

Dr Paul Olding

Creative Leader

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I am a Creative Leader with 20 years experience as an award winning (BAFTA nominated) television broadcast professional working across documentary, drama and branded content. My focus is in the Specialist Factual space delivering award winning TV projects for all BBC channels, plus Channel 4 and 5, National Geographic, Discovery, Animal Planet, The Science Channel and PBS. I have a wide understanding of the media landscape and employ a broad skill base to manage large teams and provide a dynamic creative vision. I have proven ability to enable change, through strategic thinking, development and pitching, securing IP, budget allocation, planning & project management and client liaison. I have a wide set of transferable skills and I am looking for new Creative Opportunities.

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IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2574778/?ref=fn_al_nm_1

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

Tv Series Producer/Director, Freelance

2013 - Present

Achievements

I have successfully delivered a diverse range of projects to a wide platform of broadcasters, using innovative film making techniques and clever use of budgets, helping to shape the Tv factual landscape by expanding audience reach through accessible narratives and visual engagement.

Responsibilities

● **Team Management:** I have managed large, stratified teams (up to 50 people) both in the office and on location. These have included multi departmental drama shoots (feature length scripted dramadoc *Wallis: The Queen that Never Was* for Channel 5 (2017)) to large documentary projects (showrunner for The Science Channel series *What on Earth (2016)*).

● **Development & Pitching:** I pitched and developed the 2 part Brian Cox series *Life of a Universe (2017)* to ABC Australia, exploring big science in an obs-doc envelope, and overseeing the edit from the UK.

I developed Nat Geo's *World's Smart Cities: Amsterdam (2016)* from initial concept, consulting direct with their European team. Self shot, I used innovative embedded graphics to show how tech savvy entrepreneurs see Amsterdam through new technologies.

I played a key role in devising the series concept and narrative landscape, plus the Emmy Award winning CGI branding for PBS/BBC *How we got to now with Steven Johnson (2014)*, exploring the unsung inventors that made the modern world.

I have created short form branded content for Kickstarter campaigns (**Million Mile Light**), product launches (**Icolube**) and charity awareness films, plus factual development for Sundog Pictures, Nerd and STV.

● **Negotiating & Securing IP:** It took complex negotiations with the contributor and authorities to bring *Cleopatra's Lost Tomb* to Channel4 and PBS (2015). Overcoming security issues and limited time on the ground, I reevaluated the life of the infamous Queen through the excavations of the maverick archaeologist.

● **Co-Production:** I have worked on many projects with multiple stakeholders, and through close client liaison I was able to repackage the products for very different audiences, such as the dramadoc *Russia's Mystery Files (2014)* delivered to polar opposite broadcasters Nat Geo and Animal Planet.

Senior Producer/Director, BBC Factual

2002-2013

Achievements

I helped to change the face of specialist factual Tv by seeking out (and 'breaking in') new presenters with expert authority (including Brian Cox), and created some of the BBC's highest rated and highest income return factual output. I also helped change the look, pace and style of BBC Science programming, was at the vanguard of HiDef filming and delivery, and pioneered cross genre output.

Responsibilities

● **New Talent:** I have worked a lot with sourcing and bringing new talent to Tv and reshaping tired old factual formats. Along with the likes of Iain Stewart (*Journeys from the centre of the Earth*, 2004), John Marsden (*Body Hits*, 2003), Tanya Byron (*Little Angels*, 2003), I played a key role in bringing Prof Brian Cox to the BBC, creating *What on Earth is Wrong with Gravity* (2008), followed by *Do you know What time is it?* (2008). I gave this big science genre a fresh obs-doc, road trip feel, spliced in with innovative, mid bending graphic visualisations.

● **Returning Brands:** I was at the forefront of the multi award winning large scale exploration of the multi award winning *Wonders of the Solar System* (2010). I helped develop and shape this series from inception to delivery, exploring new filming technologies, new editorial landscapes, complex logistics and a new visual style, gaining an accumulated audience of over 5 million. I also helped expand audience reach shooting additional online viral clips and a CBBC tie-in, *Space Hoppers*. I rejoined the brand with *Wonders of Life* (2013).

With *Dara O'Briain's Science Club* (2012), I helped develop and shape a brand new science magazine show. I sourced new talent and pitched and developed provocative short form films exploring Smart Drugs, Pointless Pandas, Printing Jawbones and Lab Grown Beef.

● **New Technology:** With the award winning BBC/Nat Geo/ZDF co-production *Earth The Power of the Planet* (2006), I was the first within BBC Science to use the new HiDef cameras and heli-gymbals, coordinating complex global logistics usually reserved for blue chip Natural History. I was also the first to use high speed super slow-mo cameras on location. With the BAFTA nominated self shot obs-doc series *Little Angels* (2003) I created a 'fixed rig' of cameras long before genre existed.

● **New Channels:** I was involved with the launch of BBC3, bringing science to a younger adult audience with *Body Hits* (2003), employing innovative contributor experimentation.

● **Cross Genre Output:** For *The Mystery of Rome's X Tombs* (BBC/PBS Nova 2013), I combined an archeological cold case with detailed scientific analyses to reevaluate what life was like in Ancient Rome. I also engineered a real time translation system to monitor foreign interviewees.

I hybridized obs-doc, adventure, science and history to deliver *City Beneath the Waves: Pavlopetri* (2011), one of the most repeated Factual films on the BBC. Battling complex on site negotiations with the local authorities, I used cutting edge underwater scanning technology and immersive CGI so the audience could experience the city through the eyes of our experts. I also made Britain's cold coastal waters look positively tropical with *Britain's Secret Seas* (2010) filming underwater natural history on a limited docs budget.

● **Access:** I have made many films for the BBC Horizon brand, including the scripted dramadoc *The Genius Sperm Bank* (2006). I had to negotiate access to former staff, the couples who went to the bank and their children. I also developed an innovative on-set playback system so that contributors could speak *through* the actors. The same negotiating skills were used to gain access to forensic staff and relatives of the deceased in very difficult conditions inside field morgues in Thailand with *Tsunami: Naming the Dead* (2005).

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 the worlds of big science, medicine and technology for weekly science show *Tomorrow's World*. I helped change the way docs are made being one of the BBC's first self shooting directors, writing and filming my own reports.

Operations Manager, East Fm

1998

Training personnel, setting up and managing 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.
- Creator of 9 independently produced 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*

References

Available on Request