

AMANDA BURRELL

Executive producer, PD, camera, reporter

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Amanda is a documentary maker with over 20 years experience of making programmes for international television including for BBC, Channel 4, ITV, Al Jazeera and Discovery. She currently working as Executive Producer of Al Jazeera English's award-winning environmental solutions series, *earthrise*, which has won several awards including a One World Media Award and a Gold and Silver at the New York Festival.

Prior to working with Al Jazeera English, Amanda executive produced, produced, directed, presented and filmed documentaries, current affairs, investigative, specialist factual and historical programmes around the world. Until 2016 she spent 5 years in Istanbul where she was working as the Manager of In-house Productions for Al Jazeera Turkish. Amanda has also lived in Italy and India. She speaks excellent Turkish, good French and Italian, and can have a chat in Hindi, Urdu and Spanish. She has Hostile Environment training.

CAREER HISTORY AND SELECTED CREDITS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, *EARTHRISE*, AL JAZEERA ENGLISH (6 x 25")

October 2016 –

Al Jazeera's award-winning series, looking at environmental stories and solutions from around the world. Rebranded and refocused the series for its ninth and tenth runs. Team awarded One World Media Award; Golds, Silvers and Bronzes in the various categories, New York Films and Television Festivals (2017 & 2018); (the only) Highly Commended at AIB Sustainability Awards.

LOCATION PRODUCER, *MURDER IN ISTANBUL*, BBC ARABIC (1 x 40")

April –May 2016

Set up the shoot in Istanbul for an investigative documentary about a spate of assassinations of opponents of Russia in Istanbul. Secured top-level interviews and access to police evidence.

MANAGER IN-HOUSE PRODUCTIONS, AL JAZEERA TURKISH

Nov 2011 –July 2015

Trained and managed in-house documentary team of up to 36 people for new channel, and worked with 40 independent companies. Created, commissioned and executive produced documentary and investigative current affairs strands, amounting to 120 hours/year. Planned channel schedule, budget and strategy with upper management in Istanbul and with Al Jazeera Network in Doha. Member of Al Jazeera Network Programmes Group which met weekly to discuss and approve new commissions on all Al Jazeera channels.

SERIES PRODUCER, *TURKISH ATLAS*, AL JAZEERA TURKISH (40 x 48")

Nov 2011 – July 2015

Flagship strand of 1 x 60 minutes documentaries covering stories from Turkey and the Turkish world. Shown across the Al Jazeera Network. Team awarded Paris Cinema Du Reel Libraries Award; Special Prize and Fipresci Award, İstanbul Film Festival; Special Jury Prize, Ankara Film Festival (2014)

SERIES PRODUCER, *PEOPLE & POWER*, AL JAZEERA TURKISH (10 x 23")

Jan 2013 – July 2015

Turkish version of Al Jazeera English's award-winning investigative current affairs strand

SERIES PRODUCER, *WITNESS*, AL JAZEERA TURKISH (15 x 23")

Jan 2013 – July 2015

Turkish version of Al Jazeera English's award-winning character-led documentary strand.

**MANAGER OF OUTSOURCED PRODUCTIONS, AL JAZEERA TURKISH
November 2012 – January 2014**

Oversaw reversioning over 180 programmes for Al Jazeera Turkish from Al Jazeera Network. Responsible for acquisition and reversioning of programmes from international channels.

**PRESENTER, *MOTHERHOOD ON ICE, Correspondent*, AL JAZEERA ENGLISH (1 x 48")
July – Nov 2014**

Documentary for award-winning *Correspondent* strand which follows Amanda as she decides whether to freeze her eggs. A personal look at fertility, childlessness and the contemporary choices women face.

**REPORTER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *EARTHRISE*, AL JAZEERA ENGLISH (6 x 6-10")
March 2011 - March 2013**

Reports commissioned for award-winning environmental series, including stories on converting rubbish to power in Sao Paulo; saving the Iberian Lynx; transforming mineland in Indonesia into a botanical garden.

**CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *TALES OF BEYOĞLU*, ISTANBUL EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE AGENCY for theatrical release (1 x 80")
June – Dec 2010**

Feature-length documentary exploring modern Turkey through the lives of artists in Beyoğlu, Istanbul's bohemian creative district. Produced in Turkish and English, with Amanda voicing both versions.

**CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *GETTING BY*, Media Trust/COMMUNITY CHANNEL (1 x 30")
March – May 2010**

Observational documentary on poverty in Britain, seen through the eyes of four people: a cancer sufferer, a separated father, a terminally ill student and a pensioner. On the back of this film, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed a law giving contributions to fuel bills for cancer patients.

**CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *MELTDOWN*, Rockhopper for *Hot Cities*, BBC/PBS (1 of 6 x 48")
March – July 2009**

For a landmark series on climate change, this film looks at the repercussions of glacial melt. It follows scientists working in the Peruvian Andes, and the citizens of Lima who are learning to live without water.

**CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *ALVIN'S GUIDE TO GOOD BUSINESS*, Rockhopper for BBC WORLD/PBS (2 of 6 x 23")
April – Dec 2009**

Alvin Hall travels the world meeting social entrepreneurs and advising them how to make their enterprises more effective. Amanda made two films in the series. One was about a scheme to help street children in Phnom Penh and other about a foundation which promotes sustainable fishing in Japan.

**REPORTER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *BECOMING BANGLADESHI*, Rockhopper for *Our World*, BBC WORLD/ NEWS 24 (1 x 23")
Dec 2008 – Jan 2009**

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

**REPORTER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES*, Rockhopper for *Our World*, BBC WORLD/NEWS 24, (1 x 48")
September – October 2008**

Documentary on an international rehabilitation programme sending Nepalis from Bhutan to new homes overseas.

**CAMERA/LOCATION PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *SURVIVAL*, Rockhopper for BBC WORLD/PBS (2 of 8 x 48")
July – Aug 2008**

Two obs docs for landmark series on global health, filmed in Bangladesh during the monsoon. The first follows mothers through pregnancy, the second follows the health of their newborn babies.

**CAMERA/PD, *BRITAIN'S NEW UNDERWORLD*, Vashca for VIRGIN 1 (1 x 28")
Sept – Oct 2007**

Documentary investigating British-Asian heroin gangs and the fight to stop them. Presented by Rageh Omaar. Includes interviews with gang members and authorities, dramatic reconstructions and undercover filming.

**CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *WOMEN IN BLACK*, BBC Docs/Current Affairs for BBC2 (1 of 6 x 30")
May – August 2007**

Opening documentary of a series combining current affairs and fashion, in which presenter Amani Zain prepares for a party in Yemen, uncovering the fashion trends and social mores which affect the lives of young women.

**CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *FRIENDS IN DEED*, Media Trust for COMMUNITY CHANNEL (1 x 60")
June – Nov 2006**

Documentary about mentoring and befriending told through five very different relationships. Characters followed include a refugee, a young offender, a mental health patient, a businessman and an artist.

**PRESENTER/CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, *STICK THIN IN INDIA*, Lion TV for *Fresh*, BBC3 (1 x 60")
Nov 2005 – March 2006**

Documentary which explores the rise of anorexia in India for BBC3's new talent strand, *Fresh*. Amanda meets girls who suffer from the disease and asks why it is becoming more prevalent. Developed the idea with a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Bursary.

**DIRECTOR/PRODUCER, *LAND FIRST*, CONCERN WORLDWIDE, for theatrical release, (1 x 80")
Feb – Dec 2004**

Combining investigative and observational elements, this feature length doc follows a month-long tour by a group of Gandhian activists through the remote tribal belt of Orissa, India's poorest state, as they investigate the abuse of land rights. Produced in 3 different languages - English, Hindi and Oriya.

Other productions that Amanda has worked on include **Harem** (which Amanda got commissioned by Channel 4/A&E through Paladin Invison), **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, presented by Terry Jones). She worked with Melvyn Bragg on his landmark series about the history of Christianity, **2000 Years**, and spent 2 years in the BBC History Department, headed by Laurence Rees, where she worked on the flagship **Timewatch** series.

EDUCATION

MA degree in Media and Culture Studies (Goldsmith's College, London, 2004)

BA degree in history (Cambridge University, 2000-3)

3 A-levels (Maths, History and English); 2 AO-levels; 11 O-levels - all at grade A

LANGUAGES

Very good Turkish (5 years living in Turkey); good Italian (Diploma, Istituto Dante Alighieri, Florence); good French (AO Level); conversational Hindi, Urdu and Spanish

FULL CREDITS AND REFERENCES CAN BE SUPPLIED ON REQUEST