

# Stephen A Nicholas

Production Designer/Supervising Art Director

Mobile: [07768 051026](tel:07768051026) Email: [stephen.visualart@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.visualart@gmail.com) Web: [www.stephenanicholas.com](http://www.stephenanicholas.com)

I am an experienced Production Designer/Supervising Art Director with twenty three years experience in the Film and Television industry, I am best known for being a key part of creating the art departments that designed the relaunch of 'Doctor Who' and its spin offs, 'Torchwood', and 'The Sarah Jane Adventures', I was also Supervising Art Director on the 'Sherlock' pilot which developed into a global hit, I have worked on many Feature Films all over the world including South Africa, Romania and the Isle of Man, I have vast experience in production design and art department management as well as budgeting, scheduling and CGI work, I have also Designed sets for various Doctor Who and other show events nationwide whilst Studio Managing for the BBC. I am a verified trainer and mentor and continue to support apprentices and trainee schemes through various development programs to this day.

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## Television Work

<b>'Project D'</b> 2018 <i>60 minute Drama/Documentary special</i> London/South Wales	Title Company Director Producer	Production Designer BBC Studios Marcus Plowright Georgina Lee
<b>'Doctor Who Series I – VI &amp; Specials'</b> 2004 - 2011 <i>45 minutes and 1 hour specials</i> UK, Dubai, Utah, USA	Title Company Designers Exec Producers  Producer	Supervising Art Director BBC Wales Edward Thomas, Tristan Peatfield, Michael Pickwood Russell T Davies, Julie Gardner, Piers Wenger, Beth Willis, Steven Moffat, Caroline Skinner Phil Collinson, Tracie Simpson, Peter Bennett, Marcus Wilson, Sanna Wohlenberg, Nikki Wilson
<b>'Sherlock'</b> 2008 <i>3 X 1 hour specials</i> South Wales	Title Company Designer Producer	Supervising Art Director Hartwood Films/BBC Wales Edward Thomas Sue Vurtue
<b>'Sarah Jane Adventures Special'</b> 2006 <i>45 minutes special</i> South Wales	Title Company Designer Producer	Chief Supervising Art Director BBC Wales Edward Thomas Susie Liggat
<b>'Torchwood series I – III'</b> 2005 - 2008 <i>3 x 1 hour specials</i> South Wales	Title Company Designer Producer	Chief Supervising Art Director BBC Wales Edward Thomas, Julian Luxton Peter Bennett, Richard Stokes
<b>'Jonathan'</b> 2004 <i>45 minutes Welsh Rugby programme</i> South Wales	Title Company Designer Producer	Art Director Avanti Television Edward Thomas Emyr Afan
<b>'Prynhawn Da'</b> 2004 <i>45 minute Welsh daytime programme</i> South Wales	Title Company Designer Producer	Art Director Tinopolis Edward Thomas Glynog Davies
<b>'I-Dot'</b> 2003 <i>60 minute Welsh Music programme</i> South Wales	Title Company Designer Producer	Art Director Boomerang Edward Thomas Ffion Dafis

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## Studio Management (2015 – 2018)

Worked as a Studio Manager at the BBC's Roath Lock Studios in Cardiff Bay, managing the operations of the nine studios and backlot sets for Doctor Who, Casualty and Pobol Y Cwm. Working to the Head of Production, my role was responsible for overseeing the smooth operation and Health and Safety processes for all productions shooting at the BBC Roath Lock Studios, I was also responsible for creating budgets and managing various projects for the work at Roath Lock Studios, I line managed project teams and worked as an Designer/Art Director on specific public service events for the shows based at Roath Lock. In addition to this I was the Business Continuity Deputy for Roath Lock working directly to the Head of Production and also the sustainability ambassador for the site which included recycling of assets and sets for the BBC.

