

AMANDA BURRELL

Producer/Director/Presenter

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Amanda is a producer/director with 16 years experience of working in broadcast television on a variety of factual programmes for the international market. She is a strong self-shooter and has reported/presented several programmes. Her work includes two years in the BBC History Department with Laurence Rees and one year in the LWT Arts Department with Melvyn Bragg. She has produced and directed observational, presenter-led, investigative and historical films in South East Asia, South America, the Middle East and Europe, including Britain. She speaks Turkish, Italian, French, basic Hindi and Urdu and is learning Arabic. She shoots on XD Cam, Sony EX3 and Sony EX1 and does basic editing on Final Cut Pro. She owns an EX3 kit.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

**Director/Producer/
Camera**

TALES OF BEYOGLU (1 x 80)

**Yakamoz Films
2010 European Capital of
Culture Agency**

June 2010 – Dec 2010

Feature length observational documentary for theatrical release that looks at Turkey today by following the lives of some of the artists living and working in Beyoglu, Istanbul's most creative and bohemian district.

- Funded by 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency, Istanbul
- Produced in Turkish and English. Amanda voiced both
- Amanda lived for 6 months in Turkey in order to make this film
- Premiered in Istanbul in December 2010. UK premiere on 1st June 2011

**Director/Producer/
Camera**

GETTING BY (1 x 30)

**Media Trust
Community Channel**

March –May 2010

Observational documentary telling the tale of poverty in Britain through the eyes of four people – a cancer sufferer, a separated father, a terminally ill student and a pensioner.

- Shot on EX3 in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland

**Director/Producer/
Camera**

MELTDOWN (1 x 45 of 8)

**Rockhopper TV
BBC/PBS**

July – Oct 2009

For "Hot Cities", a landmark series on climate change. Documentary which looks at the repercussions of the global threat of climate change and glacial melt by following a team of glaciologists working 5400 metres above sea level in the Peruvian Andes and seeing how the inhabitants of Lima are coping as their city dries out. In Adelaide, Australia it may already be too late to win the battle against dehydration.

- Filmed on EX1
- Filmed in very extreme conditions at high altitude (5400 m above sea level) and minus 13 at night...inside the tent. The route to the glacier was a near vertical slope that had to be scaled with crampons, harnesses and ropes, in a snowstorm and force 10 gale

**Director/Producer/
Camera**

ALVIN'S GUIDE TO GOOD BUSINESS (2 x 30 of 7)

**Rockhopper TV
BBC World/PBS**

April - June 2009

Oct – Dec 2009

Alvin Hall, a business veteran with 25 years experience on Wall Street, travels the world meeting social entrepreneurs, business leaders more interested in doing good than making money, to learn and advise them how to make their enterprises even more effective. In one of Amanda's films, Alvin looks at a scheme to help street children in Cambodia and in another at sustainable fishing in fish-obsessed Japan.

- Self-shot parts of the films on XD Cam

Presenter/Director/Producer **BECOMING BANGLADESHI (1 x 30)** **Rockhopper TV**
Dec 2008-Feb 2009 **BBC World/ News 24**

Documentary presented by Amanda which followed the Bihari community in Dhaka, Bangladesh during the run-up to the 2008 general elections as they prepare to vote for the first time.

- "The thing that I like best about this programme was the reporter. Pure goodness. Thank you BBC" – Viewer comment on the BBC website

Presenter/Director/Producer **THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES (1 x 45)** **Rockhopper TV**
Oct-Dec 2008 **BBC World/News 24**

Documentary presented by Amanda about Bhutanese refugees living in camps in Nepal. The film follows the fortunes of two refugees in particular – a midwife who volunteers as an aid worker in the camp and a young man who is about to be resettled in America. Other interviewees include Maoists, Bhutanese and Nepali ministers, aid workers and torture victims. Filmed in Nepal and Bhutan.

- Gained unprecedented access to Bhutan and filmed and reported the Bhutanese section of the film herself (including PTCs)
- Selected for competition in Film South Asia 09 to be held in Kathmandu in September

Director/Camera **SURVIVAL (2 x 45 of 8)** **Rockhopper TV**
July-Aug 2008 **BBC World/PBS**

For a landmark series on global health, funded by the Bill Gates Foundation for the BBC. Observational documentaries. The first follows Bangladeshi mothers as they go through pregnancy and the second follows the fortunes of their babies in their first six weeks of life and other stories relating to child health.

