

AMANDA BURRELL

Award-winning Executive Producer & Presenter
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Amanda is a multiple award-winning producer and presenter with over 25 years' experience of making specialist factual, documentary and current affairs programmes for major international broadcasters. Throughout her career she has chosen to focus on making films about critical issues such as human rights, mental health, faith and the environmental crisis.

Most recently, Amanda has been producing and presenting for global news channel, Al Jazeera. This includes executive producing and hosting elements of the flagship green solutions series, *earthrise*, for which she has consistently won awards.

She is rare in the market with the experience and ability to conceive and create programmes and also to bring them to life from both sides of the camera: anchoring from the studio, reporting from the field, producing, directing and shooting. In addition, she has extensive experience of building and managing creative teams, having worked as Manager of In-House Productions for Al Jazeera Turkish for four years.

Amanda's background in history together with her natural ability to connect to people from all walks of life enable her to bring issues alive in a way that is analytical as well as intimate. She speaks excellent Turkish, good French and Italian and can chat in Hindi, Urdu and Spanish.

SELECTED CREDITS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER *earthrise, Al Jazeera English* **October 2016 – present**

Al Jazeera's flagship environmental series looking at sustainable solutions from around the world

- Reformatted a 5-year old series turning it into a multi award-winning programme that is distributed widely across the Al Jazeera Network
- The series has consistently won multiple awards each season including from: Association of International Broadcasters (Politics & Business); New York Film and Television Festivals - Golds, Silvers and Bronzes (Climate Change & Sustainability, Nature & Wildlife, Environment & Ecology, Magazine Format, Educational & Instructional, Heroes); One World Media Award (Women's Entrepreneurs); Covering Climate Now (Special Honours)
- As well as executive producing, Amanda presents elements of the shows

PRESENTER/PRODUCER *Crisis....What Crisis? People & Power, Al Jazeera English* **August - October 2021 (1 x 25)**

Special programme for Al Jazeera English's COP26 coverage investigating why politicians in Britain and elsewhere have struggled to take decisive action on climate change

PRESENTER *Planet SOS, Al Jazeera English* **September 2019 - Dec 2019 (8 x 25')**

Weekly current affairs programme looking at the climate and ecological crisis

- Instrumental in getting the show commissioned
- Invited to host the programme from the studio by Head of News

PRESENTER/PRODUCER *Motherhood on Ice, Correspondent, Al Jazeera English* **July – Nov 2014 (1 x 48')**

For an award-winning series, follows Amanda as she decides whether or not to freeze her eggs.

- The first film to explore this subject, it opened up space for a much-needed conversation
- Huge response from viewers (male and female) around the world which continues today

MANAGER IN-HOUSE PRODUCTIONS Al Jazeera Turkish

Nov 2011 – July 2015

Trained and managed in-house team of up to 36 people for new channel headquartered in Istanbul and worked with 40 independent companies to create award-winning content, reversioned for the Al Jazeera Network

- Created, commissioned and executive produced documentary and current affairs strands, amounting to around 100 hours output/year
- Awarded Paris Cinema Du Reel Libraries Award; Special Prize and Fipresci Award, İstanbul Film Festival; Special Jury Prize, Ankara Film Festival (2014)
- Heavily involved in channel planning, scheduling and management, collaborating with all departments

CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR *Meltdown, Rockhopper for Hot Cities, BBC/PBS*

March – July 2009 (1 of 6 x 48")

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 meets citizens in Lima who are having to adapt to life without water

- Self-shot the film, climbing up vertical crevasses with crampons in a Force 10 gale and minus 15 to reach a 5400 metre high glacier

CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR *Alvin's Guide to Good Business, Rockhopper for BBC World/PBS*

April – Dec 2009 (2 of 6 x 23")

Financial expert Alvin Hall travels the world meeting social and environmental entrepreneurs and advising them how to make their enterprises more profitable and effective

- Stories included a scheme to help street children in Phnom Penh and the efforts of the Marine Stewardship Council to promote sustainable fishing in Japan

DIRECTOR/CAMERA *Survival, Rockhopper TV FOR BBC World/PBS*

July - Aug 2008 2 x 45 of 8

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

- Filmed for a month in challenging conditions, accessing remote locations with floods torrential monsoon storms
- Stories followed included a couple learning their baby was handicapped due to asphyxia at birth and a young girl who almost died of diarrhoea

REPORTER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR *The Forgotten Refugees, Rockhopper for Our World, BBC World/BBC News 24 (1 x 48")*

September – October 2008

Documentary shot in Nepal and Bhutan about an international rehabilitation programme sending Nepalis expelled from Bhutan to new homes overseas

- Gained access to Bhutan and persuaded government officials to give unprecedented interviews on this sensitive story
- Reported and filmed Bhutanese sequences herself, including her reverse questions and pieces to camera

CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR *Britain's New Underworld, Vashca for Virgin 1*

Sept – Oct 2007 (1 x 28")

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

- Negotiated access to gang members
- Interviews, piece to cameras, dramatic reconstruction and undercover filming

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

Opening programme of a unique presenter-led series combining current affairs and fashion. Follows preparations for a party in Yemen, uncovering the fashion trends and social mores affecting young women's lives

- Produced the presenter for whom this was her first programme on mainstream TV
- Persuaded women, in a conservative Muslim country, to be filmed in their own homes and without headscarves

**PRESENTER/CAMERA/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR *Stick Thin in India*, Lion TV for *Fresh*,
BBC3**

Nov 2005 – March 2006 (1 x 60")

Documentary exploring the rise of anorexia in India for the BBC's new talent strand, *Fresh*. prevalent

- First film to give voice to anorexic girls who opened up on record about a taboo subject.
- Conceived the idea when in India on a Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Bursary
- Filmed, presented, produced, directed the programme

**PRODUCER/DIRECTOR *Land First, Concern Worldwide*, for theatrical release
Feb – Dec 2004 (1 x 80")**

Feature length doc following a month-long tour by Gandhian activists through the remote indigenous belt of Orissa, India's poorest state, as they investigate abuses of land rights

- Produced in 3 different languages - English, Hindi and Oriya
- Developed from CBA Bursary which led to Amanda living in India for 2 years

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER *Harem, Paladin Invision* for Channel 4/A&E
April - Nov 2001 (2 x 60)**

Drama-documentary on the Sultanate of the Women, when the concubines of the Harem ruled the Ottoman Empire

- An idea which Amanda conceived and developed, then offered to Channel 4 through Paladin Invision
- Gained unprecedented access to Topkapi Palace

Other productions Amanda has 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, presented by Terry Jones). She worked with Melvyn Bragg on **2000 Years**, his landmark series on the history of Christianity, and for two years in the BBC History Department, under Laurence Rees, where she worked on the flagship **Timewatch** series.

EDUCATION

- MA Media and Culture Studies, Goldsmiths' College University of London
- BA 2:1 in History, Clare College Cambridge University
- Diploma in Turkish, Westminster College, London
- Diploma in Italian, Instituto Dante Alighieri, Florence, Italy
- Grade 8 euphonium with Distinction; Grade 8 piano
- Hostile Environment Training

REFERENCES & FULL CREDITS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST