

Sam Farmer
Award Winning Shooting Producer / Director

Show Reel
samfarmer@gmail.com
+44 797 100 4573

I regularly pitch and win commissions. I originated the idea for the BBC's '[Our War](#)', that **won a BAFTA** for Best Factual Series. I **negotiated the MOD access** and own the copyright. Last year I was nominated for a second BAFTA for producing, 'Football's Wall of Silence' an [Al Jazeera investigation](#) and **C4 Dispatches**.

I've filmed on the frontline during the war in **Iraq, Ukraine, Congo** and **Sudan** and was **Grierson** and **Prix Europa** nominated for **Best Current Affairs Documentary**.

I have a good **rapport with presenters**, producing and filming; **Louis Theroux, Mishal Hussain, Ben Zand** and was one of the first embedded producer / cameramen for '[Bear Grylls, The Island](#)'.

Starting out in print (The Times / Guardian) and **BBC trained**, I combine strong journalistic grounding with compelling story telling in **Current Affairs, Specialist Factual** and **Obs Docs**.

I am up to date with my **Hostile Environment** and **First Aid**, have a **five-year USA iVISA, run edits, own a FS7** (shoot to a DOP standard) and can easily switch style from fast turnaround 'run and gunning', to set piece well-lit interviews.

Current affairs Production Experience:

['America's Abortion War'](#), BBC 1 Panorama. (1 x 30 mins)

Producer / Director / Camera. (exec: Diana Martin)

Hilary Andersson sits in on an abortion and interviews America's most controversial third trimester doctor and those who have chosen to adopt unwanted babies.

['Football's Wall of Silence'](#), Al Jazeera / C4 Dispatches, (1 x 60 mins)

Producer / Director / Camera. (exec: Phil Rees + Deborah Davies)

BAFTA Nominee & Highly Commended, Broadcast & British Sports Journalism

A five-month investigation into the failure to tackle sex abuse within British football.

['Broadcasting Hate'](#), BBC World. (1 x 60 mins)

Producer / Director / Camera. (exec: Marc Perkins)

Grierson & PRIX EUROPA nomination, best current affairs documentary.

An investigation into the men behind the sectarian TV channels broadcasting messages of hate and fuelling the fight in Iraq and Syria.

['Europe's Greenest Town'](#), BBC, Our World. (1 x 30 mins)

Producer / Director / Camera. (exec: Inga Lovric)

The story of the World's most pioneering eco-friendly town.

[‘The Gatwick Drone Attack’](#), BBC 1 Panorama. (1 x 30 mins)
Producer / Director / Camera. (commissioner: Diana Martin)
Justin Rowlatt investigates what really happened?

[‘Fragile Oceans’](#), The Economist (1 x 30)
Producer / Director / Camera.
A scientific expedition across three continents in search of migrating tiger sharks.

[‘The Arab Spring, how Facebook changed the World’](#),
BBC 2 (2 x 60 mins) Camera.
Filmed in Lebanon, Bahrain and Tunisia, Mishal Hussain investigates how social media was used to spark multiple revolutions across the Arab world.

[‘Meeting Joseph Kony’](#), BBC Newsnight, ABC, ARD (1 x 30 mins)
Reporter / Director / Camera / Producer. (exec: Mary Wilkinson)
I am the only journalists to have tracked down & interviewed Joseph Kony, - Africa’s most wanted. [For security I made the film without a commission](#) and sold the edited story to the BBC.

[‘Our War’, Invisible Enemy’](#), BBC 2, (1 x 60 mins)
Originated the Idea, Pitch, Producer. (commissioner: Charlotte Moore)
BAFTA Winner for Best Factual Documentary Series
A film that captured the camaraderie and dangers faced by a British army platoon in Afghanistan. I initiated the original concept, negotiated MOD access and personally provided the cameras, training and for five months daily encouragement and direction to the soldiers to help them tell their own stories. I later licensed the footage to the BBC to make the documentary.

[‘The EU Reality Check’](#), BBC Panorama, (1 x 30 mins)
Producer / Director (commissioner: Diana Martin)
Nick Robinson, unveils the truth and lies behind the Leave and Remain campaigns.

[‘City of Death’, Guatemala](#), C4 (1 x 30 mins)
Producer / Director / Camera / Research
Despite violent opposition I filmed vigilantes, street gangs and security forces battling for control of the capital’s slums.

[‘The Great Escape’](#), China, C4 (1 x 30 mins)
Producer / Director / Camera / Research
A raw portrayal of how North Korean refugees escape across the border into China ending up destitute and sold off as prostitutes or brides.

