

John Miles - Biography



John Miles - Executive Producer /Producer/Director/ Camera

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Filmed and produced films for National Geographic, Discovery Channel, BBC, PBS, C4, C5, La Premiere, NHK Japan, broadcast in over 200 countries.

Founder in 1991 of *Equilibrium Films*, on the cutting edge of documentary film-making in the developing world; focusing on *cultures*, *indigenous people*, *human adventure*, *current affairs/ human rights*, *education*, *wildlife*, and *the environment* .

Filming in all the World's continents, covering difficult and challenging subjects. Ranging from documenting human rights abuses in war zones; Sudan, Burma, Afghanistan, to extensive unsupported films in the Brazilian Amazonian rainforests reporting on the plight of indigenous people. Filming amongst the Tamil Tigers for 3 months in Sri Lanka. A veteran of many solo expeditions, pioneering journeys to some of the World's most inhospitable places, from Borneo's steaming jungles, Yemen's parched deserts, to the freezing Arctic and 20,000 ft volcanoes in Chile . Underwater cameraman of 15 years

standing, having filmed Sharks, submarines, ROV's and ancient underwater cities for Discovery and C4.

Undercover filming in Iran for two of the most prestigious investigative series, *C4 dispatches* in the UK and *PBS Frontline* in the US which won the Foreign Press Award.

Writer and photographer for many feature articles and scripts on many of the subjects covered. *Executive Producer* for Discovery Channel and Animal Planet on many awards winning series and over a hundred films.



A British polymath. In the course of his life he has been an explorer, graphic designer, photographer, journalist, broadcaster, soldier, underwater cameraman, documentarian, film-maker, and writer.

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera**

For *Arctic Tug of war* 52' -

(Current/Affairs) DVD promo

An Equilibrium Films production focusing on the Arctic, one of the last great wildernesses, is at the heart of a tug of war over sovereignty and its rich resources. Ironically the North Pole is located in constantly shifting sea ice, in the central part of the Arctic Ocean, where the sea depth is around 4,000 metres. This large ice, is synonymous of the transient fragility of the Earth and its eco-system. Due to Global warming the Arctic has been losing 1,000 kilometers in ice volume each year since 1995. As the ice melts in the next decade, the valuable *Northwest Passage* is predicted to be opened as a major shipping route. The 1200 - 3000 km Northwest Passage has long been secretly used by US, French, British and Russian Nuclear submarines. The Arctic powerplay over resources also affects the native Inuit and their traditional hunting ground.

IN PRODUCTION

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera**

For *Voodoo Secret Rituals - Voodoo's roots in West Africa* 52' -

(Culture - Religion) DVD promo

An Equilibrium Films production focusing on the global expansion of Voodoo a 5,000 yr old religion From its roots in Benin in deepest West Africa, Benin is the cradle of voodoo a country that exported the ritual to *Cuba, Brazil, Haiti* and *New Orleans* as the Benin Voodoo practitioners were forcibly deported from there in the 17th century as slaves. Ironically in spite of brutal oppression by the Christians, the fearsome voodoo took root and has expanded to 60 million followers Worldwide! The world's high priest of Voodoo whose lineage dates back to the 15th century is also covered. The film will also cover Togo and Ghana. IN PRODUCTION

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera** for *The Living Dead* - 52' -

(Culture - Religion) DVD promo

An Equilibrium Films production focusing on the global expansion of Voodoo a 5,000 yr old religion From its roots in Benin in deepest West Africa, The film focuses on the changes that occurred when Voodoo practitioners were deported as slaves to *Haiti*. In order to survive the slaves were forced to develop the "dark" side of Voodoo. The revolution against slavery and the violent treatment by the French was lead by a voodoo priest Makandal who it was estimated to have caused the poisonings of 6,000 French. With secret societies involved in witchcraft, sorcery, drugging and

poisonings, including zombification. The film has secured unique access to supreme Voodoo chief of Haiti; a real life zombie declared dead many yrs ago and annual voodoo ceremonies. **IN PRODUCTION**

