

Edward McGown

Documentary Director

CV

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About me

I'm a Grierson-shortlisted director with credits for BBC, Netflix, Sky and Channel 4. I am passionate about making intelligent, sensitive documentaries with memorable characters and cinematic flair.

From filming with torture victims in Kenya to inmates in some of the world's most lawless prisons, I bring a strong narrative confidence to all my work and excel at negotiating complex - and often controversial - subject matter, often using archive. I have experience working with large crews, but am also a highly accomplished self-shooter. I have taken all my films from the last six years into the edit.

Documentary - Selected Credits

HS2: The Railway That Blew Billions (1 x 60', BBC1, 2024)

Director - Told as a political thriller, this film draws on fresh testimony from high profile politicians, whistleblowers and No 10 insiders to uncover how alleged fraud and mismanagement resulted in Britain's biggest ever infrastructure failure.

The Abercrombie Guys: The Dark Side of Cool (1 x 60', BBC1, 2023)

Director - The culmination of an investigation lasting almost three years, this film uses recon and original testimony to uncover allegations that the ex-CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch exploited men for sex at events hosted around the world - including in London, New York, and Marrakesh. ★★★★★ - Evening Standard

A Very British Way of Torture, **Grierson shortlisted, 2023** (1 x 60', Channel 4, Rogan Productions, 2022)

Director - Blending archive, recon and fresh testimony from survivors, this film draws on shocking new evidence to tell the full story of the British use of torture in 1950s Kenya. ★★★★★ - Mail on Sunday ★★★★★ - The Telegraph

My Daughter's Killer

(1 x 90', Netflix, Rogan Productions, 2022), **Realscreen nominee, 2023**

Producer - I both produced the edit and co-directed studio recon for this true crime Netflix feature, centring on an elderly lawyer who resorts to kidnap when all else fails to

bring his daughter's killer to justice. 'An extraordinary Liam Neeson-level story of a father's indefatigable fight for justice' – The Independent

Gods of Snooker

(1 x 60', BBC 2, Mindhouse Productions, 2021), **Grierson nominee, 2021**

Directed episode two of three part series on the 80s golden age of British snooker, executive produced by Louis Theroux. 'Rip-roaringly entertaining' - ★★★★★ -The Times; 'A masterpiece' – The New Statesman; 'Superb' – The Telegraph

Subnormal

(1 x 60', BBC 1, Rogan Productions, 2021), **Grierson shortlisted, 2021**

Edit producer - Executive produced by Oscar-winner, Steve McQueen. Documentary single exploring how black children in the 1960s and 70s were disproportionately sent to schools for the so-called 'educationally subnormal'. 'A compelling and devastating account - ★★★★★'- The Guardian

Diana: The Interview that Shocked the World

(1 x 90', Channel 5, Rogan Productions, 2020)

Producer/Director – Investigation into the story behind Martin Bashir's notorious 1995 interview with Princess Diana. 'A huge cut above most backward-looking royal docs' - The Guardian; ★★★★★ – Radio Times 'An excellent documentary' – Times Radio

Panorama

(1 x 30', BBC 1, Rogan Productions, 2020)

Producer/Director – Coronavirus: Destination New York – film investigating the causes behind the staggering Covid death toll in New York with reporter, Hilary Andersson.

Bringing Down Jammeh

(1 x 50', BBC World News, Rogan Productions, 2019)

Executive producer and edit producer - Documentary single exploring the overthrow of the Gambian dictator, Yahya Jammeh.

Last Night

(Feature documentary, Pulse Films, 2019)

Self-shooting PD – Embedded in Riyadh for a month, I was location director for one of the strands in this multi-story film on underground dance music in Saudi Arabia.

Inside the World's Toughest Prisons, Series 2 and 3

(4 x 45', Netflix, Emporium Productions, 2017-18)

Producer/Director – Shot and directed four of this eight part Netflix Original commission. The series follows former Panorama journalist, Raphael Rowe as he becomes a prisoner for a week in some of the world's most violent jails. Challenges included securing access to one of the world's most prolific serial killers in Ukraine and filming in Costa Rica's notoriously lawless 'La Reforma' prison.

Michel Roux's The Craftsmen's Dinner – (2 series)
(9 x 10', online branded content, Rogan Productions, 2016-17)

Director and Series Co-Creator

I directed two seasons of this highly successful series for The Balvenie Whisky following Michel Roux Jr as he goes on a journey to meet the craftspeople creating some of the UK's most rarefied culinary produce.

Hidden Restaurants

(4 x 60', Channel 4, Boomerang, 2016)

Producer/Director

Working with co-presenter, Freddy Bird, exploring some of the UK's most unusual and remote restaurants - from the Isles of Scilly to the wildest reaches of the Scottish Highlands.

David Attenborough's Great Barrier Reef

(4 x 60', BBC/CBS, Atlantic Productions, 2016)

Self-shooting PD (Ep 4, Reef Diaries)

Camera (Eps 1-3, selected scenes)

Shot and directed the international 60' making-of episode, *Reef Diaries*, and filmed much of the footage for major sequences in eps 1-3, including actuality sequences with David Attenborough across the Great Barrier Reef.

Drama

Bachelor Games

(Director, feature film, Strike Films/Gravitas Ventures, 2016)

Horror-comedy shot on location in the Andes, Argentina. Stars Charlie Bewley (*Twilight*) and Jack Doolan (*Cemetery Junction*). Released on DVD, Blu-ray and VOD.

Qualifications

- MFA, Honours, Film Direction, Columbia University Film School, New York
- Double 1st class BA in English Literature, Magdalen College, Oxford

Skills

- Experienced self-shooting 4K camera operator. Cameras worked with include Sony FX9, FS7, F55, Canon C300, Go-Pros.
- Also skilled at working with large crews using complex grip equipment.
- Clean driving licence; own car; moderate French
- I-visa valid until Feb 2028

References

- James Rogan/Mark Hedgecoe - executive producers for *A Very British Way of Torture*, *My Daughter's Killer* and *Diana: The Interview that Shocked the World*
- Tom Stone, BBC – executive producer for *The Abercrombie Guys: The Dark Side of Cool*