

Chris Rushton

**freelance
series producer/director/camera**

OBSERVATIONAL DOCUMENTARY / SPECIALIST FACTUAL
FACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT



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*A versatile and creative producer of factual entertainment, arts and observational documentary programmes with 18 years experience at this level, Chris has a strong track record in all kinds of actuality driven film making. He has played a key role in over 200 programmes including **Chaos at the Zoo** and **Time Team** for Channel 4, BBC's **Coast** and **The Museum** series, and creating un-rivalled content for **Superhomes** on the Discovery Channel.*

He has filmed in locations worldwide including the sub-Antarctic, Argentina, Mexico, the Czech Republic and China. As well as making countless documentaries about the lives of people doing extraordinary jobs or facing extreme challenges, Chris has worked with a range of top-talent including Tony Robinson, Jacky Chan, Anna Ryder Richardson, Matthew Parris and Neil Oliver.

Currently working until mid April 2013 on series 2 of 'SWANSEA LIVING ON THE STREETS'

'TIME TEAM' series 20 Videotext for Channel Four

Producer/Director of 3 films including uncovering the lost machine gun training camp of WW1 in Grantham, and the Roman shore-fort of Brancaster. Each a 3 day dig with 3 and a team of 50 archaeologist and production staff on location 2012



'SWANSEA : LIVING ON THE STREETS' series 1

Mentorn Cymru for BBC Wales 30'

Series Producer/director/camera/narrator. Hard-hitting documentary series on homelessness. Told over 3 months through extraordinary and compelling personal stories in the run up to Christmas. A unique insight into the day to day life of those living on Swansea's streets, one of Britain's 'homeless capitals'. 2012

'HOUSE OF THE FUTURE' TwoFour for Channel 4 5 x 1 hour

Edit Producer. A present day family are catapulted in to the future. Their home is transformed. They are challenged by new technology, expensive food, new ways of generating energy, restrictions on transport and very different lifestyles. 2011

'PASSION IN PORT TALBOT'

Prospect Cymru for BBC Wales and BBC 4

Director/camera. The making of The Passion. Following actor Michael Sheen's return to his home Town of Port Talbot to direct and lead in an epic Passion Play. The film follows the process with a cast of over a thousand local people performing outdoors and in the shopping centre culminating in Michael being crucified on a traffic island on the seafront. tx 2011

'ANIMAL E.R.' IWC for Discovery

Producer/Director/Camera. Filmed at Glasgow's internationally renowned vet school, where the best vets in Europe tackle the most difficult cases with ground breaking surgery and an array of medical technology on a par with a first world hospital. 2011

'SNOWDONIA 1890' Indus for BBC1 Wales / Blighty

Edit Producer. Reality history series. Two families swap modern life to live for a month as slate quarrying families did in the 19th century in Snowdonia. I put together 6 of the programmes from 100's of hours of observational rushes. 2010

'WILD WELSH ZOO' Indus for BBC1 Wales 6 x 30'

Series Producer. Hilarious obs doc following Anna Ryder-Richardson and her husband Colin facing their first full season with their re-vamped zoo open to the public. Despite the recession they're planning some expensive animal attractions, including bringing white rhinos to Wales and going to extraordinary lengths for a solitary gibbon called Steve to find him a mate. 2009

'COAST' - from Galway to Donegal BBC2 60'

Producer/Director. HD production. All the usual fantastic aerials and CGI, with the top line up presenters - Neil Oliver, Alice Roberts, Dick Strawbridge and Nick Crane. 2009



'CHAOS AT THE ZOO' Crackit Productions for Channel Four 48'

Producer/Director/Camera. Changing Rooms design guru Anna Ryder-Richardson had a mid-life crisis. Despite having never even looked after a hamster before she bought a dilapidated zoo with over 100 animals in Wales. Filmed over 9 months, it follows the struggle to put the broken down zoo back on it's feet through every heartache, argument and disappointment. 2008

'JACEK'S WELSH ROAD TRIP'

Mentorn for BBC Wales 30'

