

NICK READ

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Nick Read is an award-winning filmmaker with an extensive background in documentaries. With a career spanning 35 years, and over 50 films to his credit, he is recognised as an accomplished producer, director and cameraman, who works freelance and through his independent company, Red Zed Films. His recent work has been mainly in feature length documentaries, combining storytelling craft with a powerful emotional appeal and distinctive visual style.

SELECTED RECENT CREDITS

2015/6

'Bolshoi Babylon' (90 mins) **HBO/BBC/ARTE/Altitude**

For the first time a film crew is allowed uncensored access backstage as the world famous ballet company attempts to recover from numerous scandals and a vicious attack on their director. Feature documentary premiered at Toronto Film Festival (Sept 2015) + theatrical release in 17 countries including in 95 UK cinemas. Long listed for Oscar & BAFTA awards.

"Makes Black Swan look tame by comparison" Total Film

"Candid & dramatic – not to be missed" Vogue

"Enthralling" ★★★★★ Guardian

★★★★★ Independent *★★★★★* The Sun

Director/D.P. for Red Velvet Films

Executive producer: Simon Chinn

'The Traffickers' **Fusion**

Lead director for series about black market smuggling – 1st film is about the illegal trade in rhino horns from Vietnam to South Africa's Kruger Park.

Director/ camera for Lightbox Entertainment

Executive producer: Simon Chinn

2014

'The Condemned' (90 mins) **BBC Storyville**

Unique access to a prison for serial killers & murderers in the dark heart of Russia. Feature documentary premiered at Moscow Film Festival, and over 20 invited festival screenings.

"Compulsive and staggeringly well crafted... a masterpiece" The Film Corner

"One of the most intense and exquisitely crafted documentaries I've seen" Cinephobia

"Unsparring and brutally honest" Filmmaker

Director/D.P for Red Zed Films/ 24_doc

Producer: Mark Franchetti

'The Wrestlers of Dagestan' **Vice/ HBO**

Dagestan's young Muslims are being drawn into a dirty, secret war with the Kremlin.

Wrestling offers them the only way out.

Director/D.P. for Red Zed Films

Reporter: Shane Smith

'The Big Poppy Run' **Vodafone sponsored film**

Former marine & amputee Ben McBean runs across London to raise funds for British Legion

Director for Firecracker Films

Producer: Helen Richardson

2013

'Wind for Prosperity'

Multi media project

A unique initiative to bring commercially sustainable wind energy to Africa's poorest communities

Director/camera for Sundog Pictures

Producer: Sam Anthony

'Chosen 2' (W/T)

C4

The follow up to the BAFTA-winning film about sexual abuse in a British prep school

Producer/ director for True Vision

Exec: Brian Woods

'Railway Children'

Online campaign film

Charity fundraiser about Nairobi's homeless children that raised over £100,000.

Director/camera for Red Zed Films

2012

'Walking Wounded: Return to the Frontline'

C4

Photographer & triple amputee Giles Duley undertakes his first photographic assignment since his injuries, returning to Afghanistan

TX 21/2/13

- **Winner: AIB Best contemporary documentary/ Foreign Press Documentary of the Year**
- **Nominated: Grierson Award Best Documentary on Contemporary Theme**

Camera for Minnow Films

P/D: Siobhan Sinnerton

'Fishing for Trouble'

C4

War correspondent Alex Perry revisits conflict zones in search for giant fish TX 8/12

Producer/ director/ camera for Big Balls Films

Exec: Andrew Conrad

'2 Tribes'

AJE

6 cities divided by sport – 6 films revealing the subculture and rivalry of football fans

Series Producer/director for AJE

Exec: Jon Blair

2011

'Letting Go'

BBC1

How do parents of disabled teenagers watch their children leave home? Rosa Monkton investigates

