

ian watts

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Ian Watts is a BAFTA award-winning film and TV director of photography, and works on factual, entertainment, documentaries, history, music and arts programmes. He has worked with all the main UK broadcasters including the BBC, ITV, Channels Four and Five, Sky and international broadcasters such as Disney, National Geographic, Oprah Winfrey Network, Paramount, Discovery and Smithsonian. He has over 30 years wide-ranging experience of filming in more than 50 countries around the world, ranging from Ghana to Greenland, on many critically acclaimed and award-winning films. He has his own professional broadcast camera equipment and an American (I) work Visa for the USA. Disclosure and Barring Service, (DBS) approved. Full BAFTA member.

broadcast tv and film credits (selection)

Bibaa & Nicole: Murder in the Park tells the heartbreaking story of sisters Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, who were murdered in a London park in June 2020. Raw, emotional, and compelling, the series asks difficult questions about institutional racism, the wider epidemic of violence against women and girls. Sky Documentaries 3x60mins True Vision Prods Director Alex Thomas, Producer Sian Guerra, Prod/Dir Lindsay Konieczny, Exec Brian Woods

Tony Collins: Football's Forgotten Master Spy Film about British football's first black manager, who was chief scout for Leeds United in their glory years in the 1970s and also Manchester United in the 1980s. 30 min Sky Sports TV 30 min Dark Matters TV Dir Geoff Small Prod Salim Salam

The Battle for Black Music: Paid In Full tells the story of Black musicians and the long-standing exploitation they have faced since the inception of the recording industry. BBC /CBC 3x60mins Zinc Media/22 Summers Directors Guy Evans Tom Pollard Exec Producers Greg Sanderson Idris Elba

Erased: WWII's Heroes of Color Over 8 million people of colour fought in the Second World War—yet their stories have largely been written out of history. This series, narrated by Idris Elba, goes some way to correct this through dramatisation, character portraits, and archive. Disney/Nat Geographic October Films & 22 Summers. Various directors incl. Alex Thomas Exec Prods Idris Elba Johanna Woolford Gibbon & Annabel Hobley
Nominated for Best Doc at Film Independent Spirit Awards & Best Non-Fiction History & Biography at the Real Screen Awards, 2025

The Sound of Protest an independent cinema film unpicking ten pivotal protest songs across five of the biggest motivators for protest: racial inequality, war and peace, gender politics, eco crisis and freedom. Do they make a difference? Producer/dir Siobhan Logue 60 mins Songbird TV

Blue Is The Colour a film about Chelsea football club and the relationship with their black fans over the years. Featuring current and past footballers, plus sports administrators. Director Xaymaca Awoyungbo Producer Vincent Benson

Brothers in Dance: Anthony and Kel Matsena, this film tells the story of Swansea-based, Zimbabwean-born brothers and choreographers moving to Wales as children and competing on Britain's Got Talent to becoming two of the most innovative and in-demand emerging artists on the UK dance scene. BBC 60 mins director Dave Jones **Winner Cymru (Welsh) BAFTA Single Documentary Award for 2023**

Lenny Henry: One of a Kind is a candid and affectionate retrospective, on comedian and actor Sir Lenny Henry who has spent nearly 50 years in the spotlight. The comedy legend looks back at his career highlights and takes viewers on a journey from the Midlands to Middle Earth. ITV 60 mins Indigo Productions Director Emily Kennedy, Producer Andy Bates

Get On Up: The Triumph of Black America actor David Harewood takes us on a journey across America to meet his heroes, and discover some of the true stories behind the incredible artists who shaped his life and changed the world. BBC 2 x 60 mins Milk and Honey Productions Director Geoff Small Executive Producers Lucy Pilkington and Lawrence Lartey

Jimmy Akingbola Handle with Care in this deeply personal film, acclaimed actor and presenter Jimmy Akingbola tells his own story and in doing so, reveals the truth of growing up in the care system in England. ITV 60 mins Triforce Productions Director Andy Mundy-Castle **nominated for Best Single Documentary at the I Talk Telly Awards, and Ian Watts Long listed BAFTA Factual Photography**

Judi Love: Black, Female and Invisible Judi Love discovers why so many black British women struggle, uncovering evidence of inequalities in health, education and work. Channel 4 60 mins Douglas Road Productions Director Anna Manton Exec Prod Angela Ferreira **Winner Visionary Arts Awards Documentary of the year. Nominated for Best Documentary at the I Talk Telly Awards and Best Current Affairs Documentary at the Grierson/Televisual Awards**

The South Bank Show: Helen Mirren Helen Mirren talks to Melvyn Bragg in an in-depth and comprehensive profile of one of this country's finest actresses. Sky Arts 60 mins Directors Cut Productions Director Suzannah Wander Executive Producers Melvyn Bragg and Cathy Haslam

