

ROBIN BARNWELL
Award winning documentary filmmaker

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OVERVIEW

My documentary filmmaking work has been recognised in recent years with a BAFTA, Broadcast and four Royal Television Society (RTS) programme award nominations. I was part of the team of directors that made the BAFTA/RTS/Grierson/International Emmy award winning 'Exodus: Our Journey to Europe'. I direct, film and produce documentary films that are cinematic, intimate, emotional and raw, which tell powerful, dramatic human stories, giving large audiences real insight into our world.

I have made over 50 documentaries for BBC1, BBC2, ITV, Channel 4 and PBS in more than 40 countries around the world, in some of the most challenging and hostile locations on the planet.

I'm a highly-experienced journalist with skills for working in factual television: editorial accuracy, storytelling and building relationships with people. But first and foremost, I am a filmmaker with a nose for a good story, an eye for powerful imagery and a natural talent for making a range of television, including observational documentaries, specialist factual programmes and groundbreaking investigations.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Documentary work - highlights

PD/DoP 'Germany's New Nazi's' BBC1 (Ronachan Films) Feb - Sep 2016

- The story of a group of Germans that formed a neo-Nazi terrorist group and attacked migrants and those that supported them

PD/DoP 'The Forgotten Children' ITV (Wild Pictures) May – Sep 2016

- Observational documentary following the heart-breaking stories of refugee orphans stranded across Europe

Nominated for Best Single Documentary - RTS Programme Awards - 2017

Nominated Best Current Affairs Programme- Broadcast Awards - 2018

Directed and filmed parts of 'Exodus: Our Journey to Europe' BBC2 (Keo Films) Sep – Nov 2015

- 3-part documentary series following the journeys of migrants from their home countries to the UK. Filming in Ethiopia, Afghanistan and the UK

Winner - Best Documentary Series at BAFTAs, Grierson, Broadcast, International Emmy and RTS Programme Awards - 2017

PD/DoP 'Children of Syria' BBC2, Jan – June 2014

- Observational/presenter led documentary, following the lives of six Syrian children living through the war

Nominated for a BAFTA - Best Single Documentary - 2015

PD/DoP 'Fighting on the Frontline – War Wagons' Channel4 (Minnow Films) April – Sep 2011

- Observational documentary following the tour of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in Helmand

Nominated in Best Documentary Series category, RTS programme awards 2012

PD 'Fighting Gadaffi' BBC1, Feb - March 2011

- Documentary investigating crimes against humanity committed against civilians in Benghazi, Libya

Winner - Association of International Broadcasting award 2012

PD 'Gaza: Out of the Ruins' BBC1, Jan – Feb 2009

- Documentary investigating alleged war crimes in the aftermath of the Israeli Defence Forces' operation in Gaza

Winner - Grand Format Television Category – Bayeux War reporting awards 2010

PD/DoP 'Taking on the Taliban – The Soldiers' Story' May 2007 – Nov 2007

- Groundbreaking observational documentary, following the Grenadier Guards first tour in Helmand, Afghanistan

Nominated for Best Observational Documentary - RTS Programme Awards and RTS Journalism Awards: International Category - 2008

OTHER WORK

Documentary

PD/DoP 'Kill the Christians' BBC2, Jan – April 2015

- Documentary on the decline of Christianity in the Middle East

PD/DoP 'An Island Parish – Falklands' BBC2 (Tiger Aspect) Oct 2013 – Jan 2014

- Observational documentary series about the Falkland Islanders

PD/DoP 'Africa's Last Taboo' Channel4 (Insight Television) April – July 2010

- Documentary exploring attitudes to homosexuality in Africa

PD/DoP 'China's Secret War' BBC1, March – July 2008

- Documentary investigating a breach of the UN arms embargo in Darfur

Nominated for Best Television Documentary and DocuDrama – Amnesty International Media Awards

Specialist Factual

Series Producer/DoP 'BBC at War' BBC2 (Fresh One Productions) Aug – Dec 2014

- Documentary series charting the BBC's transformation in World War 2

P/D/DoP on 'Dan Snow's History of Congo' BBC2, April – Sep 2013

P/D/DoP 'Churchill's Desert War: The Road to El Alamein' BBC2 (Fresh One Productions) Feb - July 2012

- 90-minute documentary examining the war in the Western desert

Development

- PD developing a major 3-part series on Europe for Brook Lapping/BBC2 - Oct 2016
- PD developing a Channel 4 Dispatches on Iraq, Dec 2015 – March 2016
- PD developing a complicated, Middle Eastern history project for Arrow Media/Channel 4, Sep 2015 - March 2016

NON-TV WORK

I served as a UN diplomat for four years in the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), working at the heart of the UN's missions in Afghanistan and Southern Sudan on complex peace and nation building processes. I took a special interest in Security Sector Reform.

Civil Affairs Officer, United Nations Mission to the Sudan, July 2005 – Jan 2006

Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan - UNAMA) Jan – Dec 2004

Special Assistant to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan - UNAMA) April 2002 – December 2003

Army Officer (UK) 2nd Lieutenant, Royal Green Jackets (probationary commission) Sep 1991 – Oct 1992

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND TRAINING

Director of Photography - Television

Hostile environments refresher – 2008 (BBC) and 2011 (BBC) and 2014 (BBC)

BBC Risk: Management of Production Course Parts 1 & 2 – Feb 2010 (passport number 803)

Refresher First aid – February 2006 (AKE) and 2011 (AKE)

Hostile environments – 1998 (BBC)

Battlefield first aid – 1998 (BBC)

Off-road 4x4 driving – 1998 (BBC) and 2013 (BBC)

Beginners, intermediate and advanced location shooting courses – 1999 and 2000 (BBC Wood Norton)

EDUCATION

1991 – 1994: Trinity College, Cambridge, UK – History, M.A Honours – First Class

Associate and news editor, 'Varsity' – Cambridge University newspaper

1984 – 1991: Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Canterbury, Kent, UK
3 A Levels, 1 S Level (Distinction) and 9 GCSEs

Head Boy (1990 – 1991)

Scholarships: Senior Scholarship, Trinity College, Cambridge (1994)
Army Cadetship (1991-1992)
Army Sixth Form Scholarship (1990-1991)

REFEREES

Available upon request