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director of photography

Ian Watts is a BAFTA award-winning film and TV director of photography, and works on factual, entertainment, documentaries, history, music and arts programmes. He has worked with all the main UK broadcasters including the BBC, ITV, Channels Four and Five, Sky and international broadcasters such as National Geographic, Oprah Winfrey Network, Paramount, Discovery and Smithsonian. He has over 30 years wide-ranging experience of filming in more than 50 countries around the world, ranging from Ghana to Greenland, on many critically acclaimed and award-winning films. He has his own professional broadcast camera equipment and an American (I) work Visa for the USA. He is Disclosure and Barring Service, (DBS) approved.

broadcast tv and film credits (selection)

Get On Up: The Triumph of Black America BBC 2 x 60 mins Milk and Honey Productions Actor David Harewood takes us on a journey across America to meet his heroes, and discover some of the true stories behind the incredible artists who shaped his life and changed the world. Director Geoff Small Executive Producers Lucy Pilkington and Lawrence Lartey

Jimmy Akingbola Handle with Care ITV 60 mins Triforce Productions In this deeply personal film, acclaimed actor and presenter Jimmy Akingbola tells his own story and in doing so, reveals the truth of growing up in the care system in England. Director Andy Mundy-Castle
Ian Watts Long listed BAFTA Factual Photography

Judi Love: Black, Female and Invisible Channel 4 60 mins Douglas Road Productions Judi Love discovers why so many black British women struggle, uncovering evidence of inequalities in health, education and work. Director Anna Manton Exec Prod Angela Ferreira

The South Bank Show: Helen Mirren Sky Arts 60 mins Directors Cut Productions Helen Mirren talks to Melvyn Bragg in an in-depth and comprehensive profile of one of this country's finest actresses. Director Suzannah Wander Exec Producers Melvyn Bragg & Cathy Haslam

Lenny Henry's Caribbean Britain BBC TV 2 x 60 mins Douglas Road Productions Sir Lenny Henry presents a joyous celebration of British-Caribbean life with a host of famous faces from art, music, entertainment TV and theatre over two episodes. Producer Dawn Lake Executive Producer Angela Ferreira **Nominated Broadcast Award**

Troy Deeney: Where's My History? Channel 4 60 mins SBX Studios Footballer Troy Deeney's high-profile campaign to make the teaching of BAME histories and experiences mandatory in the school curriculum Dir Geoff Small Executive Producer Vanessa Van-Yeboah

The 80s - Music's Greatest Decade? With Dylan Jones BBC 4x 60 mins Plimsoll Productions Journalist Dylan Jones celebrates the towering influence of the music of the 80s, with an aim to inspire a newfound respect for this maligned musical era. Director Seb Barfield Executive Producer Siobhan Logue

Standing Firm: Football's Windrush Story ITV 80 mins BT Sport BAFTA award-winning poet Benjamin Zephaniah explores the impact Caribbean migrants and their descendants have had on English football. Director Theo Lee Ray Executive Producer Sally Brown

Ashley Banjo: Britain In Black And White TV 60 mins Uplands Television Britain's Got Talent judge Ashley Banjo's personal journey, speaking about how race and racism have impacted his life, and sharing the experiences of his friends and family. Dirs Stephanie Wessell/Tim Dunn Exec Prod Mike Smith

Leigh-Anne: Race, Pop & Power BBC 60 mins Dragonfly Film and Television Productions Ltd Pop star Leigh-Anne Pincock recounts her experience as the only black member of Little Mix, and as a black woman in the music industry Director Tash Gaunt Exec Prods Tom Currie Sam Bickley **Nominated Grierson/Broadcast Awards**

Royal Wedding: A Day to Remember BBC 60 mins BBC Studios film celebrating the 10th Wedding anniversary of Prince Williams' marriage to Catherine Middleton, with contributions from politicians, the cake makers, Royal photographers, and member of the public. Director Tim Dunn Executive Producer Lisa Ausden

Make-up: A Glamorous History BBC 3 x 60 mins Plimsoll Productions Professional make-up artist Lisa Eldridge explores the history of Make-up through the decades through three iconic moments in British history. Director Rachel Jardine Series Producer Lucy Swingler

The Talk Channel 4 60 mins Whisper TV/Cardiff Prods The Talk in the black community is to prepare children for the reality of living in a society where skin colour marks them out for a lifetime of challenges. Dir Geoff Small Exec Prods Maxine Watson Pat Younge, Sunil Patel
Nominated for Best Documentary Programme / Best Lockdown Programme News, Documentaries and Factual Broadcast Awards 2021

Gospel According to Mica - The Story of Gospel Music in Six Songs BBC TV 60 mins Douglas Road Productions British soul singer Mica Paris explores gospel music through six songs Director Guy Evans Executive Producer Angela Ferreira

Fela Kuti - Father Of Afrobeat BBC 80 mins Plimsoll Productions The life of the late Nigerian musician Fela Kuti who invented Afrobeat music and influenced many famous musicians. Director Biyi Bandele Exec Producer Siobhan Logue **Nominated for Grierson Award**

broadcast tv and film credits (selection continued)

Black Classical Music: The Forgotten History 90 mins Douglas Road Productions Lenny Henry and Suzy Klein explore the works of remarkable men and women who achieved greatness despite many hurdles. Director Guy Evans Executive Producer Angela Ferreira

Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid BBC 90 mins Burning Bright Productions Lenny Henry tours the Caribbea to find out what being part of the Commonwealth means to the people who live there. Dir Andy Mundy-Castle **Nominated Screen Nation Award**

