

Ian Lilley

Series producer and director

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A multi-award-winning, widely experienced programme maker whose credits range from drama doc series like the *Russian Revolution* (Grierson shortlist) and innovative factual series like *My Childhood* for BBC3 (BAFTA winner) to mischievous observational documentaries like the *Bank of Dave* project for C4 (six nominations incl. winner of BAFTA and RTS awards, and now a successful Netflix drama).

I started my career at the BBC but since then I have freelanced for every major UK broadcaster, with companies like IWC, Endemol, Finestripe and Tern. I'm now a Series producer, director and self-shooter that loves telling stories, creating, designing and over-seeing projects, managing teams and meeting tight deadlines - all with bags of enthusiasm. See ianlilley.com for more details.



Work in Progress: *The Disappeared* (w/t) and development of several other projects with two indies

⇨ Producer / director, *After 9/11* on the seismic consequences that followed the most destructive act of terror the world had ever seen. 60' for BBC Scotland with Tern Television. TX Sept 2021.



⇨ Producer / director / camera, *Brief Encounters*. An observational documentary portrait of the people in Scotland as they travel on the Nation's railways. 60' for BBC Scotland with Timeslip Media. TX December 2019.

Director / camera, *Clydesdale: Saving the Greatest Horse*, a 90' feature doc for CBC. Distributed late 2019.



⇨ Producer / director, *The World's Wildest Weather* (TX Jan 2018) and Series Producer / director / camera for 4 x 47' travel / science series *...from Hell* (TX May-June 2018), both with Tern Television for C4.

Director / camera, *The Storm that Saved a City* on the extraordinary winds that helped transform Glasgow from Britain's biggest slum to the cultural capital of Europe. Spec. fac. 60 min for BBC. TX Jan 2018.



⇨ Director / camera, *Burns in the USA* on Robert Burns' influence on the USA and some of its greatest cultural and political figures - from Abraham Lincoln to Bob Dylan. 60' for BBC Scotland with Finestripe productions, TX Jan 2017.



⇨ Producer / director, *Scotland and the Klan* (1 x 60'). Neil Oliver examines Scotland's links with American racism, including the Scottish settlers and their influence on the Ku Klux Klan. With Matchlight for BBC (TX 2016) **Winner RTS Scotland best history doc award 2017. Also nominated for Celtic Media Festival history award and BAFTA Scotland specialist factual award 2017**



⇨ Producer / director, *Million Dollar American Princesses*. 4 x 45' dramatised documentaries on the lives of twelve outstanding American women who married European Princes. Director for all the drama sequences in the series and producer of two of the programmes. With Finestripe for Smithsonian (TX 2016).



⇨ Producer / director, *Quintinshill: Britain's Deadliest Rail Disaster* (1 x 60' drama-doc). Neil Oliver unlocks the mystery surrounding the blazing inferno that claimed over 200 lives and investigates charges of a cover up. (TX 2015 BBC). **Two RTS Scotland award nominations: best history and best editing (winner) for Joe Speirs.**

Executive Producer, *Dave: Loan Ranger* (Jan 2014). Dave Fishwick tackles the Payday Loan industry and looks for new ways to help people trapped in cycles of debt (with Finestripe for Channel 4). **Winner best Current Affairs programme BAFTA Scotland awards (2014)**

Producer / director / camera, *Bank of Dave: Fighting the Fat Cats*. A one hour 'Dave' sequel, also with Finestripe for C4 (Feb 2013). **Winner best Factual Entertainment programme BAFTA Scotland awards (2013)**, "...like a Frank Capra movie with Burnley accents" *Independent*.

"...brilliantly entertaining." *Radio Times*. "...a highly enjoyable tale of a crusader for our times." *Herald*. The story also became the basis for the **Netflix drama 'Bank of Dave'**, released 2023.



