

ASHLEY MORRIS

Series Producer & Director

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- **EXPERIENCED:** An accomplished Series Producer and Grierson Award-winning Producer Director, I've made over a hundred hours of documentaries & factual TV for major broadcasters including BBC1, BBC2, Netflix, Channel 4, Channel 5, Discovery, National Geographic, Sky1 & The History Channel.
- **INVENTIVE & ADAPTABLE:** I've worked across history, science, crime, expeditions, sport, obs-doc, medical, current affairs & investigations, & have directed everything from exciting adventure sequences & elaborate drama reconstructions to sensitive access-based docs.
- **TELLING STORIES:** An experienced scriptwriter, I love crafting a story whether on paper, on location or in the edit. My varied background gives me rigorous editorial judgement and solid journalism.
- **STRIKING IMAGES:** Whether directing crews, self-shooting, or guiding others through making their own films, I make stories come alive with beautiful pictures. I'm an experienced and creative lighting camera operator and it's a skill that also allows me to get the best out of other directors and crews.
- **NO MATTER WHERE:** I have filmed all over the world in remote & demanding environments, as well as supporting teams to do the same. I approach every challenge with enthusiasm, organisation & excellent problem-solving & leadership skills.

CREDITS

'UNCANNY' Series 2 – BBC Studios for BBC 2

June '24 – Feb '25

SERIES DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

4 hour-long episodes investigating stories of the paranormal with Danny Robins. Oversaw all aspects of production. Self-shot most scenes including drone footage. Directed multi-camera shoots.

'ICE WATERFALLS' - Red Bull Media

Dec '23 – May '24

SENIOR PRODUCER / EDIT DIRECTOR

1 x 54 min film that follows an elite kayaker's Arctic expedition to make the largest ever kayak drop from a glacial waterfall. Writing the script, directing additional scenes & interviews in Patagonia, commissioning graphics, and directing the edit.

'ANCIENT CHINA FROM ABOVE' – Wild Blue Media for Nat Geo & CICC

July '22 – July '23

SERIES PRODUCER

2 x 45 mins. Exploring China's ancient history & archaeology with new tech & satellite imagery. Building on the success of the first series, secured unprecedented access to use the latest LiDAR drones at iconic Chinese sites for the first time.

Developing a history series with high-end drama recon & innovative CGI that brings the past to life in a unique new way.

'ARCTIC DRIFT: A YEAR IN THE ICE' – Wild Blue Media for Fremantle / CH4 March '20 – August '21 **DIRECTOR / SP**

Grierson Award-winning feature-length film following the biggest Arctic expedition of all time, to understand climate change in the Arctic & what it means for the rest of the planet. Co-produced with UFA & Fremantle for worldwide distribution (over 170 territories). Bespoke versions for Channel 4, PBS (NOVA) & France TV. Winner of the Grierson Award for best science documentary, 2022. Finalist - Jackson Wild Media Awards & the Wild Oceans Film Festival.

'LOST CITIES: MEGACITY OF THE MAYA WARRIOR KING' – WBM for Nat Geo 2020 & 2021 **SENIOR PRODUCER**

Lost Cities special. National Geographic explorer, Albert Lin, investigates the Snake Kings & an ancient Maya mystery.

'ANCIENT CHINA FROM ABOVE' – Wild Blue Media for Nat Geo & CICC June '19 – March '20 **SERIES PRODUCER**

3 x 45 mins. A brand-new series that explores China's ancient history & archaeology using new technology & satellite imagery. Adventurous filming across China. Scanning with drones, photogrammetry, LiDAR & integration with CGI.

'WITNESS TO DISASTER' – Darlow Smithson for Nat Geo Oct '18 – June '19 **SERIES PRODUCER**

6 x 45 mins. A brand-new series that explores natural & manmade disasters through eyewitness testimony, interviews with experts & key decision makers, CGI & scientific analysis. Location shoots all over the world including Nepal, Chile & the US.

'NAZI MEGASTRUCTURES' – Darlow Smithson for Nat Geo May '18 – Oct '18 **SERIES PRODUCER & DRAMA DIRECTOR**

6 x 45 mins. Series examines America's key battles during WWII, combining the exploration of abandoned sites by expert contributors with drama, graphics & archive. Filming throughout the Pacific, US & Europe. Also directed dialogue drama.

