

One of the most versatile creators, developers and producers of specialist unscripted television for UK, North American and European broadcasters.

I've generated, raised funding for, crewed, supervised and delivered over 300 hours of original programmes across most factual genres covering science, history, crime & investigation, music & arts, adventure, natural history, religion, observational and dramatised documentaries.



My productions have won over 25 industry awards for single films *Hardcore* (Channel 4), presenter-led drama documentary *Gunpowder Plot* (ITV) with Richard Hammond; dramatised series *Mystery Files* (NatGeo/Smithsonian); and landmark specials *Jesus: Rise To Power* hosted by Michael Scott (NatGeo), and *Stephen Hawking's Brave New World* (Discovery)

I thrive under pressure. But I also respect the talented people I collaborate with and have a reputation for cultivating an energetic, committed yet enjoyable atmosphere that motivates creative teams to produce their best work.

Main skills include:

- Developing, writing and executive/series producing original programming;
- Producing trailers, promos and sizzle reels;
- Attracting on-screen talent;
- Bringing in demanding productions on schedule and budget;
- Long-standing relationships with commissioners, producers and directors;
- Edit producing;
- Devising and presenting creative briefs; managing multiple productions;
- Attending TV markets including MIP, MIPCOM, NAPTE, RealScreen and Sunny Side.

## Career

**Company:**

**Films of Record, Blakeway**

**Position:**

**Executive, Specialist Factual Sept 2016 – Present**

- *Exhumed* - Biography meets investigation and science. Exploring the exhumations of famous people who died leaving a mystery, including Lee Harvey Oswald, Eva Peron, the Boston Strangler, Unknown Titanic Children, Jesse James and the lost sailors of Pearl Harbor.
- Drama documentary for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the largest engineering project of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – the Suez Canal.

**Company:** Pulse Films  
**Position:** Executive, Specialist Factual Sept 2015 – Sept 2016

- Re-booting the company's dormant factual division. Generating and Exec Producing primetime commissions: *Hunting The Nazi Ghost Train*. 1 hour for BBC2/Smithsonian/TVP. Dan Snow investigates the 70 year-long search for Nazi treasures in southern Poland that begun when Hitler abandoned his new castle and a vast subterranean command centre.
- *Faith Healing Homicide*. 90 minute theatrical & television documentary for Molly Thompson's A&E Films. Inside the last remaining Christian sect who cannot be prosecuted for treating their children with prayer while denying them modern medicine with often deadly consequences.
- *Age of Terror*. 4 x 1 hours for History US. 50 years of high stakes cat and mouse war between terrorists and intelligence services, where there are no rules of engagement.

**Company:** Double Act  
**Position:** Senior Producer May 2015 – August 2015

- *Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet*. 10 x 1 hour for Animal Planet US. Charismatic inked and pony-tailed vet and his clinic crew whose patients range from domestic pets to exotic birds and reptiles, camels and the occasional mini-pig. Dr Jeff's mantra is to emergency treat animals even if owners can't pay. 70,000 pet lovers are now on his books, snaking around the block every morning.

**Company:** Nutopia  
**Position:** Series Producer October 2014 – March 2015

- *Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, Forgery*. 3 (out of 6) x 1 hour for CNN. The network's first foray into specialist factual. Dramatising the stories of characters whose lives were intertwined with Jesus, through the window of new revelations emerging from forensic analysis of ancient artifacts.

**Company:** Back2Back Productions  
**Position:** Show Runner May 2014 – October 2014

- *Richard E Grant's 7 Deadly Sins*. 7 x 1 hours in Stereo 3D for Discovery/Sky. Set up research teams and scripted first episodes to establish editorial direction and format. Exploring evolutionary biology to reveal how animals have adapted in extreme ways to survive, while those same 'sinful' urges are hidden inside all of us.

**Company:** Shine North  
**Position:** Show Runner September 2014 – October 2014

- *Danger Decoded*. 12 x 30 minutes for National Geographic. Unpacks some of the internet's most shocking real-life disasters, asking viewers to predict what is about to go wrong just before each catastrophe plays out. Selected clips and helped establish format.

**Company:** Wild Dream Films  
**Position:** Executive Consultant January 2014 – March 2014

- *Ancient Impossible*. 10 x 1 hours for History US. Fresh answers to technological mysteries from the ancient world. Revealing the lost science invented by ancient civilisations to build some of the world's most remarkable structures.

**Company:** IWC Media/ Zodiak  
**Position:** Series Producer January 2013 – October 2013

- *Stephen Hawking's Brave New World*. 6 x 1 hours for Discovery Science/ Discovery Canada/NGCI. Hawking identifies the breakthrough technologies and scientific advances that will change the world over the next 50 years. With unique access, our team of six renowned scientists then goes into the field to experience these extraordinary innovations for themselves.

**Company:** 1212 Productions & Impossible Pictures  
**Position:** Executive Producer/Development July 2012 – December 2012

- Developing original productions for broadcasters in the UK and US. We currently have interest from broadcasters on four projects which I have originated and written including a presenter-led ancient Egyptian crime series; a Vietnam secret history; and a scripted factual drama revealing the epic untold story of one of the world's greatest engineering feats.

