

**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. A man of great, great calibre as a cinematographer. 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 consciousness 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 and 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 features team for the prestigious BBC Panorama and Nationwide programmes covering major stories throughout the British Isles.

After four years at the BBC, Paul set up an 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 remarkably successful three years he moved to 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 in 2017.

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

Paul has won over 20 awards for his programs. He was awarded a BAFTA Scotland for his ITV network series *Rescue*, which featured the dramatic lifesaving 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 followed this success with *Animal Squad Undercover* which followed the RSPCA's specialists' investigations team. This series resulted in part to the changing of the law in animal transportation.

Paul 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 specializes in capturing intimate portraits of his subjects and their interaction with others. Paul pioneered documentaries featuring people and their treatment of animals, this has subsequently led to an explosion of similar TV series.

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 granted 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 twelve 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.

Paul Berriff's *Jungle Janes*, a 3-part observational series, followed the exploits of 16 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.

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 photography, has also 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.

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 Paul has received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery, 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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 network and regional factual programs judge

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## TELEVISION AWARDS

Guild of Television Cameramen Award for 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 Program - 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 Program (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**

**9/11 the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** - developing TV special

**The Hessle 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 effect 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/Producer/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

following the recovery of gold bullion from the  
sunk HMS Edinburgh  
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

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