**

**BEDALES SCHOOL** **1985-89**

- 9 GCSEs

## REFERENCES

**RUTH SHURMAN – Exec, Dragonfly TV** (ruth@shurman.com)

**MATT BENNETT – Exec, Shine TV** (matt.bennett@shine.tv)

**STEVE CRABTREE – Series Editor Horizon, BBC Science** (steve.crabtree@bbc.co.uk)

**HELEN THOMAS – Exec, BBC Science** (helen.thomas@bbc.co.uk)