

Steve Whitford
Senior Lecturer
School of Film, Media and Creative Technologies
Email: Steve.Whitford@port.ac.uk



Research outputs

The 'Truth of Sound': exploring the effects of an immersive location sound recording methodology within realist filmmaking

Whitford, S., 1 Oct 2022, In: *The Soundtrack*. 13, 1, p. 61-71 11 p., 4.

Research output: [Contribution to journal](#) › [Article](#) › [peer-review](#)

The 'Truth of Sound': exploring immersive location sound recording in realist filmmaking

Whitford, S., 1 Oct 2021, In: *The International Journal of Creative Media Research*. 7, 11 p.

Research output: [Contribution to journal](#) › [Article](#) › [peer-review](#)

Ambisonic-centred location sound recording - reinvigorating the observational documentary genre?

Whitford, S., 14 Oct 2020, *Proceedings of the AVANCA International Conference | CINEMA 2020*. Edicoes Cine-Clube de Avanca, p. 755-765 11 p. (AVANCA International Conference | CINEMA).

Research output: [Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding](#) › [Conference contribution](#)

On the edge of practice: reflections on filmmaking pedagogy in the age of Creative Industries

Whitford, S. & Friedman-Silver, Y., 1 Aug 2018, In: *Cinema Journal*. 5, 1, 5 p.

Research output: [Contribution to journal](#) › [Article](#) › [peer-review](#)

Review of Sound Devices 442 mixer

Whitford, S., Aug 2002, In: *Line Up: The Journal of the Institute of Broadcast Sound*. 86, p. 26-29

Research output: [Contribution to journal](#) › [Article](#)

Filming the Cave of Letters: Life as a location sound record is never dull, but STEVE WHITFORD MIPS describes a particularly unusual job he undertook in Israel last year

Whitford, S., Apr 2002, In: *Line Up: The Journal of the Institute of Broadcast Sound*. 84, p. 14-18

Research output: [Contribution to journal](#) › [Article](#)

Biography

Between 1985 and 2012 I worked across a whole range of program output for international broadcasters and a host of independent TV companies. My first love is documentary Sound Recording and I have also worked on many dramas and for corporate production companies and their international clients.

In 2003 I won an RTS Award for Sound Recording on BBC2's 'Fighting The War' documentary series where I was embedded with the Black Watch (7th Armoured) during the invasion of Iraq. My Film Industry Credits and CV is at my official website: <http://whitford.net>

Biography

STEVE WHITFORD – +44(0) 7973 168761
SOUND RECORDIST.

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS:
www.whitford.net

TITANIC

Bedlam Productions/National Geographic

Director: Nigel Levy Camera: Graham Smith

A 100 minutes Documentary special from the Production company who produced the "The King's Speech" feature film & documentary. This documentary provides an insight into why the Titanic sank, 100 years ago.

Shot on High Def HD SLR - Sony F3 - with multitrack flash drive audio mastering & timecode sync.

SEVEN DWARVES

The Garden Productions/Ch4

Director: Richard Curson Smith Camera: Graham Smith

This observational documentary series provides a thought-provoking insight into what it is like to be a person of short stature in a big world.

Shot on High Def HD SLR - Sony F3 - with multitrack flash drive audio mastering & timecode sync.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ? - "DAVID MITCHELL"

Wall to Wall/BBC2

Director: Mary Crisp Camera: Rob Goldie

The 6th series of family history programs featuring popular celebrities.

Shot on High Def with tx'd audio via Zaxcom digital stereo unit, with SD flash drive back-up.

MYSTERIES OF THE UNEXPLAINED...WITH TONY ROBINSON

Flashback TV/Ch4

Producer: David Edgar Camera: Graham Smith

Tony Robinson & Becky MacCall front a three part series which brings a rational investigative approach to the world of psychic mysteries and the myths and legends of the past.

Shot on High Def with tx'd audio via Zaxcom digital stereo unit, with SD card back-up.

FIGHTING THE WAR

BBC Documentaries and Contemporary Factual for BBC2

Royal Television Society Award: Sound - Entertainment Non-Drama Production

Awarded to: Sound Team:

"The winning team demonstrated good judgment in dangerous and unpredictable conditions. They exercised first-rate craft skills in the most difficult circumstances to ensure the key moments were captured."

Director: Janet Harris Camera: Neil Harvey (Photos here)

6 x 1 hours following the 2003 war in Iraq. Our program was filmed with the Black Watch Battle Group on their push into Basra from Kuwait.

Filmed on DigiBeta with tx'd audio to the 790, backed-up onto pro Minidisc. Mono with M & S atmos's.

THE FALLEN

Minnow Films/BBC1

Best Documentary 2008

BAFTA Best Single Documentary

Producer: Morgan Matthews Camera: Graham Smith

A landmark, 3 hour feature-length film for BBC2 to mark Remembrance day 2008. The Fallen will remember every British service person who has died whilst serving in Afghanistan and Iraq and those they have left behind.

Filmed on Digi Beta with tx'd audio via Zaxcom digital stereo unit, with SD card back-up.

THE DIETS THAT TIME FORGOT

Silver River/Ch4

Producer: Caroline Ross-Pirie Camera: Matt Marschner

Series following 3 groups who live 3 different historical diets and lifestyles in a country house, and the conclusions.

Shot on Digi.

THE MONARCHY

RDF/BBC1

Director: Steven Lambert Camera: Sam Keys/Peter Wilkinson

Now-notorious observational documentary going behind the scenes of the working Monarchy. Mostly self-shot.

Shot on High-def with radio linked audio to the camera, and backed-up on SD flash recorder.

THE BLAIR YEARS

Brook-Lapping/Ch4

Director: Rob Coldstream Camera: Rob Goldie

Definitive 3 x 1 hrs on the Premiership of Tony Blair, as related to Andrew Rawnsley, by those who served alongside him (Blair, not Rawnsley!).

Shot on DigiBeta.

KIDNAP !

Mountain Film Unit (NZ)/Discovery-USA

Director: Tim Conrad Camera: Chris Goodger

Pilot for 13 x 1hr series for Discovery USA, about kidnap victims. This reconstructed in Morocco, the 2004 kidnapping, detainment, and release of American Roy Hallums, from captivity in Baghdad. Hallums was the world's longest-held captive.

Shot on High Def, with Flash Drive (MicroTrak) atmospheres.

EATING WITH: 'OONA KING' / 'MINETTE WALTERS'

Optomen/BBC2

Camera:Graham Smith

8 x 30' programs which combine the personal histories of the food-loving celebs, with a slice of social history.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ? - 'BILL ODDIE'

Wall to Wall/Ch4

Director: Simon Chu Camera: Graham Smith

1hr- well known faces within the British media each embark on individual journeys to answer some questions in regards to their own family history...

REGENCY HOUSE PARTY

Wall to Wall/Ch4

Producer: Caroline Ross-Pirie Camera: various

Series about six aspiring Mr Darcys and six Miss Bennetts (and their chaperones) the chance to go back to the England of the early 1800s and live at the height of the age of romance.

CUTTING EDGE: "BAD BEHAVIOUR:"

'BEN'

'FRED AND DIANE'

'THE HOLLIS'S'

Lion TV/Ch4

Director: Hilary Clark Camera: Jeremy Humphries/Graham Smith/Jeremy Humphries

3 x 1hr programs following the work of Behaviourist, Warwick Dyer, who works with parents to change their discipline strategies, in response to their children's extreme behaviour.

Shot on DigiBeta with tx'd audio backed-up on TCDAT.

FOOTBALL DIARIES

Seek/Ch4

Director: Ian Denyer/Ian B. MacDonald Camera: Ian MacDonald

8 x 1 hrs following Weymouth Football Club under the new leadership of Steve Claridge as Manager and Ian Ridley as Chairman, through the 2003/4 season. The series also looked at English football clubs such as Reading, Newcastle, Chelsea, Ipswich, Blackburn and Manchester City.