- **Winner Creative Diversity Network Best Factual Programme 2012**

"The most moving documentary I have seen on British television... it challenged my preconceptions and alerted me to the everyday horrors and heroism which I knew nothing of. I suspect you'll be moved too." i
"Without question the documentary of the week, Rosa Monkton's brave contribution to BBC1's 'Beyond Disability' season is a moving examination of how the parents of disabled children go about planning for the future. Worthy of an award." Observer

Co-director/ camera for October Films

Exec: Denman Rooke

'The Return of the Lost Boys'

BBC2

Former child soldiers & refugees of Sudan's civil war return home to witness independence

"With Europe still in crisis, get some perspective by watching this. A sterling reminder that the world is bigger than the Eurozone" GQ

- **NOMINATED: GTC Award of excellence/One World Media Awards 2012**

Producer/ director/ camera for October Films

Exec: Denman Rooke

'Britain's Street Kids'

C4

A raw & intimate portrait of 3 runaway children shot over 6 months

"For anyone currently ruminating on ideas of social fairness, this Dispatches is beautifully illuminating"

Guardian

"A Dispatches about teenage homelessness couldn't come at a more pertinent time" Time Out

Producer/ director/ camera for True Vision

Exec: Brian Woods

Pre 2010

'The Slumdog Children of Mumbai'

C4

The story of 4 kids in the streets and slums of Mumbai told in pure ob-doc style

"If the movie was shocking but uplifting, the real life documentary is every bit as affecting." The

Independent

"...reveals the brutal reality of life on the streets and in the slums of Mumbai...a deeply moving portrait of the lives of India's real slumdogs." TV Guide

- **WINNER: Rory Peck (Sony Impact Award)**
- **WINNER: Prague International Film Festival: Audience award**
- **3 x BAFTA NOMINATIONS: Factual director/ photography/ editing**

Producer/ director/ camera for True Vision

Exec: Brian Woods

'The Berlusconi Show'

BBC2

Mark Franchetti investigates the flamboyant Italian premier

"when it's all presented together, you're left with your jaw on the floor ... extraordinary, fascinating and worrying, all at the same time" The Guardian

Producer/ director/ camera for Blakeway

Exec: Fiona Stourton

'Return to Tiananmen Square'

BBC 2

Travelling undercover, Kate Adie recalls her experiences in the 1989 massacre and meets other eyewitnesses

"critically essential viewing" On the Box

"a welcome hour of brain and balls" The Times

- **SUBMISSION: Amnesty Media Award + One World Media**

Producer/ director/ camera for BBC

Exec: Louise Norman

'The Iraq War by Numbers'

ITV1/ AJE

Rageh Omaar returns to Baghdad, and finds the shocking stories behind the statistics

- **SHORTLISTED : RTS International Current Affairs**

Producer/ director/ camera for Mentorn Media

Exec: Sam Collyns

'Britain's Most Wanted'

BBC2

Andrei Lugovoi – the man charged with the polonium poisoning – revealed.

- **SHORTLISTED: RTS International Current Affairs + FPA TV Story Of Year**

Producer/ director/ camera for Mentorn Media

Exec: George Carey

'A Tabloid is Born!'

BBC4

The surprising world of the early tabloids is explored by Kelvin MacKenzie

Producer/ director/ camera for October Films

Exec: Denman Rooke

'This World: Prisoners of Katrina' **BBC2**

The shocking truth about what happened when Katrina struck the prisons of New Orleans.
Producer/ director/ camera for BBC Exec: Karen O'Connor

'The Second Wife' **BBC2**

A powerful exposé of polygamy inside Turkey's Kurdish communities, & the suffering it causes.