Lenny Henry's Caribbean Britain Sir Lenny Henry presents a joyous celebration of British- Caribbean life with a host of famous faces from art, music, entertainment TV and theatre over two episodes. BBC TV 2 x 60 mins Douglas Road Productions Producer Dawn Lake Executive Producer Angela Ferreira **Nominated Broadcast Award and Broadcasting Press Guild Awards Nomination for Best Documentary Series**

Troy Deeney: Where's My History? footballer Troy Deeney's high-profile campaign to make the teaching of black history and experiences mandatory in the school curriculum Channel 4 60 mins SBX Studios Dir Geoff Small Executive Producer Vanessa Van-Yeboah

The 80s - Music's Greatest Decade? With Dylan Jones journalist Dylan Jones celebrates the towering influence of the music of the 80s, with an aim to inspire a newfound respect for this maligned musical era. BBC 4x 60 mins Plimsoll Productions Dir Seb Barfield Exec Producer Siobhan Logue

Standing Firm: Football's Windrush Story BAFTA award-winning poet Benjamin Zephaniah explores the impact Caribbean migrants and their descendants have had on English football. ITV/ BT Sport 80 mins Director Theo Lee Ray Executive Producer Sally Brown **Nominated for SJA British Sports Journalism Awards 2021 Television / Digital Documentary**

Ashley Banjo: Britain In Black And White Britain's Got Talent judge Ashley Banjo's personal journey, speaking about how race and racism have impacted his life and sharing the experiences of his friends and family. ITV 60 mins Uplands Television Directors Stephanie Wessell and Tim Dunn Exec Producer Mike Smith

Leigh-Anne: Race, Pop & Power pop star Leigh-Anne Pinnoch recounts her experience as the only black member of Little Mix, and as a black woman in the music industry. BBC 60 mins Dragonfly Film and Television Productions Director Tash Gaunt Exec Producers Tom Currie Sam Bickley. **Nominated Grierson and Broadcast Awards Broadcast Digital Awards 2022 and Best Documentary Programme**

Royal Wedding: A Day to Remember film celebrating the 10th Wedding anniversary of Prince Williams' marriage to Catherine Middleton, with contributions from politicians, the cake makers, Royal photographers, and member of the public. BBC 60 mins Director Tim Dunn Exec Producer Lisa Ausden

Make-up: A Glamorous History professional make-up artist Lisa Eldridge explores the history of make-up through the decades with three iconic moments in British history. BBC 3 x 60 mins Plimsoll Productions Director Rachel Jardine Series Producer Lucy Swingle

The Talk the talk in the black community is to prepare children for the reality of living in a society where skin colour marks them out for a lifetime of challenges. Channel 4 60 mins Whisper TV/Cardiff Prods Director Geoff Small Exec Producers Maxine Watson Pat Younge, Sunil Patel
Nominated for Best Documentary Programme and Best Lockdown Programme News, Documentaries and Factual Broadcast Awards 2021

Gospel According to Mica - The Story of Gospel Music in Six Songs British soul singer Mica Paris explores gospel music through six songs. BBC 60 mins Douglas Road Productions Director Guy Evans Executive Producer Angela Ferreira

Fela Kuti - Father Of Afrobeat the life of the late Nigerian musician Fela Kuti who invented Afrobeat music and influenced many famous musicians is explored in this documentary with testimonies from his family and friends. BBC 80 mins Plimsoll Productions Director Biyi Bandele Exec Producer Siobhan Logue **Nominated for Grierson Award Best Music Documentary**

Black Classical Music: The Forgotten History Lenny Henry and Suzy Klein explore the works of remarkable men and women who achieved greatness despite many hurdles. BBC 90 mins Douglas Road Productions Director Guy Evans Executive Producer Angela Ferreira

Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid Lenny Henry tours the Caribbean to find out what being part of the Commonwealth means to the people who live there. BBC 90 mins Burning Bright Productions Director Andy Mundy-Castle **Nominated for Screen Nation Award**

Classic Albums: Amy Winehouse Back To Black film explores the making of Back to Black, the second and final studio album by singer and songwriter Amy Winehouse with producers Salaam Remi and Mark Ronson. BBC 60 mins Dir Jeremy Marre **Nominated for BAFTA Best Sound**

Lenny Henry's Race Through Comedy series that celebrates British TV comedy throughout the years, focusing on the iconic shows that have shone a light on Britain's rich mix of multiculturalism. BBC 3 x 60mins Douglas Road Productions Dir Marina Warsama Series Producer Carlton Dixon

When Tariq Met Malcolm X a one-hour documentary focusing on a short period in Britain in 1964/1965 when America's Malcolm X met and befriended the radical British Marxist, Tariq Ali. Smithsonian Channel 90mins TTV Productions Dir Geoff Small Exec Prod Charles Thompson

