

# > HUGH BALLANTYNE \_ PRODUCER / DIRECTOR

E mail [hughballantyne@me.com](mailto:hughballantyne@me.com) Website [www.hughballantyne.com](http://www.hughballantyne.com)

Mobile + 44 7906 870344

## ./// BIOGRAPHY

Hugh is an international award-winning producer and director. He has gained a reputation for creating powerful and emotive character driven specialist factual television and drama documentaries.

He tackles big subjects, made accessible through character; whether exploring the underbelly of society or bringing the past to the present, through epic multi-million-pound history series. His films span a range of genres including history, crime, science, religion, travel, music, art and culture.

Hugh has made films for NETFLIX, BBC, ITV, Apple TV+, National Geographic, Discovery PLUS, SKY 1, History, CH7 [Australia] and CNN. He has extensive experience in directing the public and actors in both dynamic action and complex CGI sequences.

Known for his visually striking films, Hugh brings an innovative style and cinematic approach. He graduated from the Sydney Film School in 2004 and draws on a breadth of storytelling skills, including writing and directing short films, and high-end music videos. He has also created powerful character driven films for brands such as Converse, Nokia and Warner Music.

### > SERIES DIRECTOR

Hugh has set the style, vision and been the series director NETFLIX'S latest scripted drama documentary series, ALEXANDER The Making of a God, Discovery Plus' CHILDREN OF THE CULT, ITV's THE INVESTIGATOR A British Crime Story and Channel 7's AUSTRALIA The Story of Us. Hugh was both series director and an executive producer on INSIDE THE MANSON CULT: THE LOST TAPES.

### > CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Hugh has recently been the creative director EARTH AT NIGHT IN COLOUR, where he established the editorial scope, the look and tone for a £20 million factual series for Apple TV.

He has successfully developed, written, and won multi-million-pound television proposals for some of the UK's leading independent production companies, including Raw, Brook Lapping, Wall to Wall, Lion Television, Muse [Canada] and Nutopia. See part 2.0 of CV.

### > FACTUAL DRAMA

Hugh is developing several of his own US and UK factual drama series and films, one of which he is currently pitching to broadcasters, with actor Chris Eccleston and writer Neil McKay attached.

## 1.0 SERIES DIRECTOR \_ FACTUAL

> ALEXANDER: THE MAKING OF A GOD  
\_ 6 x 40 mins NETFLIX

Prod Co.  
Screens

Tailfeather / Lion TV  
TX Jan 2024

Hugh devised the visual style and directed the drama for all 6 episodes of this scripted docudrama series. The story reveals the extraordinary life of Alexander the Great through his radical transformation from warrior prince to living god.

The series explores his rise from an exiled young man to a world leader, and his obsession with defeating the mighty Persian Emperor Darius that led him to conquer the known world in just under six years.

The fascinating story of Alexander the Great is told through powerful drama intertwined with expert academic insight, and ongoing excavations at an archaeological site in Alexandria, Egypt.

> STOLEN: CATCHING THE ART THIEVES  
\_ 3 x 60 mins BBC2

Prod Co.  
Screens

Lion TV  
Sun 8pm Oct 2022

THE TELEGRAPH - 5 stars - *'This brilliant documentary revisited the 1994 theft of two Turner paintings and presented it in the style of a glossy thriller'*

The world's greatest paintings and the most audacious art heists of all time. I directed 2 of 3 episodes for this BBC box set. The series follows 3 gripping true stories of a global game of cat and mouse, as high culture meets the underworld. Munch's The Scream is ripped from a gallery wall in Oslo, a self-portrait of Rembrandt vanishes during a brutal robbery in Stockholm and two Turners disappear from Frankfurt. Each of these remarkable robberies sparks a high-stakes international hunt across the world from London to Belgrade, meeting Serbian Warlords and gangsters in Hollywood.

#### **FRANKFURT**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001c5tv/stolen-catching-the-art-thieves-series-1-1-frankfurt>

#### **OSLO**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0cz8gbp/stolen-catching-the-art-thieves-series-1-3-oslo>

#### **> CHILDREN OF THE CULT \_ 5 x 60 mins Discovery PLUS**

**Prod Co.  
Screens**

**Mentorn Media  
Aug 2021**

This 6 part series tells the extraordinary story of three British women, Hope, Verity and Celeste, who were born into the notorious Children of God cult and their daring escapes and fight for justice. Founded in 1960's California by self-proclaimed prophet David Berg, by the 1980s the Children of God claimed to have 25,000 followers in 80 countries. Preaching a joyful message of salvation and love, Berg was in fact on the run from the FBI. For decades, the Children of God has been investigated by global law enforcement agencies, accused of brainwashing, kidnapping, prostitution and the sexual abuse of children.

