

# Dr Paul Olding

## Creative Leader

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BAFTA nominated (Best Director) Television Broadcast Professional and Creative Leader with 18 years as a Series Producer/Director and Writer working across documentary, drama and branded content. My focus is in the Specialist Factual space delivering award winning science and history output for all BBC channels, plus National Geographic, Discovery, Animal Planet, Science Channel and PBS. I have a wide understanding of the media landscape and proven ability developing and pitching projects, resource and budget allocation, project management, client liaison and digital strategy implementation. I provide a creative vision and I am currently seeking opportunities to shape the next decade of factual tv and film, using my wide skill base and extensive experience to broaden audience engagement and bring a fresh perspective to factual programming.

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**Talent Manager:** <https://www.thetalentmanager.co.uk/talent/12718/paul-olding>

### Series Producer/Director, Freelance

2013 - Present

### Achievements / Responsibilities

- **Creative Leader** of large stratified teams encouraging creative input, imaginative development, cross department dialogue and employing effective and dynamic feedback to bring the best from all team members
- **Project Management** with budgets currently up to \$2.5m, from first idea to delivery, with detailed experience of budget allocation, staffing, technical requirements and resource management
- **Client Liaison** with channel commissioners, production company execs, funding bodies and corporate CEOs to ensure creative projects fit within prescribed strategies and audience demographic
- **Pitching** to UK and International clients, gaining commissions and co-production funding, devising strategies to deliver single projects to widely different markets and audiences
- **Digital Strategies** to explore online platforms, providing additional, interactive content, targeting layered audience demographics to expand reach outside the traditional tv space and extend product monetization
- **Development** of countless projects from initial logline to green light treatment and then ultimate delivery, plus 'blank page' development for Sundog Pictures, Nerd and STV

### Selected Credits

*Life of a Universe* 2 x 30min, ABC Australia 2017. Prof Brian Cox explores the start and end of the universe, filmed over 4 days in Australia. I pitched and developed the series pushing a fresh and dynamic obs-doc delivery, remotely overseeing the edit. Comms Steve Bibb, Michael O'Neill. ABC

*What on Earth* 10 x 60 Science Channel 2016. Mysteries on earth explored through satellite imagery. I gave this established series a more 'coherent' look, new graphic branding and shooting style framework. Leading a team of 20, I drove the editorial space and filming logistics, had detailed client liaison, and oversaw series scripting and editing. Comm Neil Laird. WagTV

**Branded Content:** *Million Mile Light* Kickstarter campaign video, *Icolube* product launch short narrative film and *The Elephant & Castle Urban Forest* charity film

***Cleopatra's Lost Tomb*** 1 x 60min C4/PBS 2015. Reevaluating Cleopatra's life through excavations of a maverick archaeologist. Involving complex negotiations with contributor and authorities, security and limited time issues on the ground and careful shaping in the edit. Comms Rob Coldstream, Steve Burns. Dragonfly

***Monsters behind the Iron Curtain*** 1 x 90min AP/NGCI 2014. Mystery drama doc investigating bizarre creatures and weird occurrences. With nuanced script writing and close client liaison, I delivered the project to polar opposite broadcasters. Comms Patrick Keegan, Hannah Demidowicz. Pioneer Productions

***How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson: Light & Glass*** 2 x 60min PBS/BBC2 2014. Exploration of the unsung inventors and inventions that made the modern world. I helped devise the series concept and narrative landscape plus overall graphic branding. Comms Martin Davidson, Bill Gardner. Nutopia

## Senior Producer/Director, BBC Factual

2002-2013

### Achievements / Responsibilities

- **New Talent** brought in by me helped change the face of specialist factual Tv, seeking out (and 'breaking in') presenters with expert authority. New presenters included Brian Cox, Iain Stewart (*Journeys from the centre of the Earth*, 2004), John Marsden (*Body Hits*, 2003) and Tanya Byron (*Little Angels*, 2003)
- **Changing Science Output** by helping to overhaul the *Horizon* brand with a fresh obs doc approach (helping to keep its ongoing commission) and creating a returning brand in the *Wonders* series with Brian Cox, using new filming technologies, new editorial landscapes, complex logistics and new visual styles
- **New Technologies** - I was the first within the BBC Science dept to 'self shoot' (*Tomorrow's World* 1998) and later to use the new HiDef cameras, plus heli-gymbal rigs and super slow-mo cameras on location (*Earth the Power of the Planet* 2006), coordinating complex global logistics usually reserved for Natural History. With the obs-doc series *Little Angels* (2003), I created a 'fixed rig' of cameras long before the genre existed.
- **New Filming Techniques** developed by me include an on-set playback system for drama docs, allowing contributors to speak *through* the actors, plus real time translation systems for foreign interviews
- **Acute Negotiating Skills** used to secure difficult access for a number of films, notably from forensic staff and relatives of the deceased inside field morgues in Thailand with *Tsunami: Naming the Dead* (2005)