The Story Of Lovers Rock an independent film about 1970's and 1980's UK reggae scene with live performances, interviews, and drama inserts. SunRa Productions 96 mins Producer/Director Menelik Shabazz **Best Documentary T&T Film Festival**

Rivers of Blood: 50 Years On 50 years after Enoch Powell's incendiary speech on race relations in 1968, this film charts the story of multicultural Britain race relations since then. Channel 5 60 mins Dir Geoff Small **Winner Best Domestic Documentary Association Broadcasting Awards**

How To Be The Queen - 63 Years And Counting this special programme tells the top ten reasons why Queen Elizabeth II has remained popular during Britain's longest reign. Channel 4 - 90mins Doubleband Films. Director Chris Durlacher Exec Producer Michael Hewitt

Craig & Danny: Funny, Black And On The TV Craig Charles and Danny John-Jules look back on some of the greatest and sometimes forgotten black comedy legends of our time. ITV 60 mins Big Deal Films Director Marina Warsama Executive producers: Maxine Watson & Dhanny Joshi

Back in Time for Brixton a special two-part edition of the programme, where for one summer, the Irwin family give up their modern lives and travel back in time to experience 50 years of black British history, discovering how post-war Caribbean immigration transformed the way we all live. BBC 2x60 mins Wall to Wall Media Director Geoff Small Producer Carl Callam Executive Producer Emma Hindley

Count Basie: Through His Own Eyes a revealing biography about Count Basie, 'the King of the Swing Kings', the first African American to win a Grammy, and who brought the Blues to the big band podium. BBC 75 mins Eagle Rock Films Director Jeremy Marre Exec Producer Mark Cooper

The Santana Story: Angels And Demons the legendary Mexican American guitarist and songwriter, Carlos Santana, reveals his turbulent life story with astonishing intimacy, with previously unseen archive performances of many of his best-known tunes. BBC 75 mins Director Jeremy Marre

Roy Orbison: One of the Lonely Ones a film biography of iconic rock balladeer Roy Orbison told through his own voice, casting new light on the triumphs and tragedies that beset his career. BBC 60 mins Director Jeremy Marre Executive Producer Mark Cooper

The Heart of Country - How Nashville Became Music City USA this historical biography about the hub of Country Music reveals the dynamic relationship between commerce and art that has defined Nashville since 1925. BBC 60 mins Dir Jeremy Marre Exec Prod Mark Cooper

Making North America making North America reveals the incredible story of a majestic continent in an epic three-part series with presenter paleontologist Kirk Johnson. Windfall Films 3x60 mins Director Gwyn Williams Series Prod Peter Oxley **Winner TV Silver Award for Science**

Black Flash: A Century Of Black Footballers film about the rise of black footballers in the premier league. BBC 60 mins Director Geoff Small **Nominated BAFTA Flaherty Documentary Award, RTS Award, BANFF International Sports Programme Award, and EMMA Award**

The Olympics: Faster, Higher, Stronger a landmark four-part series filmed all over the world and produced to celebrate the 2012 Olympics in London. BBC 4 x 60 mins Producers Francis Welch & Matt Pelly Series Producer Alastair Laurence **Winner Focal International Award**

Reggae Britannia film about the rise of UK reggae music BBC 60 mins Dir Jeremy Mare, Exec Producer Mark Cooper **Winner UNESCO Award**

The Plane Crash a dramatic documentary that follows an international team of scientists as they deliberately crash land a 170-seat Boeing 727 passenger jet to highlight the issues of plane safety. Channel 4 90 mins Dragonfly Film and Television Production Directors Ben Lawrie, Richard Max Exec Producers Sanjay Singhal, Simon Dickson **Nominated for BAFTA Specialist Factual TV Award**

Horizon: Seeing Stars around the world, a new generation of astronomers are hunting for the most mysterious objects and have created a dazzling new set of super-telescopes that promise to rewrite the story of the heavens BBC 60mins Producer Ben Lawrie

Election & Election Special film series following a group of young people aspiring to win a prize to meet the British Prime Minister and debate in the Houses of Parliament. BBC 10x30mins Diverse Productions Producer Carolyn Payne **Winner Children's BAFTA Entertainment Award**

Lonely Planet Guide To Cuba & Haiti travelogue series Channel 4 / Discover 60 mins Director Jenny Dames **Winner Best Travel Documentary**

Baaba Maal Live at RFH & Luciano - Live in London Director and Lighting Cameraman Ian Watts on multi camera concert films

Soul II Soul: Keep On Movin' Music video of the iconic British soul group's breakthrough hit song. 15 million+ views You Tube. Camera Ian Watts