'NAZI MEGASTRUCTURES' – Darlow Smithson for Nat Geo Sep '17 – May '18 **SERIES PRODUCER & DIRECTOR**

3 x 45 mins. Series producing as well as directing the first of the 3 programmes investigating WWII on the Eastern Front. Involved filming in Poland, Ukraine, Crimea, Russia, Germany & Norway.

'WW2 TREASURE HUNTERS' – Emporium Productions for History Channel May–Aug 2017 **SERIES PRODUCER**

8 x 45 mins. A new series fronted by relic hunter, Stephen Taylor & musician / WW2 enthusiast, Suggs. With a team of metal detectorists & archaeologists they investigate WW2 sites. Suggs meets those who were there & experiences what it was like (flying in a Spitfire, driving a tank etc.). Developed series format & style from scratch.

'HITLER'S CIRCLE OF EVIL' – World Media Rights for Netflix / ZDF Sep '16 - May '17 **SERIES PRODUCER & DIRECTOR**

10 x 1-hour drama recon docs. This brand-new series explores the rise & fall of the Third Reich through Hitler's inner circle. Series produced all episodes & directed the first. Set series style / directed & oversaw complex drama shoots, title sequence, graphics & Netflix artwork.

'INSIDE THE FREEMASONS' – Emporium Productions for Sky 1 Feb – Sep 2016 **PRODUCER / DIRECTOR**

4 x 1-hour obs-docs with exclusive access inside Freemasonry. Self-shot, maintained relationships with contributors & followed stories over long periods & into the edit. Lit & filmed master interviews using eye-direct, directed crews & drones.

'NAZI MEGASTRUCTURES' – Darlow Smithson for National Geographic & PBS Sep '15 – Feb '16. **PRODUCER / DIRECTOR**

PD'd 2 of 6 programmes. Filmed in Japan, Chuuk (Micronesia) & the U.S including in remote & demanding locations (eg. Okinawa WWII tunnels / Micronesia jungles). Scripted (incl. drama dialogue), commissioned graphics.

'ANIMAL BLACK OPS' – World Media Rights for Animal Planet Jan – Sep 2015 **PRODUCER / DIRECTOR**

Drama recon docs exploring the illegal ivory trade & its links to organised crime & militia groups. PD'd & cut 2 x hour-long programmes. Filmed in Uganda & the US. Self-shot in remote & challenging locations & directed drama shoots.

