

PAUL BERRIFF OBE
Producer/Director/Cinematographer
Fine Art Photographer

“Lessons of Darkness is as much a film by Paul Berriff as it is mine. It was a very fortunate collaboration. There was a danger of two cooks preparing one meal, but in this case Paul was a man of such calibre that our collaboration worked very well. Berriff has made a lot of very physically daring films. A courageous man, very physical in his methods of seeing and creating images. He has a real curiosity.” - Werner Herzog, International Film Director



During his filming exploits, Paul Berriff has survived a major helicopter crash, leapt to safety from a sinking ship during a North Sea gale and escaped death when a volcano erupted around him in Nicaragua. On September 11 Berriff was filming with the FDNY's Deputy Chief Fire Commissioner at the World Trade Center when both the twin towers collapsed on top of him. Berriff was knocked to the ground and lay unconscious for 25 minutes before regaining conscious and crawling out of the debris. His camera was smashed but his tape showing the iconic sequences of the south tower collapsing survived.

Paul Berriff is a British and international documentary film maker as well as a fine art photographer. Paul has created, produced, directed and been behind the camera on over 180 prime time major network television documentary films. He specializes in observational documentary.

At the age of 21 Paul started his career as a cameraman for BBC Television News. At the time, he was the youngest cameraman to work for the BBC. He then moved to the BBC Current Affairs Unit where he filmed front-line documentaries for BBC One. He and his three man crew were the documentary news team for the prestigious BBC Nationwide programme covering major stories throughout the British Isles.

After four years at the BBC Paul left and set up a successful independent production company specializing in producing prime time observational factual documentaries for network television. Following an outstanding 15 years he was invited to become a Director/Cinematographer with Granada's prestigious documentary unit in Manchester. After a very successful three years he left and joined the factual programme unit at United Productions, headed by one of Britain's top documentary executives, John Willis. Paul Berriff has created, produced, directed and filmed major award winning specialist series and single documentaries for the Discovery Networks, HBO, PBS, BBC Television, ITV Network, Channel 4, Channel Five and Sky. His documentaries have also been broadcast by the leading TV networks around the world. Berriff was based in the USA for 6 years from 1999 to 2005 heading up a documentary team creating and producing network films for the US and UK broadcasters. In 2009 Paul teamed up with writer Stephen McGinty and formed Berriff McGinty Films. Their first production 'Fire in the Night' won Best Documentary Feature at the Scottish BAFTA Awards in November 2013 followed by Best Documentary at the Royal Television Society

Awards 2014. In June 2017 Paul received the top award from the Guild of Television Cameramen for continued excellence in cinematography.

Paul has won over 20 awards for his programmes. He was awarded a BAFTA Scotland for his ITV network series *Rescue*, which featured the dramatic life saving work of a Royal Air Force rescue helicopter crew in Scotland. His helicopter was the first on scene at the Piper Alpha oil platform explosion and fire in the North Sea which claimed the lives of 167 men. For the same series he was awarded the RAF's top media award for the "Best Interpretation of the RAF to the Public."

Berriff and his team were nominated for three BAFTA's for '*The Nick*', a major documentary film series about the day to day exploits at Britain's busiest police station in Leeds. It was watched by almost 8 million viewers per episode – one of the highest viewing figures for a Channel 4 programme. His hit series *Animal Squad*, featuring a Leeds RSPCA Inspector, gained an audience of 15 million for BBC1 and knocked the famous *Dallas* out of the top ten programmes list.

He was presented in Hollywood with the Genesis Award for 'outstanding reality programme' for his hit animal law enforcement series *Animal Precinct* and *Animal Cops*. Both series were filmed on the streets of New York, Detroit, Houston and San Francisco for the Animal Planet Channel. This series, created by Berriff, continues to be one of Animal Planet's top shows. Paul has considerable experience filming with British and American law enforcement agencies and fire departments.

Paul Berriff specializes in capturing intimate portraits of his subjects and their interaction with others. Paul pioneered factual law enforcement documentaries featuring people and their treatment of animals, this has subsequently led to an explosion of similar TV series. His programmes have been influential in changing animal legal legislation.

