

SALVATORE ASSENZA
Series Director - Producer / Director - Edit Producer
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PROFILE:

D.O.B: July 1975

I'm a Series Director / PD who shoots on all industry level cameras. As an SD, I've worked closely with Execs and SPs to create a distinct shooting style and establish a unique look for each project. I also enjoy motivating and monitoring more junior team members in order to maintain high standards for each project I'm a part of. As a PD, I have a strong documentary and factual background with experience in single narrative access docs as well as multi-character driven obs docs. Through my CV, I can demonstrate the ability to tell compelling human stories and the ability to negotiate sensitive access within organisations like the police and other authorities and institutions. I'm fluent in Italian, Spanish, German and basic French and have extensive foreign filming experience- including South and North Africa, South and Central America and almost every country in Europe.

CAREER HISTORY:

Ricochet
Producer Director



2018 May/Sept – Channel 4 “Food Unwrapped” 10 x 30min. Prime Time

Jimmy Doherty, Kate Quilton and Matt Tebbutt present the food and science series that travels the world to lift the lid on what's really in the food we eat. I worked closely with a team of 6 researchers to find creative ways of illustrating complicated science in an entertaining and yet informative way. Being in its 8th series, I tried to freshen up the travelogue element of the show in order to give it a fresher feel without losing the original flair which has made it so successful over the years.

SP: Hannah Assenza / Exec: Claire Cadman

Spun Gold TV
Series Director
Edit Producer



2018 Jan/June – Channel 5 “When Kids Kill” 6 x 60min. Prime Time

Documentary series exploring the stories of Britain's most high-profile child killers.

I was in charge of the team of researchers, APs and PDs who worked hard to find new stories, and guided them through the process of securing access to highly sensitive stories. Being in its third series my main objective was to revamp the series to give it a fresh and enticing feel. I established visual and shooting styl guidelines for PDs and APs to use to achieve the look we were after. I've also taken several episodes through the edit.

SP: Jared Wright / Exec: Bridge Boseley

ITN
Producer Director



2017 Sep/Dec – Channel 5 “8 Years Old and Smuggling Drugs” 1 x 60min. Prime Time

Authored single documentary exploring county lines- the relatively new trend about gangs using kids to move drugs around the UK. To be able to tell the full story I was able to IV young teenage gang members who run their own county line, a middleclass mother who's child is in a gang, an ex-cop who worked for 15yrs undercover infiltrating gangs, an MP who's trying to change the law, and we also filmed an active drug raid.

Exec: Bernie Kay

Boundless
Series Director



2017 April / August – UK TV “The Secrets in My Family” 6 x 60min. Prime Time

Presenter led, new obs doc series, which follows the journeys of people who through DNA analysis- found lost family members. I was honored to earn the trust of our contributors in order to tell their very personal secrets, and I was able to follow them closely as a dream of a lifetime came true for each of them. I really enjoyed coming up with ideas to differentiate this obs doc from similar formats and translating these into format points.

SP: Kate Farnaby / Exec: Kat Lennox

The Connected Set
Self-Shooting
Producer/Director



2017 Feb / April – Channel 5 “Where There's Blame, There's A Claim”. Prime Time

First series of a new access led Obs doc format showcasing some of the UKs Personal Injury stories. In a limited time frame, I had to win over the trust of our contributors to allow the series to include heartwarming and honest interviews of people sharing one of the most frightening moments of their lives. To help the visual narrative for all reconstruction scenes, I used different lenses, which made the transition from set IV to Recon visually stylized.

SP: Patricia O'Leary / Exec: Jason Mitchell

ITN Productions
Series Director



2016 May / September – BBC 1 “Going Back -Giving Back”. 15 x 60min

Brand new presenter led BBC format where ordinary members of the public will positively change the lives of others by giving them the gift of a lifetime. To better narrate each backstory, we used ITN's historical archive- which allowed us to tell a wider social history. Being a first series, I established shooting style and key format points which emerged during filming. I was in charge of a team of casting producers, APs and researchers.

SP: Michelle Heeley / Exec: Bernie Kay

**Tern TV
PD**



2016 March – Channel 4 “How to Stay Well” Pilot. Prime Time

New item led, factual entertainment show which investigates medical headlines.

