

MAX JOURDAN

Series Director / Shooting PD

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I'm an experienced self-shooting PD and series director with a passion for directing high-end content and a flair for teasing the best out of contributors and talent. Driving projects from development all the way to final cut I have made films all over the world in a variety of genres; from observational documentaries to presenter led programs and drama docs. At the heart of my films lies an intimate relationship with my subjects and a desire to tell original and compelling stories that carry a visual punch.

I am creatively versatile, adept at scriptwriting and can oversee multiple story lines. I am equally happy working alone or with a large crew. I can negotiate sensitive access, keep cool while working under pressure and I pride myself on my ability to bring the best out of everyone in a team.

I am bilingual in French, fluent in Spanish. I hold a US I-VISA. Full/clean driving license. BBC hostile environment training.

Broadcast credits: credits: BBC, Channel 4, ITV, Channel 5, ARTE, Al Jazeera, Nat Geo, Discovery, TLC, History Channel.

SERIES DIRECTOR Credits

March 2018

Project Q. Netflix, Fulwell 73

Developing character led and interwoven story lines across this 6 episode series for Netflix focusing on the 2022 World Cup in Qatar while setting the cinematographic style and directorial tone. *Exec: Leo Pearlman. SP: Guy Templeton.*

Selected SHOOTING PD Credits

July 2017

ESCAPE. Channel 4, Maverick

New fact-ent survival series presented by former SAS, Ant Middleton. As PD across 2 episodes, I shot in hostile jungle and coastal environments on the Sony FS7 camera. Working closely with the story producer and SD to direct contributors and drive exciting and emotionally powerful storylines. *Exec: Nina Davies. SP: Rob Rawlings*

Oct 2016 - April 2017

THE MAFIA'S GREATEST HITS. ITV & Discovery, World Media Rights

Working to a tight budget without compromising a creative brief, I scripted drama and dialogue based on my historical research before directing and edit-producing 3x 1 hour docudrama programs. Also studio lit and shot over 20 interviews on the Canon C300. *Exec. David McNab.*

April - August 2016

KILLER CLERGY. Discovery, Sky Vision

Scripting drama and dialogue, directing and edit-producing 3x 1 hour docu-drama programs. In addition to directing actors and crews, I conducted interviews with criminal experts and supervised actuality shoots in the USA. *Exec. Stuart Rose.*

Nov 2014 - March 2015

THE BOY WITH THE GIANT HANDS. Channel 5, Barcroft Productions

Producing, directing and edit-producing this observational film about a boy with an extreme medical condition. Shooting in India, I had to secure and maintain the trust and goodwill of an eight year-old and his parents as he underwent painful surgery. *Exec. Caspar Norman.*

Aug - Oct 2014

JODIE MARSH - WOMEN WHO PAY FOR SEX. Discovery TLC UK, Thumbs Up

Producing, directing and self-shooting with celebrity presenter Jodie Marsh as we travelled across Jamaica, USA and the UK in search of women who pay for sex. Involved negotiating difficult access and interviews with contributors engaged in criminal activities. *Exec. Cheryl Price.*

Oct 2013 - Jan 2014

THE FIRST GREAT ESCAPE. Channel 5 & Nat Geo, Back2 Back

Scripting, producing, directing and edit-producing this presenter-led history program; which skillfully weaves period drama reconstruction, interviews, CGI and archive material. *Exec. Benedetta Pinelli. 2014.*

Feb - May 2013

THE ALPS MURDERS, Channel 4. Rize USA

I scripted, directed and edit-produced this complex and carefully-crafted current affairs film; mixing dramatic reconstructions, interviews and archive. Working with French contributors and prosecutors. *Exec. Daniel Pearl & Sheldon Lazarus*

April - July 2012

UFO CONSPIRACY ROAD TRIP. BBC3 , Renegade Pictures

Directing and producing comic standup, Andrew Maxwell and a group of UFO-obsessed contributors on a road trip across the USA. Managing talent, tricky contributors and conducting interviews with NASA scientists along the way. *Exec. Harry Lansdown & Alan Hayling.*

June - Oct 2011

GOLD RUSH. Discovery, Raw

Working as a self-shooting PD in the harsh Alaskan wilderness while following and maintaining the trust of teenager Parker Schnabel before edit-supervising across two episodes of this award-winning series. *Exec. Dimitri Doganis & Sam Maynard.*

