

mob: 07919-275547 email: JMillar66@googlemail.com

Website with showreel - www.jamesmillar-pd.co.uk

- **Versatile, awarding-winning PD who has worked all over the world in wide variety of factual output.**
- **20 years experience as PD, Producer, Series Director and Edit Producer** for UK & American broadcasters including **BBC, C4, ITV, Five, Amazon Prime, Sky One, National Geographic, PBS, History Channel, & Smithsonian Channel.** .
- **Highly adaptable, and very passionate about my programmes.** Relish tackling complex subjects in entertaining, fast-moving way with rigour and attention to detail.
- **Worked with a range of presenters** including **James May, Dan Snow, Jennie Bond, Tony Robinson, Richard Hammond, Dick & Dom**, in a variety of genres: **Specialist Factual; Popular Science; History; Adventure; Fact Ent; Childrens.**
- **Much experience of physically challenging & complex foreign shoots:** Negev Desert in Israel; sailing to Cape Horn with Chilean Navy; ancient sites in Libya & Syria; snowfields in Russia; typhoons in Japan and Taiwan; shark diving on remote tropical reefs; surfing in South Africa; climbing volcanoes in Indonesia; navigating the Yangtze river in China; recreating an avalanche at 12,000 feet in the Rockies.
- **Extensive actuality experience with scientists & military, also in scientific demos, CGI and historical dramatic reconstruction.**

SPECIALIST FACTUAL & HISTORY

The Great Escapists:- **Amazon Prime.** Chimp Productions, 2020. Edit Producer on six-part drama and popular science series. Featuring **Richard Hammond** and **Tory Belleci** as shipwrecked castaways using their ingenuity to survive and eventually escape a desert island in the Pacific Ocean.

Nazi Megastructures: - **National Geographic.** Darlow Smithson Productions, 2017-19. Have worked on **three series** as PD on six different one-hour WWII history documentaries. Filmed in Germany, Russia, Japan, United States, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, France, and Norway. Actuality with drama, high-end graphics, and archive.

Presidents At War - **History Channel.** Raw TV, 2018-19. Edit Producer 2 x 90min history documentaries looking what eight future American presidents did in World War Two. Drama, archive, CGI, and expert interviews.

First Ladies Revealed – **Smithsonian Channel,** Finestripe Productions. 4x1 hour high-end documentary series in 2016-17 that explored evolution of the role of US President's wife from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama. Archive, expert interviews & dramatic reconstruction.

Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day – **BBC 2,** True North Productions. One hour 9.00pm documentary presented by **Dan Snow** in 2016 to mark the centenary of the most important naval battle of WWI. Both a commemoration and investigation into the loss of life, Archive, expert interviews, actuality, and scientific demos.

China – Time of Xi – **Discovery Asia.** Meridian Line Films. 3 x1 hour high-end documentary series in 2017. Filmed in China, it looks at great recent changes in Chinese life, economy, and environment, through a series of case stories with ordinary people.

Million Dollar American Princesses – Smithsonian Channel & ITV3, Finestripe Productions. 4x1 hour high-end documentary series in 2015, presented by **Elizabeth McGovern**. Stories of American heiresses who came to Europe in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. Archive, dramatic reconstruction, and foreign filming.

Jet! – When Britain Ruled the Skies – BBC 4, BBC Docs & Features. Series of 2 x 1 hour documentaries in 2012 looking at golden age of British aviation in the 25 years following WWII. Combination of archive, expert interviews, and actuality.

Time Team – Channel 4, Videotext Communications. Two episodes in 2010 on long-running, highly popular, award-winning archaeology series presented by **Tony Robinson**.

Ground War - PBS & National Geographic, Granada Factuals 2009. High end series of 4x1 hour docs, covering evolution of warfare. Science demos, archaeology, CGI, & filming with military- US Army & IDF. Filmed in Europe, USA, Israel, and Syria.

Lost Royals – ITV & PBS, Granada Factuals, 2007. One hour genealogical, observational special, presented by **Jennie Bond** who searched for unknowing descendants of the illegitimate offspring of kings of England. Included reconstruction filming with actors.

Battlefield Detectives - History Channel & Channel 5, Granada Factuals. Two series, 2004-2005. One hour docs investigating famous battlefields - *Six Day War*, *Masada*, *Alesia*, & *Gettysburg*, - using science demos and historical recon. Filmed in Israel, France, & USA.