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera** for *Voodoo in Death and Jazz* - 52' - **(Culture - Religion) DVD promo**
An Equilibrium Films production. The film focuses on the voodoo's spirit of the dead "Ghede" and the musical roots of Blues and Jazz as it takes root in New Orleans at Congo square and how it has survived and mutated into Mardi Gras's Skull & Bone Gang's and influenced Cajun music. The film documents a descendant of Marie Laveau the famous Voodoo priestess who had nightly orgiastic ceremonies, and present day voodoo as religion, folklore, fakelore and superstition. The film focuses on the strong relationship New Orleans has with death, as it is practised unknowingly in Africa, with ancestor spirits becoming guiding forces, at the celebrated Jazz funerals, Voodoo ceremonies in honour of death, and explores the coincidences, a shooting, and the unexplained murders linked to Voodoo. *Iraq War hero Chops Up, Cooks Girlfriend, and Kills Himself* on top of one of New Orleans principal Voodoo temple. The film looks at forensic and spiritual evidence to explain some of the strange happenings and how Voodoo has mutated in the "New World". **IN PRODUCTION**

• **UNDERWATER SHOWREEL** - 35' - **(Wildlife) AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD**
Underwater filming from various films (e.g.: Underworld, Sharks etc) for **Discovery Channel/ Animal Planet/ Channel 4/RDF/Channel 5** Covering a range of subjects from ancient underwater civilizations, submarines, WW2 shipwrecks, bull sharks, Scorpion fish, Parrot fish, Moray eels, giant sea turtles, and hundreds of different marine species and coral.

• **Executive Producer - Discovery Channel/ Animal Planet** - **(Wildlife) ON DVD**
Galapagos Dinosaur (Ecuador) - 60'
Deep Sea Hawk (Palau) - 60'
Mayan Sharks (Belize) - 60'
Tiger Shark (South Africa) - 60'
Prehistoric Sea Cow (Florida/ US) - 60'
The Atlantis Shark (Bahamas) - 60'
Real Jaws (South Africa/ Mozambique) - 60'
Bronze whalers (Mexico/New Zealand) - 60'
An Underwater 8 part series (8 x 60 min) co-production with RDF production of **Great Ocean adventures**, featuring Monty Halls on an expedition around the world including the Galapagos and Belize

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera** for *Wild Boar* - 52' - **(Wildlife) ON DVD**
An Equilibrium Films production for **Discovery Channel/ Animal Planet** focusing on the re-emergence of the Wild boar in England after being extinct for 500 years. Freed from farms by Animal rights activists, the boars have thrived in the English countryside, on the edge of extinction again as controversy and fear surrounds these dangerous mythical animals. The film explores the strange equilibrium reached in France where the noble boar is revered yet hunted ... Shot in France, Germany and UK>

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera** for *Wild Boar in the city* - 52' - **(Wildlife) ON DVD**
An Equilibrium Films production for **Discovery Channel/ Animal Planet** Shot in Berlin where 7,000 wild boar seem to co-exist in reasonable harmony with the population of 3 1/2 million Berliners. The film interviews victims (dogs and humans) of boar attacks, and the unusual of situation where a Sow gives birth and brings up her piglets in a busy city square, frequently visiting the local supermarket and making friends with the local schoolchildren. The film covers the annual culling of the boar by the foresters to keep the numbers manageable.

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera** for *TRIBAL MANHOOD RITUALS* - 12' - **(Culture/ Adventure)**
A Leopard Films production for Channel 4 focusing on the unique manhood rituals of stick fighting amongst the Mursi and the bull jumping traditions of the Hamar tribes of Ethiopia, the Maasai of Kenya and the Tonga Shark calling traditions..
Channel 4 Promotional material for series **ON DVD**

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera** for *The Tribe That Time Forgot* - 52' - **(Culture/ Adventure)**
An Equilibrium Film production in association with WGBH Boston (Nova series) / for PBS/ Discovery Channel shot in the rainforests of the Brazilian Amazon, examining the culture and identity of the recently contacted Arara Indians who practiced cannibalism, living in total isolation from the outside world, until their dramatic contact. *Has been broadcast on National Geographic Channel throughout the World in over 200 countries.*
AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD

• **Producer/ Director/ Camera** for *Jaguar People* - 52' - **(Culture/ Adventure)**

An Equilibrium Film production shot in Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, and the rainforests of the Brazilian Amazon examining the culture of small indigenous groups. The film also explores the political role of FUNAI (Brazil's Indian Agency) and its responsibility over Brazil's Indians and the agency's history of corruption. FUNAI's previous President Sydney Possuelo is interviewed concerning his sacking from the government organisation *The Jaguar People* has been broadcast in US, ZDF Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Canada, Sweden Finland and Spain. *The Jaguar People* has been shown at San Sebastian Festival in Spain and the International Ethnographic Film Festival in England.

AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD

• Producer/ Director/ Camera for *Yemen's Cultural Drug: Dream or Nightmare* - 52' - **(Culture)**

An Equilibrium Film production shot in Yemen focusing on the controversial qat plant and its influence on the Yemeni people. The plant is illegal in many countries including the US where it is listed as a schedule 1 drug. The film looks at qat's recent arrival in Europe and traces its origins in Yemen where 80% of the population are addicted to chewing the precious plant. The film also examines the role the plant plays at social gatherings, marriages and Qat parties. The explosive expansion of qat with over 13 million chewers Worldwide in over 19 countries has created an urgency to clarify the mysteries surrounding this ancient narcotic and examine its euphoric as well as destructive properties. *The film has been broadcast in UK, US, France, Germany, Italy, NHK Japan, Norway, Sweden, Denmark. Canal +, Al-Jazeera*

BBC Newsnight - Usage of 11 clips on Yemen.

AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD

(Quicktime clip available on request)

• Director/ Camera/ Editor for *Conquering the mountain of Fire - Into the Dead Zone* - 52' -

(Human Adventure)

An Equilibrium Films Production shot in the Andes of Chile. The film follows a British Mountaineering Expedition on its journey to the remote Atacama desert to climb the World's highest active volcano (20,000 ft). The film is a story of human challenge and exploration for the military survey team. Without oxygen and in sub-zero temperatures, altitude sickness and frostbite take their toll on the team of 16, which is reduced to 3 who make the final summit. *National Geographic Channel*

AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD

(Quicktime clip available on request)

• Director/ Camera for "PATH TO MANHOOD" *Rites of Passage of the Mek People* - 52'

for *Discovery Channel* and *National Geographic Television International* shot in West Papua New Guinea focusing on the rites of passage rituals of the Mek people. Living an isolated existence from the outside world in the steep mountains of the highlands. The film follows the patriarch of the group and his special relationship with the children to be initiated. A dignified warrior who has been shot by arrows and was previously a cannibal.

- **(Culture/ Adventure) ON DVD**

• Producer/ Director/ Camera for *Barefoot among the Tamil Tigers* - 52'

In the Heart of the Labyrinth 52'

In the footsteps of the six headed God 52'

an Equilibrium Film production 3 part series shot in Sri Lanka. The films focus on a prehistoric 400 km pilgrimage. The colourful procession of minstrels, dancers, beggars and holy men travel through the war torn country in predominantly Tamil Tiger areas, often getting caught in the crossfire. The journey takes the pilgrims from the desolate North to the jungles of the South. The film culminates in the high drama of the firewalking festival where many of the pilgrims are suspended by hooks.

Discovery Channel US, Canal + Poland - **(Culture - Adventure) AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD**

(Quicktime clip available on request)

• Director/ Camera/ Editor for *Sudan's Slave Trade* - 6/ 30' - **(Current/Affairs - Human rights)**

an Equilibrium Films Production for NBC/ BskyB News Sunday cover story investigating the Slave trade and other human rights abuses in Southern Sudan. The film examines the victims of the forgotten civil war, the displaced, famine and ethnic genocide of the indigenous people. The film was made in rebel SPLA held areas of Sudan.

ON DVD

• Producer for *First Contact - Last Rites* - 52' - **(Culture - Adventure)**

A First Contact Production for *National Geographic Television* shot over 6 months in the rainforests of the Brazilian Amazon. The film crew follows a first contact mission searching for one of the World's most recently contacted native people, who have been in hiding from the various encroachments on their land by loggers and miners.

• Director/ Camera for "TRIBAL RITES" *Tribal Rites series* - 52'

for *National Geographic Television International* shot in West Papua focusing on the rites of passage rituals of the Mek people. Living an isolated existence from the outside world in the steep mountains of the highlands.

