

NICK READ

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Nick Read is an award-winning filmmaker with an extensive background in documentaries. With over 60 films to his credit, he is recognised as an acclaimed producer, director and cameraman, who works freelance and through his independent company, Red Zed Films. Most of his recent work has been in feature length documentaries, combining storytelling craft with a powerful emotional appeal and distinctive visual style.

SELECTED CREDITS

A Day in the Life of Coronavirus Britain

C4

Contributing director/D.P. for Candour Productions

Producer: Anna Hall

London elements for a 60 min portfolio film about lockdown in the UK, shot in 24 hours & TX'd 3 days later.

'The World's Biggest Family' (W/T)

Netflix

Lead director for Minnow Films

Executive producer: Morgan Matthews

Ep 1 for investigative series 'Bad Boy Billionaires' about renegade entrepreneurs in India, looking at Subrata Roy, CEO of Sahara Enterprises, & his breathtaking personality cult.

'Against the Tides'

BR/Arte/Cinephil

Producer for Oceans 7 Films

Feature documentary following British open water swimmer Beth French & her attempt to be the first person to swim the world's most dangerous ocean crossings in a single year. Premiered 2018 at Sheffield DocFest followed by limited UK theatrical release.

- BAFTA submission – best documentary 2019

"Unusual, incredibly poignant stuff!" Evening Standard

"Tense & engrossing" Time Out

'Saying Goodbye'

BBC1/ Children in Need

Director/D.P. for True Vision

Executive producer: Brian Woods

The centre piece doc for BBC1's fundraising week presenting the testimony of children who have lost a parent.

"It's a privilege to be involved with such a heart-rending film" Helena Bonham Carter

"A heartbreaking film from incredibly articulate young people" Daily Mirror

'Bolshoi Babylon'

HBO/BBC/ARTE/Altitude

Director/D.P. for Red Zed Films

Executive producer: Simon Chinn

Feature documentary with uncensored access backstage as the world-famous ballet company attempts to recover from numerous scandals and a vicious attack on their director. Premiered at Toronto Film Festival, followed by theatrical release in 17 countries and over 100 U.K. cinemas.

- **SHORTLISTED:** 2 x EMMY (Best documentary & best original score)
- **NOMINATED:** BAFTA, Oscar best documentary feature 2017
- **FINALIST:** Foreign Press Association Documentary of the Year

"Makes Black Swan look tame by comparison" Total Film *"Candid & dramatic – not to be missed"* Vogue

"Enthralling" ★★★★★ Guardian ★★★★★ Independent

'The Traffickers'

Fusion/ Netflix

Lead director/ D.P. for Lightbox

Executive producer: Simon Chinn

Lead director for investigative series about black markets led by award winning journalist Nelafur Hedayat. This episode looks at the illegal international trade in rhino horns.

- **NOMINATED: EMMY best series 2017**
- **WINNER: AIB International Affairs Award**
- **WINNER: Asian Media Awards**

'The Condemned'

BBC Storyville

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

Producer: Mark Franchetti

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

- **FINALIST: Grierson Best Documentary 2015**
- **WINNER: GTC award of Excellence for camerawork**

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

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

"Greatly affecting.... Beautiful work" Walter Murch

'The Wrestlers of Dagestan'

Vice/ HBO

Director/D.P. for Red Zed Films

Dagestan's young Muslims are being drawn into a dirty, secret war with the Kremlin. Wrestling offers them the only way out.

'Walking Wounded: Return to the Frontline'

C4

D.P. for Minnow Films

P/D: Siobhan Sinnerton

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

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

'Letting Go'

BBC1

Co-director/ D.P. for October Films

Executive producer: Denman Rooke

How do parents of disabled teenagers cope when 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 everyday horrors and heroism" I magazine

"Without question the documentary of the week, Worthy of an award." Observer

'The Return of the Lost Boys'

BBC2

Producer/ director/ D.P. for October Films

Executive producer: Denman Rooke

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

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

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

'Britain's Street Kids'

C4

Producer/ director/ D.P. for True Vision

Executive producer: Brian Woods

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

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

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

'The Slumdog Children of Mumbai'

C4

Producer/director/D.P. for True Vision

Executive producer: Brian Woods

The story of 4 kids in the streets and slums of Mumbai told in pure ob-doc style over 3 months

- **WINNER: Rory Peck (Sony Impact Award) 2010**
- **WINNER: Prague International Film Festival: Audience award**
- **BAFTA NOMINATED: Factual director**
- **BAFTA NOMINATED: Best photography**

"If the movie was shocking but uplifting, the real life documentary is every bit as affecting" Krishnan Guru-Murthy
"Reveals the brutal reality of life in the slums of Mumbai. A deeply moving portrait" TV Guide

'The Berlusconi Show'

BBC2

Producer/director/D.P. for Blakeway

Executive producer: Fiona Stourton

An immersive, tongue in cheek investigation of 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

'Return to Tiananmen Square'

BBC 2

Producer/director/DP for BBC N&CA

Executive producer: Louise Norman

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

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

'The Iraq War by Numbers'

ITV1/ AJE

Producer/director/DP for Mentorn Media

Executive producer: Sam Collyns

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

- **SHORTLISTED : RTS International Current Affairs**

'Britain's Most Wanted'

BBC2

Producer/director/DP for Mentorn Media

Executive producer: George Carey

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

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

'The Second Wife'

BBC2

Producer/director/DP for BBC

Executive producer: Karen O'Connor

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

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

'Inside Israel's Jails'

BBC2/CBS 60 Minutes

Producer/director/D.P. for Raw TV

Executive producer: Dimitri Doganis

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

- **WINNER: TV STORY OF THE YEAR - FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION 2005**
- **WINNER: BEST JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR - FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION**

'Indira Gandhi – The Killing of Mother India'

BBC2/4

Producer/director/D.P. for BBC

Executive producer: Richard Klein

A documentary feature looking at 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**

'Warren Zevon: Keep Me in Your Heart'

VH1

Producer/ director/ D.P. for MTV

Executive producer: George Moll

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 2002**

'Finest Hour'

BBC 1

Series director/ D.P. for Brook Lapping

Executive producer: Brian Lapping

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**

'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.

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

- Extensively travelled, often working in challenging foreign and domestic locations, with minimal &/or local crew – from 3 months inside Belmarsh prison to a month living in the Sahara.
- Experienced on all relevant documentary & HD cameras: Red Epic/ Varicam/ Sony FS7+A7R/ Canon 5D+C300 etc. & DJI Phantom 3 drone.
- Full hostile environment training (HEFAT/RTA/advanced driving) – current to 2018.
- Experience in numerous conflict zones - from Gaza to the Swat Valley, Baghdad to Kabul.
- Completed all BBC 'Safeguarding Trust' online modules
- Experience with the great & good (and sometimes less good :-)) in front of camera – Oprah Winfrey, Hunter S Thompson, Nelson Mandela, George Clooney, Sophia Loren, Princess Diana, Michael Jordan, Springsteen, Bowie etc
- Owns offline edit system, (Avid MC7 & Premiere) and has intermediate editing skills
- Trained (not as 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/ masterclasses at the BBC; NFTS; Imperial War Museum; Brighton, Middx & Cambridge University; SIDF & 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, RTS, Directors UK & The British Guild of Television Cameramen
- Conversational Spanish/ French