

# CV



My name is Mike Christie. I direct and produce specialist factual films, arts, sport and adventure: be they documentaries, short forms and features, large or small units, authored or presented.

My most recent productions include the *Grierson Awards 2018 shortlisted* feature documentary **HANSA STUDIOS: BY THE WALL** - an evocative journey into the legendary studio and 70s/80s Berlin, **THE ROAD TO GYMKHANA GRID**, with driver Ken Block, shot around the world and in 4K HDR and the forthcoming Sky Arts special **NEW ORDER: DECADES**.

BBC works include **DARCEY'S BALLET HEROES** for BBC2, **THE ART OF CHINA** for BBC4, and **SIR ALEX FERGUSON: SECRETS OF SUCCESS** for BBC1.

For Channel 4, I directed *RTS Best Arts Programme* finalist **JUMP LONDON**, the award-winning **BODY TALK** series, acclaimed architecture series **THE SECRET LIFE OF BUILDINGS**, feature length documentaries such as the award nominated **INSIDE INCREDIBLE ATHLETES** and **CONCRETE CIRCUS**. I was also one of the directors *RTS* winning and BAFTA nominated, multi-platform project and TV series **BIG ART**.

Sky credits include series directing **WAYNE ROONEY'S STREET STRIKER**, drama **LITTLE CRACKERS** for Sky One, and **THE ART SHOW** for Sky Arts. Short form work includes films for **LONDON 2012 OPENING CEREMONIES**, producing **DANNY MACASKILL'S IMAGINATE** for **RED BULL** - amassing over eighty million views so far - and **APPLE**.

I hold a US i-visa (valid until June 2020). I live in *Shoreditch, London* and in *Somerset, near Bristol/Bath*.

MIKE CHRISTIE  
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SELECTED WORK  
2018-2015



### **ROAD TO GYMKHANA GRID** (1x90') Insight TV, 2018

*Producer/Director, LSP TV / Monster Energy*

Thanks to his Gymkhana film series, race driver *Ken Block* has *half-a-billion YouTube* views. This compelling feature length film follows Ken and seven incredible drivers around the world to his event, Gymkhana Grid. Shot in 4K UHD HDR in many, many countries and eclectic locations including Chernobyl (!), Utah, Sweden and South Africa. With a diverse cast and truly epic locations, it's a highly personal film, often surprisingly moving, dramatic and gripping. TX: *Insight (UHD)* and *Amazon Prime*, April 2018.



### **HANSA STUDIOS: BY THE WALL 1976-90** (1x90') Sky Arts, 2018

*Producer, Director and Executive Producer, CHQ.london*

An acclaimed, ninety-minute feature doc that tells the story of Berlin's legendary Hansa Studios from 1976-90. Standing in a bleak wasteland alongside the Berlin Wall, the studio inspired masterpieces from *Bowie's "Heroes"* and *Low*, *Iggy Pop's Lust For Life* to *U2's One*. An evocative chronicle of art and production, featuring *REM*, *Depeche Mode*, *U2*, *Supergrass*, *Nick Cave's Bad Seeds*, and a host of producers *Flood*, *Tony Visconti* and *Daniel Miller*. Shortlisted: *Grierson Best Arts or Music Documentary Award 2018*



### **THE ART SHOW** (8x60) Sky Arts, 2017

*Series Director, Infinity Creative Media*

Eighteen months in the making, this was first series of a brand new arts magazine show - with a difference. Shot around the globe, it's a beautiful, compelling, intelligent and - most importantly - accessible set of programmes. Each episode contains four strands that give a truly colourful and stimulating glimpse into global artists and art stories, shot in twenty countries.



### **FOOTBALL: A BRIEF HISTORY BY ALFIE ALLEN** (2x60') History, 2017

*Series Producer / Writer / Director, Woodcut Media*

*Game of Thrones* star *Alfie Allen* undertakes his first documentary series - insightful yet entertaining, it explores the roots of football in the UK. The first programme explores the origins of the industry and the second charts the power struggle within the game in the 20th century. Featuring *Greg Dyke*, *Andy Cole*, *Sol Campbell*, *Cyrille Regis*, *Jake Humphrey*, and *Alfie's father Keith Allen*. Nominated for *RTS southern's Best Factual Series award 2018*.



### **DARCEY'S BALLET HEROES** (1x60') BBC2, 2015

*Writer and Director, Leopard.*

A Christmas Day special saw *Darcey Bussell* undertake a very personal journey to meet the heroes and dancers who transformed male ballet. Rich in archive, insightful commentary, personal anecdotes, and uniquely intimate access that few - other than a former Royal Ballet Prima Ballerina - would be able to secure. This is the history of men in ballet told first hand by the best male dancers in the world.



### **SIR ALEX FERGUSON: SECRETS OF SUCCESS** (1x60') BBC1, 2015

*Director, Juniper TV.*

The BBC's political editor for the past decade, *Nick Robinson*, who has analysed leaders for a living for many years, gets up close and personal with *Sir Alex* to uncover the secrets of his success. Also features contributions from notable leaders and sportspeople including *Lord Alan Sugar*, *Tony Blair*, *Cristiano Ronaldo*, *Rio Ferdinand*, *Paul McGinley*, *David Gill*, and *Sir Mike Moritz*.

