

# CHRISTOPHER BRUCE

## SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

MOB: 07775532060  
E-MAIL: christopher\_bruce@btinternet.com  
ONLINE SHOWREEL: <https://youtu.be/BMIRpgTh6aA>  
IMDB: [www.imdb.me/christopherbruce](http://www.imdb.me/christopherbruce)

## C.V.

A blue chip (series) producer/director - trained at the BBC on award winning music & arts strand **Arena** - creator of 100+ hours of high end specialist factual and factual entertainment output including: numerous high profile **Who Do You Think You Are's**; major multi-part arts series from **Picasso: Magic, Sex & Death** to **Brian Sewell's Grand Tour**, and historical travelogues like Griff Rhys Jones' **Routes of Britain** and Martin Clunes' **Man & Beast**. Specialises in: multi-part series as sole director and series director (with some self-shooting); presenter led documentaries; social and historical travelogue; music and arts; genealogy; and cultural history.

## Recent Productions

### NILE RODGERS: HOW TO MAKE IT IN THE MUSIC BUSINESS (3x60')



One New Year's Eve in the 1970s, hot young session musicians Nile Rodgers and Bernard Edwards were assured by Grace Jones that they could penetrate the inner sanctum of Studio 54 by dropping her name at the door. A doorman thought otherwise and invited them to "fuck off". Making alternative arrangements, they went home to jam. "Fuck Off" mutated to "Freak Out" which became Atlantic's bestselling single for 37 years - just one of the stories in this series packed with anecdotes.

SERIES DIRECTOR 3 x 60'  
1212 PRODUCTIONS - TX: BBBC4 OCTOBER 2017

Like a perfect Chic song the first episode of Nile Rodgers - How to Make It in the Music Business was a finely crafted treat.  
*theartsdesk.com*

## IRELAND WITH ARDAL O'HANLON (3x60')



Twenty years ago **Ardal O'Hanlon** made his name in C4's wildly eccentric sitcom **Father Ted**. The series captured the unique eccentricity of the Irish and now Ardal is on the trail of those same qualities amongst the real Irish of today. Using a 200 year old guide book to compare the cliches with the reality, Ardal asks "are we really a bunch of superstitious god-fearing whiskey-sodden chancers?" Ardal tracks down a matchmaker responsible for over a 100 marriages - he goes ghost hunting with the Cork Supernatural Society and he attempts to walk off with a chunk of the Blarney Stone!

SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR 3 x 60'

**BIG MOUNTAIN PRODUCTIONS** - TX: CHANNEL 4 - DECEMBER 2016

## GRIFF'S GREAT BRITAIN (8x30')



Griff Rhys Jones is at it again. Following on from the success of his Welsh series, Griff explores the extraordinary range of different landscapes to be found in the British Isles. By virtue of challenges from an unseen hand he tracks down vampires on the North Yorkshire coast, Golden Eagles in the Scottish Highlands and giant vegetables in the Cotswolds. The results are often bizarre, always entertaining.

SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR 8 x 30'

**MODERN TELEVISION** - TX: ITV1 JAN/FEB 2016

Griff Rhys Jones, the travel guide with the short fuse of a true Victorian explorer, is really hitting his stride. Words like *testy*, *irritable* and *curmudgeon* were invented for him, which is what makes *Griff's Great Britain* such fun.  
*Christopher Stevens, Daily Mail*

## MAN & BEAST WITH MARTIN CLUNES (2x60')



Man's relationship with animals is changing - the gap between man and beast is diminishing fast. Animal lover **Martin Clunes** travels the world in search of the different ways man relates to animals and how this is evolving - from bird song competitions in Thailand, to wild bear hunting in Japan to farming the sacred cow in Nepal. Back at his farm in Dorset he contemplates his own relationships - from his pet dogs, to his working horses to his herds of sheep and cattle destined for the abattoir.

SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR 2 x 60'

**BUFFALO PICTURES** - TX: ITV1 MAY 2015

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? – TAMZIN OUTHWAITE (1x60')



Actress **Tamzin Outhwaite** believes she has Italian blood in the family. It turns out her great grandfather Adelmo Santi was amongst the many hundreds of impoverished Italians who emigrated to Glasgow at the beginning of the 1900's to build a new life. All they brought with them was their ability to make ice cream and serve a decent cappuccino; lo and behold cafe culture was born in Britain and years later the Santi Ice Cream empire flourished in County Durham. Tamzin owes her striking looks and appetite for hard work to her pioneering great grandfather.

DIRECTOR – 1 X 60'  
**WALL TO WALL** FOR BBC  
TX: BBC, AUGUST 2014

## A GREAT WELSH ADVENTURE – WITH GRIFF RHYS JONES (8x30')



Griff Rhys Jones was born in Wales but brought up in Essex - and now the exile is back! In a series of thirty minute adventures he roams eight of the most beautiful regions in Wales. Griff wants to discover the true spirit of Wales and to help him achieve this he's faced with a challenge at the beginning of every programme. Solving the challenge tests Griff's Celtic credentials to the limit.

SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR 8 X 30'  
**MODERN TELEVISION**  
TX: ITV1 JAN/FEB 2014 + DVD + BOOK

## SNAPSHOT: A MOMENT IN TIME – DAVID WALLIAMS (1x60')



David Walliams has an old photograph of himself in a school production of *All the King's Men*. It was his stage debut and it captured a defining moment in his life - one that put him on the path to success. Thirty years on Walliams sets out to recreate the moment that photo was taken but what will he discover about his eleven year old self?

It is a lovely idea, recreating this pivotal point in Walliams' life.  
*The Guardian*

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR 1 X 60' - **RAIN MEDIA** - TX: ITV1 JUNE 2013



## PERSPECTIVES: PORTILLO ON PICASSO (1x60')



Broadcaster and former politician Michael Portillo believes the key to artist Pablo Picasso's genius was his Spanishness. Like Portillo's father Picasso was exiled from his homeland after the Spanish Civil War. Michael travels to the artist's birthplace of Malaga, stands in the bullring that inspired his famous paintings, and meets Picasso's granddaughter Diana who takes him to see the Paris studio where he created his iconic work *Guernica*.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR 1 x 60' - **PLUM PICTURES** - TX: ITV1 APRIL 2013

## BRITAIN THEN & NOW (1x60')



Imagine you could turn the clock back and revisit a moment from the past! This is precisely what the residents of a street in London's East End did when they recreated their Coronation Day street party of June, 1953. In the process the residents past and present learned just how much things have changed in Britain over the last sixty years

Wonderful and remarkably moving programme. Come the day of the party...there was scarcely a dry, unhappy eye on Morpeth Street - let alone on this reviewer's sofa.  
*Iain Hollingshead - The Telegraph*

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60' -  
**LOVE PRODUCTIONS** - TX: ITV1 SEPT 2012

## PERSPECTIVES: SERGEANT ON SPIKE (1x60')



The BBC's Chief Political Correspondent John "Strictly Come Dancing" Sergeant started life in the comedy business. Fifty years on he's going back to examine the work of his great hero Spike Milligan whose classic **Goon Show** altered the course of comedy forever. Sergeant's journey will reveal some surprising new insights into Milligan's life and work. With Eddie Izzard, Michael Palin and Noel Fielding.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60' - **SILVER RIVER PRODUCTIONS** - TX: ITV1 APRIL 2012

## LOST ROUTES OF BRITAIN WITH GRIFF RHYS JONES PILGRIMS & HIGHLAND CATTLE DROVE (2x60')



In this major four part series for BBC1 Griff uncovers some of the lost routes that lie hidden beneath the landscape of ancient Britain. In *Highland Cattle Drove* he re-visits a once well trodden route used to transport cattle from the Isle of Skye to the Scottish Lowlands. In *Pilgrims* he travels back 500 years to the time of the medieval era and uncovers the ancient pilgrim route that traversed the length and breadth of Wales from Holywell to St David's.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 2 x 60' - **MODERN TELEVISION** - TX: BBC1 JUNE 2012 + DVD

## TERRY WOGAN'S IRELAND (2 x 60')



Terry Wogan is one of Ireland's most famous exports. He spent the first thirty years of his life there; from Subuteo schoolboy to rookie broadcaster. In 1969 he left to join the BBC and went on to become one of the greatest names in British broadcasting. Now, forty years later, Terry returns to see how he and the old country have changed...

