



Tom Beard

Documentary Film Director

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Emmy and BAFTA winning documentary Director, highly skilled at finding the emotional heart to a narrative and marrying that with the journalist rigour and bold cinematic vision to tell irresistible, layered stories.

Tom's filmmaking begins and ends with the human: capturing protagonists' hopes and fears to power a narrative that viewers become swept up in. This lets him explore ideas and themes in ways that are nuanced, yet highly accessible.

With an instinctive feel for beautiful shots, deft pacing and musical fluency – he strives to create seductive, potent pieces of storytelling.

Selected Directing Credits:

FINDING MICHAEL

100' Feature doc
Shine TV
Launching March 2023



Commissioners: Sean Doyle and Simon Raikes

- a layered and emotionally rich approach to the story of Spencer Matthews's search for the body of his brother who died high on Everest 23 years ago.
- weaves the high-octane present tense search with intimate archive from the original expedition and a deeply personal arc of learning to grieve.
- wows with the stunning cinematography and pacing of a truly premium feature doc.

THE YEAR EARTH CHANGED

48' single
BBC Natural History Unit
Launched April 2021

Emmy Honors Award 2022
Special Jury Award Jackson Wild Media Awards
Best Natural History Long Format Award The Buzzies
Best Natural History RTS West
Nominated for **Best Narrator, Emmy Awards**



Commissioners: Alison Kirkham and Jay Hunt

- briefed by Apple TV+ to bring a filmic, documentary approach to blue-chip natural history to tell the story of the world's wildlife as it responded to lockdown.
- devised a dual visual narrative: a haunting, deeply cinematic motif of deserted urban environments to represent the human experience; versus a lively, flourishing natural world reclaiming the spaces we'd abruptly vacated.
- foregrounded the passage of time to drive narrative evolution and trigger our memories of that year.
 - wrote the narration for Sir David Attenborough.

[Trailer](#)

THE LAST ASCENT

45' single
KEO Films
Launched Sept 2020



Commissioners: Dominique Cutts and Corinna Halloran

- tasked with making Red Bull's first environmental film, featuring extreme ice climbing veteran Will Gadd.
- successfully weaved together Will's personal motivation for the Kilimanjaro mission and cutting-edge glacier science, along with glossy extreme sports imagery.
- captured Will's raw anger at his discoveries as a powerful emotional narrative driver.

[Trailer](#)

War on Plastic

3 x 58'
Series Director
KEO Films West
TX June 2019

Best Factual Programme RTS West Awards
Nominated for **Best Director** RTS West Awards



Commissioners: David Brindley and Clare Mottershead

- several film-making techniques combined within one series to bring areal sense of urgency to the issue of single use plastics.
- daring investigative journalism uncovers the dirty truth about British recycling being exported to the Far East
- observational filmmaking makes it relevant to our everyday lives
- ballsey, features style 'stunts' brings the fight to the front doors of big corporations.

[Trailer](#)

Britain's Whale Hunters: the Untold Story

2 x 58' Series Director
KEO Films North
TX June 2014

Best Factual Series BAFTA Scotland



Commissioner: Clare Paterson

- developed a hybrid narrative approach to unpack the challenging and surprising history of Britain's whaling industry.
- an emotional presenter led journey to Antarctica, knitted with moving oral history interviews and dramatic archive-led sequences.
- created an immediacy and excitement that felt shockingly fresh in counterpoint to the destruction wrought on the whales.

[Trailer](#)

Further selected Directing credits

EXTINCTION REBELLION: The Inside Story – Keo West for Channel 5

Director

1 x 1 hr; TX Feb 2020

Obs-doc deep within the climate change movement 'Extinction Rebellion' as they plan the biggest act of civil disturbance the country has seen, and bring central London to a halt for 2 weeks. For Channel 5 Factual: Guy Davies

Awards: *Nominated for 'Best Documentary,' RTS West Awards*

THE DOCTOR WHO GAVE UP DRUGS - RAW for BBC ONE

Series Director

2 x 1 hr; TX May 2018

Dr Chris van Tulleken investigates the forces that have led to the medicalisation of childhood, from Big Pharma to doctors and parents, and pushes for change. For BBC Science: Tom MacDonald

THE 21ST CENTURY RACE FOR SPACE – Sundog Pictures/Voltage for BBC TWO

Director

1hr; TX Sept 2017

Professor Brian Cox explores the attempts by private companies to take on space travel, spending time with Richard Branson and Jeff Bezos, and digging into their guiding philosophies.

For BBC Science: Tom MacDonald

SAVING AFRICA'S ELEPHANTS: HUGH AND THE IVORY WAR – KEO West for BBC ONE

Series Director

2 x 1hr; TX Oct 2016

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall explores the pressures put on the elephant by poaching and the illegal ivory trade: investigating the sharp end in Africa, going undercover in Asia and exposing the role of the UK antique's trade, before applying pressure for change. For BBC Science: Tom MacDonald

Awards: *Nominated for RTS West of England Best Factual Series*

THE BIG C AND ME – KEO Films for BBC ONE

3 x 1 hr; TX June 2016

Series Director

A landmark observational series following a broad range of cancer patients over a year.

For BBC Docs: Clare Paterson

ED STAFFORD: INTO THE UNKNOWN – KEO Films for Discovery

TX late 2015

Producer/Director

Filmed as solo P/D on Ed Stafford's expedition with camels into Ethiopia's Danakil Depression - the hottest place on Earth. Commissioner: Helen Hawken

INSIDE THE COMMONS – Atlantic Productions for BBC TWO

3 x 1hr; TX Feb 2015

Director

The inner workings of the home of our democracy are revealed as observational filming is allowed in the House of Commons for the very first time. For BBC Current Affairs

Awards: *Shortlisted for Grierson Awards, Best Doc Series*

WELCOME TO INDIA – KEO Films for BBC TWO

3 x 1hr; TX Oct 2

Series Director and Producer

Observational series shot over 5 months in the most crowded districts of Kolkata and Mumbai.

For BBC Docs: Charlotte Moore

Awards: *Shortlisted for Best Doc Series, Grierson Trust*

LIFE SAVERS - Twenty Twenty for BBC ONE

3 x 1hr; TX June 2013

Series Director

Observational series revealing the revolution going on in Major Trauma medicine

For BBC Docs: Charlotte Moore and Claire Sillery.

MEET THE NATIVES: USA - KEO Films for Travel Channel & Nat Geo

5 x 1hr

Series Director

TX 2009/10

Five traditional Pacific islanders make a journey to explore modern American life and deliver their message of peace. Self-shot whole series.

Awards: *Cablefax: Best Show or Series*

More than just a film maker

Tom brings highly practical skills and diverse real-life knowledge gained from filming in extreme environments, ocean sailing and working on farms. He has experience of negotiating with belligerent soldiers, at keeping calm in survival situations and he's not bad at fixing engines.

He's an offshore sailor, kitesurfer, skier, and a proficient climber with good rope skills and Health and Safety knowledge. He has worked on expeditions in the Arctic, the high Himalayas, in deserts and jungles.

He plays several instruments, writes electronic music and is very comfortable directing composers.

Education

Geography MA (Hons) University of Oxford
BBC Graduate Trainee