With access to secret footage from inside the cult, incredible personal archive, and powerful testimony from survivors, including the grandson of the founder David Berg, this epic, cinematic series reveals the indoctrination and the darkness of an international cult hidden in plain sight. Determined to expose the truth of what happened to them and many others, the series charts how the British women work with Scottish detectives in a bid to secure historic convictions against abusers within the Children of God.

#### **> HINDLEY & WEST: THE UNTOLD STORIES \_ 1 x 60 mins ITV**

**Prod Co.  
Screens**

**Blink films UK  
9pm Thursday ITV**

**Sept 2020**

This is the story of how the two most notorious women in British crime, Rose West and Myra Hindley, became lovers in jail and how their life behind bars gives terrifying new access into crimes that shocked the world.

Former Category A prisoners, including reformed Mafia member Marisa Merico and ex-gangster Linda Calvey, tell Trevor McDonald how Rose West revealed her murderous temper in prison, her jail rages giving vivid insights into how a woman described as looking like a 'Tesco mum' could have killed and why her prison outbursts reveal a twisted sense of right and wrong. Fellow inmate Julie McAllister tells, for the first time on television, how she turned on West, attacking her in the canteen.

A host of powerful contributors, including former prison governor Veronica Bird OBE, police officers and prison visitors, describe how Hindley manipulated people in jail, even persuading a female guard to help her escape, revealing the devious charm she used to lure children to their deaths.

We also gain insight into Hindley's and West's relationship with their men, how they became killing couples but turned against the men after conviction. Following Hindley's death, West became the most infamous female prisoner. We discover her life now: happy knitting, watching television and, shunned by her family, chatting with one last friend but refusing to face her crimes.

#### **> VALLEY OF THE KINGS: THE LOST TOMBS \_ 2 x 60 mins Discovery Ch**

**Prod Co.  
Screens**

**Blink films UK  
Discovery Ch**

**June 2020**

The Valley of the Kings is the world-famous burial ground of the greatest Pharaohs of the ancient world. Egyptologist Zahi Hawass leads Egypt's biggest excavation in a century, in search of the missing tomb of Tut's step-mother, the queen of Egypt's Golden Age, Queen Nefertiti.

Hawass believes the undiscovered tombs of Tutankhamun's family are in the Valley of the Kings' last tract of wilderness, the lesser-known West Valley. Here lie the tombs of Tut's grandfather Akhenaten and his successor Ay. Hawass believes that the missing family members lie in between these two tombs. Thousands of tons of rubble lie between Hawass and any royal discovery. He has 150 workers and 6 months to reveal the archaeological discovery of the century.

Hugh wrote the script and directed the edit. This production presented a number of creative challenges. Firstly, to tell the story of Nefertiti, for whom few usable images exist and without using drama. Hugh overcame this by working with a

VFX house to create a 3D model of Nefertiti. Using a similar approach for other key family members, he devised a dynamic 3D family tree. These characters could be used to both to tell the story of the family saga and articulate to which family member artefacts coming out of the ground might have belonged to.

A second challenge was to ensure audiences could get their bearings within two valleys consisting of uniform walls of yellow stone with no discernible features. Hugh turned the West Valley into a key character within the film. Using a photogrammetric survey the VFX team created photo real 3D models of each valley. Experiential fly throughs allowed audiences both to follow the physical archaeological excavation and understand the relationship between tombs and family members. Constructing 3D representations of tombs beneath ground allowed audiences to transition seamlessly from VFX to actuality.

> **MANSON: THE LOST TAPES** **Prod Co. Naked Entertainment**  
\_ 2 x 60 mins ITV **Screened 9pm Thursday ITV Sept / Oct 2018**  
**THE TELEGRAPH: 'Skillfully assembled. Intriguing and coherent ...an uncomfortable journey into cult indoctrination'**  
**THE TIMES: 4 stars CRITICS CHOICE**

Following Manson's arrest in 1969 and whilst the family was still at its height, one young filmmaker gained access into the Cult. He filmed over 100 hours of 16mm interviews with Manson family members and took thousands of photographs. For over 45 years the material has been locked away. Until now.

The films explore the lost tapes to reveal both how Manson brainwashed a group of peace-loving kids and radicalized them into cold blooded killers. These candid 1969 testimonies give a chilling insight into the manipulated minds of the Manson family, combined with present day interviews with some of the same characters, including Catherine 'Gypsy' Share and Dianne 'Snake' Lake.

Even from his prison cell Manson had absolute power over his family. We hear from the core team involved in the case at the time. The prosecuting lawyer, police and journalists explain how even during the trial the Manson family continued to commit murder on Charlie's behalf. In 1971 Manson was convicted for the murder of 7 people, including the movie star Sharon Tate. The Manson family is suspected of killing up to 35 people.