Classic Albums: Amy Winehouse Back To Black BBC 60 mins film explores the making of Back to Black the second and final studio album by singer and songwriter Amy Winehouse with producers Salaam Remi and Mark Ronson Dir Jeremy Marre **Nominated for BAFTA Best Sound**

Lenny Henry's Race Through Comedy BBC 3x60mins Douglas Road Productions Series that celebrates British TV comedy throughout the years, focusing on the iconic shows that have shone a light on Britain's rich mix of multiculturalism. Dir Marina Warsama Series Prod Carlton Dixon

When Tariq Met Malcolm X Smithsonian Channel 90mins TVT Productions A one-hour documentary focusing on a short period in Britain in 1964/65 when America's Malcolm X met and befriended the radical British Marxist, Tariq Ali. Dir Geoff Small Exec Prod Charles Thompson

The Story Of Lovers Rock 96 mins SunRa Productions Independent film about 1970's and 1980's UK reggae scene with live performances, interviews, and drama inserts. Producer/Director Menelik Shabazz **Best doc T&T Film Festival**

Rivers of Blood: 50 Years On Channel 5 60 mins After Enoch Powell's incendiary speech on race relations, this film charts the story of multicultural Britain race relations since then. Dir Geoff Small **Winner Best Domestic Documentary Assoc Broadcasting Awards**

How To Be The Queen- 63 Years And Counting Channel 4 - 90mins Doubleband Films. This special programme the top ten reasons why Queen Elizabeth II has remained popular during Britain's longest reign. Director Chris Durlacher Exec Producer Michael Hewitt

Craig & Danny: Funny, Black And On The TV ITV 60 mins Big Deal Films Craig Charles and Danny John-Jules look back on some of the greatest and sometimes forgotten black comedy legends of our time. Director Marina Warsama Executive producers: Maxine Watson Dhanny Joshi

Back in Time for Brixton BBC TV 2x60 mins Wall to Wall Media A special two-part edition of the programme, where for one summer, the Irwin family give up their modern lives and travel back in time to experience 50 years of Black British history, discovering how post-war Caribbean immigration transformed the way we all live. Director Geoff Small Producer Carl Callam Exec Producer Emma Hindley

Count Basie: Through His Own Eyes BBC 75 mins Eagle Rock Films A revealing biography about Count Basie, 'the King of the Swing Kings', the first African-American to win a Grammy, who brought the Blues to the big band podium. Director Jeremy Marre Exec Prod Mark Cooper

The Santana Story: Angels And Demons BBC 75 mins The legendary Mexican-American guitarist and songwriter, reveals his turbulent life story with astonishing intimacy, with previously unseen archive performances of many of his best-known tunes. Director Jeremy Marre

Roy Orbison: One of the Lonely Ones BBC 60 mins Biography of iconic rock balladeer Roy Orbison told through his own voice, casting new light on the triumphs and tragedies that beset his career. Director Jeremy Marre Executive Producer Mark Cooper

The Heart of Country - How Nashville Became Music City USA BBC 60 mins This historical biography about the hub of Country Music reveals the dynamic relationship between commerce and art that has defined Nashville since 1925. Dir Jeremy Marre Exec Prod Mark Cooper

Making North America PBS USA Windfall Films 3x60 mins Making North America reveals the incredible story of a majestic continent in an epic three-part series. Presenter paleontologist Kirk Johnson dir Gwyn Williams Series Prod Peter Oxley **Winner TV Silver Award for Science**

BlackFlash: A Century of Black Footballers BBC 60mins Film about the rise of black footballers in the premier league. Director Geoff Small **Nominated BAFTA Flaherty Documentary Award, RTS Award, BANFF International Sports Programme Award, and EMMA Award**

The Olympics: Faster, Higher, Stronger BBC 4 x 60 mins A landmark four part series filmed all over the world and produced to celebrate the 2012 Olympics in London. Producers Francis Welch & Matt Pelly Series Producer Alastair Laurence **Winner Focal International Award**

Reggae Britannia BBC 60mins Film about the rise of UK reggae music Dir Jeremy Mare, Exec Producer Mark Cooper **Winner UNESCO Award**

The Plane Crash Channel 4 90 mins Dragonfly Film and Television Productions A dramatic documentary that follows an international team of scientists as they deliberately crash land a 170-seat Boeing 727 passenger jet. Directors Ben Lawrie, Richard Max Exec Producers Sanjay Singhal, Simon Dickson **Nominated for BAFTA Specialist Factual TV Award**

Horizon: Seeing Stars BBC TV 60mins Around the world, a new generation of astronomers are hunting for the most mysterious objects and have created a dazzling new set of super-telescopes that promise to rewrite the story of the heavens Producer Ben Lawrie

Election & Election Special BBC 10x30mins Diverse Productions Film series following a group of young people aspiring to win a prize to meet British PM and debate in the Houses of Parliament. Producer Carolyn Payne **Winner Children's BAFTA Entertainment Award**

Lonely Planet Guide To Cuba & Haiti Channel 4 / Discover 60 mins Travelogue series **Director Jenny Dames Winner Best Travel Documentary**

Baaba Maal Live at RFH & Luciano - Live in London Ian Watts Director and Lighting Cameraman on multi camera concert films

Soul II Soul: Keep On Movin' Music video of the iconic British soul group's breakthrough hit song. 15 Million+ views You Tube