

Alex Cumming - Researcher
Mobile: 07963 151695
Email: alexinterwebs@gmail.com
www.alexc.tv

Summary:

- Full UK Driving Licence. (I am over 25). Confident with large vehicles and long distances.
 - I'm a BBC Approved Drone Operator (UK Certified, A2CofC) - I own a DJI Mavic2Pro drone.
 - I own an FS7 camera - I can shoot a sequence that will work in the edit and look beautiful.
 - 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 (I have Avid on my laptop and use it almost daily).
 - Strong VFX and Graphics knowledge (I worked for 12 years as a Graphics and VFX Artist at Framestore).
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Researcher BBC – Natural History Unit (Sept 2020 to present)

Researching animal anatomy and behaviour. Finding wildlife filming locations around the world and setting up overseas shoots. Writing BBC Risk Assessments for shoots including Covid safe working. Flying a drone for BBC location recce (DJI Mavic2 Pro 4k). Self-shooting and editing "Behind The Scenes" sequences (FS7). Lighting and self-shooting interviews. Directing studio shoots with camera-operator Jonathan (Jip) Jones.
Producer: Paul Thompson, Series Producer: Tim Walker.

Researcher Plimsoll Productions (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.

Video Journalist for Al Jazeera (Feb 2019)

Shooting interview and B-Roll of Rossana Leal, who set up a refugee welcoming program in Hastings. I co-made this film with journalist Rahul Verma.

Second Camera (FS7) / 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 (4K). 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.

Development Assistant BBC Science Series at Screen Glue Productions (Oct 2018)

Science Series for CBBC. My role included Avid-editing a storyboard episode, and helping to find ways to explain scientific concepts to a young audience. Executive Producer: Jasper James.

Film-maker (Oct 2017 – Spring 2019)

Series of films featuring Bettany Hughes and John Sergeant about the restoration project of Pitzhanger Manor in London. My role included self-shooting with a C300 and Sony FS5 and editing the film with Avid.
Producer: Andrea Miller (former head of BBC Factual, Glasgow)

Film-maker (Oct-Nov 2013) CBS

In October 2013 The Aspinall Wildlife Foundation asked me to film the journey of a gorilla being transported from England to Africa. 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)

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

Creating VFX shots for a number of feature films including: Superman, War Horse, Robocop, Batman (The Dark Knight), James Bond, Guardians of the Galaxy II. In 2009 I was 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.

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](#)

Offline and Online Video Editor [Animal Planet](#) Unleashed series II (August - Oct 2001)

Series of presenter-led wildlife VTs at a number of locations around Europe.

Series Producer: [Valerie Burke-Ward](#)

Offline and Online Video Editor [BBC2](#) and [OU](#) (March - April 2001)

'Planning for Safety'

Open University education series about health and safety management in dangerous workplaces.

Online Video Editor [BBC2](#) and [OU](#) (Dec - Jan 2001)

'Short Circuit'

Open University science education series focusing on subjects like metals, electricity and chemical reactions.

Edit Assistant at Invincible Films (Sept 1999 - Nov 2000)

My role included assembling the Avid offline suite, hiring and patching in Digibeta decks, hiring and attaching extra Avid drives, exporting OMFI audio files for the sound mix.

I also attended the Avid 101 Editing course, and edited taster tapes for the development team.

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

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 – A2CofC Course** – Leaping Wing Drone School - 2021
 - **BBC Self-Shooting FS7 Course** (2 days) – BBC – 2021
 - **TV Researcher Skills Course** (3 days) – ScreenSkills / Pam Relton - 2020
 - **Phantom Veo – Slow Motion Camera Workshop** – VMI – 2019
 - **Risk Assessment Training Course** – First Option Safety – 2019
 - **First Aid on location Training** (2 day course) – Lazarus First Aid – 2019
 - **Metroland First Time Directors' Series** – Carlton TV (ITV London) – 2002
 - **Avid 101 Editing Course** VET (1999)
 - **BSc Biology** (OU part time study - evenings and weekends) – in progress
 - **BA Fine Art** (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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