**'When somebody needs to be killed, there is no wrong, you do it and you kill whoever gets in your way, this is us.'** Sandra Good \_ Manson Family Member

> **INSIDE THE MANSON CULT: THE LOST TAPES** **Prod Co. Naked Entertainment**  
\_ 2 x 60 mins FOX **Screened 9pm Sun FOX [US] Sept 2018**  
**3.5 million viewers per episode**

Hugh was both an executive producer and series director for this two-part special. The film includes additional contributors, including cult expert Rick Ross and the FBI's most pre-eminent criminal profiler, John E Douglas. John's work as a criminal psychologist inspired the lead characters in both the series MINDHUNTER and the film THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS. Douglas interviewed Manson and the 6 family members convicted of murder, to gain an understanding of how Manson radicalized his followers.

> **CHINA'S MEGATOMB REVEALED** **Prod Co. Brook Lapping**  
\_ 1 x 90 mins **Screened National Geographic Ch 2017**  
**National Geographic worldwide ratings hit. 49 million viewers in China**

Hugh wrote and directed this drama documentary history film. From the depths of the First Emperor's tomb comes a thrilling investigation that rewrites the history of China and the man who created it. In 1974, thousands of terracotta statues were unearthed near Xianyang, China, discovered to have been buried in tribute to and in order to protect the nation's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di. Archaeologists have recently unearthed extraordinary finds, more important than anything discovered in the last 40 years. In this National Geographic documentary, Nat Geo Explorer Albert Lin takes us inside the tomb to uncover the secrets and reveal how their existence rewrites the history of China's First Emperor.

> **THE INVESTIGATOR: A BRITISH CRIME STORY [series 1]** **Prod Co. Shiver [ITV] & Syco Entertainment**  
\_ 4 x 60 mins **Screened 9pm Thurs ITV 2016**  
**3.1 million viewers per episode [recommissioned for a second series]**  
**THE INDEPENDENT: 'Nail biting stuff'**

Hugh was the series director for a new cold case murder investigation crime series. Over four episodes, a single unsolved murder is re-examined. Former police detective, renowned criminologist and investigator Mark Williams-

Thomas proves that truth can be far more compelling than fiction in this explosive new crime series. Williams-Thomas re-examines a truly chilling murder case that has baffled police detectives for more than 30 years. At the heart of this shocking story of murder, fraud, sexual deviancy and even a faked death, lies a daughter's agonising search for justice after the disappearance of her mother in 1985. For three decades she's been seeking answers. This is her final hope of getting the closure she and her family so desperately deserve. With a dogged determination to get to the truth, Williams-Thomas undertakes a forensic re- examination of the case, unravelling a captivating story that will keep audiences engrossed until its chilling climax.

> **FINDING JESUS: FAITH, FACT & FORGERY**  
 \_ 2 x 44 mins  
**Prod Co. Nutopia**  
**Screened 9pm Sun CNN [USA]** **2015**  
*Over one million viewers each week [ recommissioned for a second series JESUS CODE ]*  
**CNN's first factual commission**

Hugh wrote one and directed two episodes. Loved and worshipped by billions, his life and death is the subject of intense debate. But Jesus of Nazareth, the most famous man in history, has left no physical trace. Or has he? In this series we discover fascinating new insights into the historical Jesus utilising the latest state-of-the-art scientific techniques and archaeological research. We investigate the value and authenticity of six artefacts that could shed new light on Jesus and his world. Part documentary investigation, this series is also a thrilling and emotional drama, as we also look again at the Gospel characters and the stories that these artefacts connect with: the baptism, the mission, the betrayal, the Passion, the Resurrection and after.

> **AUSTRALIA: THE STORY OF US**  
 \_ 4 x 44 mins  
**Prod Co. Essential Media [Aus]**  
**Screened 8pm Sun Channel 7 [Aus]** **2015**  
**THE AUSTRALIAN: 'Pick of the week'**  
**THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD: 'A rollicking yarn'**  
**Rated over 1 million each wk on Ch 7, Australia's highest rating free to air network**  
**AEAF AWARDS 2015 \_ Visual effects and animation \_ Bronze Award**

Hugh was the series director of this epic history drama documentary series. Hugh wrote two and directed the first four of the eight episodes. More than 40,000 years in the making, Australia: The Story of Us is an extraordinary narrative about the people, places and events which have shaped the country from the first footprints on the continent to the present day. Using astounding visual sequences, this groundbreaking drama documentary series weaves together stories of Australia's origins and offers an original thesis about how the people came to create the homeland they inhabit today. Alongside amazing CGI and innovative filming techniques, the series features interviews with important thinkers, notable celebrities and iconic national figures who take us inside the stories that have influenced Australia's history.

> **EXTREME WORLD: LAS VEGAS**  
 \_ 1 x 44 mins  
**Prod Co. Freshwater Films**  
**Screened 8pm SKY 1** **2014**

Ross Kemp looks behind the neon and discovers Sin City's winners and losers. The casinos of Las Vegas generate over \$15 billion a year, yet the city has recently experienced the highest rate of foreclosures, bankruptcies and unemployment in the USA. In the storm water drains beneath the casinos Ross meets some of the city's homeless who inhabit this dangerous underworld. West Las Vegas is less than a mile from the strip but has the city's highest rate of unemployment. Ross meets some of the gangs who rule the streets. The city's illegal sex industry generates an estimated \$5 billion a year. Ross speaks to a vice detective who is bringing down the high rolling pimps and meets a middle-class mum whose daughter has been groomed in high school and is now a sex worker on the strip.