'KINGS AND QUEENS OF SPEECH' – Twofour for Sky 1	Nov – Dec 2014	LOCATION DIRECTOR (SHOOTING)
Shot & directed final sequences around UK for all episodes of this 8-part series. Observational filming & multi-cam shoots.		
'UNDERGROUND BRITAIN' – Lion TV for Channel 5	May – Sep 2014	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
PD'd 3 of 6 x 1-hour programmes presented by Rob Bell, exploring underground places. Adventure, history & engineering. Scripted, cut, sourced stories, accessed challenging locations in adventurous ways, self-shot & directed crew / drone.		
'YOUNG VETS' - ITN Productions for BBC2	Sep 2013 – May 2014	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
10 x 1-hour primetime obs-docs following students at London's Royal Veterinary College through their final year. Filmed in animal hospital / surgery / farms / vet practices. Lit & shot master interviews with eye-direct & stylised white-cyc interstitials.		
'HARROW: A VERY BRITISH SCHOOL' – ITN Prods for Sky 1	Sep 2012 – Aug 2013	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
8 x 1-hour obs-docs following a year in the life of a boarding house at Harrow School. Nominated Best Popular Factual Programme - Broadcast Digital Awards. Self-shooting, lit & filmed eye-direct master interviews, cut the final episode.		
'SHACKLETON: DEATH OR GLORY' – Raw TV for Discovery	Aug 2012	DIRECTOR (SELF-SHOOTING)
4 x 1-hours following a team retracing Ernest Shackleton's journey using the same equipment, clothing & tiny lifeboat. Self-shot actuality / interviews / boat-to-boat in the UK as the team was selected & as they trialled their replica lifeboat.		
'TOP SECRET WEAPONS: REVEALED' – World Media Rights for Discovery	March – Aug 2012	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
AKA – 'WORLD'S WEIRDEST WEAPONS' – WMR for BBC Worldwide / Yesterday		
PD'd & cut 2 episodes uncovering top secret & bizarre military inventions of WWII & the Cold War using rare archive combined with graphics, self-shot interviews & actuality. Filmed in the US, Canada and the UK.		
'KILLER TRIALS: JUDGEMENT DAY' - World Media Rights for Discovery ID	July 2011 – Jan 2012	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
PD'd & cut 5 drama recon docs about major US murder cases & their subsequent trials. Self-shot in the US & directed drama.		
'THE HEALTH SHOW' - Rockhopper TV for BBC World News	April - July 2011	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
VTs for a new global health show for BBC World News. Filmed in remote areas of Lesotho & mountains of Pakistan.		
'ROGUE TRADERS' - BBC1	March 2011 & April – October 2010	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
Unpredictable & demanding, requiring in-depth knowledge of legal & editorial issues.		
'ALVIN'S GUIDE TO GOOD BUSINESS' – Rockhopper TV for BBC World News	Oct 2009 – Mar 2010	PROD. / DIRECTOR
8 x 30 min docs. Financial expert, Alvin Hall, meets people tackling humanitarian challenges in remote parts of Africa. PD'd & cut 2 episodes / filmed in very remote areas / directed crew & self-shot.		
'KILL OR CURE' - Rockhopper TV for BBC World News	Aug – Oct 2009	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
Documentary investigating the loss of doctors & healthcare workers from the developing world through the eyes of a Malawian surgeon. Filmed in Malawi ERs & villages in Pakistan.		
VARIOUS CHARITY & CORPORATE FILMS - Rockhopper TV	Apr – Jun & Aug 2009	PRODUCER / DIRECTOR
Filmed surgical operations in Finland & self-shot in remote areas of Ethiopia & Uganda.		
'HISTORY HUNTER' STRAND FOR 'THE ONE SHOW' - BBC1	May 2007 – Sep 2008	DIRECTOR
VTs with Dan Snow & Neil Oliver uncovering UK history, often in adventurous ways like scuba diving, venturing deep underground, sailing in a Viking ship across the North Sea, flying in a WW1 plane & a modern fighter jet.		
'WATCHDOG' - BBC1	Dec 2005 – May 2007 & Sep – Nov 2008	DIRECTOR
Investigated, produced & directed a wide range of stories, ensuring they were legally & editorially watertight.		

CREDITS - OTHER

'VIKING WARRIOR WOMEN' – WBM for NAT GEO 2020 Script & edit supervision

'MAFIA' PODCAST – WMR March 2018

Produced, scripted & edited this podcast series. Interviews with experts, mafia members & the FBI agents that hunted them. Was Spotify's Podcast of the Month.

'WWI TOP GUN: REVEALED' – Bedlam Productions for Channel 5 March 2012 Lighting cameraman for interviews

HISTORY PROGRAMME PILOT – Rockhopper TV Oct 2010 Self-shot & mini cameras for flying sequences in a Spitfire

ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

TRAINING	BBC trained camera operator	Health & Safety (BBC trained)
	Registered Drone Pilot	First Aid updated (2018)
	Hostile Environment Training	Final Cut Pro Editing / Avid Editing
	Lighting & Safety (BBC trained)	Sound Recording (BBC trained)
	Investigative Journalism course with Nick Davies	BBC Safeguarding Trust
	Storytelling & Scriptwriting (BBC trained)	BBC Media Law
ALSO...	Driving Licence: Full UK driver's & motorcycle licence. Experienced driving internationally & off-road.	
	Languages: French	
	Special interests: Skilled stills photographer. PADI Qualified Open Water Scuba Diver. Mountaineer / rock climber.	
	Travel: Travelled and worked extensively throughout Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe. Conducted post-graduate research in Kenya and lived in France.	
	Equipment: Owner of a DJI Mini 4 Pro drone, a Canon 5D Mark III, a slider and tracking time-lapse controller.	

EDUCATION

1998 - 1999 **University of Reading** MSc. Applied International Development Studies

1995 - 1998 **University of Brighton** BSc. Hons. Environmental Science 2:1

REFERENCES

Erika Dodd: Exec, Darlow Smithson

Gary Hunter: MD, Wild Blue Media

David McNab: Exec, World Media Rights

Bill Locke: Head of History and Special Projects, Lion TV

Matthew Barrett: Exec, World Media Rights

Cameron Balbirnie: Creative Director, Wild Blue Media

Tom Adams: Exec, Darlow Smithson

Gabe Solomon: Exec, Emporium Productions

Emma Read: MD, Emporium Productions

Isobel Williams: SP, Young Vets