

Gordon Watt - Film Editor

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Professional Profile & Skills

- Freelance film editor with 20+ years' experience across broadcast, corporate and theatrical long-form documentaries.
- Proven ability to create high-quality, engaging videos for a variety of audiences
- Films have been broadcast internationally and exhibited theatrically.
- Award-winning & nominated work (RTS, AIB & BAFTA) with a variety of clients, including BBC, CH4, ITN, SKY, Discovery etc.
- Expertise in all aspects of video editing, including storyboarding, scripting, shooting, editing, and sound design
- Strong technical skills in Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro, DaVinci Resolve and Avid Media Composer
- Confident self-producer able to edit, sound mix, grade and take a project through compliance and quality assurance for a broadcast-ready programme.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team - Enjoys change and new ideas, flexible in his thinking and adaptable to diverse situations.
- Bring various editing styles to different projects creating a sense of pace to narrative-style documentaries and magazine programmes, or energy to a trail or short spot.
- Able to provide a warm voice over if required.
- Full shoot kit
- Produces graphics, animated maps and title sequences designed to match the project's look and feel.

SELECTED RECENT WORK

ROMANIA'S DEADLY TIMBER MAFIA - UNREPORTED WORLD - CHANNEL 4

Reporter Amelia Jenne follows the conservationists risking their lives to stop the corruption that is destroying the lungs of Europe.

In Romania it's thought half of the timber harvested is illegal, according to environmental campaigners and the law enforcement. The EU has launched legal action against the Romanian government who continue to authorise logging in protected areas that are rich in wildlife, and vital in the fight against climate change. An Avid MC remote edit.

MEXICO'S EXOTIC PET TRADE - UNREPORTED WORLD - CHANNEL 4

Anja Popp investigates how owning a lion or tiger has gone from being the preserve of drug lords, to a mainstream obsession.

Although you can purchase exotic animals legally across Mexico, many don't, and it becomes clear pet owners have bitten off more than they can chew, with many resorting to extreme medical practices to make them less dangerous.

I worked remotely with PD Stefania Buonajuti based in South Africa on an Avid MC edit in London via my home suite in Cheshire.

IS CRICKET RACIST? CHANNEL 4

Adil Ray examines whether racism is endemic in English cricket. With startling revelations from England cricket star Moeen Ali and ex-Pakistan captain Imran Khan. Cut remotely on Avid.

OUR WORLD – BBC

The Rohingya camps: let down by the UN

In the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, community leaders and activists are living in fear of death. Hundreds have been murdered as rival gangs fight for control of the camps. The UN's refugee agency - UNHCR - receives tens-of-millions of dollars to run a protection programme for the Rohingya. But as Our World finds out, those most likely to be targeted say they've been abandoned by the agency. Cut and finished in FCP.

MULTIPLE CORPORATE & CHARITY

Short online, case study and conference films for business and charities such as: Thermo Fisher Scientific, Breakthrough, Save foundation, Dentek and Novozymes. Various FCP, Premiere and Avid.

ALPHA – The Marriage Course – Swahili (corporate) 7x50mins

A reversion project for the Alpha Course – this time a complete language change for their marriage course. Each episode required the revoicing of up to 50 characters, and a complete rework of their elaborate graphics. Cut in FCP with After Effects for graphics.

OUR WORLD – BBC

Jessica & Austin – when murder goes viral

When the bodies of two victims were discovered inside luggage on the shores of Seattle, it

sparked a manhunt and court case that spanned more than two years. Cut and finished in FCP.

PANORAMA – BBC

Fast turnaround Liz Truss film (currently in development)

A very quick turnaround Panorama commissioned the day before she resigned. Avid edit.

UNREPORTED WORLD – CHANNEL 4

Secrets of Sumo Wrestling

Our film follows Sahar Zand as she meets with retired Sumo wrestlers to discuss health issues and bullying in Sumo 'Stables'. She also meets 12 year old Kyuta as he prepares for a local Sumo competition on his journey to becoming a professional wrestler. The offline was edited remotely on Media Composer. An ITN production coordinated between Glasgow and London, and edited in Leeds via Cheshire. It's the new normal.

DISPATCHES – CHANNEL 4

The Honey Trappers

Documentary following the victims of online honey-trapping, and the influencers who offer the service. An interesting aspect of the project was its heavy reliance on computer generated imagery and characters (meta human) to tell the story. I set up a server to facilitate the media transfer and the offline was done remotely using Premiere.

BBC AFRICA

Multiple short films for the BBC's digital pivot of their main Africa service.

SUDOCREM (Corporate/advertising)

A series of three films showcasing artists and their work across the world, aimed at a younger audience. Edited in FCP.