- Director and cameraperson for one of two teams filming in Bangladesh for a month
- Filmed on Sony EX1 in HD in very challenging filming conditions – floods, torrential monsoon storms, villages in the middle of nowhere etc
- Stories filmed included a couple going through the hospital process and learning that their baby was handicapped due to asphyxia at birth and a young girl who nearly died of diarrhoea

Director/Producer **FIRST STEPS (2 x 30 of 6)** **Rockhopper TV**
April-June 2008 **BBC World**

Observational documentaries following the families of children in Brazil and Moldova who are taking part in a scheme to improve their learning abilities and better their chances in life.

- Filmed with camera crew
- Filmed to very tight schedule and completed each film within 4 weeks

Director/Producer **SURVIVORS GUIDE (1 x 30 of 6)** **Rockhopper TV**
Dec 2007-Feb 2008 **BBC World**

Documentary exploring how the Bote tribe in Nepal, who have lost access to the forest and its resources, is fighting to survive. Observational documentary which also featured interviews with experts, politicians, army officers.

- Chosen to be the first in the series to be TX'd (May 2008)
- Filmed in Kathmandu and Chitwan National Park
- Spent two weeks filming in the remote jungle with cameraman and local crew

Director/Producer/ **BRITAIN'S NEW UNDERWORLD (1 x 30 of 10)** **Vashca**
Camera **Virgin 1**
Sept – Oct 2007

Documentary investigating Asian heroin gangs and the fight to stop them. Presented by Rageh Omaar. Included

observational filming, interviews with gang members and authorities (SOCA, the Metropolitan Police, Customs and Revenue), simple dramatic reconstructions and undercover filming.

- Self-shot on Z1
- Digital choice in all the national papers

- Seduced the sultan in a dancing scene (Amanda belly dances and has performed at the Royal Albert Hall)
- Interpreted Turkish/English and conducted interviews in Turkish
- Coordinated Turkish and English crews, make-up, costume and actors (1 month shoot in Istanbul)

As well as **Harem**, Amanda has worked on many other productions for various companies and broadcasters. Programmes she worked on include **Days that Shook the World** (Lion TV for BBC2/History Channel), **Snatched** (for Channel 4's Cutting Edge), **The Greeks** (Atlantic for BBC2/DDE), **Ancient Inventions** (Seventh Art for Discovery). She worked with Melvyn Bragg on his landmark series about the history of Christianity, **2000 Years**. She was in the BBC History Department for two years where she worked on programmes such as **Timewatch** and **Pyramid**, the most watched BBC History Programme ever.

DEVELOPMENT WORK

- Developed Tales of Beyoglu and got it commissioned by Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency
- Developed Harem and got it commissioned by Channel 4 through Paladin Invision (2003)
- Developed Stick Thin in India and got it commissioned by "Fresh", the BBC's new talent strand (2005-6)
- Awarded Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Award for development of Indian ideas (July 2003 – Dec 2003)
- Awarded MEDIA Development Grant for an idea based in Turkey (2003)
- Development Producer for Wag TV (May – July 2005); Development AP for Shine (Feb – March 2002); Development for BBC History Unit (May 2000 – Dec 2002, in between other projects)

EDUCATION

- MA Media and Culture Studies, Goldsmiths' College University of London. Thesis: Muslims in the British Media
- BA 2:1 in History, Clare College Cambridge University. Thesis: Puritan fasting and exorcism
- 3 A-levels (Maths, History and English); 2 AO-levels; 11 O-levels, all at grade A

SKILLS

- Completed BBC Hostile Environment Training Course in May 2009
- Very experienced with shooting on Sony XDCAM, EX1, EX3 and Z1
- Basic editing skills on FCP
- BBC Single Camera Directing Course
- Languages: very good Turkish (Diploma, Westminster University), very good Italian (Diploma, Instituto Dante Alighieri, Florence), good French (AO Level), conversational Hindi and Urdu (learnt on the street), Level 1 Arabic (studying at Westminster University)
- Won a BBC TV25 Bursary to attend the Edinburgh Television Festival

INTERESTS

- Travel (including to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, Turkey over 50 times, Syria, Yemen, Morocco, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Europe including 6 months in Italy, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bosnia, USA, Brazil, Peru)
- India and Turkey
- World religion
- Languages
- Dancing including belly dancing (performed at the Royal Albert Hall and on broadcast TV)
- World music and playing music - euphonium (grade 8 distinction), piano (grade 8)