

JANE SAYERS' CV & FILMOGRAPHY

Award-winning leader of creative teams, producing exceptional content for Brand Campaigns

Jane is an experienced and passionate leader who believes that developing and inspiring the right talent is key to creative success. She has demonstrated this for many years leading award-winning teams in the Branded Content and Television disciplines.

“She could lead us into battle and not have to look behind to check we were all there. We would be.”

A current subordinate

In Branded Content Jane has crafted content for Shell, Phillips, the Met Police, Turkish Airlines and many others. Before this she enjoyed a successful career as a highly acclaimed documentary director writing, producing and directing dozens of hours of programming for global broadcasters including BBC, Channel 4, PBS, Discovery Channel and National Geographic.

She has worked across a broad spectrum of productions from fast and effective social media content, to multi-million-dollar live TV broadcasts - from dramatic reconstruction, through investigatory journalism to high end specialist-factual.

Shell International

June 2018 – Present

Jane is the **Global Discipline Lead for Film, and Head of Content Engine at Shell** - the modern-day incarnation of the Shell Film Unit, which was formed in the 1930's by documentary maker John Grierson (amongst others). Jane has built and led the Content Engine team to incredible success in just 2 years, achieving 12 awards in 2020 including a Lovie, a Gold Cannes Dolphin and Gold EVCOM. She is also responsible for the roster of production agencies that Shell commissions and for the guardianship of Shell's Historic Film Archive.

Oct 2016 – June 2018

As a **Commissioning Executive Producer** within Shell, Jane successfully partnered with external agencies to create a huge raft of programming for Shell's internal and external audiences. She coached the existing film team in a heightened drive for creative excellence. This role was a strategic step in her career progression, gaining valuable experience inside one of the world's largest brands, and introducing some of the UK's best filmmaking talent, bringing high production values and KPI beating brand campaigns.

Bigger Bang Communications

April 2015 – Oct 2016

As **Show Runner** in this vibrant Branded Content and TV production agency, Jane had a strategic leadership role. She led a team of highly passionate creatives to deliver social media content for global brands including Shell and Phillips. She managed 4 large-scale, award-winning documentary series for global TV broadcast, recruited, drove & inspired the teams to achieve creative brilliance and maximized commercial value to ensure content surpassed broadcaster expectations.

Some of Jane's productions at Bigger Bang:

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Stephen Hawking's Favorite Places Curiosity Stream – Series Producer *Emmy Winner 2017*

1 x 30' visual effect extravaganza where Professor Stephen Hawking boards a spaceship to cruise around the universe to show us his favourite places – from Black Holes to the Big Bang, from Saturn to Santa Barbara!

Dispatches – Trouble on the Trains C4 – Executive Producer

1 x 30' current affairs documentary for the Dispatches strand about the British Transport Police's efforts to deal with racist and intimidating behaviour from football fans travelling to and from fixtures. Jane proposed the film & negotiated the access with the British Transport Police.

Genius by Stephen Hawking PBS / National Geographic – Series Producer & Director

Jane series produced this 6 x 60' series and directed 1 episode. Professor Hawking believes anyone can think like a Genius, so each episode takes 3 ordinary people on a week-long journey of discovery, to see if they can think like some of the greatest geniuses of the past and answer some of humanity's most enduring questions. Jane was responsible for assembling the editorial team, finalising the content of each film, location selecting, hiring crew and editors, liaising and filming with Stephen Hawking and ensuring the smooth running of the whole production. Broadcast in 170+ countries.

Destination Mars Curiosity Stream – Series Producer

5 x 15' documentaries about the Netherlands-based Mars One, an organisation that has a bold plan to land humans on Mars in 2027, on a one-way trip. The films include interviews with: internationally renowned scientists, Mars One and wannabe astronauts, as well dramatic enactments of a future Mars landing. This was the first series commissioned by the new subscription internet factual TV station – Curiosity Stream.