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SELECTED WORK  
2014-2009



**THE ART OF CHINA** (3x60') BBC 4 co-pro with ARTÉ and CCTV, 2014

Series Director/Producer, Renegade Pictures

The striking new series in the BAFTA nominated 'Art Of' franchise told the story of 4,000 years of Chinese art. It's a gripping journey. Much of the early part of the tale is told through a journey across an incredible array of recently discovered sites across the vast land. Presented by the inimitable *Andrew Graham-Dixon*, and critically praised for its visual style and unprecedented (and cheeky) access.



**DANNY MACASKILL'S IMAGINATE** (1x8', 6x15' & 1x60') Red Bull, 2013

Producer/Exec/Supervising Director, ChristieHQ

This was big in every way: 18 months in the making, the riding film alone has amassed nearly 30 million views since its release in Summer 2013. I was in charge of the whole project: from producing the riding film on a 160 metre long set in Glasgow, filmed over 65 days, to the production of a six part online series and a TV special to accompany it. Amazing and challenging.



**LONDON 2012: THE CEREMONY FILMS** (9 x various) LOCOG/Channel 4, 2012

Writer/Producer/Director/Executive Producer, ChristieHQ

I was responsible - in different capacities - for a volume of work for London 2012 Ceremonies, including writing/directing the opening films for both Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Paralympic Games. I also produced a number of other ceremony films along with the official behind the scenes of the Olympic Opening Ceremony.



**APPLE: TEN YEARS** (1x6') Apple Inc, 2012

Director / co-writer, Apple.

A major event film for Apple told the story of the success and growth of Apple's EMEA territories over the last decade, and project the shape of the future ten years. Shot across 14 countries, the production was intense. The final film was hugely popular with Apple's senior figures and is still in use to date.



**DAREDEVILS: LIFE ON THE EDGE** (60' and 12x2') Channel 4, 2012

Exec/Producer/Director, ChristieHQ/Renegade.

A Channel 4 Education commission for primetime. The film explores the thrills of actions sports and the science of risk taking, and stars *Danny MacAskill* and *Guy Martin*. Filmed in death defying situations, the film gets to the root of what leads them extreme sport stars to so spectacularly risk life and limb. Accompanied by an online series of twelve short films.



**CONCRETE CIRCUS** (1x90') Channel 4, 2011

Producer/Director/Exec, ChristieHQ/Renegade.

Commissioned for C4 Arts *Street Summer* season, I conceived this feature length film to bring together the "stars" of action sport disciplines Parkour, Skateboarding, BMX and Urban Trials for the first time. It's definitive and spectacular. The films within *Concrete Circus* went viral, amassing over 12 million views. Narrated by *Dominic West*.

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SELECTED WORK  
2010–2003



**THE SECRET LIFE OF BUILDINGS** (3x60') Channel 4, 2011

Producer/Director, ChristieHQ/Renegade.

It took me many years to get this series exploring the relationship between psychology and the design of space commissioned. The resultant three-part series was both popular and RIBA policy affecting. Architecture critic *Tom Dyckhoff* explored - for the first time - the psychological and behavioural response to architecture at home, work and in 'play' spaces.



**INSIDE INCREDIBLE ATHLETES** (1x90') Channel 4, 2010

Producer/Director, Renegade Pictures.

This major doc launched C4 Paralympics 2012 campaign. It married intimate profiles and revelatory science with five 'performance' films uniquely re-framing the sports. The Telegraph found it "visually beautiful and scientifically fascinating" while Heat said "awe inspiring \*\*\*\*\*". Narrated by *Tom Hardy*. Nominated for Broadcast's Best Popular Factual Programme Award 2011.



**JO BRAND'S LITTLE CRACKER** (1x12') - Sky 1 Comedy Drama, 2010

Director, Renegade Pictures

Comedy drama written by *Jo Brand* as part of Sky's first Little Cracker series. A great script - set in 1972 - loosely inspired by Jo's teenage years. After the accidental death of Jo's cat, Fluff, events get rapidly out of hand, culminating in a mad comic finale. *Jo Brand's* younger self played by *Dani Harmer* supported by the amazing *Amelia Bulmore* and *Elizabeth Berrington*



**YESTERDAY WE WERE IN AMERICA** (1x60') Aquarius Films, 2009

Director, Carbon Media

A complex period drama-documentary telling the amazing story of Brits Alcock and Brown - who, in 1919, became the first men to fly non-stop across the Atlantic ocean, some 8 years before Charles Lindbergh. Shot on location in UK and Newfoundland, it's a truly amazing story about two near forgotten British Pioneers. Narrated by *Rosamund Pike*.



**WAYNE ROONEY'S STREET STRIKER** (3x60) Sky 1, 2008

Series Director, Plum Pictures

The first series of the hit TV show for Sky 1. Britain's finest footballer takes - quite literally - to the streets, to find a champion of street football. Urban and gritty, the style of this series was a refreshing antithesis to the usual run of celebrity talent shows of the time. Multi camera and fast turn around, I made the series of three programmes in just 16 weeks.