> **BANGED UP ABROAD: VIETNAM POW**  
 \_ 1 x 44 mins  
 McCAIN & BRACE  
**Prod Co. Raw TV**  
**Screened National Geographic Ch** **2013**  
**CABLEFAX AWARDS 2013\_ Winner \_ Best documentary Historical / Political**

**SERIES PREMIERE** \_ Hugh wrote and directed this history drama documentary. Ernie Brace is the longest serving POW in Vietnam history and likely endured more than any other prisoner during the war. Held for almost eight years, he faced capture, starvation, sickness, torture, solitude and desperation. After three and a half years, Brace was transported from the jungle to the infamous prison in Vietnam dubbed the Hanoi Hilton and finally heard the voice of another American: Lt. Cmdr. John McCain, a Navy pilot shot down over Hanoi.

> **MANKIND: THE STORY OF ALL OF US**  
 \_ 4 x 44 mins  
**Prod Co. Nutopia**  
**Screened History Channel** **2012**  
**EMMY AWARDS 2013 \_ Nominee [Ep 5]**

**Transmitted in 150 countries & translated into 37 languages**

Hugh wrote two and directed four episodes of this twelve-part series. A genre-defining mini-series narrated by Stephen

Fry, this is a gripping adventure story about how we built our world. An extraordinary tale of human endeavor. Struggles against huge odds – and the elements – triumphs of human spirit, inspired innovation, and shared heroism. From the development of tools, to the pyramids and from the fall of Rome to the discovery of the Americas. The greatest landmarks of the human story told from a new perspective using incredible CGI and compelling drama documentary. A tough, exciting action adventure, encompassing astronomy, geology, and the power of science, engineering and technology to transform the world around us.

**> MAN v WILD: MALAY ARCHIPELAGO**  
 \_ 1 x 44 mins  
**Prod Co. Diverse [Bristol]**  
**Screened Discovery Ch, CH 4 2011**  
 Bear Grylls is dropped into a remote archipelago of islands off the coast of Borneo. From the moment he swims ashore Bear is fighting impenetrable jungle, scaling escarpments and navigating inhospitable swamps in his search for freshwater. Desperate for food Bear has no choice but to try and spear fish in the shallows at night. The struggle to survive continues as he tries to catch fish by free diving to depths of 20ft and on land Bear has to use all his skills to drive wild boar into his trap. But will he find the ultimate key to his survival a freshwater source?

**> FAN v WILD: BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
 \_ 1 x 44 mins  
**Prod Co. Diverse [Bristol]**  
**Screened Discovery Ch, CH 4 2010**  
***Rated over 1 million viewers in US***  
 Bear Grylls takes two city slickers into the Canadian wilderness on the adventure of a lifetime. Their journey begins fast roping from a helicopter onto a 10,000ft mountain peak. Their only way out is down an 80ft sheer granite rock face. Sliding through a snowfield they reach a glacier, covered in a minefield of crevasses. A 50ft ice wall is their biggest challenge yet. Exhausted and hungry they have to build a shelter, prepare and cook food before it gets dark. After a freezing cold night their journey continues: navigating a 300ft waterfall, swamps and raging glacial rivers. This will be their toughest personal challenge and a life-changing experience.

**> AMERICA: THE STORY OF US**  
 \_ 1 x 44 mins  
**Prod Co. Nutopia**  
**Screened History Channel 2010**  
***EMMY AWARDS 2010\_ 4 times nominee***  
***Episode: 6 rated over 3.3 million viewers***  
 HEARTLAND, episode 6 tells the story of the taming of the west. In 1865, the face of America is about to be changed by the internet of the era: the railroad. Within 45 years America's population triples and millions of settlers farm the plains. The traditional way of life for the Native Americans comes to an end and a new world emerges. America grows from an agricultural to an industrial superpower and by the end of the 19th century becomes the fastest-growing single economy in the world.

**> HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT**  
 \_ 3 x 44 mins  
**Prod Co. Carbon Media**  
**Screened 9pm SKY 1 2010**  
***SKY's first factual commission***  
 Hugh wrote two and directed three episodes of this eight-part series. Three of the world's leading psychologists examine the spectrum of modern thinking, from the spoken and unspoken rules of attraction and love, to the dynamics of power and wealth and the hidden psychology behind winning and lying. Eminent in their respective fields of body language [Dr Peter Collett], social science [Anjula Mutanda] and neuroscience (Dr Jack Lewis), the presenters analyse the behavior of celebrities, politicians and sportsmen and carry out field experiments involving both the presenters and the general public.