- (Culture - Adventure) ON DVD

• Camera/ Undercover for *Iran Uncovered: Inside the hidden revolution* - C4 Dispatches - 52' a Hardcash Productions Film shot undercover in Iran/ Turkey/ UK. The films focus on the underground student movement fighting for reforms following the Islamic Revolution, which they help create. The film also investigates the death under torture of a Canadian journalist. Channel 4 / UK - France

• Camera/ Undercover for "*Forbidden Iran*" - PBS/ WGBH Frontline - 25' - WON FOREIGN PRESS AWARD - (Current/Affairs - Human rights) ON DVD

• Camera Undercover/ Journalist for "*Kill or be Killed*" - C4 Dispatches - 30' - (Current/Affairs) a Mentorn Barraclough Carey Production for Channel 4 *Dispatches* series investigating Britain's role as a centre of international terrorism amongst militant Islamic Groups. Involves undercover filming of militant Islamic groups.

• Camera/ Underwater Camera for *Underworld - Flooded Kingdom of the Ice Age 52'* for Channel 4/ Discovery Channel shot in Japan . The series focuses on ancient underwater cities believed to have been flooded after the Ice age. The series is presented by Graham Hancock. The filming involved ancient 10,000 year old underwater stone structures on Yonaguni Island and the ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle) Underwater robot used to discover Titanic. The island was hit by typhoons (tropical cyclones) and 300 ft walls of waves. (Culture)

• Director/ Underwater Camera for *Sharks* - 52' - (wildlife) an Essential Maiden production - shot in the Cayman Islands involving underwater filming of up to 10 Caribbean Reef Sharks being tagged and studied for scientific purposes examining behaviour patterns.

• Director/ Camera/ Editor for *Burma's Final Solution* - 15' - (Current/Affairs - Human rights) an Equilibrium Films Production for Channel 4 News shot in the last Karen stronghold in Burma/ Thailand. The film focuses on Burma's military Junta's ethnic cleansing policies and human rights abuse including slave labour, the film highlights the plight of the ethnic minorities, in particular the Karenni and Karen who are fighting for their survival. *Burma's Final Solution* has been broadcasted in the UK, Ireland, Denmark, Greece the Netherlands, the US and Canada. AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD

• Director/ Camera/ Editor for *Egypt Powerplay s- Coalition against Islamic Fundamentalism.* - 20' an Equilibrium Films Production for Channel 4 News shot in Egypt . Concerns for the rise of undercurrent Islamic extremists and their violence against tourists, Christians and police has given birth to exercise "Bright Star" the largest British and US deployment in the Middle East since World War two. In Egypt's scorching Western Desert traditional enemies are cementing economic and political relations, as a coalition army of 40,000 train for war. Joint forces from seven nations including the US, and Europe are forging alliances to combat an unstable Middle East. Interviews with the Muslim Brotherhood and Egyptian military give interesting insights into an unstable situation. Has been broadcasted in UK, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Finland, South Africa. - (Current/Affairs) AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD

• Director/ Camera/ Editor for *Pakistan's Religious Apartheid - Living in the Lion's Den* - 22' An Equilibrium Films Production for Channel 4 News shot in Pakistan . The film focuses on the rise of Islamic extremism, which targets the Christian minority using the blasphemy law, which carries the death sentence. In protest at the draconian laws prominent Bishop Joseph shocked the World by committing suicide. The film highlights the climate of fear and violence with the police often acting as instruments of torture for the extremist Muslims .Has been broadcasted in UK. (Current/Affairs - Human rights) AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD

• Director/ Camera/ Editor for *Death & Glory running with the Bulls* - 50 min - (Culture/ Adventure) an Equilibrium Films Production shot in Pamplona Spain. (Quicktime clip available on request) The film focuses on Spain's notorious Bull run consisting of 800 meters of fear. The film follows the invasion of some 3,000 Australasian who run riot in the streets of Pamplona. Their drunken rampage breeds both contempt and admiration in the hearts of the Spanish who enjoy the spectacle of foreigners running with killer bulls on the mere strength of their liquid courage. Every day, the run claims new victims who are gored or trampled over by the bulls. Has been broadcasted in NZ AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION ON DVD

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- **Producer/ Director/ Camera** for *Red Devils in Green Hell* - 52' - **(Human Adventure)**

an Equilibrium Film production shot in *Belize* and *Panama*. A self-sufficient film crew will accompany a British Parachute Regiment's expedition to cross Panama from East to West from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. An elite core of tough, die-hard paratroopers known as the "Red Devils" will plunge into the tropical depths of Panama's green hell. Hacking their way foot by foot through the stifling, near impenetrable jungle. The team will attempt to retrace an epic 1517 crossing by a vicious Spanish conquistador = Balboa who was accompanied by 190 soldiers, 800 Indians and a pack of fierce war dogs. The seemingly impossible journey through the 180km jungle resulted in the death of many of Balboa's men with only 67 succeeding the crossing. *In Post-Production*.

AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION

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- **Camera** for *MayDay ! MayDay !* - 30' **(Current/Affairs)**

a Juniper Production for *Channel 4*. The film focuses on the May Day demonstrations in London. Fears of violence and chaos from the "spikies" an anarchistic group fighting against capitalism and globalisation, brings an army of riot police numbering 6,000!. The film explores the ensuing violent clashes between demonstrators and police.

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- **Camera** for *Peace under siege* - 30' - **(Current/Affairs - Human rights)**

for *Development agencies* shot in *Palestine/ Israel*. The film focuses on the day to day lives of the Palestinians during the recent Israeli military incursions. The film examines the economic stranglehold through the state of closure placed on the Palestinians, the demolitions, the human rights abuse. Illegal Israeli settlements and demolition of Palestinian land, Has been broadcasted in *UK*.

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- **Director/ Camera/ Editor** for *Hope* - 30'

an Equilibrium Films Production for the *Hope Foundation*. The promotional film focuses on Professor Feuerstein's innovative and revolutionary teaching methods for dysfunctional, handicapped, and autistic children. Feuerstein is also one of the World's foremost educational psychologists.

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- **Camera** for *Going feral with the ferrets* - 45'' -

focusing on twins sons of bankrupted farmer whose intrepid journey across Britains country landscape living off the land accompanied by a ferret. The two's survival rests with their knowledge of berries and the hunting skill of the ferret. They are allowed to exchange food with famers but can only live off the land. An unusual, charming and excentric insight into a dying way of life as they explore the hardships of the farmers and those that depend on the countryside for their survival.

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- **Producer** for *Lost Tribe- A life or death Encounter* - 15' - **(Culture/ Adventure)**

a First Contact Production for the *BBC* shot in the rainforests of the Brazilian Amazon. A BBC journalist follows a first contact mission searching for a recently contacted native people and questions the damage done by the contact.

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- **Producer** for *Death in the Air* - **(Current/Affairs - Human rights)**

a Bare Faced Production for *Channel Four News* investigating illegal weapons use in *Burma/Myanmar*, and multi-national involvement in supporting the *SLORC* Government.

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- **Associate Producer** for *My Place, Our Place* - 30'

a Bare Faced Production for *Living Earth Foundation Educational series*, with David Bellamy, highlighting how school students can create and manage innovative environmental projects in conjunction with local businesses.

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- **Associate Producer** for *Life on the Line* - 45' - **(Current/Affairs - Human rights)**

a Bare Faced Production for *Channel Four Secret Asia series*, investigating human rights abuses in *Burma/Myanmar*, and our inadvertent contribution to the demise of their democracy, through our support of the oil companies which back their military dictatorship. Also broadcasted in the *US*, Shown at the *Berlin Film Festival*, runner up in *BBC One World Awards*. Nominated for *Rory Peck Award*.

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- **Camera/ Editor** for *SUDAN: Slave Story* - 17' - **(Current/Affairs - Human rights)**

a Bare Faced Production for *Channel Four* investigating genocide in *Southern Sudan*. A film for *Dutch Television* following the trail of slavery in *Sudan*. The main thread is an ex-slave from the remote *Nul* mountains who is sold 5 times and eventually ends up as a slave to a *Sudanese* official in *London*..!

• Associate Producer for *SUDAN: The Secret Story* - 30' - (Current/Affairs - Human rights)
a Bare Faced Production for Channel Four investigating genocide in Southern Sudan

• Camera for *Human Rights Watch* - (Current/Affairs - Human rights)
an Equilibrium Films Production . The film documents testimonials from Saddam Hussein's Director of Military Intelligence who recently defected from Iraq. The film acts as evidence for a genocide trial presented to the International Court of Justice. (Confidential material not available for viewing)

• Camera for *Channel Four News* - (Current/Affairs - Human rights)
Interviews with Shell concerning their human rights record with the Ogoni people of the Niger Delta .

