

The Directors UK Factual Committee Member biographies

October 2017



Ben Anthony

Ben is a documentary and drama director known for a sensitive but intelligent telling of powerful human stories that challenge perceptions of people. His last two documentaries 7/7: One Day in London, and Life and Death Row: Execution both won many awards including the BAFTA for Best Single Documentary and Best Documentary Series respectively. His debut drama, Don't Take My Baby won the 2016 Best Single

Drama BAFTA. Ben has also been twice nominated for a BAFTA Craft award for Best Factual Director and once for Best Factual Photography for his camera work.



Gemma Brady

Gemma is a Series Producer/Director who has worked across a wide range of factual programming. With a career starting as a Channel 4 regional trainee, she worked in development and production for C4, C5 and the BBC, before joining Channel 4's Education commissioning team. She was responsible for a weird and wonderful slate of TV & digital projects for teens, ranging from prime-time docs to a BAFTA winning video game *Privates*, set in a lady's nether regions. Since leaving C4, she has worked on the channel's major rig shows as a Director and Series Producer, including *24 Hours in Police Custody* & *24 Hours in A&E*. Away from TV she's

worked on award-winning campaigns for Cancer Research and Buzzfeed. She is currently working at Shine TV across development and production.



Toral Dixit

Toral has made single films, series and formats across a wide range of factual, including specialist factual and obs doc. From Dispatches to Wife Swap, Don't Tell the Bride to Tribal Wives, and Mammoth – Back from the Dead to The Tsunami Children, her projects have taken her to some of the most remote corners of the world.

Fairness and diversity are key drivers of her life and work, and she's made films that raise awareness of sensitive topics such as drug and alcohol dependency, violence and poverty.

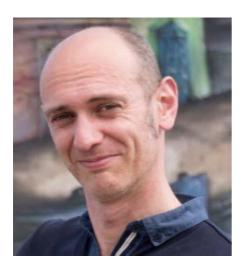
Toral is a factual representative on the Directors UK board and is also a member of Directors UK's BAME and Women's Committees.



Paul Durgan

Paul started his career in news, and was part of the launch team of ITN's 5 News in 1997. Since starting directing in 2001 he's made a wide range of factual programmes including police obs docs, travel and property shows, and BBC 3's pioneering series *Kill it, Cook it, Eat it*.

In the last five years he's moved towards series producing with series like C5's My Secret Past (about mental health issues) and BBC2's The Town Taking On China (about a cushion factory bringing work back to Merseyside). Currently he's series producing at Raw TV on ITV's Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport.



Nic Guttridge

Nic has worked across a wide range of factual, for all major UK broadcasters. He's directed tight formats such as *Masterchef* and critically acclaimed obs docs such as *Through a Child's Eyes*, as well as viewer favourites such as *Wife Swap* and *River Cottage*.

Along the way he created the world's first televised sperm race, accidentally kissed Michael Winner, and received a death threat from Ronnie Corbett. Now principally working as a Series Producer and Executive Producer, Nic is Chair of Directors UK's Factual Television Committee.



Zoe Hines

Zoe is a BAFTA award-winning Shooting Producer/Director, whose recent work includes prime-time factual series for Channel 4, Discovery and the BBC.

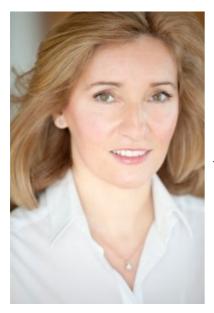
She specialises in shooting sensitive or delicate stories and has an extensive overseas filming record, including shoots in challenging remote environments (in Africa, South America and the Middle East).



Tom Hutchings

Tom is a senior producer and director specialising in factual, factual entertainment and reality. He's an experienced self shooter and has worked on many big productions which have seen him being stranded on *The Island*, being *Hunted* in the Yorkshire Dales, and working in the Amazon for *Goldrush*.

Away from factual, he worked on the first series of *Gogglebox* and is currently prepping a new BBC2 comedy show called Common Sense.



Karen Kelly

Having graduated from the Royal College of Art, Karen spent 10 years at the BBC where she directed factual, drama docs and specialist factual films.

After winning an RTS award for *The Guinea Pig Club* she left to join the Emmy Award winning company, Impossible Pictures, to work on the six million pound series *Prehistoric Park*.

Since then she has moved back to Scotland and continued to make factual films for UK and International broadcasters as well as broadening her experience in drama. Karen is Directors UK elected representative for Scotland.



Martin Kemp

Martin started out as a reporter for BBC Radio Bristol, before moving to BBC TV as a Network Director, trail maker and producer of Children's BBC – where he introduced Edd the Duck to the nation! From there he carved out a niche in specialist factual, working in Science, History and Arts before going freelance in 2005. He has worked for all the main UK and US channels – and has filmed on all seven continents – including six months in Antarctica. Last year he self-shot the BBC2 history series Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean and is currently working on a medical series for Channel Four as well as developing his own projects.