Series Producer / director / camera, **Bank of Dave** - 2 x 47 Observational documentary series with Finestripe for C4 and 3 x 60 for international sales. Convinced that he can do a better job than the high street banks, Dave Fishwick "...sings along to Phil Collins, eats a lot of bananas and gets on with founding his bank... very enjoyable to watch, brilliantly edited and ...about as topical as a documentary can get." *Radio Times*, "Ace telly" *Guardian*, "Excellent" *Observer*, "...a perfect TV storm" *Times*. (July 2012) **Winner RTS award (2013), nominated BAFTA UK (2013), BAFTA Scotland (2012), Broadcast and Bulldog awards (2013).**



⇨ Producer / director, **Lost Kingdoms of Africa: The Berber Kingdom of Morocco** 1 x 60 with IWC Media for BBC4. How desert nomads came to control vast swathes of North Africa, Spain and the key to life itself (2011).



Producer / director, **Clydebank Blitz** – a graphic re-telling on the 70th anniversary of one of the most intense bombing raids ever made on Britain (for BBC), Executive producer **The Santa Files** (ITV) both at Finestripe (2010).



⇨ Series Producer / narrator, **The Week we Went to War** (Sept 2009) 5 x 45' with Finestripe for BBC1. Magazine series marking the 70th anniversary of the start of WWII, delivering the best ever factual audience for that slot.

Producer / director, **Touring Britain: The Victorian Way** (2009) using a 100-year-old guide book. With Finestripe for BBC4. "A wonderfully simple ideadelightfully under-produced... ..a rare gem" *Sunday Times*.

⇨ Producer / director / camera, **Extreme Fishing** (2008) Series 1 (IWC / five).

Producer / director, **QE2: Last Great Liner** (2007). IWC / BBC Scotland.

Nominated for Celtic Media Festival Factual Documentary Award 2008

Series director, **Shrink Rap** (2007, 2008 & 2009). 15 x 60' psychological studio shows with Pamela Connolly. One of the most successful series to launch on More4. "...fascinating...remarkable television." *Guardian*. **Twice Nominated for BAFTA Scotland Best Factual Ent. Awards in 2007 (Sharon Osbourne) & 2009 (Billy Connolly).**



⇨ Series Producer / director, **My Childhood**. 7 x 60' with Endemol for BBC3. Seven well-known figures face a psychiatrist and the events of their childhood. "a sensational TV show" *Sun*. "...absolutely fascinating to watch" *Guardian*. "Great TV" *Independent*. **Winner BAFTA Scotland Best Factual Programme 2006 (Subject: John Leslie)**



⇨ Series Producer / director, **Russian Revolution in Colour**. A unique take on one of the greatest events of the 20th century. An international 2 x 60' dramatised history for Five / Discovery / CBC / NDR and others with IWC Media (2005). "...balanced and comprehensive...". *Telegraph* "...the programme makers have constructed an expertly crafted dramatic narrative... ..This sturdy new retelling of the Russian revolution combines colourised contemporary film with modern reconstructions, to bring the cataclysmic events of 1917 to vivid life." *Sunday Times*. **Short-listed for Grierson Documentary Award**, this short series has been broadcast and debated all over the world.



⇨ Producer / director, **Monte Cassino: the Soldiers' Story**. 60' drama-doc for C4 / NDR with Wark Clements (2004) "...what gave a vivid, poignant documentary its edge was the madness within the madness ...an utterly moving film." *Herald*. "... reminiscent of the landmark TV series 'The Great War'." *Scotsman*



⇨ Producer / director, **Culloden** - 60' for BBC's **BAFTA-winning series 'Battlefield Britain'** (2004), employing extensive CGI and live action. "By far and away the best history series on British television to date..." "Much has been made of the cleverness of the computer graphics in this series, but it is the human beings that really make it work." *Observer*.



⇨ Producer / director / camera, **Get a New Life** (Spring 2003) – 8 x 60' series with Brighter Pictures for BBC2 on starting a new life abroad. I helped design the series, then produced, directed and self-shot four of the programmes.

Producer / director, **The Way we Cooked** 3 x 60 on the influence of Britain's TV Chefs. "Unmissable ...totally absorbing." *Guardian*, "A series to make room for." *Telegraph*, (BBC 2) and **Angry Brigade** 60' drama-doc for BBC4 on the 1970's bombers who briefly struck terror at the heart of the British political establishment. (both with the BBC in 2002)

Series Producer, **From Here to Modernity** (2001), 3 x 30' on the rise and fall of Modernist architecture "...timely as it is enjoyable...required viewing" (*Time Out*) and a 4 x 30' re-appraisal of the 'English' **Civil War** (2002). Both with Wark Clements for BBC 2.