Darlow Smithson Productions

Jan 2012 – April 2015

As **Head of the Branded Content & Ad-Funded TV Unit** Jane had a strategic management role within this Endemol-owned production agency. She drove creative and production excellence in all her teams, built an award-winning external film unit for Shell and successfully managed complex stakeholder relationships with brands and TV broadcasters such as Sainsbury's, Turkish Airlines, and National Geographic.

Content included:

The Road to Houston Fox – Exec Produced

A 4 part ob-doc series and a feature length doc following student teams involved in the American leg of Shell's Eco-Marathon in Houston. We followed the highs and lows of 3 teams from across the Americas as they competed in this prestigious eco-car race. *Cannes Corporate Film & TV - Dolphin Winner*

Inside Turkish Airlines NGC People – Exec Produced

Jane Exec Produced social media content and an ad-funded documentary looking behind the scenes at Turkish Airlines and seeing what it takes to keep their fleet and passengers in the air during a busy summer weekend in Istanbul's Ataturk airport.

The Road to Rotterdam Eurosport – Exec Produced

A fast turnaround ob-doc about Shell's Eco-Marathon - a student car race where teams from across Europe attempt to see whose car travels furthest on the least amount of energy. High drama, high energy, high passion. *Communicator Award*

June 2011 – Dec 2012

As **Series Producer**, and then **Executive Producer** at world-renowned Darlow Smithson Productions Jane and her teams produced compelling documentaries for UK, US and global broadcast. From Visual Effects-heavy technical explainers, dramatic reconstructions and highly complex live-programming with a team of 60+.

Jane's TV films at Darlow Smithson include:

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Richard III: The Burial of the King Channel 4 – Series Produced

Jane Series Produced 7 hours of unique live programming for Channel 4, all broadcast from a huge OB set up outside Leicester Cathedral. Crammed with beautifully crafted VT's the programming followed the re-interment of Britain's last medieval King, dug up from a council car park in 2012 and now buried in Leicester Cathedral in the 21st Century.

"You can chalk that one up as a triumph" – John Hay, C4.

Infested! Animal Planet – Series Produced

6 x 60' fast paced drama-docs about hideous infestations of people's homes – from poisonous spiders, to rabid bats, hairy crazy ants and rats. Jane ran a team of 5 story finders, 3 drama-directors, 3 documentary producers and 6 editors. The drama recon was shot in Canada and enhanced with complex VFX to bring the horror of infestation to life.

Seconds from Disaster Nat Geo Intl. – Series Produced

Jane rose from Producer, through Drama Director to Series Producer on the final 2 series of this drama-doc series unpicking the events that lead up to renowned international disasters, such as the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion, the Mumbai Terror Attacks and train and air disasters. Jane was responsible for producing all the drama re-enactments, which often meant filming in challenging environments, using large casts and some extraordinary pyro-technics and visual effects.

Hawking in Brief Channel 4 – Series Directed

A series of 4 short documentaries, illuminating some of Professor Stephen Hawking's opinions. This 4 part enlightening series was aired in advance of DSP's feature doc "Hawking".

Hawking Channel 4 – Reversion Producer

Reversioned Stephen Finnigan's spectacular theatric release bio-pic about Stephen Hawking's life, re-working it for a TV audience.

Timebomb Iceland FIVE – Reversion Producer

Reversioned Duncan Copp's PBS film, about the Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland. An hour of accessible and fascinating science for FIVE.

Freelance Shooting Producer/Director

2000 – 2011

In this role Jane often took sole responsibility for shooting, producing and directing documentaries from the development stages through to delivery. Jane worked at different independent companies and was also contracted as a freelancer to the BBC. Most of Jane's films were for primetime viewing. Jane would select other freelance talent to work alongside her: Film Editors, Assistant Producers & Researchers where appropriate.

Jane also set up her own production company, Mojo Productions, in 2006 to make the increasing number of corporate and training films that she was being asked to produce. Mojo specialised in the criminal justice sector.

A selection of Jane's freelance films:

Too Old to Be A Mum? CTVC, BBC-1 – Produced & Directed

A 1 x 60' documentary looking at the challenges and difficulties faced by some of the world's oldest mothers – all of whom defied the menopause and achieved pregnancy using egg donors and IVF.