- **SHORTLISTED: Rory Peck Trust Award - Features**

Producer/ director/ camera for BBC

Exec: Karen O'Connor

'Fashioned in Africa' **BBC1**

For BBC1's 'Africa' season, supermodel Alek Wek returns to her roots in Southern Sudan
Producer/ director/ camera for BBC Exec: Todd Austin

'Inside Israel's Jails' **BBC2/CBS 60 Minutes**

A unique insight and access into Israel's maximum security jails & the Palestinian inmates

- **WINNER: TV STORY OF THE YEAR - FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION**
- **WINNER: BEST JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR - FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION**

Producer/ director/ camera for Raw Television

Exec: Dimitri Doganis

'Indira Gandhi – The Killing of Mother India' (90 mins) **BBC2/4**

The iconic Prime Minister's life & times - a Greek tragedy set in the Indian subcontinent
"an excellent documentary dripping with atmosphere. Shot as a thriller, it is packed with detail about this iconic figure"

The Sunday Telegraph

- **SHORTLISTED GRIERSON AWARD FOR BEST SINGLE DOCUMENTARY**

Producer/ director/ camera for BBC

Exec: Richard Klein

'Warren Zevon: Keep Me in Your Heart' **VH1**

A film diary of the recording of Zevon's swansong album: 'The Wind' featuring Springsteen, Hunter S. Thomson etc.

"a tender, touching hour that might be TV's most honest take on "reality" thus far. There's more pure emotion here than any season's worth of unscripted pap" Hollywood Reporter

- **SHORTLISTED : PEABODY AWARD**

Producer/ director/ camera for MTV

Exec: George Moll

'Cat Stevens' **VH1**

The former singer-songwriter turned Islamic zealot tells all.

- **WINNER: 2001 MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT AWARD**

Producer/ director/ camera for MTV

Exec: George Moll

'Finest Hour' **BBC 1**

The landmark series chronicling 1940 – from Dunkirk to the Blitz – in the words of those who endured it.

- **NOMINATED BEST DOCUMENTARY SERIES - BAFTA/ BROADCAST AWARDS**

Series director/ camera for Brook Lapping

Exec: Phil Craig

'The Face of Debt' **C4**

The reality of crippling debt burden is investigated by Maggie O'Kane in one of the world's poorest countries, Niger

- **SUBMISSION: BAFTA Best Single Documentary**

'Errol Flynn'

C4

The life and loves of one of the first Hollywood superstars attracted over 5 million viewers.

'Edward VIII: The Traitor King'

C4

The sensational exposé of the former Monarch revealing his links with the Nazis

- **WINNER INDY AWARD: BEST FACTUAL PROGRAMME**
- **WINNER INDY AWARD: BEST ARCHIVE**

FURTHER INFORMATION

See examples of Nick's work on his website: www.nickread.org. Other qualifications:

- Extensively travelled, working (often with minimal or local crew) in challenging foreign and domestic locations – from 3 months inside Belmarsh prison to a month living in the Sahara.
- Experience on all relevant documentary & HD cameras: Red Epic/ Varicam/ Sony FS5+7+A7R/ Canon 5D+C300 etc.
- Owns offline edit system, (Avid MC7 & FCP) and has intermediate editing skills
- Full hostile environment training (AKE HEFAT June 2011/ Refresher course October 2012) & RTA awareness (TOR May 2012)
- Experience in numerous 'live' conflict zones - from Gaza to the Swat Valley, Baghdad to Kabul
- Completed all BBC 'Safeguarding Trust' online modules
- Current & up to date 'I' visa & UK + international driving license
- Experience with the great & good (and sometimes less than good) in front of camera – among them Oprah Winfrey, Hunter S Thompson, Nelson Mandela, George Clooney, Sophia Loren, Princess Diana, Michael Jordan, Springsteen, Bowie etc
- Trained (not as a graduate) at the National Film School, assisting leading BSC cinematographers (Oliver Stapleton, Gabriel Beristain, Barry Ackroyd etc). Has also completed courses in cinematography; advanced film lighting and the BBC drama directors' course.
- Hosted seminars/ workshops at the BBC, NFTS, Imperial War Museum, Brighton University Film School & Directors UK in numerous subjects from Inspirational Directing to Digital Cinematography.
- Nick is on the advisory committee of the Rory Peck Trust, and is a full member of BAFTA, Directors UK, The British Guild of Television Cameramen & Stormont Tennis club.
- Conversational Spanish/ French

Complete filmography, DVD's or references available on request.