Early in his career Berriff spent 12 months alongside Prince Charles filming his exploits as a helicopter pilot, he then went on to film a portrait of Sir Francis Chichester, the first person to sail solo around the world. Berriff filmed the first ever kayak and raft expedition down the Colorado River which earned him Documentary of the Year. Berriff has also filmed three of Sir Ranulph Fiennes expeditions into the wild parts of Canada and North America.

Paul was Werner Herzog's director of photography, producer and cinematographer for the award-winning *Lessons of Darkness* documentary. This film featured the blazing oil well fires and their catastrophic aftermath during the Gulf War. This film has become one of Discovery Channel's top ten documentary programmes of all times.

Paul was also the first TV director to be given unparalleled access by NASA to film a year in the life of a shuttle crew for his Channel Four and PBS observational series *Astronauts*.

The City of Baltimore gave Berriff and his team full access for eight months to their fire, rescue and paramedic teams for a Discovery and Channel Four primetime observational series *Streets of Fire*.

For a Sky series, Paul lived with 12 soldiers, during the winter months, filming their ordeal as they took part in the British Army's toughest training course in the Welsh mountains. The same year he also directed a one-hour feature length special for HBO Primetime following New York City's animal cops. This programme became the forerunner for his hit Animal Planet series.

His BBC 1 series *Animal Squad* featured the work of an RSPCA inspector in Leeds. This observational series knocked the very popular Dallas out of the top ten ratings with viewing figures each week of over 14 million. Berriff follow up was *Animal Squad Undercover* which captured the exploits of the RSPCA's special operations team and resulted in the UK Parliament changing the transportation of animal legislation.

Paul Berriff's *Jungle Janes*, a 3 part observational series, followed the exploits of 16 middle age women through the jungles of Borneo for Channel 4.

Berriff's Channel Five documentary *9/11 A Firefighters' Story*, was shown in over 12 countries to mark the anniversary of the September attacks. This 60-minute film, highly acclaimed by TV critics, follows a year with the three firefighters who were alongside him when the WTC twin towers collapsed. This graphic and emotional film tells the story of those firefighters who survived, those who died, and those who will be scarred for life. This film was selected by the New York Fire Department as the film that most depicted the impact of that day on NY firefighters and is shown to all new recruits at the NY Fire Academy.

Paul Berriff persuaded the girl members of the notorious 'Bloods' gang to film their personal stories on the streets of South Central LA with top crime writer Martina Cole for a Sky network series on girl gangs.

Fire in the Night is Paul's 2013 BBC documentary feature based on the heroic stories of the survivors of the 1988 Piper Alpha oil platform disaster. This film took Berriff three years to develop as he had to locate many of the survivors who, since the disaster, were living and working throughout the world many in very remote locations.

Also in 2013 Paul was DOP and cinematographer on the feature drama film *Titus* which was nominated for 'Best Independent Feature Film' at Raindance.

Recently, Berriff has had a major exhibition of his unique Beatles stills photographs on show in Carnegie Hall New York, San Francisco, the Rock & Pop museum in Memphis, Prague Museum of Music and Harvey Nichols in Dubai. His Rock Legends photographs, have been exhibited in Salts Mill, Yorkshire. Salts Mill is David Hockney's home exhibition gallery. In 2010 a still photograph of a Yorkshire coastal village, following a blizzard, won Paul a major worldwide photo contest sponsored by Sony and an American company.

Paul is currently developing a cinema movie featuring an East Coast fishing town.

Away from filming and photography, Paul Berriff oversees the crew of Britain's busiest rescue boat based on the River Humber in Yorkshire. Berriff, who founded the maritime rescue organization, Humber Rescue, has personally taken part in over 850 life-saving rescues. The life-saving charity has received the Queen's Award for services to marine rescue and he himself has received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct, the Royal Humane Society's Silver Medal for Bravery and the Silk Cut Individual Rescue Award. All three awards were presented to Paul for saving the life of a drowning student trapped on a rock stack in the Atlantic Ocean off the north-west coast of Scotland during a force 10 storm and blizzard during the making of his *'Rescue'* series. In the 2016 Queen's 90th Birthday Honours Paul received an OBE for services to Humber Rescue. Paul is also a trained fire-fighter.