**> INDUSTRIAL JUNKIE: RUBBER**  
 \_ 2 x 22 mins  
**Prod Co. North One TV**  
**Screened 8pm Discovery Ch 2009**  
 Hugh wrote one and directed two episodes of this eight-part series. Presenter Jonny Smith, Fifth Gear (Channel 5), gets personal with Europe's biggest industries. In this episode we explore Rubber. Jonny gets a hands-on insight into the world of high-performance rubber production. From creating the sticky mix at Michelin HQ in France to hand building a tyre for the largest commercial aircraft in the world, the A380. Jonny travels to Toulouse to install his pride and joy on an A380 aircraft before both the rubber and Jonny's workmanship are put to the test, on the runway.

**> EVOLVE**  
 \_ 1 x 60 mins  
**Prod Co. Optomen [US]**  
**Screened History 2008**  
***EMMY AWARDS 2009\_ Winner***  
 This series traces the history of the key innovations that have led nature's evolutionary arms race, using docudrama, experimental science and live action natural history sequences. In this episode we explore venom. Scientist Bryan Fry catches and extracts venom from the world's deadliest snake, the inland Taipan. Injecting venom into samples of his blood, Bryan demonstrates how this killing machine has converted the building blocks of its body into lethal toxins.

> **NATURAL BORN TRAVELLER: THE GREAT** **Prod Co.** **Lonely Planet Television [Aus]** **2008**  
 \_ 4 x 24 mins **DIVIDING RANGE** **Screened** **Discovery Ch, Voom [USA], Ch 10 [Aus]**  
**ASTRA AWARDS 2008 \_ Nominee [Australian television awards]**

Hugh wrote and directed all four episodes. Nobody has used a motorbike to traverse the 7,000km spine of Australia, The Great Dividing Range. Steve Crombie is a 29 yr old Australian thrill-seeker who has travelled half way round the world in search of adventure. Now he takes on his own backyard. Steve experiences the culture of this iconic range through its people. He meets a colourful cast of cattle musterers, loggers, hippies, graziers and Aboriginal elders. With the wet season lapping at his wheels, will Steve make it to Far North Queensland?

> **BLUELIST AUSTRALIA** **Prod Co.** **Lonely Planet Television [Aus]**  
 \_ 6 x 24 mins **Screened** **7.30 pm SBS [Aus]** **2007**  
**Second highest rating series in Wed 7:30pm time slot since SBS began**

Featuring some of Australia's most unique and thrilling travel experiences as voted by the Australian public. Presented by actor Samuel Johnson, The Secret Life of Us [CH 4]. Each episode contains travel experiences road tested by humorous personalities, from satirical writers exploring Melbourne's underground graffiti culture to an award-winning actress roughing it on a road trip across the outback.

## // REFEREES

**Dan Chambers**

MD Blink Films UK

[dan.chambers@blinkfilmsuk.com](mailto:dan.chambers@blinkfilmsuk.com)

**Lucy Van Beek**

MD of Tailfeather productions

[lucyvanbeek@tailfeatherproductions.co.uk](mailto:lucyvanbeek@tailfeatherproductions.co.uk)

**Bernie Kay**

Exec [ex Mentorn]

[bernie.kay@fremantle.com](mailto:bernie.kay@fremantle.com)

## 2.0 CREATIVE DIRECTOR \_ FACTUAL

> **TITLE:** Not disclosed [PAID development] History Channel  
 \_ 6 x 43 mins for History Ch

**Prod Co.**  
**Year**

**RAW Television**  
**2020**

This series explores the rise, fall and minds of some of the most enigmatic leaders in history. Hugh created the series DNA, structure and format for this exciting, character driven animated drama documentary series. Hugh wrote episode one and outlines for the remaining episodes. He developed a strong visual style for the series and directed a sizzle, commissioning original animation for the reel.

> **TITLE:** Not disclosed [PAID development] History Channel  
 \_ 6 x 43 mins for History Ch

**Prod Co.**  
**Year**

**RAW Television**  
**2020**

The series examines the rise and fall of six of the world's greatest civilizations. Hugh created the series DNA, structure and format for this exciting character driven animated drama documentary series. Hugh wrote episode one and outlines for the remaining episodes. He developed a strong visual style for the series and directed a sizzle, commissioning original animation for the reel.

> **TITLE:** Not disclosed [PAID development]  
 \_ 6 x 60 mins

**Prod Co.**  
**Year**

**Lion Television**  
**2020**

**NETFLIX is currently considering the proposal**

**Epic drama documentary capturing the drama within an epic dynasty**

This is a powerful four-part forensic examination of how one of the ancient world's greatest dynasties comes dangerously close to collapse and is brought back to life by one man.

This new drama documentary series reveals the real story behind this resurrection: the manoeuvres of the powerful to keep the line of succession within the royal family and the rivalry between ambitious royal advisors, which ultimately lead to the downfall of the dynasty and the rise of a new royal line.