SADDAM'S IRAQ

Middle East Broadcasting/BBC

Director: Janet Harris Camera: Richard Gibb

4 x 1hr series on Iraq's post-war (2003) history, filmed in and around Baghdad.

Shot on DigiBeta with tx'd audio to the 790, backed-up onto pro Minidisc. Mono with M&S atmos's.

AFGHAN WARRIOR: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ABDUL HAQ

Touch Productions/BBC4

Royal Television Society: Southern Centre Award for Best Investigative Documentary 2003

Director: Malcolm Brinkworth Camera: Ken Guest (Photos here)

80min special on the history of Afghanistan over the last 25 years, as personified by the recent murder of leader-in-waiting, Adbdul Haq, by the Taliban regime.

Shot on DVCam with tx'd audio to the DSR570, backed-up onto pro Minidisc. Mono with M & S atmos's.

ANCIENT REFUGE IN THE HOLY LAND: UNEARTHING A REBEL HIDEOUT

Nova/WGBH

Director: Kurt Wolfinger Camera: Mike Haynes

Special following an American archaeological expedition aiming to find 2,000 years old artifacts buried in a remote cave system in Israel's Judean Desert.

Shot on w/s Super 16mm with TimeCode DAT.

Article published in Line Up magazine.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

Newsweek Productions

Director: Veronica Young Camera: Kirsten Johnson (Photos here)

1 hr special centred on an American Peace Camp in Croatia, set-up for young survivors of the Balkan Wars. We follow a group of Bosnian musicians and children from Sarajevo on their journey to the Camp, and relate their experiences.

Shot on Sony PD150 with transmitted audio backed-up onto pro Minidisc.

TRIAL AND ERROR:

"DRUHAN"; "BOWLER UPDATE"; "PARSONS"; "FELL"; "MILLS & POOLE"; "CLEARY"; "WARR"

JustTV/Ch4

Director: Steve Heywood / Steve Phelps Camera: Nick Barnett/Sean Bobbitt/Sam Keys

UK-based 1 hour specials x 7 fronted by David Jessell, each about a specific miscarriage of justice. Reconstruction drama documentaries.

A FAMILY CENTURY

Twenty Twenty/Ch4

Director: David Leaf/Susan Cardy/Kate O'Driscoll Camera: Mike Haynes

50' special on DigiBeta about a family of 113 living members which charts the Social history of the 20th Century, through their family's story.

LAGOS AIRPORT

Afro-Wisdom/Ch4

Director: Charlotte Moore Camera: Mike Haynes

5x1/2hrs shot solidly over three months transmitting audio to DigiBeta, with TimeCode DAT TC/audio, following the life of Murtallah Muhamed Airport, Lagos, Nigeria. (Article published)

THE CORONER

Twenty Twenty/ Ch4

Producer/Director: Ian Taylor Camera: Mike Haynes

4x1hrs shot solidly over three months in M and S stereo on TimeCode DAT TC/audio transmitted to DVPro, following the work of the Birmingham Coroner's officers.

ROYAL TV

BBC TV

Director: Bill Treharne Jones Camera: Mike Haynes

1hr special on the relationship between the monarchy and UK television, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

LIFE BEFORE BIRTH

BBC Science

Director: John Hayes-Fisher Camera: Mike Haynes

BBC1 series following the work of Kings College Hospital's Harris Birthright Trust. We portray the Trust's head - world-renown Prof. Kypros Nickolaedes - and tell the stories of those that come through the doors of the Trust.

Shot on DigiBeta with tx'd audio to the camera. Also TimeCode DAT.

DOCTORS TO BE - UPDATE

BBC Specialist Factual/BBC1

Director: Sadie Holland Camera: Mike Haynes

1hr special updating the on-going series of the 1984 intake of medical students at St.Mary's Hospital, London.

Shot on DigiBeta with tx'd audio to the camera. Also TimeCode DAT.

WHAT CHILDREN WANT

BBC Current Affairs

Director: Matthew Thompson Camera: Chris Goodger

BBC1 special about children and the way they get what they want !

Shot on Digi Beta with tx'd audio to the camera.

THE CURSE OF THE MUMMY

BBC Political Documentaries

Director: Bill Trehearne-Jones Camera: Mike Haynes

BBC2 1hr special about Margaret Thatcher's continuing effect on the modern Tory Party, and how that legacy is responsible for their current state of uncertainty. Shot before and after Ian Duncan-Smith's leadership election on DigiBeta with tx'd audio.

NEW DOCTORS TO BE

BBC Science

Director: Sadie Holland Camera: Mike Haynes

BBC series following the the first years intake of a radically new Australian Medical course to train new Doctors, based at St. George's Hospital, Tooting.

Shot on DigiBeta with tx'd audio to the camera. Also TimeCode DAT.

CHILD OF OUR TIME

RTS Nominated

BBC Science

Producer: Tessa Livingstone Camera: Mike Haynes

90 minute special as a fore-runner to 20 year project charting the progress of a group of 20 babies born in the new Millennium.

Shot over 18 months transmitting audio to DigiBeta, with TimeCode DAT TC/audio.

SECRET HISTORY: CHILDREN OF THE IRON LUNG

Granada/Ch4

Director: Ann Hawker Camera: Ian Moss

Digibeta shoot tracing how Polio epidemics swept the UK in the 1950's and 60's, and how the disease was finally conquered, as seen by victims and contemporary experts.

HORIZON: DIET FOR LIFE

BBC Science/BBC

Producer/Director: Tessa Livingstone Camera: Mike Haynes

1hr special shot in the UK USA on TimeCode DAT TC/audio transmitted to DigiBeta, about fat and the science of it all !

DOCTORS AT LARGE

BBC Science Features

Producer/Director: Tessa Livingstone Camera: Mike Haynes

Third update series of 11 x1/2 hrs shot over eighteen months in M and S stereo on TimeCode DAT TC/audio transmitted to Beta following the developing careers of young doctors, first filmed 13 years previously when medical students.

THE DAYS THE GUN FELL SILENT

BBC1

Director: Chris Sykes Camera: Richard Ranken

2 x 50' shot in UK France on TimeCode DAT Super 16mm, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice.

EXTREME MACHINES: SUB

Pioneer/WGBH

Director: Hugh Whitfield Camera: Ben Hodgson

1 hour special on-board USS. Miami - an American nuclear powered and armed sub, on NATO manoeuvres. Audio transmitted to BetaSP.

HOW TO BE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

BBC Political Documentaries

Producer: Michael Cockerill Camera/Director: Charles Miller

1 hour special audio transmitted to DVPro following William Hague's efforts to be the 'Leader of the Opposition'.

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Films of Record/Ch4

Producer: Roger Graef Camera: Michael Haynes

1 hour special audio transmitted to DVPro/DVC/Digibeta about the effect Management Consultants have on modern businesses.

CUTTING EDGE: THE INVESTIGATORS

Forstater Productions/Ch4

Director: Dev Varma Camera: Lawrence Gardner

TCDAT/Super 16mm on Lambeth's new fraud detection squad.

MODERN TIMES: THE ARCHES

BBC2

Director: David Turnbull Camera: Mike Eley

Middle and Side TCDAT/Super 16mm on people who work under Railway Arches

THE POISONED CHALICE

Barraclough-Carey/BBC

Director: John Bridcut Camera: Mike Haynes

4 x 1 hours shot on Beta in UK Europe, about Britain and the European Community, from the 1950's to Maastricht.

POLITICAL AMBITIONS

Twenty Twenty/ Ch4

Director: Brian Hill/Kate Woods Camera: Mike Haynes

3x1hrs on BetaSP, following 7 prospective MP's before after the May '97 General Election.

MYSTERIES OF THE UNEXPLAINED

Discovery

Director: Rob Gardner Camera: Rege Becker

1hr special shot on 16mm/TC Nagra, about UK ghosts !

