

STEPHEN SHEARMAN

SHOW RUNNER / SERIES PRODUCER / SERIES DIRECTOR / PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

Available: July 2023

07768 933215

shearman@runbox.com

Bristol, Cardiff, London

linkedin.com/in/stephen-shearman

vimeo.com/shearman

ABOUT

BBC trained, Show Runner, Series Producer/Director, PD, who has worked across a wide range of documentary, specialist factual and factual entertainment programmes for Discovery+, Disney+, National Geographic, Animal Planet, C4, Sky, Travel, History and NBC Universal.

Strong editorial sensibilities and skilled in crafting narratives and turning complex topics across history, science and adventure into popular, engaging and entertaining programmes for global markets. Hugely experienced in working and delivering in demanding environments and filming all around the world. Confident setting the creative vision, directing large and complex documentary and drama reconstruction shoots, managing single or multi-camera crews and production teams.

I have a reputation for developing strong relationships with high-profile talent. I strive for honest and real on screen. I have a versatile skillset covering the whole production process; from developing content ideas, working with channel executives, setting up complex shoots, scripting and storyboarding, to directing location filming, dealing with compliance and legal, producing multiple edits and final post.

TESTIMONIAL

'Stephen consistently delivers excellent, visually arresting and intelligent films - even from the most challenging locations. Epic reconstructions down to intimate moments, he's the Swiss-army knife of directors with a blade for each occasion.'

**Harry Marshall,
Chairman and Founder, Icon Films**

'Steve is always such a pleasure to work with - smart, fun, incredibly diligent and hard working with a great instinct for amazing scenes.'

Presenter and Chief Scout, Bear Grylls

'I enjoy working with Steve, whose approach to filmmaking is a dynamic mix of ambition, imagination, and that all important confidence to embrace the unexpected.'

Presenter, Jeremy Wade

SELECTED CREDITS

Director | **Saudi Arabia Wonders from the Air** | S.1 | OR Media | Nov '22 - July 23

Ambitious, big budget, blue chip series showcasing the hidden wonders of Saudi Arabia told by the people who live there. 15 weeks filming on location across KSA.

Producer/Director | **Lost Cities with Albert Lin** | S.2 | Raw for Nat Geo/Disney+ | April '22 - Nov '22

Style reset for this returning and popular archaeology/adventure series. Filming in Peru and other global destinations throughout 2022.

Producer/Director | **Primal Survivor - Ride the Mekong, Escape the Amazon** | S.5-6 | Icon for Disney+ | Feb '21 - Feb '22.

Filmed in Laos and Guyana under strict covid guidelines, 3 x 60' episodes of this popular adventure series, following Hazen Audel living with tribes and learning how to survive in some of the toughest places in the world.

Series Director | **Unknown Waters with Jeremy Wade** | S.1 | Icon for Disney+ | June - Nov '20

Running two episodes, set up and filming on location. Resetting series style/editorial. Overseeing channel engagement. Filmed under Covid restrictions in Kenya and Iceland.

Creative Partner | Various US Production Slate *Wildflame Productions | Feb '20 – Jan '21*

Working directly to exec producer Llinos Griffin-Williams and with a small team to advise on US development including **Yellowstone Super Volcano** 1x120 for Discovery Science, **Warrior Chariot** and **True Viking with Kristofer Hivju** for Smithsonian, among others in various stages of development.

Show Runner | Chasing Ocean Giants | S.1 | Plimsoll for Discovery+ | Jan '19 – Feb '20

Setting the vision for this major series that was made for channel launch. Renowned diver, Patrick Dykstra takes us on eight epic adventures discovering new insight into some of the world's largest marine animals. Directed and cut the first episode and overseeing channel engagement and all aspects of the production.

Producer/Director | America's Lost Vikings | S.1 | Arrow for Science Channel | Sep – Dec '18

I wrote and directed three episodes of this one-off series. Archaeologists, Mike Arbuthnot and Blue Nelson examine evidence that suggest the Vikings landed on the coast of North America 500 years before Christopher Columbus. Filmed in Canada, across the US, Denmark and Greenland.

Producer/Director | Primal Survivor | S.4 | Icon for Nat Geo | Jan – Sep '18

Filmed in Kenya, with the Rendille tribe, the Salkon in Vanuatu and the Evenki in Inner Mongolia, three episodes of this popular adventure series, following Hazen Audel living with tribes and learning how to survive in some of the toughest places in the world.

Producer/Director | Jeremy Wade's Mighty Rivers | S.1 | Icon for Animal Planet | Mar – Oct '17

Gained rare access to Tibet and produced, directed and cut a 1 x 60' episode of this new documentary series, where River Monsters' Jeremy Wade explores the world's greatest rivers, filming the length of China's Yangtze River.

