Edward McGown
Documentary Director

CV

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About me

I'm a Grierson-shortlisted director with credits for Netflix, BBC and Channel 4. With a background in drama direction, I combine journalistic skills with a filmic sensibility and have extensive experience directing recon.

For the last few years, I've focused on both original investigations and high-end past-tense documentaries, covering subjects from the Ukraine war, to the stars of 80s snooker and an investigation that ultimately led to the FBI's arrest of the ex-CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch on sex trafficking charges.

Documentary - Selected Credits

The Drug Lord Next Door
(1 x 60', Sky, Full Story Films / Quicksilver Media 2026)
Director – Details embargoed until TX.

Our Man in Moscow, Official selection, Bayeux War Correspondents Awards
(1 x 60', BBC1, 2026)
Director – Film following the work of the BBC's Russia editor, Steve Rosenberg, as he grapples with surveillance and the threat of arrest. 'Riveting television…I just wish [it] had been longer.' ★★★★ – The Times

Trump, Ukraine and Europe on the Edge
(1x 30'. BBC1, 2025)
Director – Film looking back at three years of war in Ukraine as the conflict reaches a dangerous crossroads. Features access on the ground in Ukraine and an original interview with the prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer.

The Abercrombie Guys: The Dark Side of Cool, Winner, British Journalism Award
(1 x 60', BBC1, 2023)
Director – Using recon and original testimony, this film uncovered allegations of sex trafficking against the ex-CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch. It ultimately led to FBI arrests in 2024. ★★★★ – Evening Standard

A Very British Way of Torture, Grierson shortlisted, 2023
(1 x 60', Channel 4, Rogan Productions, 2022)
Director – Blending archive, recon and fresh testimony from survivors, this film draws on shocking new evidence to tell the full story of the British use of torture in 1950s Kenya. ★★★★★ - Mail on Sunday ★★★★ – The Telegraph

My Daughter's Killer
(1 x 90', Netflix, Rogan Productions, 2022), Realscreen nominee, 2023
Producer – I both produced the edit and co-directed studio recon for this true crime Netflix feature, centring on an elderly lawyer who resorts to kidnap when all else fails to bring his daughter's killer to justice. 'An extraordinary Liam Neeson-level story of a father's indefatigable fight for justice' – The Independent

Gods of Snooker
(1 x 60', BBC 2, Mindhouse Productions, 2021), Grierson nominee, 2021
Directed episode two of three part series on the 80s golden age of British snooker, executive produced by Louis Theroux. 'Rip-roaringly entertaining' - ★★★★ -The Times; 'A masterpiece' – The New Statesman; 'Superb' – The Telegraph

Subnormal
(1 x 60', BBC 1, Rogan Productions, 2021), Grierson shortlisted, 2021
Edit producer - Executive produced by Oscar-winner, Steve McQueen. Documentary single exploring how black children in the 1960s and 70s were disproportionately sent to schools for the so-called 'educationally subnormal'. 'A compelling and devastating account - ★★★★★'- The Guardian

Diana: The Interview that Shocked the World
(1 x 90', Channel 5, Rogan Productions, 2020)
Producer/Director – Investigation into the story behind Martin Bashir's notorious 1995 interview with Princess Diana. 'A huge cut above most backward-looking royal docs' - The Guardian; ★★★★ – Radio Times 'An excellent documentary' – Times Radio

Coronavirus: Destination New York
(1 x 30', BBC 1, Rogan Productions, 2020)
Director - Investigating the causes behind the staggering Covid death toll in New York.

Last Night
(Feature documentary, Pulse Films, 2019)
Self-shooting PD – Embedded in Riyadh for a month, I was location director for one of the strands in this multi-story film on underground dance music in Saudi Arabia.

Inside the World's Toughest Prisons, Series 2 and 3
(4 x 45', Netflix, Emporium Productions, 2017-18)
Producer/Director – Series following Raphael Rowe as he becomes a prisoner for a week in some of the world's most violent jails. Challenges included securing access to one of the world's most prolific serial killers in Ukraine and filming in Costa Rica's notoriously lawless 'La Reforma' prison.

Michel Roux's The Craftsmen's Dinner – (2 series)
(9 x 10', online branded content, Rogan Productions, 2016-17)
Director and Series Co-Creator - Directed two seasons of this highly successful series for The Balvenie Whisky following Michel Roux Jr as he goes on a journey to meet the craftspeople creating some of the UK's most rarefied culinary produce.

Drama

Bachelor Games
(Director, feature film, Strike Films/Gravitas Ventures, 2016)
Horror-comedy shot on location in the Andes, Argentina. Stars Charlie Bewley (Twilight) and Jack Doolan (Cemetery Junction). Released on DVD, Blu-ray and VOD.

Hollyoaks
(Channel 4, 2012)
Direction on the C4 continuing drama series.

Qualifications

- MFA, Honours, Film Direction, Columbia University Film School, New York
- Double 1st class BA in English Literature, Magdalen College, Oxford

Skills

- Experienced self-shooting 4K camera operator. Cameras worked with include Sony FX9, FX6, FS7, F55, Canon C300, Go-Pros.
- Also skilled at working with large crews using complex grip equipment.
- Clean driving licence; own car; moderate French
- I-visa valid until Feb 2028

References

- James Rogan - executive producer for *A Very British Way of Torture, My Daughter's Killer* and *Diana: The Interview that Shocked the World*
- Tom Stone, BBC – executive producer for *The Abercrombie Guys: The Dark Side of Cool* and *Our Man in Moscow*