THE MAJOR YEARS

Sky Political Unit

Director: Virginia Carington Camera: Mike Haynes

Definitive series on John Major's government, as told by Cabinet colleagues.

THE GRAND HOTEL

7th Art/ Meridian

Director: Sally Jenkinson Camera: Mike Haynes

4 x 50' fly-on-the-wall programs on the Grand Hotel in Brighton.

EQUINOX: TWINS

Fulcrum/ Ch4

Director: Salina MacNair Camera: Mike Haynes

TimeCode DAT/TimeCode transmitted to BetaSP, shot in UK/USA, on the science of twins.

GURKHAS

BBC2

Producer/Director: Michael Begg Camera: Mike Spragg

M & S stereo 1 hour special shot on Beta in UK, Nepal and Hong Kong, profiling the Gurkha Regiment.

DISPATCHES: CARE

Hart-Ryan/ Ch4

Director: Alex Sutherland Camera: Mike Haynes

M & S stereo shot in UK, about under-age prostitutes in local authority care.

BLACK BAG - THE CAMPAIGN FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

3rd Eye/ Ch4

Director: Jude Allan Camera: Sue Brooks

2 months fly-on-the-wall DAT/Radio-link to DVC, on the people and work of the Commission for Racial Equality.

NOBEL CENTURY

BBC/ WGBH

Director: Juliette Miller Camera: Mike Spragg

Shot in UK; Sweden; Canada and USA series of 3, about the history of the Nobel prize.

EQUINOX - RADIATION

Box/ Ch4

Director: Viv King Camera: Mike Spragg

1hr special about naturally occurring radiation, and its effects.

HORIZON: HEARTS

Goldwyn/ BBC

Director: Viv King Camera: Mike Spragg

16mm Nagra. 4 parts shot in Scotland and England about aspects of heart disease.

LIFE ETC

BBC Manchester

Director: Belinda Cherrington Camera: Chris Openshaw, Mike Haynes

8 Part Series, in which Rosie Boycott interviews various contributors about their lives, experiences and the stories they have to tell raising various dilemmas and issues.

NEWS FROM NUMBER 10

RTS Nominated

BBC Political Docs/ BBC2

Director: Alison Cahn Camera: Pat Turley

80 minute special revealing how the Blair government's news machine really works, by following the then PM's Press Secretary, Alastair Campbell.

Shot on DVCam with tx'd audio with MiniDisc back-up.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS

BBC Political Docs/ BBC2

Director/Camera: Charles Miller

Special from the inside, following the proposed abolition of the House of Lords, shot on DVCam with tx'd audio and MiniDisc back-up.

THE EURO

BBC Political Docs/ BBC2

Director/Camera: Alison Cahn

Special on the political and economic aspects of Britain's proposed entry into the Euro.

Shot on DVCam with tx'd audio and MiniDisc back-up.

THE SIEGE OF SCOTLAND YARD

Films of Record/ Ch4

Director: Roger Graef Camera: Alan James

Shot on DAT/ tx'd audio to DVC and DVC Pro. After the Report into the Lawrence Inquiry, Sir Paul Condon (Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police) prepared to face the world...

GOD'S ARMY

Independent Image/ Ch4

Director: Ken Kirby Camera: Mike Haynes

7x1hrs shot on TimeCode DAT and TC/audio transmitted to DVPro, following the work of the Salvation Army.

WITNESS: KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Films of Record/ Ch4

Director: Roger Graef Camera: Alan James

Mini Disc and tx'd audio to DVC, on the first filmed Family Group Conference convened by Social Services.

CUTTING EDGE - FOOTBALLER'S WIVES

Adventure Pictures/ Ch4

Director: John Fothergill Camera: Lawrence Gardner

Super16mm/ M & S/stereo TCDAT, as per title !

ASSAULT ON THE MIND

Union Picture/ Ch4

Producer/Director: David Patterson Camera: Mike Haynes

Beta series on the emerging science on Alzheimer's.