"This film tiptoed through eggshells with an equanimity that did its maker's proud" - Daily Telegraph

This World – I Believe in Miracles BBC Current Affairs – Shot & Directed

1 x 40' documentary following miracle believers. An American man who's blindness was miraculously cured after praying to a deceased nun – she was then beatified as a Saint. An elderly father and daughter on a pilgrimage from Lancashire to Lourdes – hoping to find a miracle cure for his ill health.

"As packed with good things as a Christmas cake" – The Spectator

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Murder Blues Films of Record, BBC-1 - Series Directed

Jane directed 2 of the 3 x 60' ob-docs in this series for 9pm BBC1. They followed Trident, the Met Police's elite squad of officers who focus on gun crime within the black communities of London, investigating murders and shootings across the capital. *"Observed documentaries don't get much better than this" - The Independent*

Welcome to Potters Bar Films of Record, BBC-1 – Shot & Directed

A 1 x 60' film for 9pm BBC1 following the initial police investigation into the fatal train crash in 2001 where 7 people died, and following the grieving families and injured survivors as they pieced their lives together.

"An exceptionally moving and dignified film" The Guardian submitted for a BAFTA by BBC

Every Gun Tells A Different Story Mojo Productions – Produced & Drama Directed

A 1 x 60' recreating the New Year's Eve murders of teenagers Charlene Ellis & Leticia Shakespeare, and a gun-running gang importing weapons from Eastern Europe. The film focuses on how the new National Ballistics Intelligence Service would have solved these crimes within hours of them taking place.

Chinatown Films of Record, BBC-2 – Edit Produced

Jane was brought in to Edit Produce 1 x 60' observed documentary. It followed 3 generations of Chinese takeaway owners in Britain with very different lives – but all determined to survive, no matter what sacrifice.

"This film made its points with great power" – The Times

The Truth About Crime with Nick Ross Mentorn, BBC-1 – Shot & Edit Produced

3 x 60' documentaries that audited every crime that took place in a typical UK city, over a fortnight. It followed the victim's cases right through the criminal justice system & questioned if there are better ways of dealing with crime.

NABIS Mojo Productions - Shot & Directed

1 x 25' drama made to look like an ob-doc, following police as they use the National Ballistics Intelligence Service to help them detect the criminals involved in an attempted shooting in Birmingham and a murder in Bristol.

International Visual Communications Association - Award Winner

Monty Don – Growing Out of Trouble BBC-2 – Edit Produced

Jane edit produced 1 x 60' documentary following the gardener Monty Don's charitable attempts to get a group of heroin addicts off drugs and into farming.

Potters Bar – Search for the Truth Films of Record, BBC-1 – Shot & Directed

An epic 1 x 60' observed-documentary made over 4 years. It followed the twists and turns of the Police investigation into the train crash that killed 7 people in 2001. Using remarkable access the film shows police uncovering sensational evidence about maintenance that affects the whole rail network.

"An engineering murder mystery – a difficult thing to do and very well done" – The Guardian

Breaking Down the Barriers Mojo Productions – Drama Directed

A drama-doc for the National Policing Improvements Agency reconstructing one of the most audacious serious and organised crimes in the UK – the multi-million pound cashpoint theft. Focusing on how the new Police National Database could have detected the crime much quicker and halted the crime spree.

Panorama - When Cops Kill Films of Record, BBC-2 – Shot & Directed

1 x 40' film looking at new scientific research that explains what happens inside the brain and body of an armed police officer just before they pull the trigger.

Who Cares For Granny? Films of Record, FIVE - Directed

1 x 60' cross-genre doc - combining observed and undercover filming. It revealed the human side of the cash crisis in the elderly care sector – looking at a good care home closing for financial reasons, and financially stable care homes where many suffer neglect and abuse.