### Selected Credits

***The Mystery of Rome's X Tombs*** 1 x 60min BBC2/PBS NOVA 2013. Dr Michael Scott investigates a mass grave unearthed in Rome's catacombs. Securing access from the Vatican and combining an ancient cold case with scientific analyses and bold CGI, to reevaluate what life was like in Ancient Rome in this cross genre hybrid film. Comms Martin Davidson, Evan Hadingham, EP Chris Granlund

***Doctors*** 6 x 30mins BBC1 2013/2012. Serial drama exploring medical conditions, sibling rivalry, being old and gay, living with cancer, plus a song and dance routine. Producers Jonathan Phillips, Carol Harding

***Wonders of Life: Size Matters*** 1 x 60min BBC2/Science Channel 2013. Award winning film investigating the physics of life through the big and small with Prof Brian Cox. Management of a significant budget and complex logistics, immersive narrative landscape, wide scale health & safety and driving the overall series graphic look, plus self shooting underwater camera. Comm Kim Shillinglaw, EP Andrew Cohen

***City Beneath the Waves: Pavlopetri*** 1 x 60min BBC2/Discovery 2011. Obs-doc following underwater archaeologists as they unlock the secrets of a submerged Bronze Age city. Involving complex on site negotiations with resistant local authorities, and employing cutting edge underwater scanning technology and immersive CGI. Comms Susan Winslow, Martin Davidson. EP Gary Hunter

**Wonders of the Solar System: Dead or Alive** 1 x 60min BBC2/Science Channel 2010. Game changing BAFTA nominated (Best Director), multi award winning exploration of the Solar System with Prof Brian Cox using earth based location analogues. I helped develop and shape this series from inception to delivery, gaining an accumulated audience of over 5 million and expanding audience reach with additional online viral clips and a CBBC tie-in, *Space Hoppers*. Comm Kim Shillinglaw, EP Andrew Cohen

**Horizon** I pitched, developed and delivered a number of films, including Brian Cox's first presenting roles, *What on Earth is Wrong with Gravity?* (2008) and *Do You Know What Time It Is?* (2008), giving the tired 'Big Science' genre a fresh obs-doc look with ground breaking graphic visualisations. Plus more hybrid films including the 'winningly playful' scripted drama doc *The Genius Sperm Bank* (2006) about the repository for Germinal Choice, and *Tsunami: Naming the Dead* (2005), a highly emotional obs-doc following the international forensic effort to identify the final remaining Tsunami victims. EP Andrew Cohen

**Earth The Power of the Planet: Volcano** 1 x 60min BBC2/Nat Geo/ZDF 2007. BAFTA nominated geological series with Iain Stewart exploring Earth's inner heat. Filmed in HD for 1<sup>st</sup> time. EP Phil Dolling

**Body Hits** 2 x 30 min BBC3 2003. Launching BBC3, with innovative contributor experimentation using video diaries, and expansive storytelling to bring science to a younger adult audience. SP Judith Bunting

## Assistant Producer, BBC Factual

2001-2002

Driving editorial content, managing small teams and working with presenters to create short investigative films for primetime BBC1, including *Animal Hospital*, *Tomorrow's World* and all BBC *Holiday* brands.

## Researcher, BBC Science

1998 - 2001

Sourcing stories from big science, medicine and technology for weekly science show *Tomorrow's World*. I helped change the filming landscape as one of the BBC's first self shooting directors

## Operations Manager, Metro East Fm

1998

Setting up, managing and training personnel for a multi-lingual Asian radio station in Nairobi Kenya.

## Education

- DPhil in Australian Frog Calls, Dept of Zoology, Oxford University
- BA Biological Sciences, Jesus College, Oxford University

## Additional Skills & Experience

- **Media Advisor**, The Frozen Ark project (voluntary)
- **Radio Broadcaster**, Oxygen 107.9fm (1997-98), *The Science Show*, Australia's Radio National
- **South East Vineyards Association** committee member
- Creator of nine independently produced award winning short film dramas
- Raindance Film School, Drama Directing Foundation Certificate, Screen Writing Certificate
- HSE First Aid at Work 2016, HSE Media Scuba Diver
- Expert knowledge in biology, animal behaviour, evolution and ecology and animal communication
- Urban vigneron and vintner, OldingManor. Owner Wildwood Vineyard. Author *The Urban Vineyard*

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