## Brand and Event Design (2012 – 2017)

<b>'Doctor Who S10 Christmas Screening'</b> 2017	Title Location Company	Art Director Science Museum London BBC London
<b>'The Finale Countdown Concert'</b> 2017	Title Location Company	Designer Cardiff BBC Wales
<b>'Live Lesson - Doctor Who &amp; the micro:bit'</b> 2017	Title Location Company	Designer Manchester BBC London
<b>'Class Series Launch'</b> 2016	Title Location Company	Art Director Shoreditch BBC Wales
<b>'BAFTA Cymru Doctor Who 9 Screenings'</b> 2016	Title Location Company	Art Director Wales BAFTA Cymru/Wales
<b>'Midsummer Night's Dream Screening'</b> 2016	Title Location Company	Art Director Cardiff BBC Wales
<b>'Doctor Who S8 Launch/World Tour'</b> 2015	Title Location Company	Art Director Cardiff/London BBC Wales
<b>'Wizards V Aliens Series Launch'</b> 2014	Title Location Company	Art Director BFI London BBC Wales
<b>'Doctor Who at Buckingham Palace'</b> 2013	Title Location Company	Art Director Buckingham Palace London BBC Wales
<b>'Doctor Who Experience 2012'</b> 2012	Title Location Company	Art Director Cardiff Bay BBC Worldwide

## Production Asset Management (2012 – 2015)

I worked as a Production Asset Manager relocating the Drama production assets that had accumulated in the Upper Boat Studio storage areas to the new Studio facility at Roath Lock in Cardiff Bay, this meant employing a large team of people to pack, label and log the assets before the move to the new facility at Roath Lock, alongside this I was also responsible for logging and creating an in-house database so that all BBC productions could share assets across the business which could be accessed through the BBC's internal network. As part of this role, I was also responsible for supplying and tracking production assets to BBC Worldwide and other external partners for global exhibitions and live events, whether it was a digital drawing for a magazine or a practical TARDIS prop for an event, the authorization would be my responsibility.

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## Project Management (2011 – 2012)

I have project managed many projects over the years, from setting up the first construction workshop for Doctor Who to the design process of the Upper Boat six Studio complex for BBC Wales, this housed the ever growing 'Doctor Who' show as well as 'Torchwood', 'The Sarah Jane Adventures' and the 'Sherlock' series. As the BBC Wales Drama department grew the BBC decided to relocate to a new bespoke built site in Cardiff bay, so I was asked to project manage the decommission of the Upper Boat site and to manage the move to the new drama village, this would be a purpose build 175,000 square foot Drama Hub for the BBC which would be the home of 'Doctor Who', 'Upstairs Downstairs', 'Casualty' and Pobol Y Cwm', this meant that the 22,000 square foot of props store, costume, prosthetics, electrical and the props fabrication workshop would need relocating, on top of this it was my responsibility to decommission the TARDIS interior set that would need flat packing for BBC Worldwide's future use, it also meant that I would need to return the site to the landlords specification as it was when we first moved in.

## Feature Film Work

### 'The Magic Door'

*Action Adventure Fantasy Feature Film*  
United Kingdom 2004  
Company: Crimson Knight Productions

Title	Supervising Art Director
Director	Paul Matthews
Producer	Patsy Chesney
Designer	Edward Thomas

### 'Blood of Vikings'

*Action Adventure Fantasy Feature Film*  
South Africa 2003  
Company: Crimson Knight Productions

Title	Supervising Art Director
Director	David Lister
Producer	Patsy Chesney
Designer	Burrie Van-Zul

### 'Hoodlum & Son'

*1930's Comedy Crime Feature*  
South Africa 2002  
Company: Tanmarsh Communications

Title	Art Director
Director	Ashley Way
Producer	Elizabeth Matthews
Designer	Burrie Van-Zul

### 'Askari'

*Family Adventure Film*  
South Africa 2001  
Company: Peakviewing Transatlantic

Title	Art Director
Director	David Lister
Producer	Paul Matthews
Designer	Dennis Kightley

### 'Beserker'

*Action Adventure Fantasy Feature Film*  
South Africa 2000  
Company: Peakviewing Transatlantic

