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JESS KELLY

Multi-award winning Producer & Director

- Decade of experience making investigative and character led documentaries for BBC1, BBC2, BBC3, BBC Arabic, Channel 4 & Vice.
- BAFTA nominated, winner of 2 x RTS, Rory Peck, One World Media, Amnesty, British Journalism, DIG & Foreign Press awards.
- Arabic speaker with extensive experience filming in challenging environments including the West Bank, Iraq, Syria, Sudan & Saudi Arabia.
- Cinematic self-shooter & always take my films through to the edit.
- Impact driven; 'Under Poisoned Skies' (2022) provided grounds for first ever lawsuit against BP over its gas flaring practices in Iraq.

2024 Shooting Producer Director & Narrator - [Big Brands Green Claims Uncovered](#) (1 x 60) BBC1 Panorama/David Modell Productions

- Investigates global carbon credit market exposing human rights abuses & corruption at the heart of the carbon offsetting business

Executive Producer: Tom Stone

Series Producer: Karen Wightman

2024 Producer Director - [American Mercenaries: Killing in Yemen](#) (1 x 60) BBC2/BBC Eye

- Uncovers UAE's secret training programme which uses American mercenaries to conduct targeted assassinations of its political enemies in Yemen.
- Reported by Nawal Al-Maghafi

Executive Producer: Monica Garnsey

Commissioner: Christopher Mitchell

2022 Shooting Producer Director - [Under Poisoned Skies](#) (1 x 60) BBC Arabic/BBCiPlayer

- Investigates the toxic impact of pollution by big oil companies such as BP in Southern Iraq.
- Won 7 awards: RTS, Rory Peck Sony Impact (judges: "The casting, cinematography and storytelling was stunning – at once intimate and universal, quiet and deafening), One World Media, AIB, British Journalism, DIG & Foreign Press Award. Nominated for an Amnesty Award, Society of Editors' Media Freedom Award & Broadcast Award
- 7 x screenings at COP27 including by the WHO
- Led to the main character's father confronting BP's CEO over his son's death at the company's AGM, and first ever lawsuit against BP over its gas flaring practices

Executive Producer: Rosie Garthwaite

Commissioner: Mustafa Khalili

2021 Shooting Producer Director - [India's Rape Scandal](#) (1 x 60) PBS Frontline/Channel 4

- Investigates two of the most high-profile and brutal rape cases in India documentary revealing corruption among police and politicians
- Reported by Ramita Navai
- Nominated for a Rose D'or, picked as Guardian film of the year

Executive Producer: Eamonn Mathews

Commissioner: Louisa Compton

"Horrendous, harrowing, unflinching" The Guardian

2020 Shooting Producer Director - [The Schools that Chain Boys](#) (1 x 60) BBC Arabic/BBC2

- 18-month investigation uncovering systemic child abuse inside 23 Islamic schools in Sudan; with boys as young as five years old routinely chained, shackled and beaten by the "sheikhs" in charge of the schools.

- Winner of RTS Award, Amnesty Award, ARIJ Gold award & One World Media New Voice Award, Special Commendation at Grierson awards, nominated for a BAFTA (Emerging Talent: Factual) and Peabody award.
- Prompted the Sudanese government to issue a new law prohibiting the beating of children in educational institutions.

Executive Producer: Simon Cox

Commissioner: Mustafa Khalili

2020 Shooting Producer Director & Narrator - [Silicon Valley's Online Slave Market](#) (1 x 60) BBC Arabic/BBC2

- Undercover investigation exposing the secret online trade of domestic workers in the Gulf via apps such as Instagram
- Nominated for a Broadcast Award and a BAFTA in the Emerging Talent: Factual category
- Screened at the UN and in British Parliament, led to changes in Kuwaiti law

Executive Producer: Rosie Garthwaite

Commissioner: Mustafa Khalili

2019 Shooting Producer Director - [Inside the Real Saudi Arabia](#) (1 x 60) BBC1, BBC3/TI Productions

- British fashion stylist Basma Khalifa returns to Saudi Arabia where she was born, to see how much recent reforms have improved women's rights.

Executive Producer: Miki Mistrati

Commissioner: Gian Quaglieni

2018 Director - [Palestine Underground](#) (1 x 30) Boiler Room

- Documents the resilience of a burgeoning music scene in Palestine following DJs, rappers and producers undeterred and fuelled by the occupation, building bridges between communities in the West Bank, Haifa and Jaffa through a shared sound and identity.

2016-17 Shooting Producer Director, Unreported World: [Africa's Superstar Gladiators](#), [Rebuilding Generation War](#), [Putin's Family Values](#), [The Fish Bombers](#) (4 x 30) Quicksilver/— Channel 4

- Produced and directed four episodes of Unreported World in Senegal, Iraq, Russia and Indonesia.

Executive Producer: Eamonn Mathews

Series Producer: Monica Garnsey, Commissioner: Siobhan Sinnerton

2016 Shooting Producer Director - [Stacey Dooley in Greece: Migrant Kids in Crisis](#) (1 x 30) BBC3/BBC Belfast

- Follows unaccompanied children on the migrant trail in Greece as they flee wars and seek new lives in Western Europe.

Executive Producer: Adam Jessel

2016-17 Director - [States of Undress](#) (4 x 60) Viceland/HBO

- Flagship series filmed in Palestine (West Bank & Gaza), the DRC, Russia and China exploring identity issues the fashion industry often ignores. Winner of 'Special Reporting' award at New York Front Page Awards

2013 Assistant Producer - [Sex: My British Job](#) (1 x 90) Channel 4/Nick Broomfield Productions

- Investigative journalist Hsiao-Hung Pai poses as a housekeeper to film secretly in brothels across London.

'Amid all the mediocrity on television, it is programmes like this that remind you why it can be such a powerful force for good' The Times

EDUCATION: University of Oxford, Arabic and Islamic Studies (2007-11), Central St. Martins, Art Foundation (2006-7)

REFEREES: Mustafa Khalili, Monica Garnsey, Siobhan Sinnerton