I worked with the exec to create a format style and simple but effective visual ideas to explain complex science. I also helped new onscreen presenters to develop their character for the show.

Exec: Paula Campion

**CTVC
Shooting PD**



2015 Sept – 2016 Feb - Discovery “Separated at Birth” 7 x 60min. Prime Time

New documentary series following the emotional and surprising stories of families reunited years after being adopted, abandoned, stolen or switched at birth.

SP: Caroline Matthews / Exec: Leonie Hutchinson

**Princess P.
PD / EP**



2015 January / May - Sky One “O.A.P. Internet Virgins” 2 x 30min. Prime Time

A brand new observational documentary which aims to close the generation gap by bringing together YouTube sensations with the older generation. I filmed two episodes and took one through the edit.

SP: Lyn Rowatt / Exec: Will Spokes / Katie Le Corr

**Crackit P.
PD**



2014 Nov/Jan - Channel 5 “Britain’s Biggest Family At Christmas” 1 x 60min. Prime T.

Part of a 4 x 60min series, which explores the lives of people facing an emotionally challenging festive period. My episode focused on the effort that these families have to go through during this busy and demanding period.

SP: Adrian Padmore / Exec: Fintan Maguire

**Ricochet
PD**



2014 June / November - Channel 4 “Food Unwrapped” 12 x 30min. Prime Time

Food science series fronted by Jimmy Doherty, Kate Quilton and Matt Tebbutt, which explores the ways, our favorite foods are made. I organized and over saw shoots in Italy, Spain, South & North Africa, Brazil and the Amazon Forest.

SP: Claire Cadman / Exec: Simon Knight

**Raw
Shooting LD**



2014 March / May - Discovery “Inside the Vatican’s Vault” 1 x 60min. Prime Time

Single documentary following some key figures inside the Vatican as they prepare for one of the most challenging events in the church’s recent history- the canonization of two popes. I also managed to get access to the Italian and Vatican police as well as the Swiss Guards.

Producer: Natascha McQueen / Exec: Jane Bevan

**BBC
Shooting
PD / EP**



2013 Sep / Jan 2014 - BBC Three “The Invasion of the Job Snatchers” 6 x 1h. Prime T

Brand new documentary series following a social experiment which brought together the young and the old generation. Ten young people got a chance of finding employment through an internship offered from senior business owners in Christchurch. I also took one episode through a 4 weeks edit.

SP: Sebastian Grant / Exec: Sally Saunders

2013	Arrow Media	Travel Channel	Shooting PD	“Border Rico”
2013	Leopard Films	BBC 1	Shooting PD	“Street Patrol UK”
2012 / 2013	Optomen	Channel 4	Shooting PD	“Britain’s Secret Shoppers”
2012	ITV	Channel 5	Shooting PD	“Frontline Police”
2011	Splash Media	UKTV	Shooting PD	“Marbella Mansions”
2011	Renegade Pictures	TLC	PD	“Driving me Crazy”
2011	12 Yard	Channel 4	DV D/ EP	“Coach Trip”
2010	ITV Studios	Living TV	PD	“Party Wars”
2009	12 Yard	Channel 4	DV D /EP	“Coach Trip”
2009	Maverick	Channel 4	DV Director	“How to look Good Naked”
2009	Splash Media	UKTV Style	PD	“Fantasy Homes by the Sea”
2008	Splash Media	UKTV Style	DV Director	“Fantasy Homes & Celebrity Homes”
2008	Shiver Productions	Channel 5	AP	“Property List- Perfect Village”
2008	True North	ITV 1	AP	“The John Darwin Story”
2007	Freeform	Channel 4	Develop AP	
2007	BBC 1	BBC1	AP	“The One Show”
2004 / 2007	Freeform	Channel 4	AP	“A Place in the Sun”
2003	Wall to Wall	Channel 4	Researcher	“Joe Millionaire”
2003	Vertigo Films	Cinema	Runner	“It’s All Gone Pete Tong”
1999	Rai	Rai Uno	Set Runner	“Inspector Montalbano”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- IVisa
- DV Talent Training: Self-Shooting Directing and Final Cut Pro
- Open water PADI and under water filming experience
- Degree in Hotel Management
- Clean Driving License (1993)
- I enjoy sky-diving and other extreme sports, cinema, photography, cooking and music.