Producer/director/camera. Obs doc following Polish migrant Jacek Lepyczinski who can't decide if he should stay or go back to Poland. He's lived in South Wales for 3 years but knows very little about what Wales has to offer, so he sets out on a journey to discover if Wales could ever become his home. Part of a series called New Nation. 2008



'COAL HOUSE FAMILIES' Indus for BBC2 Wales & BBC4 3 x 52'

Edit Producer. A special obs doc version of the highly successful Coal House reality series. Three Welsh families swap modern life to live as mining families would have done in through the hard times of 1927. 2008



'THE MUSEUM' BBC Wales for BBC2 5 x 30'

Producer/Camera. For the first time cameras are allowed behind the scenes at the British Museum. I produced 5 of the films - one of these followed the museum's director Neil McGregor to China selecting terracotta warriors. Another film involved filming in Sudan, filming excavating mummified human remains. Described by Richard Klein as *'deftly made and with lots of neat fun touches, plus tons of info'*. 2007



'HOUSE OF CRIME' Films of Record for BBC3 52'

Producer/director/camera. It's a kind of the real Porridge a funny side ways look at some of the more bizarre aspects of prison life, driven by 5 candid prison officers including Victoria the young and ambitious deputy governor, her hard nosed boss, Mike, and Ray who heads up the prison's segregation block. 2006



'SUPERHOMES' Flashback for Discovery RT

Director/camera. A property obs doc going behind the scenes to uncover just what the rich get up to in their multi-million dollar homes. I found and filmed 12 stories in Hong Kong. including - Jackie Chan's secret hideaway, and dinner at the Harelela mansion where more than 80 members of one of Hong Kong's richest families live. Shown worldwide. 2006

'THE BROTHERS (Can Work it Out)' BBC3

Series producer. 3 x 52'. Financial makeover series. I managed a team of 8 and shot one of the 6 stories myself. This was a formatted makeover series presented by throw-back money experts, brothers Colin & Robert Jackson. Executive producer - Sam Organ. 2005

'WELSH WEEKENDS' Green Bay for ITV Wales

Series Producer/ Camera. Popular history about how in less than 3 generations weekends have been transformed. Archive from the post war period through the and actuality of the contemporary weekend life. 2004.

'STAN TRACEY'S UNDER MILK WOOD' BBC Wales for BBC 4

Producer/Director. A live jazz performance with textural period archive from exploring Under Milk Wood in a new form. Narrated by Philip Madoc 2004.

'ON SHOW' BBC Wales

Producer/ Camera. Various theatre and other arts stories for the weekly arts magazine 2004.



'TIDY!' Presentable Ltd (RDF group) for Carlton 6 x 24'

Series Director/Camera. Tidy! takes a light hearted journey through the history of home-making. Told through the lives of those old enough to remember 'stoning' the step and blacking the grate and their hair-raising encounters with their first electric washing machines. And, how did 72 year old May get on with the robot carpet cleaner we gave her to test? 2004.

'CERT. 18' Presentable Ltd (RDF group) for BBC 2W 20 x 15'

Series Director/camera. A stylish & funny observational series following the real lives of twenty 18 year olds across Wales. We plan to pay them a return visit when they are 30. Presentable Ltd for BBC Wales. 2001/2002/2003.



'DREAMING ON DESOLATION ISLAND' 52' Fulmar West for C4

Director/Camera. For the To the Ends of the Earth strand I travelled with Matthew Parris to the island of Kerguelen, in the sub Antarctic - dubbed desolation island. 2000

'CITYBANK PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE' 5' Fulmar West for C4

Director/Camera. One of a series of intimate short profiles. About Jitka Hanzlova's photographs of people in a remote village in the Czech Republic, filmed in the depths of winter. 2000

'ROAD RAGES' 2 x 24' Fulmar West for Channel 5

Director/Camera. Two of a prime time tabloid obs doc series; 'Blue Light Drivers' and 'Cars You Love to Hate'. 1999



'THE ENFORCERS' 4 x 24' Merlin for Channel 5

Series Producer/Camera. A hybrid character driven observational documentary series following Gwent police. 1998/99