Jan 2009 - July 2010

THE VOYAGE OF THE PLASTIKI. Nat Geo, Renegade Pictures

An extreme hostile environment project as I spent nearly five months at sea directing and self-shooting aboard a raft made of recycled plastic bottles as we sailed across the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco to Sydney without any backup assistance. I edited produced 2 x 1 hour films from hundreds of hours of rushes. *Exec. Alan Hayling.*

2008

LAS VEGAS COMES TO CHINA. Nat Geo, Renegade Pictures

I spent 5 months immersed in Macau to make these 2 x 1 hour observational, character-led films following American billionaire, Sheldon Adelson's attempt to build and run the world's largest casino in Communist China. *Exec. Sam Anthony.*

May - Nov 2006

TOURETTES REWIRED. Channel 5, Bellwether Media

I shot, directed and edit-produced this observational film about three emotionally complex individuals as they underwent radical brain surgery. Involved filming hours of brain operations and managing traumatized contributors. *Exec. Malcolm Neaum.*

Oct - Dec 2005

MARRIED TO THE MONSTER. ITV, CTVC

Maintaining the trust of a notorious child rapist's family, his victims and that of police detectives; I shot, directed and edit-produced this incredibly sensitive access observational film. *Exec. Nina Davies.*

June - Oct 2005

THE WOMAN WITH HALF A BODY. Channel 5, Tiger Aspect

I shot, directed and edit-produced this sensitive access observational film. Shooting on location over five weeks of to gradually develop trust and build a portrait of a woman with an extraordinary physical disability. *Exec: Jeremy Bradshaw.*

June - Oct 2003

RENEGADE FIDDLER. ARTE, Idéale Audience.

Winner of the Unesco Festival Music Award 2003.

Directing this classical music road-movie from California to India. Managing talent, staging music sequences and working with large multi-lingual crews. *Exec: Hélène Lecoœur.*

2001

THE TOUGHEST SHERIFF IN AMERICA. Feature-length DVD release / Channel 5

I exec-produced, developed and directed this feature-length observational film focusing on a brutal killing of an inmate in Sheriff Arpaio's notorious jail. Working closely with US police officers, prison guards, hostile contributors and the family of the murdered inmate to produce a nuanced and powerful story. *Exec: Justine Kershaw.*

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Credits – MAX JOURDAN FILMS LTD

AMERICA'S PRIVATE WAR. BBC 2 This World. Exec. Karen O'Connor.

Investigation into the use of private contractors in America's war against left-wing guerrillas and cocaine in Colombia.

LIBERIA STORIES. Al Jazeera English.

Investigative series focusing on Liberia: child labour in Firestone's tire factories, rebel-controlled mining and exclusive interview with President Johnson-Sirleaf. Presented by award-winning journalist, Juliana Ruhfus. 3x 30 minutes.

THE MAN WHO BOUGHT A RIVER. Al Jazeera English.

Current affairs observational series on water resources in India. 2x 30 minutes.

NOLLYWOOD. Al Jazeera English.

Observational series set around the Nigerian film industry. Divas, dwarves, directors and problems with the religious authorities. 4x 30 minutes.

DRAMA Credits

My documentary experience and passion for storytelling has led me to script writing and **DRAMA DIRECTING.** *Drift*, shot on a remote Mediterranean island with a multilingual cast and crew, is my first 40' mini feature. <http://vimeo.com/maxjordan/drift>

I have also directed two shorts *Fractured* <https://vimeo.com/97838979> and *Drowning in Air* <https://vimeo.com/121233022>

I am now set to direct my first feature: *The Visitation*, adapted from Naomi Wallace's award-winning play, is a unique, gritty dramatic rollercoaster set in London during the great plague of 1665... <https://vimeo.com/134823706> <https://vimeo.com/141782907>

Other Career Highlights

A photography graduate from the Royal College of Art, I spent a decade working as a **professional photographer** before embarking on my TV career. My photographs have been published and exhibited around the world.

Content director. Working with DMI, a leading media NGO, I wrote, produced and directed short drama TV spots aimed at changing family planning in the DR Congo 2015.

Running my own production company, I **Exec Produced** for Al Jazeera making a series of hard edged current affairs and foreign investigative programs. I also co-produced and presented a program for **BBC's This World**, securing complex and sensitive access around the issue of American private contractors running covert operations in Colombia.

Education

1990-1992 Master of Arts (M.A Photography) Royal College of Art

1986-1990 Bachelor of Arts with Honours (B.A English & French) Sussex University

References

Alex Cooke (Renegade Pictures) alex.cooke@renegadepictures.co.uk

Nina Davies, executive producer ninadavies@me.com