

BRITISH ACADEMY of film and television arts



Simon Dinsell BAFTA and RTS Award Winning Series Director

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Profile:

I am a highly experienced BAFTA, Royal Television Society and Broadcast Award winning series director. I have directed some of the best loved television shows on TV whilst also making content for the world's biggest online platforms.

I have directed everything from large scale multi-camera entertainment shows, such as Coldplay at Radio City Music Hall, to complex Fact Ent shows a mile high in the Rocky Mountains, and self-shooting emotional Ob-Doc's on cancer wards for Stand Up to Cancer.

I always look forward to the opportunity to inspire and manage a team right from the inception of a project, and I am adept at engaging with an idea in a fresh and creative way, ensuring strong editorial judgement and capturing compelling storylines.

Celebrity interviews include Bradley Cooper, Gwyneth Paltrow, Fan Bing Bing, Kylie Minogue, David Beckham, MIck Jagger, and Dwayne Johnson to name a few.

"The first thing to say about Stand Up To Cancer is that it featured some of the most beautiful and affecting films you'll see on TV." – Ally Ross, The Sun.

"The series for Netflix is beautiful. Really appreciate your attention to detail. The shows are amazing." - Arthur Smith, A Smith & Co.

Recent work:

LIMITLESS WITH CHRIS HEMSWORTH Disnev+

Producer/Director

Chris Hemsworth is on an epic mission to discover how to live better for longer. In this thrilling series from Executive Producer Darren Aronofsky, Chris discovers how we all can unlock our potential to stay fitter, healthier, and happier throughout our lives. I am responsible for delivering the editorial in a bold and innovative visual style, while paying very close attention to the budget.

DEAD FAKE Discovery+ Series Producer/Series Director

A gripping series with inconceivable characters and shocking plot twists, this true-crime series features stranger-than-fiction cases of people who've committed the ultimate fraud and faked their own death.

Following live cases over 12 months we filmed in NYC, Miami, London, Scotland and Bali.





THE GLAMOUR OF EVIL

Drama Doc D&C Entertainment Director/Producer

Psychological thriller based on a true story: "A woman desperate to have a child, seeks a sign from God, but when no answer comes, she takes matters into her own hands and commits an unforgivable act".

IN WITH THE OLD

Discovery+ Series Producer/Director

Designers, builders and enthusiasts in small towns and remote locations across America reimagine and transform abandoned structures by preserving their historical integrity while giving them a new purpose. During production I was responsible for managing the shooting teams, crafting the storylines and producing the editorial content. Often spending weeks in extreme environments from -20 in Alaska to 50c in Arizona.

STAND UP TO CANCER 2023/24

Channel Four Show Runner **Royal Television Society Award**: Best Live Event

People affected by cancer share their personal and moving stories. A series of powerful appeal films that have helped to raise over a 100 Million pounds for cancer research in the UK.

"The first thing to say about Stand Up To Cancer is that it featured some of the most beautiful and affecting films you'll see on a telethon." – Ally Ross, TV Critic - The Sun.

TIK TOK GLOW UP TIK TOK Series Producer/Director

In this competition show, aspiring makeup artists navigate colorful challenges to win a career-making opportunity in the beauty industry. A series of live shows streamed live across TIK TOK hosted by an international panel of influencers.

DERREN BROWN

Channel Four Producer/Director.

BAFTA, Royal Television Society Award and Broadcast Award Winning Series.

Apocalypse unleashes Derren Brown's most audacious plan yet - to convince one person that the planet has been devastated by a catastrophic meteorite strike, that the infected now roam the land and he is one of a mere handful of survivors.

Our 'survivor' is someone who takes life for granted and has yet to truly value what he has. The adventure that awaits him is meticulously crafted to give him the ultimate wake-up call and teach him valuable lifelessons. Will he rise to the challenge?

DMC: DEATH BY MAGIC

NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES Show Runner/Series Director

Member of the English elite aristocracy, air to the Coutts banking fortune and magician, DMC travels the world in search of adventure, danger and magic.

