

Address & Contact information

James Millar
82 St. Werburghs Road
Chorlton
Manchester M21 0UL
mob: 07919-275547
JMillar66@googlemail.com
www.jamesmillar-pd.co.uk

I'm a freelance producer-director, **specialising in Factuals**. I've worked with lots of different presenters including Tony Robinson, Jennie Bond, James May, Jem Stansfield, Sam Branson, Dan Wright, and Steve Marsh. My experience is particularly strong in the factual genres of history & popular science but has also taken in technology, adventure, childrens and factual entertainment programmes. I also spent several years in Granada TV's Arts department making network documentaries about writers and musicians.

I have a broad experience of programme styles: presenter-led; narrated investigations; dramatic reconstruction shoots involving actors or re-enactors; constructed actuality; observational; personal testimony interwoven with actuality & archive; devised experiments & demonstrations involving scientists, inventors and the military; and explanatory CGI graphics. I've filmed in locations all over the world and in all extremes of climate, from the Negev desert of Israel to the frozen summit of Mt Etna, from Cape Horn in southern Chile to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

I've worked for UK & international broadcasters including ITV, Channel 4, Five, BBC, Sky, PBS, History Channel, National Geographic, and Discovery. My home is Manchester but I also have a London base. Showreel viewable on my website above.

References: Liz McLeod, Executive Producer, ITV Anglia, tel: 07775-584719;
Michael Douglas, former Series Editor, *Time Team*, tel: 07956-525254.

Television career, 1990 - 2011:

Planet Dinosaur Files – CBBC & BBC 1, BBC North. Series PD, May-Nov 2011. 6x30 mins for childrens audience, presented by Jem Stansfield. Using workshop experiments, latest amazing CGI, graphic novel style graphics, and natural history footage, the series explored different dinosaur characteristics in an innovative and entertaining way.

Man vs Earth – Current TV (UK and USA), Zig Zag Productions. PD, Dec 2010 - Apr 2011. One-hour pilot presented by **Sam Branson** looking at how man uses technology to tackle nature's extremes. This programme features snow, involves dramatic experiment challenges such as burying our presenter in real avalanche conditions. Shot in the Rockies in the USA.

Young Talent – BBC 3, edit producer, Oct-Nov 2010, on format series out of **BBC North Factual Ent**, presented by **George Lamb**. My episode was *Young Butcher of the Year*.

Time Team – Channel 4, Videotext Communications, April-Aug 2010. Popular, long-running archaeology series presented by **Tony Robinson**. I worked on two programmes, one as second unit director and my main show, the subject of which was a vast Roman structure beneath a graveyard in Cambridgeshire.

Ground War - PBS & National Geographic. Oct 2008 - Oct 2009, PD on ambitious, high end series of 4 x 1 hour documentaries, covering technological evolution of warfare over last 3,000 years. Dramatic demonstrations, expert insights, and broader historical context. Filmed in Europe, USA, and Middle East with co-operation of US Army & IDF and using actuality, archive, reconstruction, and CGI.

Secrets of Body Language - History Channel. Jan-Sep 2008, PD on two-hour special exploring non-verbal communication with experts, archive and actuality experiments.

What The Papers Say – BBC 2. Sep-Nov 2007 Second stint as producer on long running weekly comment show on national newspapers. First was in Dec 2006.

Lost Royals – ITV & PBS. Jan-July 2007, PD on entertaining genealogical-observational one hour special, presented by **Jennie Bond**. She goes in search of unknowing descendants of the illegitimate offspring of Kings of England. Included reconstruction filming with actors.

Crash Test Dummies – Sky One. May-Nov 2006, PD on comedy science series involving funny experiments and bizarre consumer tests, presented by comedians **Steve Marsh** and **Dan Wright**.

Inside Killer Sharks - Sky One. Jan-May 2006, PD on one hour observational documentary for Sky. Presented by **James May**, he quirkily explored with offbeat experiments what makes sharks such remarkable creatures.