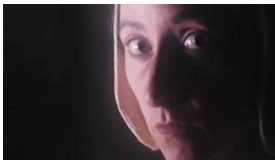
Producer / Director, **Vatican Man** (50' with Wark Clements for C4 Witness) on the moral drive of the controversial British Cardinal Thomas Winning. "admirably even-handed" *Time Out* (TX 2001).



⇨ Series producer / director, **The Day Britain Died** (2000) – 3 x 40'. Andrew Marr explores the idea that Britain is effectively dead and turns political detective, looking for the day, the event or the person that killed it (UK, France, Denmark & Sweden with Wark Clements for BBC2). "...eloquent and entertaining... ..provocative..." *Times*, "...you won't want to miss this... ..With eloquent images to put flesh on his thesis... ..thought provoking viewing." *Express*.



⇨ Producer / director, **Sex, guys and videotape - the Trial of the Bolton 7** (1998) with Roger Bolton Productions for C4, on the prosecution of seven Bolton men for having consenting gay sex. Filmed during the course of the trial with dramatic reconstruction of the trial itself. "...a compelling story" *Time Out*, "...It was the proudly subjective way the story was told that made it remarkable... ..convincingly acted... ..startling" *Independent on Sunday*.



⇨ Producer / director, **Everyman / She-Pope** (December 1998) – 50' on a woman called Joan and one of the greatest con-tricks in history. Disguised as a man she became pope, discovered only when she gave birth in the street.

Shot in UK / Germany / Italy with BBC Manchester for BBC1.

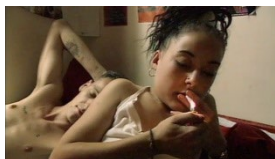
Series director, **TheWebStory.com** (1998 BBC2 / OU) - 3 x 30' on the emerging World Wide Web.

Series producer, **UK Law** (1997), 6 x 30' magazine series on crime & the law and a one-hour special **No Place to Hide** (1998) on surveillance and privacy. "excellent" *Time Out*. (RBP for C5)

Series producer / director, **The Road from Jarrow** (1996) – 3 x 30 min with Sir Bernard Ingham, tracing the route and changes since the Jarrow Crusade. "Absorbing" *Time Out*, "Meaty" *Daily Telegraph*, "Engaging, ...an ingeniously structured history lesson" *Independent*. (RBP for BBC2).

Co-producer / director, **Murder in Room 1215** (1995), a 40-minute investigation into American justice with Hayes Bolton as part of C4's award-winning *Lethal Justice* season. The evidence uncovered by the programme helped the subject get taken off death row. (US, UK and the Bahamas)

Producer / director, **Step By Step** (1995, Carlton TV), **winner of four awards**; on the lives of two people with artificial limbs - "Ian Lilley's film.....manages the rare feat of being compassionate and funny, not sentimental and manipulative." *Time Out*. Also **The Drinker** (1996, Carlton TV), on recovery from alcohol addiction and **double award winner**.



⇨ Producer / director, **TJ & Yorkie** (1994 for Carlton TV), a documentary portrait of homelessness, **nominated for an RTS award**. "Ian Lilley's very sharp portrait of TJ & Yorkie.....sees them trying to keep together in a unforgiving, autumnal city." *Independent* 28/10/94. **Commended at the 'Prix**

Circum' European TV competition 1995: "The programme is like a TV drama for two actors, but it's real bad life. A stunning programme with excellent camera and a good use of music."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Extensive filming experience throughout the USA and Europe, also the Caribbean, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, Russia and Morocco.

Full driving licence, UK passport and current US I Visa. Several screenwriting courses at University of Glasgow, Strathclyde University and Raindance. Selected for the first year-long Series Producer programme run by the BBC and TRC. Partner in a project development company specialising in drama, drama doc and documentary stories.

As well as directing and producing, I also shoot, exec produce, write, and occasionally narrate.

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