Producer/Director | Jeremy Wade's River Monsters | S.7-9 | Icon for Animal Planet | '14 – '17

"It is compelling television that has continued to draw in viewers, week after week, season after season, it has done something that few reality series have been able to do: remain a monster hit" **The Guardian** Produced, directed and cut 2 x 60' films, and a feature-length special, including complex drama reconstructions, of this popular adventure series presented by Jeremy Wade. Animal Planet's highest ever rating series.

Show Runner/Director | Experimental | S.1 | Nerd TV for Channel 4 / Nat Geo | Sep '14 – Aug '15

"Full marks to Channel 4... It's giddy, gloriously moronic stuff... Buddy Munro is essentially Bear Grylls after a breath-taking succession of bad life choices" **The Guardian** Following the success of the Idiot Proof TX pilot this went on to a six part series. I was responsible for managing a large team, setting the creative vision, overseeing content and looking after compliance, and channel engagement, alongside directing all of the films, including 18 complicated stunts filmed in the UK, Georgia, Germany and Czech Republic.

Producer/Director | Survive the Tribe | S.1 | Icon for Nat Geo | Jan – Apr '14

Developed and shaped the format, which went on to run for six series, and made a 1 x 60' episode, filming survivalist Hazen Audel living with and experiencing the daily lives of Inuit hunters in the far north of Arctic Quebec in Canada.

Producer/Director | Bear Grylls: Escape from Hell | S.1 | Betty for Discovery | Mar – Aug '13

Produced, directed and cut 2 x 60' films of this Bear Grylls fronted documentary series, which included drama reconstructions, telling the extraordinary real-life stories of those who survived life and death situations, and following Bear in recreating them.

Series Unit Director | Bear Grylls: Get Out Alive | S.1 | Electus for NBC Universal | Feb – Apr '13

Helped format and lead the creative vision, alongside directing Bear's action scenes. 8 x 60' big budget reality competition presented by Bear Grylls, where teams pitched themselves against each other in a series of survival challenges. Filmed in the South Island, New Zealand.

Producer/Director | Idiot Proof | Nerd TV Pilot for Sky One | Oct '12 – May '13

TX pilot (later commissioned for a 6 x 60' C4 series), with Tim Shaw and Buddy Munro challenging themselves to recreate dangerous and stupid YouTube stunts.

Producer/Director | Earth's Giant Hole | ITV Studios for Nat Geo | Jan – Jul '12

Produced and directed this 1 x 60' science documentary, following Geologist, Darryl Granger who leads a daring scientific expedition into a gigantic cave systems and never-before-explored sink-holes of Guangxi, China.

Producer/Director | Bear's Wild Weekend with Miranda Hart | Dragonfly for C4 | Sep – Dec '11

Worked closely with Bear Grylls and Miranda Hart, making this 1 x 60' documentary following them on an ambitious trek across the Swiss Alps, taking on adventurous challenges along the way.

*Producer/Director | **Man vs. Wild** | S. 2-7 | Diverse for Discovery Channel/C4 | '07 – '11*

"The gold standard of survival shows" (John Ford, General Manager of Discovery Channel) "Undeniably good fun... all about entertainment...I'd much rather watch Bear careering around like a lunatic trying to eat anything that moves." The Guardian Produced, directed and cut 11 x 60' films of this hugely popular and genre defining survival show across six series. Presented by Bear Grylls.

*Producer/Director | **Rudy Reyes: Apocalypse Man** | Diverse Productions for History | '09 – '10*

"Apocalypse Man is completely enthralling, utterly fascinating, documentary dramatization about how to survive a massive cataclysmic event it's a must watch" (Entertainment Weekly) Filming in Detroit, made this 1 x 60' TX pilot with marine and actor Rudy Reyes, as he demonstrates techniques of surviving post-apocalyptic scenarios.

*Producer/Director | **Daredevils: The Flying Car** | S.1 | Mentorn Media for Channel 4 | '08 – '09*

Produced, directed and cut this 1 x 60' documentary following inventor Gilo Cardozo, alongside adventurer Neil Laughton, going on an expedition from London to Timbuktu, using Gilo's latest invention, a flying car.

*Producer/Director | **Dom Joly's Happy Hour** | S.1 | Princess Productions for Sky One | 2006*

1 x 60' episode of this highly acclaimed spoof travel series, following Dom Joly traveling to Australia's "Wild North" to investigate the country's drinking habits.

*Producer/Director | **Man's Work** | S.1 | Shine for Bravo | '06 – '07*

Produced and directed across this 12 x 30' presenter-led documentary series, following Ashley Hames taking on some of the toughest jobs in the world, from a Crime Scene Cleaner in the USA to an Opal Miner in Australia.

EDUCATION

B.TH. (Hons) Theology and Religious Philosophy 2:1 | University College of Wales | '86 – '90

REFERENCES

On request