This is one of ancient history's biggest cover ups and takes viewers on one of the most extraordinary archaeological detective chases ever undertaken. With the help of the world's leading historians, artefacts will be forensically analysed for clues to expose the real story behind the cold-blooded end of one of the world's greatest ancient civilisations.

Hugh created the series structure and format. He wrote episode one, outlines for remaining episodes and devised a strong visual treatment for the series.

> **TITLE:** Not disclosed [PAID development]  
\_ **1 x 90 min**  
\_ **Landmark Science film**

**Prod Co.** **Wall to Wall**  
**Year** **2019**

This is a film celebrating both science and the human imagination. This multi-million dollar global odyssey explores man's relationship with the Universe. Through the incredible immersive power of giant screen format we celebrate man's relationship with the universe and explore the creation of iconic wonders from both the ancient and modern world. Stories of the most spectacular science, the workings of the universe and the role the planets and stars play in our lives through the ages.

Hugh developed the idea and wrote this ground-breaking live action drama. He worked with VFX house FRAMESTORE to develop the treatment for this epic science and history adventure film.

> **EARTH AT NIGHT: IN COLOR**  
\_ **12 x 30 mins for Apple TV**

**Prod Co.** **Offspring films**  
**Year** **2018 /2020**

Narrated by Tom Hiddleston, the series follows animals at night using next-generation cameras to capture new observations and never before seen behaviours. Each episode follows a different animal. The series was filmed across six continents, ranging from the Arctic Circle to the African grasslands.

Hugh was creative director on Apple TV's first factual commission. He was tasked with defining a completely novel approach to natural history for a new broadcaster. Hugh developed the series' DNA, showcasing the incredible new technology. He devised the editorial structure, signature tone and visual style for the series, receiving high praise from Apple commissioner Jay Hunt. Over two years, Hugh has retained a creative role in the project, reviewing scripts, edits and tone & style across the series.

> **KING OF THE MOON**  
\_ **3 x 45 mins for Nat Geo**

**Prod Co.** **Blakeway**  
**Year** **2018**

***Nat Geo is currently considering the proposal***

Hugh developed the series outline and directed a taster tape for this major documentary series. The real story of how America put a man on the moon involves is revealed in CIA top secret files. These files reveal the clandestine operations, stolen Russian technology, shady dealings and multiple surveillance programs. NASA's Watergate-esque heist and intercepting top secret test modules before the Russians could retrieve their technology. This is a heist thriller is told through firsthand testimony revealing the true story of the race to the moon.

> **FATHERLAND** \_ PAID development BBC  
\_ **1 x 45 mins for BBC2**

**Prod Co.** **Wild Blue Media**  
**Year** **2017**

***BBC Arts commissioned the film in May 2017. The film is part of a larger series, adapting theatre for TV. The series fell over whilst in production, just before the shooting of our film was to begin.***

FATHERLAND is a 90 min play, which headlined the Manchester International Festival in July 2017. The play is written by award winning playwright Simon Stephens, songs and music written by Karl Hyde, from the band Underworld and directed by Scott Graham, from Frantic Assembly. Hugh adapted the play to create a 45 min film for BBC2.

The play FATHERLAND is arresting fusion of music and character driven testimony, which holds a mirror and a microphone to the nation. The play explores what it is to be a father in England today. It is character driven, character focused and quotes interviewees verbatim. Transforming ultra-naturalistic dialogue into hypnotic loops, masterfully weaving samples and beats to create huge and emotive compositions.

The narrative building blocks of this play borrow from the core values of documentary filmmaking, real life facts about actual people and historical events. Actors embody these real characters and articulate their stories. The film FATHERLAND interweaves the stage performance with docudrama. Taking our principle characters back to the real worlds in which historical events took place. Five principle stories weave past and present to dramatic effect.

> **TITLE:** Not disclosed [PAID development Nat Geo Int]  
\_ **8 x 60 mins**

**Prod Co.** **Raw Television**  
**Year** **2017**

**Multi-million dollar landmark human & material history series proposal**

***Nat Geo is currently considering the proposal***

A new multi-million dollar landmark history series exploring eight Ancient Civilizations. Hugh ran a team to devise the concept and deliver the series structure, episode breakdown and creative vision for the series. Hugh produced a detailed 'Prezi,' which provided the client with a 360 degree view of the world proposed for the series.

Each episode will be an extra-ordinary character driven story of discovery and survival. A compelling narrative based around real characters and real events. A story full of plot twists, heroes and villains. It will be insightful and celebratory, full of revealing facts and new discoveries.

We will bring these ancient worlds to life using very innovative and dramatic storytelling techniques for a modern audience. This is ambitious, bold and resolute story telling. Our fully realized ancient world will be immersive, emotional and complete with sound and music score to match any Hollywood movie etc.