Paul Berriff is a fast worker used to managing large production teams. He has overseen large budgets and has exceptional qualities when dealing with contributors. Paul's specialty is low shooting ratios. He also has vast knowledge of the law in relation to filming and broadcasting and has written three books to accompany his TV series.

Paul is also a Royal Television Society Awards programme judge

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TELEVISION AWARDS

Guild of Television Cameramen Award for Continued Excellence in Cinematography 2017

Best Documentary Feature – Royal Television Society Awards

Best Documentary – British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA Scotland)

Best UK Feature Film Raindance Festival nominated (Director of Photography/Cinematographer)

Best Factual Film – British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA Scotland)

Best Factual Cinematography – nomination British Academy of Film & Television Awards BAFTA

Sports Award - British TV Film Cameraman Awards

Hard News Award - British TV Film Cameraman Awards

**News Documentary Award of the Year - British TV Film
Cameraman Awards**

News Team Award - Royal Television Society

Best Cinematography Award - Paris Film Festival

Best Cinematography Award - Chicago Film Festival

**Best Factual Programme - Television & Radio Industries Club
Awards**

Public Relations Award - Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Best British Film Award - British Mountaineering Film Festival

Best Sports Documentary - European TV Sports Festival

**Media Award - Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty
to Animals**

CP Robertson Trophy - for best media interpretation of the role of the Royal Air Force to the general public

Prix Europa Prize - Special Commendation for Best Documentary

Adolf Grimme Preis - Silver Prize Award for Cinematography

San Francisco Golden Gate Award - first prize Environmental Category

Melbourne International Film Festival - Grand Prix Award

New York Film Festival - Bronze Medal for Special Cinematography

Genesis Award - for Outstanding Reality Programme (twice)

Best Travel Picture – Sony & PDN worldwide photo contest

OTHER AWARDS

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Royal Humane Society - Silver Medal for Bravery

Silk Cut Individual Rescue Award

OBE for services to maritime search & rescue

NETWORKED PRIME TIME FILMS and PRODUCTIONS BY PAUL BERRIFF

Storm Warrior

Currently developing feature film

The Hesse Roaders - Hull's Fishing Community

Major Photographic Exhibition for City of Culture 2017

Producer and Curator

Cappuccino Cycling Calendar

The sequel to Calendar Girls

Created, Photographed & Published 1 July 2015

Rock Legends

Major photographic exhibition at Salts Mill

Photographs of 60's pop legends

Taken by Paul Berriff

Fire in the Night

Feature length documentary based on the

Piper Alpha oil platform disaster

BBC 2 & Cinema Release

Created & Developed, Co-producer

Cops & Coyotes

Series featuring the undercover detectives

with the USA special drug and immigration team

Discovery Channel

Director/Producer/Camera

Titus

Independent drama feature film

The story of a drug addicted New York saxophonist

Director of Photography/Cinematographer

Martina Cole Girl Gangs

Women street gangs of South Central LA

ITV/Sky

Director of Photography /Camera

K9 Cops

Frontline observational documentary series

With the Minneapolis police dog teams

Animal Planet

Director/Camera

Animal Cops – San Francisco

Frontline observational documentary series
With the city animal car investigation team
Animal Planet
Created/Directed/Produced/Camera

Animal Cops - Houston

Frontline observational documentary series
With the SPCA investigation team
Animal Planet
Created/Directed/Produced/Filmed

9/11 The Firefighters' Story

9/11 and its affect on the survivors of the NY Fire Department
Channel 5 & Worldwide transmissions
Created/ /Directed/Produced/Filmed

Animal Cops - Detroit

Observational series featuring Detroit's animal cruelty investigation team
Animal Planet
Created/Filmed/Directed/Produced