Secrets of the Dead: Plague on the Western Front - Channel 4 & PBS, Granada Factuals. One hour documentary in 2003 that investigated 1918 influenza pandemic. Filmed in UK, France & USA, and involved considerable historical reconstruction.

Vespasian – The Man Who Saved Rome - Channel 4 & History Channel, Granada Factuals 2001-2002. 90 min doc on Roman emperor Vespasian for C4 season on Ancient Rome. Shot in Italy, UK, Israel, Jordan and Libya, with historical reconstruction.

The Real Spartacus – Channel 4 & History Channel, Granada Factuals, 2000. One hour documentary that investigated slave revolt against the Roman Empire and filmed in Italy.

POPULAR SCIENCE & ADVENTURE

Man vs Earth – Current TV, Zig Zag Productions, 2011. One hour documentary presented by **Sam Branson**. How man tackles nature's extremes. Branson vs snow, including challenges such as being buried in authentic avalanche conditions. Shot in the Rockies, USA.

Secrets of Body Language - History Channel, Granada Factuals, 2008. Two-hour ob doc exploring body language with experts, archive and experiments. Filmed in USA & UK.

Inside Killer Sharks - Sky One, Granada Factuals, 2006. One hour documentary presented by **James May**, who explored what makes sharks such remarkable creatures and culminated in an open water dive with tiger sharks on a remote reef in Caribbean.

Building the Ultimate - Channel 5 & Discovery, Granada Factuals. Two series in 2003-2004. Award-winning, fast-moving 30 mins exploring evolution of innovative technology such as submarines and skyscrapers using CGI, science experiments, and archive.

Into the Danger Zone - ITV, Granada Factuals, 2002. 6x30 min series. Including big wave surfers and pot-holing inside active volcanoes. Filmed in Spain, South Africa, and Sicily.

Savage Planet - ITV, Granada Factuals, Producer. 6x30 min doc series, 2001. Sailed with Chilean Navy for episode on Cape Horn and filmed in Taiwan, Italy, and Canary Islands for prog on catastrophic landslides.

CHILDRENS FACTUAL

Appsolute Genius with Dick & Dom – CBBC, BBC North, 8x30mins, 2014. Presented by Dick & Dom, exploring the genius of computer games. Filmed in Japan, USA, & UK.

Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom – CBBC & BBC 1, BBC North. Two series, 2012-2013, 10x30mins, presented by Dick & Dom, looking at great scientific geniuses. Nominated for BAFTA in best Factual category 2013, & won BAFTA in best presenters category 2014.

Newsround Special – You Too Can Be An Absolute Genius – CBBC, BBC North. Multi-camera shoot in 2013 for final of young inventors competition presented by Ricky Boleto with judges Jem Stansfield, Fran Scott, and Saira Khan.

You Too Can Be An Absolute Genius – BBC 2 & Learning, Lion Eyes TV. Series of shorts in 2013 about young inventors and their brilliant inventions. Won RTS award for best educational programme 2013 and nominated for BAFTA in 2013.

Planet Dinosaur Files – CBBC & BBC 1, BBC North. Series PD, 2011. 6x30 mins presented by Jem Stansfield. Using experiments, CGI, graphic novel style GFX, and natural history archive, it explored different dinosaur characteristics in an innovative way.

FACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT

Young Talent – BBC 3, BBC Factual Entertainment. Edit Producer, 2010. Format competition series, presented by George Lamb. My episode was *Young Butcher of the Year*.

Crash Test Dummies – Sky One, Granada Factuals, 2006. Comedy science series involving funny experiments & demos, presented by Steve Marsh and Dan Wright.

References:

Erika Dodd, Director of Programmes, Chimp Productions, erika.d@chimptelevision.com

Liz McLeod, Executive Producer, Meridianline Films, liz.mcleod@meridianlinefilms.co.uk

Sue Summers, Joint Managing Director, Finestripe Productions. sue@finestripe.com

Education & Training

Graduated from University College, London with a degree in Classics.

Clean driving licence, current I-Visa for USA, and EU passport holder.

Various television training courses, including camera courses and First Aid. Have done some self-shooting on productions. Also introduction to editing, risk assessment, compliance, safe management of productions, and 'working with children' courses whilst at ITV and BBC.

Completed a sea survival training course and have a diving qualification which has come in useful on shoots involving working with underwater cameramen.