

John Joe Bardsley

Showrunner/Series Producer

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Profile

I am a creative documentary Showrunner who started my career as an obs doc film maker on series including the award-winning **Welcome to Rio** and acclaimed returning series, **My Big Fat Gypsy Weddings**, **Drugs Inc.** But more recently I've scaled up those skills and combined them with entertainment to run some of the most successful and ambitious shows on television, BAFTA winner **The Island**, **Hunted**, **Tempting Fortune**. My work can be seen on SVODs (Netflix, Roku, Nat Geo, Discovery Plus) and UK terrestrial broadcasters (Channel Four, ITV, BBC). My vision is to produce premium television with cinematic ambition, while following intimate documentary style unfolding narratives, that surprise, emotionally engage and entertain.

Selected Credits

2022 – 23

Voltage TV: Tempting Fortune – Channel 4 & Roku – Execs: Sanjay Singhal, Jon Crisp

Showrunner x 6 eps Hybrid series combining adventure documentary with social experiment, asking whether we can put off our immediate desires for a long-term goal. Involved hiring and managing a complex hybrid team of entertainment producers and documentary film makers. I led the story team, directing them to the key narrative developments and shaped the episode and series arcs in the edit, on this first series.

2021 - 22

Box to Box: Drive to Survive – Netflix – Series Editor: Cassie Bennett

Edit Producer 2 x 1 hour Edit Produced the season final 410, following Max Verstappen's controversial first championship win, in the final race of the season. Plus troubleshooting episode 402, which had run into difficulty.

2021

Optomen: Johnny vs. Amber – Discovery + - Exec Producer: Nick Hornby

Senior Edit Producer 2 x 1 hour These films follow the couple's marriage and breakdown, told through Depp's High Court defamation trail. I reworked both films, shaping extensive archive, interview and the films narrative arcs, in these retrospectives, which ultimately led to more commissions for Optomen.

2020

Shine: Britain Underwater – ITV – Execs: Tom Williams, Lana Salah, Tim Whitwell

Producer/Director x 1 ep Maintained complex access to Environment Agency. I was reactive to changing weather and quickly gained access several families as the water entered their homes, in this unfolding documentary. Having directed the film on location, I oversaw two edits until delivery.

2019

Shine: The Heist – Sky One – Execs: Matt Bennett, Tim Whitwell

Senior Producer x 6 eps Brought in to focus the films narratives in the edit, in this real life bank heist.

2016 - 19

Shine: Hunted – Channel 4

Took a number of roles on this epic doc series where 10 normal Brits go on the run. Including:

- **2019 Civilian S5 Execs: Tom Fulford, Tom Williams**
Series Producer x 6 eps I was key in hiring the editorial crew, finding an entertaining cast, spectacular locations for launch and extraction, including landing a helicopter on the Bullring shopping center. I guided the narrative during the shoot and episodes, through to final post.
- **2018 Celebrity S2 – Execs: Nicola Brown, Tom Williams**
Series Producer x 6 eps 8 Celebrities go on the run for Stand Up 2 Cancer. As well as managing the casting of celebrities, I gained access to The Tower of London for launch and Fawley Power Station for extraction. I also guided the directors editorial during the shoot, taking eps through to final post.

- **2016 Civilian S2 – Execs: Matt Bennett, Nicola Brown**
Senior Producer x 6 eps As well as working on the shoot, I helped establish some key format points in the edit, carried through to other edits, for the second series.

2014 – 17

Shine: The Island – Channel 4

I took a number of roles on obs doc adventure series set on an insect infested Panamanian island. Including:

- **2017 Celebrity S2 – Execs: Ben Mitchel, Tim Whitwell**
Series Producer x 6 eps 10 Celebrities, 28 days, 1 tropical island, what can go wrong? Created creative bible and in-depth training for embedded crew, revamped editorial structure and edit. Oversaw talent booking, hiring of editorial crew, shoot and episodes through to final post.
- **2016 Civilian S4 – Execs: Nicola Brown, Tim Whitwell**
Senior Producer x 6 eps Helped exec manage attempted abandonment of the island by all cast, during a hurricane and the expulsion of embedded director, in this highly challenging series.
- **2015 Civilian S3 – Execs: Alf Lawrie, Tim Whitwell**
Producer/Director Directed backstories, story produced on location and edit produced.
- **2014 Civilian S2 – Execs: Ben Mitchell, Tim Whitwell**
Producer/Director Directed back-stories, story produced on location and edit produced.

2015

Wall to Wall: Underworld Inc: The Money Laundry – NatGeo – SP: Tom Willis

Edit Produced. Followed the dirty drug dollars from American trap houses, wholesalers and transporters, funneling billions into Mexico's money laundry. Structured complex narrative with archive, recon and present-day narrative.

2013

Keo Films: Welcome to Rio - BBC2 – Exec: Will Anderson

Producer/director. I shot this obs doc in Rio de Janeiro's favelas. We followed contributors as they showed inventiveness and creativity to make money, while living in some of the world's most violent favelas. Gained access to favelas and drugs gangs, while filming with regular citizens, during police incursions and gunfights.

2012

Wall to Wall: Drugs Inc. S3 - Hawaii and Detroit – NatGeo - SP: Tom Willis

Producer/Director 2 x 1 hour. In Hawaii I followed a user from addiction into rehab. In Detroit we explored how drugs trap the dealers, as well as users. Filming inside trap houses, crack dens and with multiple American law enforcement agencies, as they played a game of cat and mouse in Motown.

2011

Firecracker Films: My Mom is Obsessed - Discovery Channel – Exec: Mark Soldering

Producer/Director 2 x 1 hours. Followed mothers and daughters as they fought to overcome obsessive behavior. My sizzle, led to the commission of this 6-part series.

2010

Firecracker Films: Big Fat Gypsy Weddings - Channel 4 - Exec: Jess Wilkins

Producer/Director. Followed married couple Josie and Swanley, as they revealed Josie was pregnant.

2009

Popkorn TV: Football Behind Bars - Sky One – Exec: Simon Ford

Producer/Director 2 x 1 hour Maintained access to prisoners in difficult circumstances within Portland Young Offenders Institute, following their stories, as Ian Wright tries to rehabilitate them in this social experiment.

2007

Shiver: The Boy Who Can Never Grow Old – Five – Exec: Ollie Tait

Producer/Director intimate documentary about 19-year-old Stuart Wickison with Muscular Dystrophy. Crafted the narrative, as he left his special school for an able bodied art college. I managed complex access to Treloar's School for the severely disabled in Hampshire.

2006

Firecracker Films: The Man With No Past – Five – Exec: Mark Soldering

Producer/Director Documentary about 25-year-old David who walked into A&E having developed a rare form of amnesia – a dissociative fugue – where he could no longer remember his identity. Retrospective mixed with present tense narrative.