Animal Precinct

Observational documentary series with New York's
ASPCA animal cruelty investigation team
Animal Planet
Created/Directed/Produced/Filmed

Jungle Janes

Observational documentary series following 12 women
On expedition in the Malaysian jungle
Channel Four
Directed/Produced/Filmed

Animal Cops

Feature length observational documentary
Featuring New York's animal police
HBO Primetime
Created/Directed/Filmed

Lessons of Darkness

Werner Herzog feature documentary about
the battle to extinguish the Kuwait oil well fires
BBC & Discovery Network
Director of Photographer/Cinematographer

Battle Stripes

Observational documentary series with the soldiers
on the world's toughest training course
Sky Primetime
Directed/Filmed

Motorway Life

Observational documentary series with the cops &
Motorists on the M6 motorway
ITV Network
Directed/Filmed

Builders from Hell

Undercover documentary with Britain's rogue builders
ITV Network
Directed/Filmed

Streets of Fire

Observational documentary series featuring
America's busiest fire station
Discovery Channel & Channel Four
Created/Filmed/Produced/Directed

Passport Control

Frontline observational documentary series with
Heathrow Airport's immigration team
Channel Four
Directed/Filmed

Astronauts

Observational documentary series following a year
in the life of a NASA space shuttle crew
Channel Four & PBS Network
Created/Directed/Produced/Filmed

Confrontation on E Wing

Observational documentary with the
Long Lartin prison psychology team
BBC1
Created/Filmed/Produced/Directed

Absolutely Marie Claire

Observational documentary with the editor
& staff at Britain's top fashion magazine
Channel Four
Created/Directed/Produced/Filmed

The Nick

Observational series on the front line at Britain's
busiest police station
Channel Four
Created/Directed/Produced/Filmed

Evidence of Abuse

Observational documentary with a police child protection team
BBC 1
Created/Produced/Directed/Filmed

Animal Squad Undercover

Observational documentary series with the RSPCA's
Special operations undercover unit
Channel Four
Created/Produced/Directed/Filmed

Paths of Conflict

Documentary with the rights of way ramblers
Channel Four
Directed/Filmed

M25: The Magic Roundabout

Observational documentary series with the M25 motorway cops
ITV Network
Created/Produced/Directed/Filmed

Rescue

Observational series following a year with the
RAF search & rescue helicopter crews
ITV Network
Created/Produced/Directed/Filmed

Animal Squad

Observational series following
RSPCA Inspector Sid Jenkins in Leeds
BBC 1
Created/Produced/Directed/Filmed

Lakeland Rock

Climbing documentary series with Sir Chris Bonington
Channel Four
Directed/Produced

Lifeboat

Observational documentary series with Britain's busiest lifeboat crew
BBC 1
Created/Directed/Filmed

Fire

Documentary following the crews at Britain's busiest fire station
BBC 2
Created/Produced/Directed/Filmed

Motorway

Documentary following the cops on the M62
Britain's highest motorway
ITV Network
Created/Produced/Directed/Filmed

Gold from the Deep

Documentary about the recovery of gold bullion
from the sunken HMS Edinburgh in the Barents
BBC 1
Directed/Filmed

The Brendan Voyage

Documentary following a leather boat crossing of the North Atlantic
BBC 2
Directed/Filmed

Into the Headless Valley

Sir Ranulph Fiennes expedition through the forests of British Colombia
BBC 2
Created/Directed/Filmed

Through the Gates of Hell

Sir Ranulph Fiennes river raft expedition through British Colombia
BBC 2
Created/Directed/Filmed

The Great Unknown

Documentary featuring the first kayak & raft
expedition down the Colorado river through the Grand Canyon
BBC 2
Created/Directed/Filmed

The Lonely Sea and Sky

Documentary life story of the first single
handed round the world yachtsman
BBC1
Directed/Filmed

Pilot Royal

Life and times of Prince Charles during a year
with his Royal Navy helicopter crew
BBC 1
Directed/Filmed

Paul Berriff has also written three books as tie-ins to his documentary films. He is also a Royal Television Society Factual Programmes judge

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