Filmed in LA, Miami, Cape Town, Delhi and the UK.

Royal Television Society and Broadcast Award Winning Series.

Shot in Miami, L.A., across Europe and throughout the UK, I was responsible for all creative and technical aspects of the show. The series has been a huge success, taking Dynamo from Internet obscurity to becoming a household name and the channel garnered its highest rated show ever. Dynamo is now playing in stadiums around the world.

TIME CRASHERS

Channel Four Series director.

In C4's new prime time blockbuster ten Celebrities are sent back in time to experience a fully immersive life in six different eras from the Iron Age through to Victorian England.

With a cast of 120 and a crew of 40, the show mixes Drama and Structured reality, and shot throughout the country.

I SURVIVED A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

BBC One Series director.

A reality game show set six months in to a zombie outbreak where a group of survivors have to take refuge in an abandoned shopping centre. Survivors just need to avoid the zombies, but the slightest touch will result in death. Anyone still alive after seven days will be rescued by an army helicopter.

CHINESE ENTERTAINMENT OLYMPICS

Shanghai Media Group Show Runner & Executive Producer

8 x 1 hour episodes for Shanghai Media Group. Filmed in 12 different locations across China, from Tibet to Beijing this remarkable show was a first for Chinese TV.

I was responsible for every aspect of the series from directing the creative team, overseeing the R&D and managing the Chinese Government production departments. Not to mention managing some of the biggest talent in China including Fan Bing Bing & Jay Chou. When the finale broadcast on Christmas Eve over 400 Million tuned in!

RED BULL MINDGAMERS

Red Bull TV Executive Producer

7000 people from 24 countries battled it out in the most difficult 'escape rooms' ever devised. My job was to produce the 20 unit's covering the action across the world while creating the live finale based in Budapest. In addition, I was responsible for the online content and flanking material.

THE PHONE

Channel Four Series Producer/Series Director

The UK version that evolved out of the huge international success of the original format. Shooting at landmark buildings and locations across the UK it was my job to re-design the format from the initial opening sequences, the challenges, tasks and a completely new live finale staged at the top of Europe highest building. The Shard.

Shot in just one day and using 70 cameras, 30 crew and 2 helicopters we followed the action as it happened in real time.

THE CUBE

ITV Series director.

ITV's primetime gameshow where contestants must demonstrate skill as they endure seemingly simple tasks while confined in 'The Cube,' an intimidating glass box with its own mind and attitude, in the hope of winning a major cash prize.

BBQ Champ

ITV Series director.

A team of ten contenders from across the country compete against each other to become the first BBQ Champ and while Myleene Klass hosts the series, Man vs Food star Adam Richman judges, alongside British chef and restaurateur Mark Blatchford.

Each week, contenders prove themselves in challenges that will sort the BBQ champs from the BBQ chumps. From creating mouth watering BBQ masterpieces to reinventing culinary classics. Each contestant will have to try their best to win Adam and Mark's approval.

Additional skills:

Camera:

I can self-shoot using: Arri, RED, Sony, Nikon & Panasonic cameras.

Lighting:

I frequently light my own work including studio projects and location interviews.

Edit:

Before directing I was an editor and have a comprehensive understanding of the edit from inception to delivery using AVID, Premiere Pro & DaVinci Resolve. I also have a good understanding of Ai powered visuals, After Effects and Photoshop.

Personal interests:

Photography, skiing, cycling and mountain hiking.

Award Highlights:

BAFTA and Royal Television Society Award for DERREN BROWN: The Experiments.

Royal Television Society Award & Broadcast

Awards: Dynamo: Impossible.

BAFTA Craft Award: Apocalypse.

BAFTA Creative Digital Award: The Science of Sleep.

Broadcast Award for Best Entertainment: The Events.

C4's Stand Up to Cancer wins Royal Television Society Award: Best Live Event.

The donation films, produced & directed by Simon, help to raise over £100 million for Cancer Research UK.

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