'TALES FROM THE HEALTH SERVICE' BBC Wales

Producer/Director. 1 of a 6 part observational series. The Psychiatrists' Story. Following a young doctor in an under funded area of the health service. He is a mod, rides a scooter loves Northern Soul.. Own research. 1997

'A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH' BBC Wales

Producer/Director. Following the dilemma of a leukaemia sufferer Richard Whitehouse given just one year to live, the film explores the dilemma he faces between spending his limited time with his wife and 2 children or his buddies in the Mountain Rescue Service. 1996



'MOUNTAIN SHOUT' 45' Bangaw for Discovery Channel

Director. For The Professionals series. Following the work of the mountain rescue service in the Brecon Beacons. 1996

DISPATCHES 'The Munchausen File'

Propeller Productions for Channel 4

Producer. Revealed for the first time the controversial covert methods including video surveillance used to detect mothers suspected of deliberately harming their infants. Produced through my own company. 1993

'TOXIC WASTE-THE NEW ALCHEMY?'

Filmit Productions for C4 26'

Director. Social action documentary for the 'Free for All' series, authored by campaigner David Powell who has a go at the companies who use South Wales as a dumping ground for toxic waste. Own research. 1993



'ABERFAN – 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE'

The Video Workshop for Channel 4 50'

Director/editor. Film documentary made in collaboration with the people of Aberfan. 25 years on, and the Welsh mining village remembers the 144 who perished when a coal tip slipped onto the village school. Shelagh lost her son and Gaynor was one of the few survivors. 116 children, most between the ages of 7 and 10 years old died. 1992

....and many many more

About me:

As a producer, I can operate flexibly, taking on roles where shooting, edit-producing and series producing are combined and am up to speed with shooting Hi Def including EX3. As series producer on The Brothers I shot one of the two stories for the first episode and acted as edit producer, as well as over-seeing the work of directors on the other films. I can motivate teams to deliver their very best, developing both their camera work and their story telling abilities. Underpinning all my programmes is a passion for good writing and humour, especially with the more serious subjects.

I've made more than 30 network films. Many combine observational sequences with other genres and formats. I'm an imaginative producer with years of experience of self shooting and am well used to making the most of hi-end kit like jibs and helicopters to create powerful images. I have worked as an offline editor and can use Avid.

I got into television after art school and my art videos were shown internationally and broadcast on Channel Four. I worked for 5 years with The Video Workshop making community TV in South Wales. I now work as a series producer/director and as camera/director and have worked at this level on many network programmes. Recently, I completed the TV Research Centre's prestigious Series Producer Programme.

Training:

SERIES PRODUCER PROGRAMME

2005/2006 - I have completed the TV Research Centre's highly acclaimed Series Producers Programme, a high end talent development initiative for network programme makers attending specialised workshops in everything from team building to writing and pitching.

Safety:

Certificate in Advanced Production Safety run by
Lionsgate Productions 1996

BBC Health and Safety

Up to date online, & completed 1 day course March 2009

BBC Safeguarding Trust:

Up to date V1 & V2 modules 2010

BBC DV Lighting and Safety Course

Certificate No 677 for up to 2kw use on location 6/3/06

DV Talent EX3 360 course

2011

Awards:

BFI GRIERSON AWARD 1984

I worked as editor on 'THE MINERS CAMPAIGN TAPES' - video newsreels distributed to mining communities during the miners' strike of 1983-84. Produced by a consortium of independent film makers.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award gold expedition

Education:

Qualifications:

BA honours 2.i Art & Design.

Faculty of Art & Design, Coventry

Majored in video art – shown in galleries world wide.

Languages:

French: basic

Licences:

Basic Driving (PLG)

Interests:

Fly fishing in wild rivers

Art

Using my chainsaw

Keeping Chickens

Snorkelling

Cycling

Travel

Refereneces:

Paul Thomas, MD of Indus TV. paul@industelelevision.com 02920395702

Adrian Davies, Head of Factual BBC Wales,. adrian.davies@bbc.co.uk 02920322000

Judith Bunting , The Musem Series producer judith.bunting@btopenworld.com
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