**Company:** Parthenon Entertainment (now Sky Vision)  
**Position:** Head of Factual February 2009 – June 2012

- Responsible for generating, developing and executive producing original productions.
- Developed, wrote and produced *Jesus: Rise To Power*, a major 3 x 1 hour drama doc series on one of the Roman Empire's greatest legacies: the birth of Christianity, a true story of power and politics in the ancient world. Hosted by Cambridge historian Dr. Michael Scott. Grierson Nominated 2013.
- Developed and wrote *Forensic Firsts, Seasons 1 & 2*, 12 x 1 hours for Smithsonian Channel. Developed and Series/Executive Producer *Mystery Files, Seasons 1 & 2*, 26 x 30 minute drama docs for National Geographic. Winner Gold Medal Best Factual Series, New York Film Festival 2012; supervised Dan Brown's *Lost Symbol*, 1 hour for FIVE; *Templar's Last Stand*, 1 hour, National Geographic; English language versions of *Hitler's Idols* 2 x 1 hours, ZDF/FIVE/History Channel; *Comic Store Heroes* 1 x 1 hour, NatGeo US; *Berlin: The Night The Wall Went Up*, 1 hour, Yesterday/ UKTV.

**Company:** Documentary Filmmakers Group  
**Position:** Supervising Executive 2008

- Course Leader for Writing Treatments, Pitching and Producing. Trained up to 14 documentary professionals on week-long courses designed to sharpen their skills as producers and development executives. As well as conducting the majority of sessions, I brought in other senior industry personnel to enhance specific lectures.

**Company:** Atlantic Productions  
**Position:** Supervising/Edit Producer 2007

- *Lost Pyramid*. 2 hours for History Channel US. Special exploring the remains of a hill-top pyramid near Giza which once stood higher than the Great Period.

**Company:****Darlow Smithson Productions****Position:****Head of Documentaries 2005 – 2007**

- In March 2005 DSP bought my company Principal Films.
- Developed and was EP/Writer/Originator of high profile productions including Richard Hammond's 90 minute *Gunpowder Plot* for ITV; *Science of Survival*, dramatized 4 x 1 hours spin-off of the highly acclaimed Discovery/Channel 4 drama documentary series *Alive (aka I Shouldn't Be Alive)*; *Phil Spector's Demons* for Channel 4 included unique interviews with the estranged sons of the record producer on trial for the murder of a 'B' movie actress; *Nazi Megastructures*, 6 x 1 hours for NatGeo; and 2 x 2 hour dramatized specials *Roman Vice* and *Weird Weapons* (History Channel).

**Company:****Principal Films****Position:****Chief Executive & Executive Producer 1990 – 2004**

- Principal were a Top 25 independent company that in 2003 turned over £12m with a staff of 80.
- In the '90s, Principal was one of the first companies to forge relationships with Discovery Channel, TLC, Animal Planet, Discovery Health, Travel Channel A&E, History Channel and PBS, while fostering contacts with the BBC, ITV, C4, Five and key European broadcasters.
- Principal was the leading UK producer of 2D and 3D Imax giant screen films. Creator and EP of *Wildfire* for Discovery Channel Pictures and EP on the Oscar-nominated *Bugs 3D* for the Smithsonian Institute/British Film Institute.
- Produced films with some of the most innovative independent film-makers including Oscar<sup>®</sup> winner James Marsh (*Bounty Hunter*, Channel 4 'Cutting Edge'); Stephen Walker (*Hardcore*, Channel 4 'True Stories'); Ian MacDonald (*Daydream Believers*, Channel 4 'Cutting Edge'); Steve Ruggi (*Comet Cover Up*, Channel 4 'Secret History'); David Barrie (*Me & My Slaves*, Channel 4 'Cutting Edge'); Amir Amirani (*Concorde – Supersonic Dream*, BBC 'TimeWatch'); Matthew Whiteman (*Echoes of America*, Channel 4); Mike Slee (*Connections2*, Discovery Channel).
- Executive Producer on a feature length BBC1 drama starring Billy Connolly; produced three theatric Imax<sup>®</sup> films; and co-funded James Marsh's first theatrical feature *Wisconsin Death Trip*.

**Awards**

- Gold and Silver Awards, New York Film Festival; Best Electronic Visual Effects - ITS International Monitor Award; Runner Up - Grierson Award Best Documentary; Winner - Television & Production Post Awards; CINE Golden Eagle; Cable Ace: Best Host; Gold World Medal - The New York Festival; 1st Place - Gold The Chicago International Film Festival; 1st Place - Gold Hugo Award Industrial, Film and Video Festival; 1st Place - Gold Iris NATPE - International Association of TV Program Executives; 1st Place - Gold Camera Award US Industrial Film and Video Festival; 1st Place - Best In Show National Headliners Award; Silver Medal New York International Film and Video Festival; Silver Medal CINDY Environment and Ecology awards; Blue Ribbon and Red Ribbon (2 Categories) American Film and Video Festival; Bronze Award Houston International Film Festival; Emmy Nomination; BAFTA Nomination.

## Other

Judge for Grierson Award, History Congress and BAFTA Film & TV Awards  
US 'I-type' visa and 'green card'  
Panel organizer, World Congress of Science Producers  
Member of BAFTA  
Fellow of Royal Geographic Society

## Education

**Place:** University of London, Arts  
**Qualifications:** BA Honours 2:1 Film, Photography & TV

## Interests

- Photography
- Movies
- Adventure travel
- Other people's stories
- Old motorbikes

## Referees

- **Roy Ackerman**, MD Films of Record  
Tel: 07774 783750 Email: [royack1@gmail.com](mailto:royack1@gmail.com)
- **Stephen Hunter**, former SVP Production & Development, NGCI US  
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- **Benedetta Pinelli**, Creative Director Sky Arts  
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