SOTHERBYS (corporate)

Multiple short films and interviews for the auction house and its social media platforms.

NOVOZYMES (Corporate)

Series of Internal Comms films.

OUR WORLD – BBC

Multiple episodes of the BBC show shot and edited with remote teams during Lockdown. These shows typically edit with FCP, and have an offline schedule of 3-4 weeks.

EIA & TELAPAK – INDONESIA – FIGHT FOR THE REMAINING FORESTS (festival film)

A round of the work of the international charity's forests arm covering their time in Indonesia stretching back over more than 20 years. We made multiple versions of the documentary, offlined in FCP, graded in Davinci and exported to DCP in-house. Its cinema premiere was on the 13th July 2022.

ALPHA COURSE – Swahili (corporate)

A complete reversion of the alpha course (16 eps) and training course (3 eps), converting

the English to Swahili for the African market. Included complete re-creation of graphics and re-edit of main material to allow to increase in length.

MY WORLD – BBC WORLDWIDE

Angelina Jolie led children's news show.

A fast turnaround 6 camera shoot for the inaugural episode. I designed the workflow for the multi-camera shoot and edit, and we completed in FCPX.

Then, episode eight – The Amazon – We coordinated specially shot sequences from the International Space Station with Luca Parmitano and the team on the ground in the Amazon. Cut in FCP using a mobile setup.

HISTORY 101, ITN Productions for Netflix

The wikipedia of history programmes.

A set of 10x22min films on multiple subjects for Netflix, produced by ITN productions. We cut on Avid Media Composer and I completed two films – Nuclear Power and Fast Food.

OUR WORLD – BBC

Two brains, one skull.

Safa and Marwa are twin girls who were born joined at the head, then brought from Pakistan to London's Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital for highly complex operations. We cut this fascinating story in two weeks after the final successful operation on FCPX.

FORGOTTEN BRITAIN

Amid government claims that the decade of austerity is over, Michael Buchanan meets people in Hartlepool in the North East of England to find out how the cuts have affected them. We cut this fast turnaround in a week on FCPX.

LEADING CITIES – DUBAI & LONDON.

Fast-paced short travel doc strand for BBC Worldwide.

I have completed two series covering Dubai and London. Cut on FCPX. 5x5min films for each location and a 25min compilation programme.

AFRICA 2020 project – BBC

Mentoring and launch editing.

I have been working with the BBC for the last six months on a variety of programmes (Childrens, Sport, Business and Investigative) co-produced by multiple countries across Africa.

TORTURED BY MUM & DAD – The Turpin 13, Channel 5 & Oxygen (ITN)

A fast turnaround re-cut for Channel 5 from the US version of the film. This unsettling

documentary tells the story of David and Louise Turpin in California, who kept their 13 children starved and chained to their beds for years.

NOTABLE WORK

PANORAMA – MYANMAR: THE HIDDEN TRUTH, BBC - 2017

A three week edit produced and directed by Alys Cummings and broadcast in the week before Xmas 2017. We cut on FCPX - A Panorama first - at the Media Village in the new Television Centre in West London.

In the programme, Justin Rowlatt reveals how the Rohingya population has been isolated and weakened, and shows that attacks were part of highly planned and organised operation.

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY, SKY - 2017

Broadcast on Insight - SKY television's Ultra HD channel in the UK on August 2017, and later around the world.

Editing on Avid Media Composer, to produce 2 episodes of a 6-part documentary series for SKY. We follow Peter Trego around the world as he gives a unique insight into unexpected cultures where cricket is the number 1 sport. The programme was shot in 4k with a HDR grade, and I created all graphic elements for the series including titles, maps and lower thirds.

SYRIA'S DISAPPEARED - THE CASE AGAINST ASSAD

CHANNEL 4, AL JAZEERA, THEATRICAL & INTERNATIONAL - 2016 TO 2017

Sara Afshar's harrowing documentary focuses on the tens of thousands detained after the 2011 Arab spring uprisings who have since been missing, or discovered to have been tortured and killed.

We cut this feature-length documentary on Media Composer using my own equipment, with the mix and grade finished at The Farm. We were a small team, so I needed to manage every part of the edit to get it to The Farm in the form they required, in addition to maintaining backups, and day to day maintenance. Data security and confidentiality was a real issue considering the content matter. **BAFTA NOMINATED, AIB WINNER**

ULTIMATE PROCESSES, SKY - 2016

In Ultimate Processes, presenter Francesca Chiorando visits ten very different places to discover what goes on in the world of modern manufacturing. Broadcast on Insight - SKY television's new Ultra HD channel in the UK, and around the world.