Richard Max

Richard has over 15 years experience writing, producing and directing more than 75 hours of Broadcast TV including BAFTA and RTS nominated high-end specialist factual. Along the way these projects have found him taking Vietnam Vets back to Vietnam, going caving in search of Greek myths, being kissed by a grizzly bear, sailing a Stone Age boat and crashing a full size passenger jet into the desert.

He is passionate about ensuring that directors are regarded as the heart of the creative process, and is factual representative on the Directors UK board.



Jill Nicholls

Jill makes observational and arts documentaries, lately mainly for the Imagine strand on BBC1. She started out in TV with Yorkshire Television's legendary doc series First Tuesday, before going on to series produce and direct many observational films and music documentaries for the BBC, including *Queens of Country* and *Folk America*.

Her work has won Grierson, RTS, BAFTA & New Orleans awards. She is increasingly concerned about the whittling away of the status of director.



Barnaby Peel

Barnaby specialises in observational access documentaries, singles and series, for the BBC and Channel 4. However, he's also worked on more formatted factual series such as *The Restaurant*. Much of his work is self-shot, but he also regularly works with crews.

On recent projects he's been employed as Series Producer/Director - including *Mr v Mrs: Call the Mediator* (BBC2), *Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane* (BBC2), and *How to Get a Council House* (Channel 4).



Marcus Plowright

In February 2015 Marcus made his first film for Channel 4 about Muslim Drag Queens. Prior to that he worked on the BAFTA-winning documentaries *Grayson Perry: Who Are You* and *Grayson Perry's Dream House*.

He was nominated twice at this year's BAFTAs for Breakthrough Talent and Best Specialist Factual and has just completed his first series *American High School: Straight Outta Orangeburg*, for BBC Three.



Tom Roberts

Tom is a multi-award winning documentary director, founder of October Films, and a producer/executive producer with dozens of films to his credit. He was responsible for Channel 4's epic series on Communism, *The Other Europe*, and has made films on subjects as diverse as Stalin's purges, the Arab/Israeli conflict, and a trilogy of films about the wars of 9/11.

Having left October Films, he is now concentrating on personal projects. His latest feature-length doc is *Every Last Child*, a film based in Pakistan about efforts to eradicate polio in the face of Taliban resistance. Tom is Deputy Chairman of Directors UK.



Gavin Searle

After studying Visual Anthropology at the University of Manchester, Barnaby has spent the last two decades making documentaries for British television. He directs and shoots 90% of his films. He prefers to focus on films with a strong anthropological or environmental element.

He is currently working on a series with **Will Millard** in West Papua, and has directed landmark projects including *Tribe*, *Meet the Natives*, *Welcome to Lagos* and *I Bought a Rainforest*. He is a research associate at Goldsmiths and honorary lecturer at Manchester.



Alicky Sussman

After a stint working as News Bunny on the cable channel Live TV, Alicky went on to make 'serious' documentaries at the BBC. In her 17 years there, she worked mostly in science and history, making programmes and digital content for all BBC channels. As well as films for *Horizon* (*Why Are We Getting So Fat?* and *Hair Care Secrets*), she has made obs docs such as *Trauma* and *Living with ADHD*, and has also worked on more formatted shows.

Four years ago, a change in personal circumstances required her to find a more flexible way of making films, and to this end she led an initiative for job sharing editorial roles at the BBC. Now freelance for the first time, she has recently started a job-sharing Edit Producer role at Keo Films.



James Taylor

James has been directing for 8 years, purposefully working across various genres and formats, from *Landscape Artist of the Year*, to *Come Dine With Me*, and a BBC Two documentary series following amateur orchestras on a journey to play at the Proms.

He spent some time working in Canada on factual / fact ent series, including *Food Factory*, where he helped shape the format of the first series, and was also part of the team that won the Entertainment BAFTA for the 2014 series of *Strictly Come Dancing*. James specifically seeks out jobs that allow him to follow-through into the edit, and is also a self-shooter. He is an administrator of the Viva La PD Facebook group.



Anna Thomson

Anna is a seasoned television director with over 30 documentary films for all the major broadcasters to her name, including the BBC, Channel 4, Sky Arts, and National Geographic.

Some career highlights include: A Great British Air Disaster (C4), Patisserie (BBC4), Objects of Desire (Sky Arts), World War

2: The Last Heroes (C4), winner best History Programme at the Academy of Canada Cinema and Television awards, Portrait Artist of the Year (Sky Arts), Fatal Attractions (Animal Planet), Al Murray's German Adventure (BBC4) and Days that Shook the World (BBC). She is a member of the Directors UK Board.



Jo Woolf

Jo is an experienced series edit producer/ director, as well as a series producer and development producer. She's worked on many of Britain's most loved primetime factual and factual entertainment series, including *The Great British Bake Off, The Apprentice*, *24 hours in A and E* and Secret *Life of Siblings*. Jo runs courses in Edit Directing and is has been involved in Directors UK's campaign to give creative

recognition to the role of edit producer/directors.