

Alex Cumming

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Summary:

- Full UK Driving Licence. (I am over 25). Confident with large 4WD vehicles and long distances.
- I'm a BBC-approved drone pilot (GVC / A2CofC) – I have flown Inspire 2 drones for BBC NHU series.
- I love self-shooting. I have operated 2nd camera and drone for BBC Countryfile.
- Confident writing BBC Risk Assessments, offloading rushes, handling release forms and petty cash.
- Good on the phone, inquisitive, good at spotting stories and writing concise research notes.
- Confident Video Editor on Avid, Premiere, Resolve, After Effects, Nuke, Blender, Unreal Engine.
- Strong VFX and Graphics knowledge (I worked for 12 years as a Graphics and VFX Artist at Framestore).

Assistant Producer BBC – Natural History Unit – Hidden Planet (Oct 2024 to present).

Avid-editing wildlife sequences for a commissioner viewing for Jack Bootle. Designing and testing macro wildlife studio filming methods using virtual production and motion control.

Series Producer: Paul Williams Producers: Will Ridgeon, Nikki Waldron, Emma Napper.

2nd Camera Operator and Drone Operator BBC – Countryfile (October 10-13th 2024)

Self-shooting PTCs for presenter Anita Rani, using an A7S3 camera (with RS3 gimbal). Drone filming shots of presenters, contributors and location GVs. Writing drone Flight Plan, Camera Assisting and helping to set up the main FX6 camera for the director, levelling tripod and changing lenses, looking after rushes cards, driving van.

Directors: Michael Prince, Ed Kiernan. Series Editor: Mark Beech. Presenter Anita Rani.

Assistant Producer BBC – Natural History Unit – The Secret Lives Of Animals (April 2024 to Oct 4th 2024)

Edit producing BTS sequences. Writing early-draft comm scripts for making-of films. Advising producers about how VFX (Graphics) can make their sequences stronger. Doing VFX shots on my laptop which are then ingested into the offline-edit for commissioner viewings. I also did 62 full-resolution 4K VFX shots which were conformed into the online / grade for broadcast (I am now a BBC-approved VFX vendor).

SPs: Nadine Tayar, Mark Flowers. SE: Matt Brandon. Producers: Simon Baxter, Mags Lightbody, David Johnson, Vicky Webb, Matt Clements, Annie Backhouse, Louis Rummer-Downing, Simon Bell.

Assistant Producer BBC – Natural History Unit - Calgary (Oct 2022 to March 2024)

Palaeontology research and writing scripts for wildlife sequences. Flying an Inspire 2 drone to film key shots for the edit. Travelling to Australia for a 6-week shoot, and to Romania for a 2-week shoot. Setting up remote filming in Mongolia and the Arctic Circle in Norway. Writing BBC Risk Assessments for shoots including Covid-safe working. Taking responsibility for getting carnet stamped through international airports. Off-road 4WD driving in remote locations in Australia and Romania. Filming BTS.

Producers: Simon Bell, Paul Thompson, Katrina Steele. SP: Matthew Thompson, LP: Michelle Soldani.

Researcher BBC – Natural History Unit – Prehistoric Planet Series 1+2 (Sept 2020 to Oct 2022)

I was involved in writing early-draft scripts for David Attenborough, and I was part of the on-set team for a two week shoot with David Attenborough at the Natural History Museum. (I also wrote the risk-assessment for this shoot and operated the auto-cue for David). I researched dinosaur anatomy and behaviour, and I searched for filming locations around the world and helped to set up overseas shoots in the US and New Zealand. I also lit and self-shot interviews for the 'science-explainer' episodes (FS7), and I solo-directed a week-long macro studio-shoot for the 'Badlands' episode, with camera-operator Jonathan (Jip) Jones,

Producers: Paul Thompson, Dom Walter, Paul Stewart, Simon Bell, Hannah Rogers. SP: Tim Walker.

Researcher Plimsoll Productions – Tiny World (April 2019 to July 2020)

Researching wildlife behaviour and stories. Off-road driving in Africa, animal wrangling for wildlife shoots, self-shooting wildlife with Red Helium and Phantom Flex. Overseas shoot experience: (3 weeks Namibia, 2 weeks South Africa). Shooting and editing 'Behind The Scenes' sequences. Combining location and studio footage using motion-control camera systems. Advising producers about shooting techniques for Graphics / VFX. Storyboarding wildlife sequences. Camera Assisting and Data wrangling / DIT.

Exec: Tom Hugh-Jones. Series Producers: Lucy Meadows, Steve Nicholls.

Producers: Mateo Willis, John Capener, Alex Ranken, Matt Richards, Andy Moorwood, Vicky Webb, Laura Humphreys, Sophie Morgan, David Johnson, Matt Fletcher, Ruth Davies, Lucy Wells, Ed Watkins.

