

Jo Young, Producer Director / Producer

Bristol based – willing to relocate short / long term

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Factual PD / producer focusing on science and natural history, adventure, environment. Skilled at uncovering new or unpublished research and interpreting complex scientific concepts to adapt into compelling narratives. Includes work on Emmy and Webby-award winning series and Grierson and Wildscreen-award nominated content.

Key Skills

- Master's degrees in science and film
- Specialisms include casting/development on specialist factual and character-led docs, and working with/directing scientists, inexperienced contributors and talent.
- Extensive foreign filming experience with a network of contacts, particularly in Africa. Work in extreme weather and remote locations, including working with indigenous tribes (such as the Hadzabe, Maasai and Inupiat), translators, and navigating complex logistics such as road-less access, remote/mobile camps plus hostile environment/complicated access with cartels.
- Locations include countries across southern Africa, Latin America, and Europe, plus Mongolia, Australia, Caribbean, Bali, South Korea and within the Arctic circle.
- Valid I-visa and seven years working out of the US.

Select Work Experience

Nov – Jan 2024 **PD/Edit Producer** [*"New Lives in the Wild"*](#) *Chile* S11 - 8x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5

Two-camera, character-driven documentary series presented by Ben Fogle. Filmed in remote environments around the world. Ongoing series work involves work casting and securing international locations.

Executive Producer: Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Greg Barnett

July – Nov 2023 **PD/Edit Producer** [*"World's Most Dangerous Roads"*](#) *Namibia/Sri Lanka* 8x60 – Ricochet/UKTV

Multi-camera, car-rig, vehicle-centric filming in remote areas. Included desert camping. Directed and edited comedic, character-led stories. **Executive Producer:** Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Hilary Rosen

Mar - June 2023 **PD/Edit Producer** [*"New Lives in the Wild"*](#) *Thailand* S11 - 8x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5

Profile on a social media maven turned stray dog rescuer.

Executive Producer: Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Greg Barnett

Sep – Feb 2023 **PD/Edit Producer** [*"Lost Worlds: Montserrat"*](#) 1x90 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5

Entirely responsible for casting, gaining trust of island Government and significant persons plus securing access to only natural disaster exclusion zone in the world. Presented by Ben Fogle.

Executive Producer: Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Ben Frow/Greg Barnett (also see below).

Aug 2022 **PD** *"New Lives in the Wild"* *Zambia* 1x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5

This episode included working amongst large mammals, including big cats and locally aggressive elephants and filming from boats in hippo and crocodile dense waters. **Executive Producer:** Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Greg Barnett

April - July 2022 **Science Producer** *"Pole to Pole"* (WT) 8x60 - Nutopia/Protozoa/National Geographic

Deep-dive scientific research into subjects from human evolution, rituals, Buddhism, happiness, high-altitude physiology and human adaptation to altitude. Spoke to scientists and local contributors to design activities and storylines for an A-list celebrity to illustrate scientific concepts. Bhutan/Mongolia episodes. **Series Editor:** Tom Fulford

April 2022 **Development Producer** *"Suranne's Jones' Witch Hunt"* Renegade Pictures/Channel 5

Jan - Mar 2022 **Producer** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S10 Australia/Sierra Nevada 1x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5

- Oct - Nov 2021 **Producer** [*"Lost Worlds: Slab City"*](#) 1x90 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
Feature-length profile of an alternative community in the Sonoran Desert. Responsible for casting and gaining trust to film people, often with mental health issues, living on the fringes of society. Cast and produced episode that gave rise to series. **Executive Producer:** Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Ben Frow/Greg Barnett
- Jul - Sep 2021 **Producer** [*"Sue Perkins' Big American Road Trip"*](#) 2x60 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 4
Cast and secured access to aspiring vanlifers as well as people/families financially forced into life on the road in the US. California & Colorado episodes. Presented by Sue Perkins. *"A fresh take on an exhausted trope: the celebrity travelogue"* The Times. **Executive Producer:** Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Jonah Weston
- Jun 2021 **Producer** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S09 Portugal 1x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
Mar - April 2021 **PD** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S09 Northumbria 1x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
Jan - Feb 2021 **Producer** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S09 Suffolk 1 x 45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
Oct - Nov 2020 **PD** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S09, Ullapool, Scotland 1x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
Oct 2020 **Producer** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S09 Northern Island 1 x 45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
Aug - Sep 2020 **PD** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S09 Iceland 1x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
Aug 2020 **Producer** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S09, Pembrokeshire 8x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
- Feb - Mar 2020 **Producer** *"World's Most Dangerous Roads"* Lesotho & South Africa – Renegade Pictures/UKTV
- Jun – Dec 2019 **Senior Producer/Edit Producer** [*"Surviving the Stone Age"*](#) 3x60- Renegade Pictures/Channel 4/ARTE. Cast and brought together a team of anthropological and bushcraft experts to live off the land and recreate a stone age tribe in Bulgaria to groundtruth stone age science. Responsible for science content, talent management, authentic clothing and ~ 25 person crew. **Executive Producer:** Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Alf Lawrie
- Feb – May 2019 **Producer** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S08 Sweden/Panama 2x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
- Nov 2018 **Producer/Edit Producer** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S07 Panama 1x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
Jun 2018 **Producer** *"New Lives in the Wild"* S07 Bulgaria 1x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5
- Jun 2017 – Feb 2018 **Producer** [*"Nature's Turtle Nursery: Secrets from the Nest"*](#) 1x90 - BBC 4 - Grierson shortlisted
Originated treatment for feature commission. Brought an international team of scientists and new technologies (robots, bodyCAMS, nano trackers) together in Costa Rica to combine new research and film a generation of turtles during the mass synchronised turtle nesting in Ostional. Co-designed and deployed an 'underground' infra-red camera system to film hatchlings inside the nest for the first time and recorded never before seen behaviour.
Executive Producer: Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Cassian Harrison
- Mar 2017 – Feb 2018 **Producer** *"Our Wildest Dreams"* 4x60 Bali/Portugal - Renegade Pictures/Channel 4
Documentary series following families over 2 years as they move to remote corners of the world in search of new off-grid lives. Maintained relationships and access as families overhauled their lives.
Executive Producer: Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Lee McMurray
- Jan – Mar 2017 **Postproduction Science Producer** *"Me and My Dog"* 4x60 - Wall to Wall/BBC 2
- Sep – Dec 2016 **Producer/Edit Producer** *"Explorers of the 21st Century"* - Pioneer Productions/Red Bull Media House *"Voyage of the Finnmen"* & *"Open Space: Fat Biking Namibia"* Documentary following explorers and adventurers on expeditions around the globe. Designed cycle route across the most remote areas of Namibia.