**THE SECRETS OF THE 12 DISCIPLES** (1x120') - Channel 4, 2007

Studio Director, Carbon Media

I created and filmed the anchoring sequences for this C4 Religion commission: a highly-stylized studio recreation of The Last Supper on a grand scale by commissioning its repainting onto 14 canvasses stretching nearly 30 feet. Hung at the centre of a studio space, they formed the back bone of Dr Robert Beckford's major two-hour Xmas C4 feature.

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SELECTED WORK  
2007–2004



**LITTLE BRITAIN DOWN UNDER** (1x60') BBC1, 2007

*Producer/Director, Little Britain Productions*

Originally commissioned as a 'video diary' for BBC3, this film grew to become a surreal hybrid of performance, documentary and occasional documentary, earning a place on BBC1 primetime. Little Britain duo *Matt Lucas and David Walliams* starred, with a host of Little Britain's characters, plus *Kath & Kim, Dame Edna, "Harold Bishop"* and the cast of neighbours. Narrated by *Rob Brydon*.



**JUMP BRITAIN** (1x60') Channel 4, 2005

*Writer/Director, Carbon Princess*

The sequel to film *Jump London*, this film charted the explosion of Parkour in the UK as *Sebastien Foucan* returned to it's shores for another journey. He and a select group of British Free Runners scaled landmarks including the Forth Rail Bridge, the Millennium and Stadium. Directly inspired both the opening scene of *Casino Royale* and a song and video by *Madonna*.



**JUMP LONDON** (1x60') Channel 4, 2003

*Director, Optomen Television.*

This C4 film was shown in 70 countries and launched Free Running on a global level. The Guardian said "Mike Christie's film... bathed London in a bright new light... a mesmerising bit of television. You could use adjectives like balletic, acrobatic or gymnastic to describe it, but none would quite do it justice." *Finalist, RTS awards, Best Arts Programme 2004.*



**BODY TALK** (2x60') Channel 4, 2004

*Series Producer Director, ITN Factual*

Award-winning two-part series for prime time exploring body language with *Professor Peter Collett* in an entirely new way. Prog 1 - Power - looked at politicians (and had consequences!) and prog 2 - Sex - looked at the body language of lust and love. Revelatory stuff.

OTHER CREDITS

**SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS** (1x60') Channel 4 Comedy, 2011 *Director, Two Four Television.*

**I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M TELLING YOU THIS** (60') *Aquarius Documentaries 2008*

**BIG ART** (4x60'), C4, 2007. *Carbon Princess, Director.*

**POWER TO THE PEOPLE** (60') BBC2, 2007 - *Event shoot Director*

**GAY VICARS** (60') C4, 2006. *Carbon, Producer/Director*

**THE REAL LITTLE BRITAIN** (1x60') BBC3, 2004, *Director, Carbon Princess*

**PRAMS, PARENTING AND PARTIES** (60') BBC3 2003, September, *P/D*

**FOOTBALL STORIES** (1x60')- Channel 4, 2002. *P/D, Wark Clements*

**LIVES LESS ORDINARY** (2x30') - BBC2, 2002. *Director, Wark Clements*

**FROM HERE TO MODERNITY** (3x30') - BBC2, 2001. *Series Director, Wark Clements*

**THE AD FACTOR** (1x30') - BBC2, 2002. *Producer/Director, Wark Clements*

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 RAVES** (3x60) C4, 2001. *Producer Rapido*

**BRITISH TRIBES** (1x60') Sky 1, 2000. *Producer/Director ep 2, LWT Factual*

**CREAM** (3x60') Sky 1, 1999. *Producer, Pacific*

**CRIME SQUAD** (2x60') - BBC 1, 1999. *Producer, BBC News and Current Affairs.*

**TALES FROM THE NET** (5x2') - BBC 1 and 2, 1999. *Producer/Director, BBC Science*

**SEARCH FOR THE SEA SERPENT** (1x60') *Discovery, 1998. Loc. Producer, Cicada*

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SELECTED  
SCRIPTED WORK

**I AM THE FLAME (SOCHI 2014 CEREMONY FILM)** with Sir Ian McKellen, IPC 2014  
**PEPSI MAX CHALLENGE** - AMV BBDO, autumn 2014  
**GARY BARLOW: SINCE I SAW YOU LAST** - Tour Opening Film, spring 2014  
**RIDE TO HELL** - CGI Commercial, Deep Silver Studios, Germany 2012  
**ALPELLA** - TVC, Universal McCann / Dinamo, Turkey 2010  
**ST TRINIANS 2** - 2nd Unit Director, Ealing Studios 2009  
**ROGERS: ROOFTOP RENDEZVOUS** - TVC, Publicis / Ruckus, USA 2006  
**HEROES: A FILM FOR LIVE 8** - Carbon for Live 8 / BBC, 2005  
**DROP THE DEBT** - Campaign film, The Brits and MTV, UK & Global | 1998

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