

## **SHANI GREWAL - Writer/Director**

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**Profile:** A professional Film and TV Writer/Director with a prolific background in both script writing and directing for market-leading organisations including the BBC, Channel 4, Carlton TV, Lime Pictures, October Films, Sony TV Asia, Sky, Discovery ID, Miramax, Film 4, Screen Siren, Telefilm Canada and the UK Film Council.

Developed earlier career directing 'Vengeance' for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox one of six finalists for an Oscar. Subsequently wrote and directed three feature films (producing two). Then moved on to work with Mersey TV, Tiger Aspect, Hewland International, ITV and the BBC directing multiple episodes on a continuous basis of Brookside, Grange Hill, Casualty, Holby City, Hollyoaks, Grease Monkeys, Dream Team and Doctors as well developing a feature film with Miramax and Film 4 and writing and directing award winning corporate videos for WH Smith and British Rail.

Has worked with many star actors including Stephen Moyer ('True Blood'), Bernard Hill ('Lord of the Rings' and 'Titanic'), Norman Wisdom, Hayley Mills, John Hurt, Simon Ward and Ian Dury.

Has a unique ability to deliver quality drama and produce highly creative writing to strict deadlines, often under intense pressure. After working overseas directing drama series and commercials in Kenya, Kuala Lumpur, Uganda, India and Bucharest is now seeking to direct feature films, television drama and commercial/corporate programming in the UK and abroad.

### **--- AREAS OF EXPERTISE ---**

- |                           |                             |                          |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • TV Script writing       | Film direction/production   | Feature film screenplays |
| • Mentoring film students | Commercial video production | TV Dramas                |
| • Freelance writing       | Working with BBC Producers  | Managing/directing staff |

### **--- SIGNIFICANT CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS ---**

- Winner of the Best Horror Feature Film Screenplay award at the Austin Film Festival in 2015 for '77 Minutes', beating over 2000 other entries.
- Writing and directing the highest-rated episode of 'Obsession: Dark Desires 2' for October Films/Discovery ID in 2014.
- Winner of best video at the Corporate Awards for writing and directing the commercial production of 'Wish upon a Star' (1871 Productions) for WH Smith.
- Winner of a Peabody award (as part of the BBC's DoNation Week) for directing a Casualty/Holby Special.

### **LINKS TO SHOWREEL AND MISCELLANEOUS DIRECTING WORK**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/edeversswindell> (showreel – fifth clip from left)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ShaniGrewalDirector> (feature film trailers, promos and misc. clips)

## --- PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE ---

1996 – PRESENT

DEVELOPED EARLY CAREER WORKING WITH 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY FOX TO CO-PRODUCE AND DIRECT A SHORT FILM CALLED 'VENGEANCE' WHICH WENT ON TO BECOME SHORTLISTED FOR AN OSCAR NOMINATION.

ALSO CO-WROTE A TV SIT COM 'RAGS TO RICHES' FOR CARLTON TV.

HEAD OF PRODUCTION AT STRING OF PEARLS PLC AND DANDELION PRODUCTIONS.

DIRECTED COMMERCIALS IN KUALA LUMPUR FOR LE'ON FILMS.

DIRECTED MAGAZINE/COMEDY SERIES 'LE HIP PARADE' FOR TIGER ASPECT/PLAY UK.

FEATURE FILMS (writer/director/producer): AFTER MIDNIGHT; DOUBLE X; GURU IN 7

### Key responsibilities - WRITER

- Devising themes and ideas, researching background material and developing believable plots and characters.
- Producing highly creative writing to strict deadlines often working with a script development team to create a finished product.
- Preparing short summaries of new ideas and selling the ideas or pitching to Producers.
- Networking extensively with Agents and Producers.
- Preparing scripts for a wide variety of audiences including commercials, corporate videos and dramas for both TV and films.

### Key responsibilities - DIRECTOR (and PRODUCER)

- Working alongside every member of the TV or film production team including the Actors, Producers, Lighting Technicians and Camera Operators.
- Directing everyone involved, asking them to perform certain tasks or act in a certain way, in order to visualise the creative ideas on the screen.
- Dictating the style, pace and impact of the production, including overseeing everything from casting and set design to lighting and editing.

### A FEW EXAMPLES OF WRITING AND DIRECTING WORK (more details available on request)

2022	<b>HOLLYOAKS BOLLYWOOD SPECIAL</b> – Lime Pictures.
2018-2021	<b>VARIOUS DRAMAS AND DOCU-DRAMAS</b> – History Channel and Discovery ID.
2017	<b>MPEKE TOWN</b> – 13 part drama series for Mediae in Uganda.
2014-2016	<b>DOCTORS, BBC TV</b> – 11 blocks with many producers.
2014	<b>OBSESSION: DARK DESIRES 2</b> – October Films/Discovery ID; 'Krystal' and 'Tara'.
2012-13	<b>RED 35</b> – 1871 Productions for Corporate British Rail.
2008-2009	<b>DOCTORI DE MAME</b> – 26 part drama shot in Bucharest for Mediae pro/Acasa TV
2008	<b>TIGER LAKE</b> (movie) developed by Aria Films, Screen Siren and Telefilm Canada.
2006-2007	<b>MAKUTANO JUNCTION</b> – 4x13 part drama series shot in Kenya for Mediae.
2002-2007	<b>CASUALTY</b> BBC TV Series – directed multiple episodes with many producers.
2002-2005	<b>HOLLYOAKS</b> - directed multiple episodes with many producers for Mersey TV.
2004-2005	<b>HOLBY CITY</b> – BBC TV.
2004	<b>GREASE MONKEYS</b> – BBC TV.
2004	<b>DREAM TEAM</b> – for Sky/Hewland International.
2003	<b>GRANGE HILL</b> and <b>BROOKSIDE</b> - directed multiple episodes with many producers for Mersey TV.
2001	<b>SINGLE VOICES</b> – written by Meera Syal for Carlton TV
2000	<b>SOUL ASIA</b> – Produced and Directed 13 part magazine show for Sony Asia.