

SHANI GREWAL

LONDON

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Profile: A professional Film and TV Writer/Director with a prolific background in both script writing and directing for market-leading organisations including the BBC, Channel 4, Carlton TV, Sony TV Asia, Sky, Discovery ID, Miramax, Film 4, Telefilm Canada and the UK Film Council.

Developed earlier career directing 'Vengeance' for 20th Century Fox one of six finalists for an Oscar. Subsequently wrote and directed three feature films (producing two). Then moved on to work with Mersey TV, Tiger Aspect, Hewland International, ITV and the BBC directing multiple episodes on a continuous basis of Brookside, Grange Hill, Casualty, Holby City, Hollyoaks, Grease Monkeys, Dream Team and Doctors as well developing a feature film with Miramax and Film 4 and writing and directing award winning corporate videos for WH Smith and British Rail.

Has worked with many star actors including Stephen Moyer ('True Blood'), Bernard Hill ("Lord of the Rings' and 'Titanic'), Norman Wisdom, Hayley Mills, John Hurt, Simon Ward and Ian Dury.

Has a unique ability to deliver quality drama and produce highly creative writing to strict deadlines, often under intense pressure. After working overseas directing drama series and commercials in Kenya, Kuala Lumpur, Uganda, India and Bucharest is now seeking to direct feature films, television drama and commercial/corporate programming in the UK and abroad.

--- AREAS OF EXPERTISE ---

- TV Script writing
- Mentoring film students
- Freelance writing
- Film direction/production
- Commercial video production
- Working with BBC Producers
- Feature film screenplays
- TV Dramas
- Managing/directing staff

--- SIGNIFICANT CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS ---

- Winner of the Best Horror Feature Film Screenplay award at the Austin Film Festival in 2015 for '77 Minutes', beating over 2000 other entries.
- Writing and directing the highest-rated episode of 'Obsession: Dark Desires 2' for October Films/Discovery ID in 2014.
- Winner of best video at the Corporate Awards for writing and directing the commercial production of 'Wish upon a Star' (1871 Productions) for WH Smith.
- Winner of a Peabody award (as part of the BBC's DoNation Week) for directing a Casualty/Holby Special.

SELF EMPLOYED AT BALHAR FILMS LTD AS A FREELANCE WRITER/DIRECTOR and PRODUCER

--- PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE ---

1996 – PRESENT

DEVELOPED EARLY CAREER WORKING WITH
20TH CENTURY FOX TO CO-PRODUCE AND DIRECT A SHORT FILM CALLED
'VENGEANCE' WHICH WENT ON TO BECOME SHORTLISTED FOR AN OSCAR.
ALSO CO-WROTE A TV SIT COM 'RAGS TO RICHES' FOR CARLTON TV.
HEAD OF PRODUCTION AT STRING OF PEARLS PLC AND DANDELION PRODUCTIONS.
DIRECTED COMMERCIALS IN KUALA LUMPUR FOR LE'ON FILMS.
DIRECTED MAGAZINE/COMEDY SERIES 'LE HIP PARADE' FOR TIGER ASPECT/PLAY UK.

Feature Films (writer/director/producer): **AFTER MIDNIGHT; DOUBLE X; GURU IN 7**

Key responsibilities - WRITER

- Devising themes and ideas, researching background material and developing believable plots and characters.
- Producing highly creative writing to strict deadlines often working with a script development team to create a finished product.
- Preparing short summaries of new ideas and selling the ideas or pitching to Producers.
- Networking extensively with Agents and Producers.
- Preparing scripts for a wide variety of audiences including commercials, corporate videos and dramas for both TV and films.

Key responsibilities - DIRECTOR (and PRODUCER)

- Working alongside every member of the TV or film production team including the Actors, Producers, Lighting Technicians and Camera Operators.
- Directing everyone involved, asking them to perform certain tasks or act in a certain way, in order to visualise the creative ideas on the screen.
- Dictating the style, pace and impact of the production, including overseeing everything from casting and set design to lighting and editing.

Key responsibilities LECTURER/MENTOR at the Met Film School, Ealing Film Studios

- Lecturing to film students studying for their BA's and MA's including Acting and Directing Film Course master classes.
- Establishing positive working relationships with students and colleagues, engaging in lesson observations and follow up discussion, evaluation and feedback.
- Producing monthly and termly progress reports on students.

EXAMPLES OF WRITING AND DIRECTING WORK (more details available on request)

2017	MPEKE TOWN – Mediae; directed 13 part drama series in Uganda.
2014-2016	DOCTORS, BBC TV – 11 blocks with numerous producers.
2014	OBSESSION: DARK DESIRES 2 – October Films/Discovery ID; 'Krystal' and 'Tara'.
2012-13	RED 35 – 1871 Productions for Corporate British Rail.
2008	TIGER LAKE (Feature Film) based on a screenplay 'Price of Voice' by Kirk Todd Kelln developed by Aria Films, Screen Siren Pictures and Telefilm Canda.
2002-2007	CASUALTY BBC TV Series – directed multiple episodes with many producers.