Wistful and amusingly nostalgic... full of charm, eccentricity and self deprecation... to say anything unkind (of TWI) would be like waterboarding leprechauns. AA Gill, *The Sunday Times*

SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 2 x 60'

**ZODIAK MEDIA**

TX: BBC1, JANUARY 2011 + DVD AND ACCOMPANYING BOOK

## GREATEST CITIES OF THE WORLD WITH GRIFF RHYS JONES – ROME (1x60')



The eternal city is more than 2,500 years old but Griff has just 24 hours to find his way around the world's biggest museum. In the process he learns to carve marble like Michelangelo, eat offal and milk goats like a Roman peasant and be as silent as contemplative nuns! En route he discovers where Julius Caesar gasped his last, and takes lessons in traffic direction from the city's most elegant policeman.

Championship League Travelogue with flashes of brilliance... *Andrew Billen, The Times*

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60'

**MODERN TELEVISION**

TX: ITV1 APRIL 2010

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? (US) – SPIKE LEE (1x60')



Films like **Malcolm X** and **Miracle at St Anna** have cast director **Spike Lee** as the great chronicler of black history – and now he turns the camera on his family's story. Determined to find out who owned his slave ancestors, Spike uncovers a remarkable story of success and heroism amongst his African American forbears - culminating in a twist in his DNA he could never have bargained for!

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60'  
**WALL TO WALL INC.** FOR NBC AND BBC  
TX: NBC, MARCH 2010 - BBC1, JUNE 2011

A turbulent and emotional journey into the duskiest corners of American history... *Newsweek*

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? (US) – LISA KUDROW (1x60')



**Kudrow** is descended from Russian Jewish stock, and sixty years ago a long lost relative tracked down her immigrant family in New York. He came to tell them their ancestors had been killed in the Holocaust. They never saw him again once he returned to Eastern Europe. They assumed he too had been murdered. Kudrow set out to try and discover what happened to him...

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60'  
**WALL TO WALL INC.** FOR NBC AND FOR BBC  
TX: NBC, MARCH 2010 - BBC1, SEPTEMBER 2010

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? – DAVID SUCHET (1x60')



Famous for his portrayal of Belgian detective Hercule Poirot and countless other foreign roles, actor **David Suchet** goes in search of his ethnic origin. Backtracking through South Africa, Paris, Prussia and Lithuania – David finally traces his European roots to pre-revolutionary Russia and the horrors of the Pale of Settlement.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60'  
**WALL TO WALL** -  
TX: BBC1, SUMMER 2008

A strong episode, with an arresting personality in search of an exotic heritage. *The Times*

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? – JODIE KIDD (1x60')



Supermodel **Jodie Kidd** has an illustrious heritage. Her great grandfather was press baron Lord Beaverbrook – but when she starts investigating other members of her family tree she discovers everything from a “cash for honours” scandal to fratricide and a lineage that goes back to the earliest settlers in America.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60'  
**WALL TO WALL**  
TX: BBC1, SUMMER 2008

To have two black sheep in one line of descent seemed a little greedy to me.  
*Thomas Sutcliffe - The Independent*



## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? – NATASHA KAPLINSKY (1x60')



**Natasha Kaplinsky** uncovers secrets about her Jewish father's heroic participation in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa in the 1960's. Tracing the Kaplinsky's further back takes Natasha to Belarus where she discovers that during the Holocaust her Great Uncle was a member of the famous Bielski Brothers - the most effective partisan resistance groups of WW11

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60'  
**WALL TO WALL**  
TX: BBC1, AUTUMN 2007

WDYTUA hits the spot.  
Impossible not to  
get a lump in the throat.  
*The Guardian*

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? – JOHN HURT (1x60')



