

Ben Cheetham
Shooting Director/Producer

Contact Details

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Personal Profile

My passion and motivation as a filmmaker comes from the belief that documentary films can change real life situations. I am a hard working and focused self-shooting director and producer with a strong editorial eye and experience in the edit. I've filmed in a variety of documentary situations – in the UK, North America and Latin America. And I've particularly enjoyed developing an intimate observational style that allows me to capture compelling actuality and revealing interviews. Filming people living with HIV, schizophrenia, addiction and domestic violence has developed my skills at forming trusting relationships with people from all walks of life.

Filmmaking Experience

Assistant Producer

February 2020 – present

*Series 2 of "The Dog House" for channel 4. Casting, assisting with the rig shoots and shooting.
Channel 4. Five Mile Films, Bristol*

Full-Time Student

January 2018- December 2019

MA Directing Documentary at the National Film and Television School

Assistant Producer

October 2019

Assistant producer on a shoot in Spain-"Taken" 3x1hour Channel 4. Edit assistant producing-"Crisis" 4x1hour channel 4. Story Films, London

Researcher

June 2018

Researcher for "Me, My Selfie and I with Ryan Gander". Swan Films, London

Self-Shooting Director and Editor

September 2015 – December 2017

Ipsos Mori, Ethnography Centre for Excellence, London.

Director, Camera, Tutor

March 2013 – August 2014

All Rites Reversed, Film production and education company, Manchester.

Workshop Facilitator

August 2012 – February 2013

Cine Club, London.

Full Time Student

September 2010 – December 2011

*MA Visual Anthropology at the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester.
(Distinction).*

Other Work Experience

Special Educational Needs Teaching Assistant

January 2012- July 2012

Devine Mercy primary School, Moss Side, Manchester

Working 1:1 with a boy with severe ADHD. This taught me important skills around forming, managing and maintaining trusting relationships.

Co- Founder and Head of Creative Production

January 2008- August 2009

Mad Ferret Music Festival, Manchester

A 10,000 person, two day event which involved working with local authorities and police. I learnt the importance of diligent planning and gained experience working in high pressure environments.

Owner and Manager*July 2008- September 2010**Flat Cow Festival Catering Company, Bristol.*

This developed my accounting skills and gave me experience in managing a large team.

Teacher/ Support Worker*January 2008- June 2008**La Rioja- Instituto Distrital para la Protección de la Niñez y la Juventud (IDIPRON), Bogota, Colombia.*

A rehabilitation centre in a deprived area of central Bogota. I gained insight into working with people in recovery and how to handle myself around individuals with challenging behaviour.

Project Co-ordinator*February 2006- June 2007**Comunidad Arco Iris, Iquitos, Peru.*

This role involved living for long stretches in the Amazon rainforest which taught me important survival skills. I also gained experience working with people from different cultural backgrounds.

Health Care Assistant on an Acute Psychiatric Ward*September 2005- January 2006**Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership, Bristol.*

This was a closed ward for people with severe mental health issues. I learnt to relate to people regardless of their past and to build close relationships whilst maintaining boundaries.

Other Skills

- Self-shooter (Sony FS7, prime and zoom lenses)
- Sound recording on mixers, booming, radio mics, stereo and mono
- Editing with Avid, Premier Pro and Final Cut
- Advanced level Spanish (written and conversational)
- Full clean drivers licence
- Current DBS check

Education

September 2007- June 2010: Full Time Student; *BA Anthropology at the University of Manchester, Manchester. (2:1)*

September 2003-July 2005: Full Time Student; *Nailsea Sixth Form, Bristol. (A-levels in Chemistry, Physics and History)*

September 1998- July 2003: Full Time Student; *Nailsea Comprehensive School, Bristol. (10 A*-C)*

Other Interests

I'm converting a Dutch barge into a houseboat - an on-going and never-ending project! I enjoy cold-water swimming, climbing, cycling, sailing, reading and cooking. In the summer I run a pop-up restaurant at a music festival and help out with production at other festivals.

References

Peter Dale, *Head of Directing Documentary at The National Film School.* pdale@nfts.co.uk

Peter Beard, *Co-Founder, Executive Producer and Director- Story Films.* peter.beard@gmail.com