> **EVOLUTION** \_ PAID development Nat Geo Int  
\_ 6 x 60 mins

**Prod Co.**  
**Year**

**Raw Television**  
**2017**

**Multi-million dollar landmark international science series proposal**

***The proposal was well received by NGL. Our presentation won the competitive pitch.***

Hugh ran a team to devise the concept and deliver the series and episode breakdown. Hugh determined the creative vision and produced a detailed visual treatment for the series. The pitch involved building a comprehensive website which painted a unique 360 degree vision for the series.

For the first time, we will tell the epic story of how our ancestors survived the five great extinctions. Dragged themselves out of the water. And, against the odds, became the most powerful species on earth. This isn't a science lesson. This is an action movie. A tooth and claw fight for existence. 99.9% of all species who have ever lived are now extinct. We are the 0.1%. We are the survivors. In this lavish, beautiful and brutal series, we will dramatize the incredible turning points in our evolutionary journey. The moments when species faced death - and yet survived. We'll traverse huge swathes of time and bring back to life our evolutionary heroes.

> **ROME & JERUSALEM: THE CLASH OF ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS**  
\_ 6 x 1 hr

**Prod Co.**  
**Year**

**Muse [Canada]**  
**2015**

**Multi-million dollar landmark US history series proposal**

***History channel were very interested but did not commission the series***

Hugh developed the concept, wrote the series structure and the episode breakdown of this epic 6 x 1 hr high end drama documentary series. The series explores why in 70 AD Roman forces clash with the Jews destroying the great city of Jerusalem, its Temple and at a cost of over one million lives. This is a new take on how this pivotal conflict between two ancient cultures marks the genesis of our modern Western society.

The series begins in Jerusalem in 4 BC. Herod is King. Divisive factions are developing within the Jewish community. Herod brutally quells a rebellion in Jerusalem. Amidst this crucible of insurgency and violence, Jesus of Nazareth is born. Jesus follows in the footsteps of his cousin and mentor John the Baptist. He builds his ministry and ultimately leads his followers in protest and insurrection against the Jewish Temple, a crime for which he will pay the ultimate price under Roman law, crucifixion.

Jesus' prophetic teachings, will live on in the name of his followers, including his brother James and his advisor Peter. This community of early Christians make a momentous decision regarding the future of Jesus' ministry when, at the urging of a young firebrand convert named Paul, the Christian Church is opened to non-Jews.

This revolutionary message will be carried to Rome by Peter and Paul, further fueling the growing unrest developing both within Judaism and between Jerusalem and Rome. In Jerusalem, Jews resist Roman taxation and rule. Rome acts swiftly to crush any possibility of revolution in Jerusalem. The series ultimately culminates in the ruination of Jerusalem at the hands of the Roman Legions led by military commander Titus.

Chaos ensues as Rome and Jerusalem must redefine their roles with one another. Judaism is forever changed, a new form of Christianity emerges and a pagan population is filled with uncertainty and distrust.

> **THE UNEXPLAINED FILES** [Pilot] \_ PAID development Discovery Ch  
**Client** Discovery Channel

**Prod Co.**  
**Year**

**Raw Tv**  
**2012**

***Discovery Channel commissioned the series in 2012. The series ran for 2 seasons***

Hugh worked on the development of this concept, wrote and directed the pilot. Using raw footage and first-hand accounts of unexplained phenomena, the series brings renowned scientists and eyewitnesses together as they help make sense of the incomprehensible.

> **INXS: THE MAKING OF ELECTROSEXUAL**  
**Client** Petrol Records

**Prod Co.**  
**Year**

[Aus]  
**2009**



***Hugh directed the film but the album wasn't released and therefore neither was the film***

This 60 min documentary film is a brave and honest insight into INXS the band. Since Michael's death in 1997 the band have continued to write, record and perform with a variety of guest vocalists. In 2005 INXS took part in "Rockstar: INXS" an 'American Idol-style' search to find a new lead singer for the band.

The process made the band realize they didn't want a new lead singer. Chris Murphy, the band's original manager, inspired INXS to embark on a new project, to re-imagine some of their hits and collaborate with some of the world's leading guest vocalists to produce a new album ELECTROSEXUAL.

Through the documentary we get a unique insight into the band, their experiences to date and their hopes for the future. We join Chris Murphy as he travels the world to find the perfect mix of artists for the album, which includes Brandon Flowers from THE KILLERS, TRICKY, MARY J BLIGE, and SNOWPATROL'S Gary Lightbody. Join the band as they team up with one of Australia's hottest electronic producers James Ash and return to the studio. ELECTROSEXUAL is a new INXS album for a new generation.