Title	Art Director
Director	Paul Matthews
Producer	Peter Matthews, Elizabeth Matthews
Designer	Edward Thomas

### 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice'

*Family Fantasy Feature Film*  
South Africa 2000  
Company: Peakviewing Transatlantic

Title	Art Director
Director	David Lister
Producer	Paul Matthews
Designer	Dennis Kightley

### 'Meeksville Ghost'

*Fantasy Comedy Adventure Feature Film*  
South Africa  
Company: Peakviewing Transatlantic

Title	Art Director
Director	David Lister
Producer	Paul Matthews
Designer	Edward Thomas

### 'Dazzle'

*Adventure Family Fantasy Feature Film*  
South Africa  
Company: Tanmarsh Communications

Title	Art Director
Director	David Lister
Producer	Elizabeth Matthews
Designer	Edward Thomas

### 'Hooded Angels'

*Action - Western 1865-1874*  
South Africa 1999  
Company: Tanmarsh Communications

Title	Art Director
Director	Paul Matthews
Producer	Elizabeth Matthews
Designer	Edward Thomas

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## Achievements

### Documentary subject and various question and answer appearances

- 'Impossible Worlds' at the Doctor Who Festival on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the London Excel – A question and answers panel on one of the main stages at the festival in front of a live audience with a book signing afterwards.
- BAFTA Cymru screening of Doctor Who on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 at Theater Ffwrnes Llanelli – A question and answers masterclass in front of a live audience following the screening.
- BAFTA Cymru screening of Doctor Who on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at the Savoy Theatre Monmouth – A question and answers masterclass in front of a live audience following the screening.
- Appeared as a behind the scenes subject in Doctor Who Confidential, an interview talking about the construction of various sets that he built on 'The Curse of the Black Spot'.
- Appeared as a behind the scenes subject in Doctor Who Confidential, an interview talking about the challenges of shipping a bus to Dubai and how he dressed a desert to look like an alien planet on the 'Planet of the Dead'.

## Author

### Impossible Worlds – The art of Doctor Who book

I was given the opportunity to write a book called 'The Impossible Worlds', I wrote this in collaboration with Mike Tucker about the Art of Doctor Who, I had worked on Doctor Who since 2004 and employed many different and talented designers throughout this period, I decided that the only way to showcase their fantastic work to the public and fans was to write a book, so following a challenging year 'Impossible Worlds' was published by BBC Worldwide in October 2015. In 2016 'Impossible Worlds' won best Doctor Who Book (non-fiction) in Doctor Who Magazine's reader's poll, it is loved by many fans and art lovers and continues to inspire people across the globe. I also continue to write design features for Doctor Who magazine when required.

## Training and Mentoring

I have trained as a verified trainer and have been training art departments in the Safe Design and Set Construction courses over the past seven years while being at the BBC; I have also trained as a mentor and have mentored many BBC art department apprentices and trainees while working as a Supervising Art Director and a Studio Manager.

## Skills

Experienced in Visual Effects and Computer Generated Imagery  
Draftsmanship Skills, practical and Computer Aided Design  
P.C. Literate (Adobe Photoshop CS2, Microsoft office etc.)  
Fluent in Welsh (Language & Written work)  
Art Department Budgeting and Scheduling  
Art Department Management

Verified Mentor  
Verified Trainer  
Full Driver's License  
Qualified Craftsman  
Full Motorcycle License

## Health and Safety Courses

Safe Management of Events – expires 2020 BBC  
Construction Design Management (CDM) BBC  
Design Risk Management Part 1 and 2 BBC  
Data Protection and Cyber Security BBC  
Safe design and Set Construction BBC  
Asbestos Awareness Course BBC  
Train the Trainer Course BBC

Fair Trading BBC  
Anti-bribery BBC  
Data Protection BBC  
Production Safety BBC  
Mentoring Workshop BBC  
Working with Children BBC

## Countries Worked In

Africa, Croatia, Dubai, Isle of Man, Ireland, Romania, UK, South Africa, United Emirates, USA

## References

References are available upon request.