Mar - June 2016 **PD “Wild Korea” 6x60 - Pioneer Productions/Blue Ant Media**

6-part natural history series filmed throughout South Korea. Stationed in the ROK while also overseeing the research team in London. Included filming in underground lava tunnels and military controlled areas. Series cancelled during production. **Executive Producer:** Kirstie McLure

Jan – Mar 2016 **Producer/Development Producer “A Week in the Wild” 1x60 - Renegade Pictures/BBC 2**

Documentary following three celebrities into the wilderness areas of Copper Canyon, Mexico, to film trekking and the Raramuri tribe (AKA Tarahumara). Set up, fully outfitted and field-produced shoot involving mobile camps using mules in remote, roadless locations. Complicated access with cartels in hostile area.

Executive Producer: Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Clare Paterson

Nov 2015 – Jan 2016 **Development Producer “The Frozen Ark” 10x60 - Double Act TV/Participant**

Presenter-led adventure/science series on endangered species conservation with a focus on conservation genetics. Responsible for contacting scientists and conservationists to develop science and natural history stories across 10 episodes (including marine) throughout sub-Saharan Africa. **Executive Producer:** Rob Davis

Oct – Nov 2015 **Producer “[The Great Polar Bear Feast](#)” 1x60 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 4**

Grierson Award nom. Developed science-based story lines, onscreen scientific investigations and character-driven natural history stories to write shooting scripts. Provided methods of bear identification (non-invasive) and tracking to support ideas. Worked with local Inupiat to facilitate access to Kaktovik, Alaska and the USGS/FWS to access the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and polar bear research. **Executive Producer:** Alan Hayling **Commissioner:** Jay Hunt

Sep – Oct 2015 **Assistant Post Producer “Tony Robinson’s Wild West in 3D” 3x60 - Renegade Pictures/Discovery**
Coordinated 3D archive and graphics commissioning and delivery.

Apr – Sep 2015 **Producer / Edit Producer “New Lives in the Wild UK” 5x45 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5**

Jan – Mar 2015 **Producer “[The Great Migration](#)” 4x60 - Renegade Pictures/Channel 5**

Developed scientific and character-led wildlife editorial for 4-part series on the Serengeti wildebeest migration filmed over a year. Produced natural history and presenter-led shoots with scientists and local tribespeople (Maasai & Hadzabe) to interweave the science behind the migration with compelling human stories and accessible natural history characters. Included animal immobilisation/collaring and remote cameras. Directed natural history unit.

Executive Producer: Natalie Wilkinson **Commissioner:** Greg Barnett

Sep – Oct 2014 **Assistant Post Producer “Tony Robinson’s WW1 in 3D” - 4x60 - Renegade Pictures/Discovery**

Feb – Sep 2011 **Producer/Writer natural history web series including “Wild Oceans” - Earth-Touch, South Africa**

April 2008 - Jan 2011 Twin Cities Public Television, Minnesota, USA - PBS

Producer / Director “SciGirls” 1 episode S01

Line Producer / Postproduction Supervisor “Digital Media: New Learners of the 21st Century & “Life: Part 2” S02

Associate Producer / Postproduction Supervisor “Dragonfly TV season 7: Nano”

Associate Producer “Transplant: A Gift for Life” Associate Producer / Web Coordinator “Through a Dog’s Eyes”

2007 **Producer “The Mongolian Marmot” 1x60 - Montana PBS**

Finalist: Wildscreen, Big Sky Film Festival, Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Jan – Jun 2007 **Producer/Director “Meth in Montana” 2x60 - Current TV**

Sole filmmaker casting and interviewing law enforcement and addicts.

Jul 2006 - May 2007 **Filmmaker** *"The Wolf Watchers"* 1x60 - **Current TV** *Honourable mention for storytelling International Wildlife Film Festival*. Developed, produced and directed 16mm experimental character-driven film turning the wildlife film lens on the wolf watchers of Yellowstone National Park.

Education

MFA (2007) Science & Natural History Filmmaking *Montana State University, Bozeman, U.S.A.*

M.A.Sc. (2001) Environmental Science *University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia*

B.Sc. (1998) Environmental Biology (Hons.) *University of Manchester, Manchester, UK*

Additional Information/training

- PADI divemaster. Underwater field work and training includes: Amphibico underwater videography course; tropical marine research (Bermuda Biological Field Station for Research); volunteer marine conservation and research (Tropical Research and Conservation Centre, Borneo)
- First Aid at Work (2022)/CPR/AED & First Option Safety Trained
- Creative Industries Safety Passport (PSP approved)/unconscious bias training
- Full Clean driving UK & international driving