Second Camera (FS7) and Location Assistant at Blink Films (Nov 2018)

Shooting Second Camera and Location Assisting for a week's shoot at Hadrian's Wall. My role included driving all the kit from London to Northumberland and back, mic-ing up contributors and presenter [Clive Anderson](#), helping to change main FS7 camera lenses and set up tripod, backing up XQD cards from FS7, logging rushes, handling release forms and petty cash. I also [self-shot second camera using the FS7](#). After the shoot, I Avid-edited a rough-cut of the rushes for the channel execs to view.
Series Producer: Dan Gold. **Exec:** Andra Heritage. **PD:** Phil Stein. **PM:** Aleid Channing.

Camera Operator (Wildlife) CBS America – '60 Minutes'

The [Aspinall Wildlife Foundation](#) asked me to film the journey of a gorilla being transported from England to Africa (Gabon). Over 10 days I travelled to Africa with the gorilla, filming the journey with a Canon XF305 Camera, and editing the film with Avid. **Producer:** JP Davidson ([Spring Films](#))
(To do this filming expedition I took 2 weeks leave from my full-time VFX job at Framestore – see below).

Visual Effects (Graphics) Operator (Nuke Compositor) at Framestore (2005 – 2018)

I created VFX shots for a number of feature films including: Superman, War Horse, Robocop, Batman (The Dark Knight), James Bond, Guardians of the Galaxy 2. In 2009, I was personally nominated for an International Visual Effects Society award for Outstanding Compositing on the film Sherlock Holmes.

Video Editor / VFX editor (2002 - 2004)

Covering shifts at Framestore as a VFX editor, and also beginning to work as a trainee Digital Artist on films such as Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. (I then continued at Framestore as a VFX artist till 2018).

Metroland / ITV Carlton – First Time Film-makers Series (April 2002 – August 2002)

I was one of five people in 2002 who were selected for this first-time film-makers series run by ITV. The film I made for the series follows the story of a one-woman mission to stop the closing down of London's public toilets. (Duration: 30 min, TX date: 7.30pm, 28/11/2002, ITV London)
ITV Commissioner: Emma Barker, **Exec:** Sue Davidson, **Prod Team:** Isobel Nicholson, Tom Garland.

Shooting Researcher 'Full Metal Challenge' RDF / Channel 4 (Feb 2002 – April 2002)

My role included finding engineering contributors from around the world, and DV filming in France, Italy and the UK (Sony PD150). **Series Producer:** Andra Heritage. **Producer:** Lara Acaster

Video Editor - Offline and Online at Invincible Films: Sept 2000- Jan 2002

Video Editing broadcast programmes for: [Animal Planet](#), [National Geographic](#), [Discovery](#), [BBC](#), [Channel 4](#).
Executive Producers: Hugh Mason, Valerie Burke-Ward.

Junior Researcher / Runner at Invincible Films (Jan 1999 – Sept 2000)

My first job in Television was at Invincible Films where I started as a runner / researcher on a Science series for [BBC Knowledge](#) called 'Science Fix'. My role included: creating ideas for programme segments, finding contributors for interview, fact-checking, acquiring props and equipment for scientific demonstrations. When the series ended I was asked to stay on at Invincible Films, and over the next three years I became the in-house Video Editor while also maintaining an active role in productions, shooting, researching, and organising.

BBC Commissioner: Jadzia Denselow. **Executive Producer:** Hugh Mason.

Training and Education:

- **UK Drone Pilot Certificate – GVC and A2CofC** – Leaping Wing Drone School - 2021 / 22
 - **First Aid in Remote Locations** (3 day course) – Lazarus – 2023
 - **BBC Risk Assessment Training** – BBC / Paul Barratt (2024)
 - **BBC Secrets of Storytelling** (9 sessions) – BBC / Tuppence Stone, Steve Greenwood - 2023
 - **BBC Self-Shooting FX6 Course** (2 days) – BBC – 2023
 - **BBC Researcher Course** (4 days) – BBC / Steve Evanson - 2023
 - **Phantom Veo – Slow Motion Camera Workshop** – VMI – 2019
 - **Metroland First Time Film-Makers' Series** – Carlton TV (ITV London) – 2002
 - **Avid 101 Editing Course VET** (1999)
 - **BSc Biology Degree** (OU part time study - evenings and weekends) – in progress (2020-2026).
 - **BA Fine Art Degree** (Middlesex University - Specialising in Film-making). 1995–1998.
 - **A-Levels:** Geography, Art, English Literature
 - **GCSEs:** Biology, Maths, Psychology, History, Geography, Art, Music, Latin, French, English Literature
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