Specialist Factual:

[‘The Queens Speech’](#), BBC 2
Film Director / Camera. (commissioner: Joanne Housden)
Presented by Vicki Young I made the two films about the opening of Parliament.

[‘A Very British Welcome,’](#) BBC 3 (1 x 30 mins)
Director / Camera. (exec: Fiona Blair)
Ben Zand goes behind the scenes with young Trump lovers and haters.

[‘Ramadan Rush’](#), BBC 3

Producer / Director / Camera / Pitch.

Two access driven films following a group of uber rich Arabs

[‘Twilight of the Porn Stars’](#), BBC Factual, Louis Theroux (1 x 60 mins)

AP / Camera (commissioner: Charlotte Moore)

Louis Theroux’s returns to the world of the male porn stars to find a business struggling with the deluge of free porn.

[‘The Railway that Created Canada’](#), C5, (1x 60 mins)

Producer / Director

Chris Tarrant travels across Canada to explain how a railway transformed a wilderness into one of the world’s most powerful countries.

[‘Speak Out’](#), BBC Current Affairs (6 x 10 mins)

Producer / Director / Camera.

I pioneered a new health format based around untold intimate confessions.

[‘Be Your Own Boss’](#) BBC World (12 x 12 mins)

Producer / Director / Camera.

I initiated a new business format whereby a high-profile comedian spends a day in the life of a dozen Africa entrepreneurs.

Observational Documentaries:

[‘The Island with Bear Grylls’](#), C4, 2nd series 7 x 60 mins)

Producer / Director/ Camera (exec: Ben Mitchell)

A primetime documentary series in which 14 men are stranded on a remote island with only the clothes on their backs and cameras. It was a grueling physically and mentally demanding 40 day and night marathon in which I had to hunt, forage and starve (with no additional privileges) abandoned and cut off from the modern world.

[‘Rich Kids of Instagram’](#), C4 (6 x 60 mins)

Shooting Director E4 (exec: Toni Williamson)

A character driven observational documentary series following some of the World’s richest Instagram influencers and telling the story behind their photos.

[‘So, You Think You Can Farm’](#), BBC (1 x 30)

Producer / Director / Camera.

A character-driven life swap show where celebrities are put to work on a busy farm.

[‘Gold Rush’](#), RAW TV, Discovery Channel,

Camera, Producer / Director (4th series, eps 13,14,15,16 x 60 mins)

Filming the top rating prime time show ‘Gold Rush’ in the jungles of Guyana.

Short films:

For two years as a freelancer I originated, pitched, filmed and reported (on camera) a dozen 15 minutes current affairs features and then sold them ready to air to BBC Newsnight, Al Jazeera, CBC, ABC, CBS and FOX News.

I was one of the first reporters to arrive at the [Japanese Tsunami](#) and the stories ranged from - [kidnapping in Haiti](#), [child prostitution](#) and [male rape](#) in Congo, [Somali](#)

[pirates](#), [Chinese ivory poaching](#), [Himalayan Viagra](#) and a British 19-year-old drug addict as she battled to hand over her fourth child for adoption.

Radio:

'[A Good Fondness for Rats](#)', BBC Radio 4, (60 mins) Originator, Producer, ***Nominated best European radio documentary.***

'[Nigerian Crossroads](#)', BBC Radio 4, Producer (60 mins)

Broadcast Journalist, BBC Radio Bristol: 3 years live reporting, writing & editing.

Other Qualifications:

Valid Hostile Environment & Emergency First Aid (Centurion)

I have refurbished and managed the conversion of three flats, a house, a restaurant and a couple of boats. The motivation is **a love of design and creating spaces**.

I **started a business called [Zazu's Kitchen](#) - a licensed restaurant** in Bristol, (now a chain of six). I managed it full time for two years. I have since sold and it remains extremely popular.

Freelance print journalist, the [Guardian](#), [The Times](#)

2001 – 2002: For a year during the South Sudan's civil war I **worked for an emergency medical team during which I performed 150 Trichiasis eye operations** (I am not a doctor but I am well trained). I was also in charge of the logistics and distributing aid.

1999 – 2001: **PA to a political advisor** working Africa and Eastern Europe

During university I was **sponsored by the RAF who taught me to fly** and endure multiple sick inducing loops and barrel rolls.

I love my friends, the outdoors, adventures and new ideas. I'm an enthusiast who needs a regular fix of creativity - stories, podcasts, plays, art and auctions. I was bought up on a dairy farm, can ride a horse, cook up a feast, love a laugh, pray and own a canal boat.

Academic Qualifications:

Postgraduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism, Cardiff University
Single Honors BA Archaeology 2:1, University of Bristol
Three A levels, two AS Levels + 11 GCSEs, Eton College