

> HUGH BALLANTYNE _ PRODUCER / DIRECTOR

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./// BIOGRAPHY

Hugh Ballantyne is an Emmy Award nominated producer and director. He has made films for ITV, History Channel, National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel, SKY 1, CH7 (Australia) and CNN.

Hugh has shot on location all over the world, in countries including: Morocco, Israel, South Africa, China, Borneo, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, USA, and right across Europe.

Hugh has made films for international production companies including: Brook Lapping, ITV (Shiver), Nutopia, Raw, Diverse, Essential Media (Australia), Freshwater Films, Syco, North One and Lonely Planet.

The stories Hugh has worked on cover history, science, religion, survival, travel, arts and culture. He has directed actors, presenters and the public to create character-driven, specialist factual television and well-crafted drama documentaries.

Hugh has experience in directing crews ranging in size from 3 to 73, and in locations ranging from studios in Mumbai to mountain peaks in the Canadian Rockies. He has significant experience in complex CGI sequences & post-production.

Hugh's strong sense of story complements his arresting visuals. He draws on a breadth of experience including writing and directing short films, high-end music videos and commercials. Hugh graduated from the Sydney Film School in 2003. Previously, he worked as an architect, having completed his studies at Greenwich University in 1991 and achieved his chartered qualifications in 1997.

Hugh holds both British & Australian passports. He is permitted to work in both territories.

./// FACTUAL

> CHINA'S MEGATOMB REVEALED
_ 1 x 90 mins

Prod Co.
Screened

Brook Lapping
Nat Geo Ch

Oct 2016

The film has been downloaded 49 million times in China alone.

From the depths of the First Emperor's tomb comes a thrilling investigation that is rewriting the history of China and the man who created it. Archaeologists have recently unearthed extraordinary finds, more important than anything discovered in the last 40 yrs. They reveal the real man behind the legends of the First Emperor, the world he grew up in and how he changed it forever. Through dramatic reconstructions Hugh reveals the life of China's First Emperor.

> THE INVESTIGATOR : A British Crime Story
_ 4 of 4 x 60 mins

Prod Co.
Screened

Shiver [ITV] & Syco Entertainment
ITV

Jul 2016

The program won the time slot with 3.1 million viewers. The concept has been commissioned into a series.

Mark Williams-Thomas, the award-winning former police detective who unmasked Jimmy Savile as the UK's most notorious pedophile, re-examines a previously 'closed' and chilling murder case, which has baffled detectives for more than 30 years. The murder of Carole Packman, whose body has never been found, continues to affect the lives of many of those involved and as Williams-Thomas discovers, the shocking tale of murder, fraud, deceit and lies has left family members desperate for answers. In a UK television first, The Investigator: A British Crime Story, will follow the case over four explosive episodes, combining stylized drama with compelling documentary. The concept has now been commissioned into a series.

> FINDING JESUS: FAITH, FACT & FORGERY
_ 2 of 6 x 44 mins

Prod Co.
Screened

Nutopia
CNN [USA]

April 2015

Prime time 9pm Sundays. Rated over a million viewers each week. CNN's first factual commission

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 the series we discover fascinating new insights into the historical Jesus utilizing the latest state-of-the-art scientific techniques and archaeological research. We investigate the value and authenticity of six artefacts, which 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 stories that these artefacts connect with – the baptism, the mission, the betrayal, the Passion, the Resurrection and after.

- > **AUSTRALIA: THE STORY OF US** Prod Co. Essential Media [Aus]
 _ 4 of 8 x 44 mins Screened Channel 7 [Aus] Feb 2015
'Pick of the week' - The Australian; 'A rollicking yarn' - The Sydney Morning Herald
Prime time 8pm Sundays. Rated over 1 million each wk. Ch 7 is Australia's highest rating free to air network
 Hugh is the series director and directed the first 4 episodes of this epic drama documentary series. 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 ground-breaking 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** Prod Co. Freshwater Films 2013
 _ 1 of 6 x 44 mins Screened SKY 1 Jan 2014
 Ross Kemp looks behind the neon and discovers Sin city's winners and losers'. The Las Vegas casinos generate over \$15 billion a year, yet the city has recently experienced the highest rate of foreclosures, bankruptcies and unemployment in the US. In the storm water drains beneath the casino's 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 yr. 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** Prod Co. Raw TV 2013
 _ 1 of 6 x 44 mins Screened National Geographic 2013
Series Premiere. Winner of best documentary – Historical / Political - CABLEFAX AWARDS 2013
 As the longest serving POW in Vietnam history, Ernie Brace likely endured more than any other POW 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** Prod Co. Nutopia 2011/ 12
 _ 4 of 12 x 44 mins Screened History Ch 2012
Episode 5 - Nominated in 2013 Emmy Awards. Transmitted in 150 countries and translated into 37 languages
 A genre-defining mini series narrated by Stephen Fry. 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** Prod Co. Diverse [Bristol] 2011
 _ 1 x 44 mins 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** Prod Co. Diverse [Bristol] 2010
 _ 1 x 44 mins Screened Discovery Ch, CH 4 2010
Rated over 1 million viewers in US
 Bear Grylls takes 2 city slickers into the Canadian wilderness on the adventure of a lifetime. Their journey begins fast roping from a helicopter onto a 10,000 ft mountain peak. Their only way out is down an 80 ft sheer granite rock face. Sliding through a snowfield they reach a glacier, covered in a minefield of crevasses. A 50 ft 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 300 ft waterfall, swamps and raging glacial rivers. This will be their toughest personal challenge and a life changing experience.
- > **AMERICA: THE STORY OF US** Prod Co. Nutopia 2010
 _ 1 x 44 mins Screened History Ch 2010

My episode 'Heartland' rated over 3.3 million viewers. 4 x Emmy Award nominated series 2010

'Heartland' tells the story of the taming of the west. 1865, the internet of the era is about to change the face of America, 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 of 8 x 44 mins

**Prod Co.
Screened**

**Carbon Media
SKY 1, 9 pm**

**2009/10
2010**

3 of the worlds 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

_ 2 of 8 x 22 mins

**Prod Co.
Screened**

**North One TV
Discovery Ch**

**2008/09
2009**

Presenter Jonny Smith, Fifth Gear [CH 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.
Screened**

**Optomen [US]
History**

**2008
2009**

Emmy Award winning series 2009

The 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

_ 4 of 4 x 24 mins

**Prod Co.
Screened**

**Lonely Planet tv [Aus]
Discovery Ch, Voom [USA], Ch 10 [Aus]**

2008

Australian television ASTRA Awards nomination 2008

Nobody has used a motorbike to traverse the 7,000 km 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. A colorful 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?

Details of directing experience prior to 2008 available on request

./ REFEREES

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