Editing on Avid Media Composer, to produce 4 episodes of a 10-part series for SKY. The programme was shot in 4k, with several After Effects graphic elements and sequences created for the show. I was also involved in the shoots for several episodes, seeking to develop skills and consult for the edit.

INVENTIONS THAT ROCKED THE WORLD, DISCOVERY - 2015

Broadcast on Quest in the uk, with the highest audience numbers for the channel on each day of transmission.

An interview and archive-led history of popular music with more than 40 contributors across six episodes, The show was edited with music from the period and has been broadcast around the world.

PBS: FRONTLINE - APRIL 2015

Broadcast on PBS and affiliates.

A quick turnaround Yemeni film for Frontline as events were unfolding in realtime. We cut a full episode in a week in London, finishing in Boston and broadcasting while events were still taking place.

HARDTALK ON THE ROAD, BBC - 2012 TO 2015

Broadcast on BBC World News, BBC News Channel & BBC Two. Audience of approximately 70 million in 200 countries.

Responsible for editing HardTalk's On-the-Road programme for the last three years, setting up an ad-hoc editing suite and shepherding the project from the end of the shoot through until transmission. The show format is interview-based, linked by presenter-led actuality at each of the story locations. A two week shoot typically creates two to four half-hour programmes. There is much work with a translator for non-English-language films to ensure accuracy. Cut on FCP7 using transcoded ProRes media.

TO LIGHT A CANDLE, OFF-CENTRE PRODUCTIONS - 2013 TO 2014

For International theatrical release.

This film was produced by Canadian-Iranian journalist Maziar Bahari. Following the story of Iran's Baha'i diaspora in multiple locations around the world, the film covers the horrific persecution of the Baha'i and their setting up of a secret University. Shot using multiple acquisition formats over more than a year, and with hundreds of hours of archive material, the film was brought together using Avid Media Composer.

OUR WORLD, BBC - 2005 TO 2023

Broadcast on BBC World News Channel & BBC News Channel

Each half-hour film has an audience of many millions of people across the world. The strand is varied in content, though generally reporter led. One of the greatest strengths of this programme is its variety. One film might be science-based investigating undersea vents, the next an undercover investigation into illegal immigration into the UK. Many films have a great impact in the world, such as Sri Lanka's treatment of soldiers following their civil war, or Saudi Arabia's persecution of protestors in the Eastern Province. Our World edits with FCP, and a transmission ready film is completed in 10-15 days including mix and grade and finishing.

FIRING LINE - 2008 TO 2015

Broadcast on BBC World News Channel & BBC News Channel

Produced in co-operation with the Rory Peck Trust, Firing Line celebrates the freelance camera operators who bring some of the worlds most impactful pictures to our screens. Edited over three or so weeks in FCP7 and with graphics produced in Adobe After Effects, Illustrator and Photoshop, the film highlights the dangerous careers of freelancers in News.

RANDOM ACTS, CHANNEL 4 - 2014

Broadcast on Channel 4 in the UK and online.

A short comedic dance piece for an arts strand. The film offered a new appreciation of the work involved in the more creative side of the industry, and an opportunity to work with very different material. For this project (Give me Back my Shine) we cut and graded using Adobe Premiere Pro and the Adobe suite of apps.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

THE PLANS OF MAN, FEATURE FILM - 2005

Co-directed and produced a romantic comedy feature film, leading more than 100 cast and crew in a massive group endeavour. Shooting in London and New York over 5 weeks in the summer, the film was sold to a Canadian distributor at Cannes in 2006. Shot on HDV and edited in FCP7.

ROLLING NEWS, BBC 2000 TO 2005

Worked at the BBC as a news editor working mainly for BBC World News. Editing on Avid Media Composer and Q-edit, the four years in News Channel (News 24 as it was then) and World News, taught much about working speedily and accurately.

CORPORATE WORK - 1992-2000

Worked with several different companies producing corporate films for organisations such as Barclays, Mars, Sainsbury's, HM Government, Gillette, McCain, SmithKline Beecham and Whitbread to name but a few. Worked in many crafts while learning filmmaking. Work ranged from promotional films to seminars and event videography.

OTHER INTERESTS

- A long-term project filming with a local charity to follow their growth over several years.
- Between editing projects I enjoy writing. I currently have three mystery novels available as kindle downloads and printed books on Amazon.
- I provide technical assistance on short films and charity projects.
- I also own a complete shoot kit comprising a Black Magic Ursa Mini Pro, Pocket cinema camera 6k, audio and full lighting package. Gimbals, Track, Drone etc.