

Ben Finney

Producer / Director

www.benjaminfinney.com

07828 116835

benmarkfinney@gmail.com

I'm an experienced producer / director, making factual and documentary television for a range of broadcasters. Lately I've series-directed presenter-led BBC2 projects, been embedded on an Arctic expedition, and directed high-end drama reconstructions. My independent doc 'And Then We Swam' won at the 2014 Banff Mountain Film Festival, and my Channel 4 film 'Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship' was shortlisted for the 2016 Grierson Awards.

Directing - TV

Life in Polar Bear Town with Gordon Buchanan (2016) *Producer / Director - BBC Studios for **BBC2***

- Wildlife cameraman Gordon explores Churchill, Manitoba; where polar bears migrate through town every autumn
- Part of the Arctic Live project, broadcast as a one-off on Dec 31st. Reviewed in the Guardian: <http://bit.ly/2kyxBDZ>

Arctic Live (2016) *Series Director - BBC Studios for **BBC2***

- Directed films with Kate Humble & Simon Reeve, about the challenges now facing communities across the Arctic
- Location filming in remote locations: Alaska, Canada, Scandinavia and Russia

Mary Beard's Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit (2016) *Producer / Director - Lion Television for **BBC2***

- Major series looking at the birth, expansion and demise of the Roman Empire
- Directed an episode on religion and the fall of Empire - with filming in Israel, Turkey, France & Rome

Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship (2015) *Producer / Director - Lion Television for **Channel 4 / PBS / CBC***

- Embedded on a successful arctic search expedition for Sir John Franklin's lost ships, in the Northwest Passage
- Obs-doc expedition shoot, big-budget drama shoot, edit-produced both C4 (Secret History) and PBS (NOVA) versions
- **Shortlisted for the 2016 Grierson Awards** for Best Historical Documentary

Britain's Most Extreme Weather (2014) *Series Director - Pioneer Productions for **Channel 4***

- Series about the extremes of British weather - using science and history to put recent conditions in context
- Developed the series, wrote shooting scripts on all episodes, directed half the series & edit-produced one episode

Dara O'Briain's Science Club (2013) *Producer / Director - BBC Productions for **BBC2***

- Developed and directed presenter-led films on viruses, hacking and nanotechnology for this science magazine show

BBC Horizon: The Truth About Meteors (2013) *Producer / Director - BBC Productions for **BBC2***

- Cast and directed a series of interviews for fast-turnaround doc about the Russian meteor strike

Stargazing Live (2013) *Producer / Director - BBC Productions for **BBC2***

- Directed films presented by Prof Brian Cox in Australia, looking at southern hemisphere astronomy

Iceland Erupts: a Volcano Live special (2012) *Producer / Director - BBC Productions for **BBC2***

- Kate Humble tours the volcanic sights of Iceland, to investigate the 2010 eruption that grounded flights across Europe

Directing - independent film

And Then We Swam (2013) *Director / Editor - an independent production for **Festivals / VoD***

- A film about two haphazard adventurers, who rowed across the Indian Ocean despite having zero experience
- **Best Film - Exploration & Adventure**, at Banff Mountain Film Festival 2014 - and several other festival awards

Other production experience

- Orbit: Earth's Extraordinary Journey** (2012) *Directing AP - BBC Productions for **BBC Worldwide***
- A film for the BBC2 / Worldwide co-pro series about the Earth's seasons - filming in Patagonia and Greenland
- Wonders of the Solar System** (2010) *Directing AP - BBC Productions for **Discovery Channel***
- Directed an international episode of the hit series / AP'd Brian Cox's BBC2 series - winning **RTS & Peabody Awards**
- Factomania** (2014) *Producer - 360 Production for **BBC Knowledge***
- Planning and writing material for a studio shoot with three presenters - covering a range of spec fact subjects
- Discovery: Project Earth** (2008) *AP - Impossible Pictures for **Discovery Channel***
- Setting up large-scale scientific demonstrations in collaboration with scientists for this major Discovery series
- Heston Blumenthal: Perfection** (2007) *Researcher - BBC Productions for **BBC2***
- Researcher for science-meets-food series, including extensive location filming
- BBC Horizon** (2007) *Researcher - BBC Productions for **BBC2***
- Quantum physics film **The Six Billion Dollar Experiment**, and **Human v2.0** - about the future of neuro-technology
- **Most of Our Universe is Missing** (about Dark Matter) - Documentary of the Year at the Euro Science Awards 2007
- Krakatoa: The Last Days** (2006) *Researcher - BBC Productions for **BBC1***
- Development and expert researcher role (volcanology) for a feature-length drama-doc, with CGI elements

Development

- Rareday** - *Development Producer (2011)*
- Blutopia Film** - *Development Producer (2011)*
- BBC Horizon** - *Development Lead (2008)*
- Wall-to-Wall Productions** - *Development AP (2008)*

Education & Skills

- MSc: Imperial College, London** (2011) - Global Environmental Change and Policy
- PhD: University of Bristol** (2004) - investigating eruptions of a volcano in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska
- BSc Geology: University of Edinburgh** (1999)
- Clean Driving Licence** / **Basic French** / **Planning Shoots in Remote Locations** / **Med-evac training**
- Self shooting:** 5D, A7s, C300, etc. **Editing:** Final Cut Pro (7 & X), Avid

References

Available on request:

- Richard Bradley** - MD, Lion Television
Sarah Gibbs - Series Producer, BBC Studios
Lisa Ausden - Executive Producer, BBC Studios
Stephen Marsh - Executive Producer, Pioneer Productions