INSIDE STORY - PILOT DOWN

Mann Made Films/ BBC

Director: James Ewart Camera: Michael Haynes

TimeCode DAT/SP/DVC transmitted TimeCode, about a Naval pilot's survival course.

MODERN TIMES - JEWISH WEDDINGS

BBC

Director/Camera: Steven Walker

TimeCode DAT/DVC/Beta Transmitted TimeCode about a Jewish wedding.

MODERN TIMES - MANGE TOUT

BBC

Director: Mark Phillips Camera: Tony Caldwell

Super16mm/TCDAT about the vegetable !

SECRET LIVES - TRAITOR KING

Hart-Ryan/ BBC

Director: David Ryan Camera: Chris Smith

16mm Stereo DAT, about Edward VIIth's Nazi sympathies.

GULF WAR

Fine Art/ BBC1

Director: Eammon Matthews Camera: Steve Lawrence
Beta SP/ M & S stereo DAT. 4 parts chronicling the first Gulf War.

THE HORSE IN SPORT

Transatlantic/ Ch4/ Discovery

Director: Henrietta Brunt/Roger Parsons Camera: John Bulmer

One of a series of six films on Horse Sports produced by Transatlantic Films for Channel 4 and Discovery Channel. Each follows a few of the top competitors in the World at home, and then sees them compete against each other at world level competition. The other films included *Four in Hand Driving, Rodeo, Eventing, Dressage* and *Show Jumping*.

Stereo Nagra/16mm UK; USA; Argentina; Hungary; Denmark; Germany series 4 x 1hrs, about the horse in sports.

[Click to view clip](#)

STEVE WHITFORD – +44(0) 7973 168761
SOUND RECORDIST.
DRAMA CREDITS:

TRIAL AND ERROR: "DRUHAN"; "BOWLER UPDATE"; "PARSONS"; "FELL"; "MILLS & POOLE"; "CLEARY"; "WARR"
JustTV/Ch4

Director: Steve Heywood / Steve Phelps Camera: Nick Barnett/Sean Bobbitt/Sam Keys

UK-based 1 hour specials x 7 fronted by David Jessell; each about a specific miscarriage of justice. Reconstruction drama documentaries.

BAND OF BROTHERS

Granada

Camera: Chris Openshaw

Series about the American Civil War. I worked on scenes involving American and Redcoat armies; cannons firing; musket battles; horse charges; special effects; battles ...and dialogue !

Shot on DigiBeta using tx'd audio backed onto MiniDisc.

U BE DEAD

Granada

2nd unit sound on network prime-time drama based on a true story about a woman stalker.

Shot on Red camera using audio recorded onto flash drive.

HEADLESS

Granada

Series. Worked on last episode.

THE KNOCK

LWT/Granada

Some 2nd unit on series 2.

MYSTERIES OF THE UNEXPLAINED

Discovery USA

Director: Rob Gardner Camera: Rege Becker

1 hr special shot on 16mm/TC Nagra, about UK ghosts ! Mostly reconstructions using actors in scenes depicting the Middle Ages and its festivals of magic.

COMMERCIALS:

"FAMILY FORTUNES" / "HEART FM" x 3 / "MAGIC FM" / "GOLD BUYERMAN" (Toast TV)

PLUS:

numerous **CORPORATES:** Jacaranda; The Edge; Pukka Films; etc.

...numerous **'MAKING OF... FEATURE FILMS'** for Special Treats eg. "*Tomorrow Never Dies*"; "*Much Ado About Nothing*"; "*Blue Ice*"; "*The Whistle Blower*"; "*Robin Hood*"; "*Shining Through*" etc.

...numerous **BOOM OPERATING** and **ASSISTING** on TV dramas & feature films: "*Worzel Gummidge*"; "*Cat's Eyes*"; "*London's Burning*"; "*Duet for One*"; "*Tank Malling*" etc.

... numerous **BOOM OPERATING** and **ASSISTING** on 35mm commercials

... numerous **ASSISTING & PLAYBACK** on pop promos.

... and some **NEWS** too !