British actor **John Hurt** is convinced he is descended from Irish nobility. To prove it he investigates the genteel world of his great grandparent's 19<sup>th</sup> century academy in Grimsby – Hurt's hometown. But he soon starts discovering layer upon layer of deceit - all of which has gone unchecked for more than a century.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – 1 x 60'  
**WALL TO WALL**  
TX: BBC1, AUTUMN 2007

Not so much hurt as bloody  
furious (on discovering he didn't  
have Irish roots after all!)  
*Nancy Banks Smith - The Guardian*

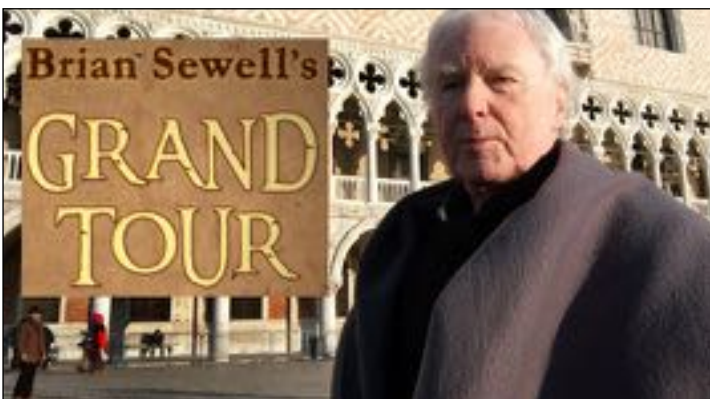
## RORY McGRATH'S BEST OF BRITISH ENGINEERING (3 x 60')



This six-part series pays homage to a host of British marvels including the Routemaster Bus, the E-Type Jaguar and the Mallard steam train. Revealing the best of the Best of British engineering, Rory demonstrates how British companies, designers and architects continue to dominate the international engineering and construction scene.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR – PLANES, SHIPS & LAND TRANSPORT - TX: DISCOVERY, JULY/AUGUST 2006

## BRIAN SEWELL'S GRAND TOUR (10 x 45')



The country's most compelling and cantankerous art critic retraces the steps of the 18th century Grand Tourist (and indeed his own *maiden* voyage around Italy as a young man 50 years ago). As he works his way around some of the most famous tourist sites in the world he makes us appreciate the enormous cultural debt we owe Italy and the Italians.

SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR  
**WAG TV** for FIVE & SKY ARTS  
TX: 2005/2006 + DVD

## WHO KILLED SATURDAY NIGHT TV? (1x120')



A major two-hour special for Channel 4 exploring why Saturday Nights have declined from the *most* watched to the *least* watched night on TV. Contributions from Noel Edmonds, Cannon & Ball, Jeremy Beadle and Little & Large – as well as key TV execs and some of the most avid fans of Saturday Night TV in the country.

Nostalgia with brains – worth staying at home on Saturday night for. *Evening Standard*

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR 1 x 120' -

**AT IT PRODUCTIONS** - TX: CHANNEL 4, JULY 2004

## LIZA MINNELLI – AN A&E BIOGRAPHY SPECIAL (1x120')



A two-hour special to launch A&E's new Biography schedule. Star names such as Mia Farrow, Marvin Hamlisch, Michael York, Joel Grey, Kander & Ebb, Charles Aznavour as well as Liza herself, tell the extraordinary story of how the daughter of Judy Garland and Vincent Minnelli grew up to become the star of such Hollywood landmarks as **Cabaret** and **New York, New York**.

For Liza fans this is a must-see. *New York Post*

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR 1 x 120'

**ITN Factual** for A&E

TX: A&E, JUNE 2004

## BRITS GO TO HOLLYWOOD – (THE REAL...) SEAN CONNERY (1x60')



A major new documentary profile on the man who created James Bond – only to be almost destroyed by him. Features first major interview with Connery's first wife Diane Cilento for almost 40 years.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR/WRITER 1 x 60'

**ITN Factual** for Channel 4

TX: CHANNEL 4, NOV 2003



## ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH & THE NO.1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY



McCall Smith returns to Botswana to introduce his readers to the real-life Mma Ramotswe, Mr J.L.B Matekoni, Mma Makutsi and others as well as the wonderful real-life stories that have inspired his award winning novels.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR/CAMERA 1 x 30'  
**IDEAL WORLD PRODUCTIONS** for BBC  
 TX: BBC4/BBC2, June/July 2003

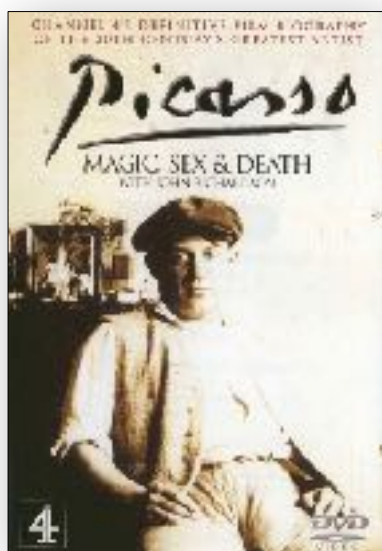
## JOSE SARAMAGO, A LIFE OF RESISTANCE



Author of **Blindness** and one of the great giants of European literature, Nobel Laureate Jose Saramago was coaxed and cajoled into giving a rare interview by journalist Julian Evans. Saramago is a Portuguese national, but he regards his adoption of Lanzarote as an act of exile. His new novel **Plato's Cave** explains why.

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR/CAMERA 1 x 30'  
**IDEAL WORLD PRODUCTIONS** for BBC  
 TX: BBC4/2, Nov 2002

## PICASSO: MAGIC, SEX & DEATH (1 x 90', 2 x 60')



Presented by Picasso's biographer and life-long friend **John Richardson**, and featuring key members of the Picasso family. Richardson - who probably knew Picasso better than anyone else left alive - re-tells the extraordinary story of Picasso's life by sifting through the Byzantine clues he left in his work - from his childhood haunts in Malaga to the art school in La Coruna, and from the whorehouses of Barcelona to the great monastic retreats on the Cote D'Azur.

SERIES DIRECTOR,  
**ZCZ PRODUCTIONS**  
 TX: CHANNEL 4, JUNE 2001  
 +DVD

A towering achievement...It's a blinding cocktail; riveting and must-see viewing. Picasso explodes out of the screen.  
*AA Gill Sunday Times*

## MR ROCK & ROLL – COLONEL TOM PARKER (1x60')



The first film in a major four-part series on rock managers documents the bizarre life of Elvis Presley's notorious Svengali. A graduate from the world of circus freak shows and charity dog pounds, Parker went on to manage the biggest career in the history of rock n'roll using a repertoire of fairground tricks and canny mind games. For the first time Mr Rock & Roll reveals that Col Tom Parker may have committed murder...

Comes on like a music biz version of John Schlesinger's *Midnight Cowboy*. *TIME OUT*

Excellent - Shocking murder revelations.  
*THE DAILY TELEGRAPH*

A beautifully made documentary.  
*The Observer*

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

VTVC

TX: Channel 4, September 1999 + January 1st 2001

## THE TOURIST (6 x 50')



6 x 50' films charting the history of the world's largest industry. This major documentary series examines how and why the tourist business first evolved. Includes the story of Thomas Cook, the rise of the Spanish package holiday, the history of sightseeing in London, the story of the holiday camp, the history of scenic tourism and the emergence of the theme park. This £1.5m series was commissioned in 1994 on the basis of Christopher Bruce's original treatment.

Grand entertainment.  
*The Daily Telegraph*

SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

TX: BBC2 1996

## ARENA (6 x 50')



ARENA - THE SEVEN AGES OF RADIO (ARENA - RADIO NIGHT)	1993
ARENA - ZHANG YIMOU, A STORY OF CHINA	1993
ARENA - (MARCEL) DUCHAMP'S FOUNTAIN	1993
ARENA - BILLY (WILDER), HOW DID YOU DO IT?	1992
ARENA - ROBERT CRUMB ON JELLY ROLL MORTON	1992
ARENA - THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE POTATO	1990

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR - all for BBC2 - 1990-93