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Communication & Persuasion Mojo Productions – Written, Produced & Drama Directed

3 x 60' DVD based training session for the Met Police teaching officers communication and persuasion skills. A mix of documentary and dramatic reconstruction, which looked at the psychology of police interaction with people suffering mental health issues, or extreme behavioural problems.

Child Lifers Atlantic Productions – Shot & Directed

A speculative project funded by Atlantic Productions about 4 people in American jails who got life sentences as children and aren't entitled to parole. The USA is the only country that still sentences minors to life.

Nicola Benedetti – A Winning Story BBC-2 – Shot & Directed

1 x 60' observed documentary about the talented young violinist who won young musician of the year 2004. Charting her life at home and on tour, including her American debut, and her album recording at Abbey Road Studios.

"This intimate portrait is a rare tea-time treat" – Radio Times

CountryCide? BBC Current Affairs, BBC-2 – Shot & Directed

2 x 40' observed documentaries about life in rural Mid Devon after the foot and mouth crisis. One film focused on the demise of farming, and one on the village turmoil created as a nursing home is replaced by a persistent offenders rehab centre.

Protecting the Public & Your Information Mojo Productions – Written, Produced & Drama Directed

A drama-doc for the National Policing Improvements Agency looking at how the new Police National Database can provide a better policing service and increased protection for vulnerable people in society.

Starman Yipp Films, TTTV – Drama Produced

1 x 30' drama about two tearaway brothers in the North East who head off on an adventure – an aborted robbery, an unexpected trip into the north sea, an encounter with the Milky Way and a chance meeting with the man who might be their father. *RTS Award for Best Non Factual programme*

Posh Rock Ricochet Digital, E4 – Shot & Directed

2 x 30' ob-docs for this 10 part series about the wealthy kids who flock to the town of Rock in north Cornwall each summer.

Miami Water Cops Just Television, UK Horizons – Shot & Directed

Jane filmed 5 of the 10 x 30' docs about the detectives and US Special Forces protecting Florida's waterways from crime.

Baby Shopping Chapter One, Channel 4 – Shot & Directed

An emotional 1 x 30' film following a British woman, on a trip to China to meet and collect her second adopted daughter.

Bodies of Evidence Just Television, FIVE / UK Horizons – Series Directed

6 x 30' drama docs about forensic pathology, looking at murder cases solved by entomology, orthodontics & archaeology.

Naked in Nevada Chapter One, Channel 4 – Shot & Directed

A quirky 1 x 30' doc following a single mum to "Burning Man" a radical free expression arts festival in the Nevada desert.

Mad Pride ID World, Channel 4 – Shot & Directed

A 1 x 30' observed documentary following 2 self-confessed "nutters" during London's Mad Pride Week.

The Big London Issue Just Television, LWT – Shot & Directed

Jane shot and directed 3 of these 6 x 30' magazine films containing social action campaigning pieces.

Early Career

1991-2000

Jane started her career working in the BBC's Documentary Features department, as Personal Assistant to the Manager. She later moved into production working as PA to some of the UK's most renowned documentary makers: Paul Watson and then Stephen Lambert. From there Jane moved into the independent sector working

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with Michael Palin on his global travels, then spending 2 years as a Production Coordinator at Mosaic Films, where she also learned to shoot and direct documentaries. She has worked as a highly sought after freelance filmmaker ever since.

Education & CPD

Jane's passion for the audio-visual arts started with classical ballet at age 3. She trained as a professional dancer until 17, when injury prevented her from continuing. She then studied Contract Law and Biology at A' Level and gained 11 business and secretarial qualifications before joining the BBC.

Jane has always maintained continuous professional development. In her early career she learned to use many different cameras and editing software. She has subsequently trained across some diverse areas, all with a view to improving her filmmaking and producing abilities: Managing Difficult People, Interviewing Skills, Risk Assessment, First Aid, Counselling, Training as a Trainer and Helicopter Underwater Escape.

Jane has a passion for knowledge sharing and has always actively encouraged new talent in the documentary industry, training younger team members on skills that will be useful to them. She also volunteers as a mentor through a reputable industry scheme, judges film awards and is a regular speaker at industry events.