> **DARN GOOD FOOD** [Pilot] \_ PAID development Village Roadshow

**Prod Co. Heiress Films [Aus]**

**Client Village Roadshow**

**Year 2007**

***FOXTEL, Australia's largest cable network, loved the series but didn't commission, concerned that the journalistic nature could damage the credibility of some of their key celebrity chef presenter/anchors.***

Hugh devised the series structure and episode content, wrote and directed the pilot. A 10 x 26 min journalistic journey around Australia, exploring the world of reviewing restaurants, food & wine. The presenters are the award-winning editors of The Age's GOOD FOOD GUIDE 2007, winner of the best English language restaurant guide in the world. We join our reviewers as they travel around Australia reviewing the best high end, mid-range and street food that Australia has to offer. Each restaurant would be given only 24 hrs notice of the presenters visiting the restaurant. One unique aspect of the series being that once the reviewers have left the restaurant, Chefs' would be given feedback and the right of reply.

> **UNDERGROUND OVERGROUND** [Pilot]

**Prod Co.**

**M6 The North[Aus]**

**\_ 8 x 30 mins**

**Year**

**2005**

***Hugh teamed up with production company DONE & DUSTED. He pitched to both BBC3 and CH4. Both channels were interested in the concept but didn't commission the series.***

Hugh devised this series, wrote a series outline, treatment and shot a taster tape for this 8 x 30 min cutting edge music, fashion, art and culture TV series. This unique series is aimed at the 18-30 UK youth market. It is shot in a video clip style and presented by the film makers themselves through a behind the scenes insight which is dynamic, candid and humorous.

Each episode would take in a different cultural destination around the world each week. 3 film makers in each city, will reveal a unique insight into how each country's culturally significant cities do music, fashion, art and culture differently. Within each episode there will be a focus on a particular 'next big thing' band, 'must have' label and 'cutting edge' art and cultural event, which is making an impression on the UK market.

For example, the pilot is UNDERGROUND SYDNEY. We join Pnau [now known as EMPIRE OF THE SUN] touring their latest album prior to its UK release. Pnau recently signed to the UK's label run by music wunderkind Darren Emerson. Secondly, we meet eclectic fashion label Tsubi [loved by Madonna and Kate Moss] from concept, through production, to showing their latest collection at both Sydney and London fashion week. Finally, we join those involved in creating a unique art and cultural event, the world's largest Gay and Lesbian festival, Sydney's Mardi Gras.

> **ALL THE WAY** - the making of The Night We Called it a Day

**Prod Co. Bluewater Pictures[Aus]**

**\_ 1 x 60 mins**

**Year**

**2004**

***SBS [Australia's Channel 4] loved the treatment and taster tape but didn't commission the documentary***

Hugh wrote and directed the making of the film THE NIGHT WE CALLED IT A DAY, starring Dennis Hopper, Melanie Griffith, Joel Edgerton [EXODUS] and Rose Byrne [BRIDESMAIDS]. A feature film about the true events surrounding Frank Sinatra's tour to Australia in 1974. During the tour Sinatra [Hopper] offends a reporter by spitting at her and calling her a 'two-dollar whore.' Every trade union in the country black bans Sinatra until he issues an apology. ALL THE WAY was a behind the scenes insight into the drama of making a high-end feature film with 2 of Hollywood's most unpredictable stars on a limited budget. The feature was produced by Emile Sherman [THE KING'S SPEECH, LION, SHAME & WIDOWS]

> **SOMEWHERE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND WOOLWORTHS**

**Prod Co. The Film Gallery [Aus]**

\_ 1 x 90 mins

Year

2003

***Australian Film Commission awarded Hugh script development funds in 2003***

Hugh was awarded script development funds from the Australian Film Commission to write a script outline and treatment for this theatrical release. This is the true story of a young Australian film producer who, between 1965 and 1985, surfed the UK and US Rock & Roll music wave and filmed some of the world's most iconic musicians. This is ALMOST FAMOUS, meets THE KID STAYS IN THE PICTURE.

SBHW is rich in authenticity, real events and real people. This is a true story about a likeable rogue who was in the right place at the right time. What makes this story refreshing and compelling is that more often than not things don't work out the right way. With charm and charisma our protagonist blags his way into filming the concerts and music videos, attending the parties and invariably getting into scrapes with the associated band managers and record producers, some of the most notorious crooks of the day.

Through our protagonist eyes we experience the real story, as it happened. Whether Peter is being dangled out of a ten-storey office block window by LED ZEPPLIN'S manager PETER GRANT, having a knife pressed to his throat by SID VICIOUS or defending his cameraman from being beaten up by JIM MORRISON. The film includes many never before seen performances by the like of: The Rolling Stones, Otis Reading, Ike and Tina Turner, The Doors, The Sex Pistols, Blondie and INXS.

## **.// DEVELOPMENT REFEREES**

**Alex Williamson**

MD Offspring Films

[Alex@offspringfilms.com](mailto:Alex@offspringfilms.com)

**Adam Hawkins**

Netflix

Please contact me for details

**Lucy Van Beek**

MD Tailfeather productions

[lucyvanbeek@tailfeatherproductions.co.uk](mailto:lucyvanbeek@tailfeatherproductions.co.uk)