Battlefield Detectives - History Channel. Feb-Dec 2005, PD on third run of popular history series that used scientific experiments to investigate famous battlefields. Made three programmes, *The Six Day War*, *Masada*, and the *Siege of Alesia*. Filmed in Israel, France & the UK, and entailed historical reconstruction for latter two.

Battlefield Detectives - History Channel. April-Nov 2004. PD on second series. Made two programmes on American Civil War battles, *Gettysburg* and *Antietam*, both involving historical reconstruction.

Building the Ultimate - Channel 5 & Discovery International. Dec 2003- Mar 2004. PD on second series, looking at the evolution of technology using CGI, scientific experiments, and archive. Did episodes on *Artillery* and *Fighter Jet*.

Building the Ultimate - Channel 5 & Discovery International. April-Nov 2003. PD on the first series. Three episodes: *Tank*; *Skyscraper*; and *Submarine*.

Secrets of the Dead: Plague on the Western Front - Channel 4 & PBS. Nov 2002-Mar 2003. Co-producer on documentary investigating 1918 influenza pandemic. Filmed in UK, France & USA, and involved historical reconstruction.

Into the Danger Zone - ITV. Feb-Sept 2002, PD on popular science/adventure series. Made *The Wave Hunters* and *Etna: Under the Skin* episodes. Filmed in Spain, South Africa, and Sicily.

Vespasian – The Man Who Saved Rome - Channel 4 & History Channel. July 2001-Feb 2002, producer on feature length documentary on career of Roman emperor for C4 season on ancient Rome. Shot in Italy, UK, Israel, Jordan and Libya, and with historical reconstruction.

Savage Planet - ITV. Oct 2000 - May 2001. Producer on two episodes in second series of popular science documentary series. Filmed in southern Chile for *Cape Horn* programme, and Italy, Canary Islands, & Taiwan for *Buried Alive*.

The Real Spartacus – Channel 4 & History Channel. Feb–Sep 2000, associate producer on highly acclaimed, single one hour documentary. Investigated slave revolt against the Roman Empire and filmed mainly in Italy.

Savage Seas & Savage Planet – ITV & PBS. AP on award-winning, landmark popular science series. Filmed in Europe, USA, Caribbean, Indonesia, South Africa & New Zealand. Also did several stints on **popular science & history development**.

The Brit Girls – Channel 4. AP on documentary series for **Without Walls** strand featuring careers of various women singers, **Marianne Faithfull, Sandie Shaw, Cilla Black, Lulu** et al.

C4PD - Channel 4. AP on documentary series for **Without Walls** strand telling the stories of cult TV cops shows, *Z-Cars, Starsky & Hutch, & The Professionals*.

God Bless America - ITV & PBS. AP on two high end series of documentaries shown in *South Bank Show* slot. Featuring distinguished American writers telling the story of their connection to a city in the USA. Included **Gore Vidal**.

My Generation - Channel 4. AP on music documentaries for **Without Walls** telling the stories of various 60s beat groups: The Kinks; The Animals & The Troggs.

Worked in **Granada's Arts department**, following internal board, as researcher then AP from 1993-97. Included stints on regional arts programmes **Celebration** and **Manchester Festival**.

Joined Granada Television in Nov 1991. Worked on various **regional magazine and news programmes** 1991-1993; **House Style, Up Front, Granada Tonight**.

From 1990-91, researcher on **entertainment programmes** for various production companies **Action Time, Andrew McLaughlin Associates** and also for **BBC North, Childrens dept**. Studio quiz shows and adventure gameshows on location.

Career before television

1989-1990, sports journalist for a regional newspaper group in Manchester.

Education & Training

Graduated from University College, London, in 1988 with a degree in Classics.

Clean driving licence and EU passport holder – I hold two passports, and hold a current I-Visa for working in the USA.

Various television training courses, including camera operating course on Z1 – camera, sound, and lighting and Canon XF305. Have done self-shooting at various times on productions over the last 7-8 years. In addition I've done introduction to editing, risk assessment, compliance, and health & safety courses whilst at ITV Granada and CBBC.

I've also completed a sea survival training course and have a diving qualification which has come in useful on shoots involving working with underwater cameraman.