

Oonagh Cousins

DV DIRECTOR / SHOOTING PRODUCER

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PROFILE

US/UK Passport holder. Clean driving licence.

Emerging director with strong broadcast experience as shooting producer on local and international productions. Working mostly on character lead, sensitive access based obs docs. Recently completed edit as PD on two specialist factual programmes, shot across 3 countries with award winning war photographer Richard Mosse and artist Haroon Mirza, broadcast on Bloomberg Channel and distributed globally. As shooting producer on 4 episodes of National Geographic's prime time documentary series *Drugs Inc* I set up and conducted complicated international shoots, while casting and managing large, diverse contacts lists. I have a strong track record for gaining difficult access. An early background in live broadcast news informs commitment to meeting deadlines with strong stories. Directed 2 independent docs officially selected by 3 British film festivals, including London Open City Doc Fest.

KEY SKILLS

- Producing & directing, plus strong interpersonal skills.
- Gaining difficult access: individuals and privileged institutions.
- Shooting for broadcast (+ sound); interviews + actuality.
- Developing and organising complex international shoots.
- Edit: Final Cut Pro, Premier Pro.
- Hostile environments trained.
- Health & Safety, Compliance & Editorial Policy trained.
- Development: Script / pitch writing.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Richard Mosse, Brilliant Ideas (Bloomberg Channel), MAKE Productions, PD Apr - Sept 17

- Seen through the edit.
- Shot across several countries.
- Completed on time and to budget on a very tight schedule.
- *"This is such a powerful program, one of my favourites in the series."* - Bloomberg commissioning editor.

Haroon Mirza, Brilliant Ideas (Bloomberg Channel), MAKE Productions, PD Apr - Sept 17

- Seen through the edit.
- Completed on time and to budget on a very tight schedule.

Cyber Heist (Channel News Asia), MAKE Productions, Development Producer, Jan - Apr 17

- Gained access to British and American government and top level security officials.

China Inferno (Channel News Asia), MAKE Productions, Development Producer 2016

Drugs Inc, 'Ivy League High' (National Geographic Channel), Wall to Wall, Shooting Producer,

March - July 2015 Exec: Peter Badcock

Gaining difficult access to individuals, gangs and both local / federal law enforcement.

'Travelling Foundry' (Official Selection Glastonbury **Short** Film Festival), **Shooting PD** 2015

Short independent documentary on the UK's last travelling bell foundry in the Tabernas desert.

Under World, 'Knock Off' (National Geographic), Wall to Wall, Shooting Producer, June - Nov

2014 Exec: Peter Badcock

Access based documentary filming undercover in China with Triad mafia and America.

Drugs Inc, 'Hardcore Heroin' (National Geographic), Wall to Wall, **Shooting Producer** Ap - June 14 Exec: Peter Badcock
Access based documentary with the Sinaloa Cartel at Mexican border and through America's major heroin networks.

'Dealer POV' (National Geographic) Wall to Wall, **Producer** Feb - April 2014
Exec: Peter Badcock SP: Stuart Pender SD: Chris Lent
Access based character led documentary with drug dealers and gangs in NYC.

Drugs Inc (National Geographic) Wall to Wall **AP**, Jan - Feb 2014

'A Polite Revolution' Independent Short, **PD**, 2013
Official Selection 2014: London Open City Doc Fest & Bristol Radical Film Festival.

BBC News Shooting AP, 2012
Working with presenter David Sillito on news packages during the London Olympics.

Democracy Now! (NPR and PBS) Assistant Producer (Internship), New York 2010 - 2011
Assistant producer meeting hard deadlines for daily live broadcast news.

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

'Syria's Kobane, Hidden Revolution', (Independent short doc) **Shooting PD** Nov '14 - Feb '15
• Gaining access to Kurdish Syrian communities during the siege of Kobane.

Kate Tempest: Everything Speaks In Its Own Way (Zingaro DVD Release), **Shooting Director**, Jan-March 2012

- Film on multi award winning, Mercury Award nominate rapper and writer Kate Tempest.
- Multi-camera live shoots at gigs + interviews.
- Shot and edited (FCP)

'Robin On The Road' (The Guardian Online & Oxfam), Shooting PD, April 2011

- Touring the UK's most vulnerable communities hit hardest by austerity.
- Working with Bill Nighy and Sam West as presenters.
- Shot and edited (FCP)

'It Cuts Both Ways' (Guardian / Independent) **PD**, Dec-March 2010/11

- ***Viral Online Film***: Most viewed film on British internet on day of launch.
- Personally secured access: Radiohead, Bill Nighy, MP Zac Goldsmith, UK Uncut and Robin Hood Tax. Animation and graphics developed with a wider team.
- Shot and edited (FCP)

Corporate Filmmaking

Shot, produced, directed and edited 40 short docs and films working with, among others:

- The Teachers Union (2016), DFID (2016), Oxfam (2012), Asylum Aid (2012), British Institute of Human Rights (2012), UK Feminista, The Fawcett Society (2011), UK Uncut (2011) +

RADIO Producer, '*Jalopy, Old Time Blues*', **Resonance FM**, Nov 2009 (New York)

EDUCATION

2:1 BA (Hons) English and European Literature, Sussex University, 2006-09

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

Social Engagement: Ex-Offenders educator & mentor, refugee camp volunteer, Hackney riot youth outreach, women's martial arts facilitator, domestic violence sector advocacy and community work.

Martial Arts: Boxing in Glasgow, kick boxing in Nepal, Russian martial arts.

REFERENCES (DETAILS ON REQUEST)

Stuart Pender, Series Producer, Drugs Inc

Peter Badcock, Executive Producer, Wall to Wall

Sian Kevill, Exec, MAKE Productions

Carl Calm, Commissioner, BBC3