Photographic documentation of indigenous peoples:

-Arara Indians of Xingu Basin, Amazon	BRAZIL
-Chipaya Indians	BOLIVIA
-Kassena People	BURKINA FASO/GHANA
-Peul/Fulani People	BURKINA FASO
-Tata Somba People	BENIN/TOGO
-Taneka People	BENIN
- Aboriginal People & rock art	AUSTRALIA
-Kunama People	ERITREA
-Mursi and Hamar People	ETHIOPIA
-Punan People of Borneo/ Kalimantan.	INDONESIA
-Dani People of the Baliem Valley	IRIAN JAYA/ WEST PAPUA
-Mek People of the Baliem Valley	IRIAN JAYA/ WEST PAPUA
-Maasai People	KENYA
-Tuareg	MALI
-Berber	MOROCCO
-Dogon	MALI
-Kalash People of Kafiristan	PAKISTAN
- Sepik and Highland people	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- Dinka People	SUDAN
-Veddah People	SRI LANKA
- Padaung , Kayah People	THAILAND/ BURMA
- Karen, Karenni, Lisu	THAILAND

32 **FEATURE ARTICLES** INCL PHOTOGRAPHY :- **AVAILABLE** – 1000-3000 words each

- AFGHANISTAN'S HEADLESS GOAT SPORT - (AFGHANISTAN) - REX

It was Genghis Khan's favourite sport and became the national sport of Afghanistan, known as Buzkashi meaning "goat grabbing". In spite of its ferocity and violence, Afghanistan wants it entered into the olympics.

- **ICE WARRIORS - INUIT ARCTIC RANGERS** - The Inuit Canadian Rangers are the military's eyes, ears in the North. These highly respected volunteer soldiers are a reservist military and were the first line of defense against the Russians in the cold war in the arctic region. The Inuit Rangers teach the Canadian Forces invaluable survival techniques and how to survive the bitter winters of extremes as low as minus 70oc.

- **ARCTIC TUG OF WAR** - Covering different parts of the remote Arctic and High Arctic, concerning Sovereignty issues, Global warming and its implications over the Northwest Passage, the Inuit of the circumpolar area and the Inuit Canadian Rangers, the first line of the defense in the North.

- **DANGER UNEXPLODED BOMBS** - (LAO)

or **LIVING ON BOMBS** focusing on the de-mining of hundreds of thousands of unexploded bombs and mines dropped by the US in a secret war (1964-1970) on Laos the equivalent of 600,000 sorties every 8 minutes (200kg per inhabitant of Laos) the heaviest bombing of a single country in the history of humankind.! The bombs 30% of which are still active and maiming hundreds every year.

- **PARADISE LOST** - Violence invades the remote Kalash tribe - (PAKISTAN) - In the towering valleys of the South Hindu Kush, straddling the Afghanistan border in Pakistan's North West frontier Province lives a primitive pagan tribe whose religion and way of life have not changed for hundreds, possibly thousands of years. The origins of the Kalash are lost in antiquity, it is believed they are descendants of Alexander the Great. Shaken into the 21st century by the brutal murder of a Yeti-hunting Spanish

zoologist and his Kalash servant, the Kalash have awoken to a terrible plight - the surging dual forces of Muslim encroachment from Pakistan, and Taliban incursions from Afghanistan, are poised to eradicate their fragile, ancient way of life.

- INITIATION INTO THE DREAMTIME (AUSTRALIA)

The Dreamtime is a mystical era that has existed in Australia since the arrival of the hunter gatherer Aborigines 40,000 years ago, the essence of which has been passed down through the generations and is still very much alive today. The Dreaming represents to the Aborigines, the birth of the world when ancestral spirits came to a place devoid of features and shaped its physical and spiritual elements. It is the era of creation, as eternal and timeless, as the land it depicts. The transformations that took place resulted in the landscape as we see it today.

- SLAVE - SUDAN'S SECRET SLAVE TRADE - (SUDAN)

In the closed country of Sudan, Africa's largest country, human right abuses of monumental proportion are still taking place. Civil war has brought back slavery to the 21st century, famine, displacements and ethnic genocide. The slave trade is but one abuse amongst many, in a country where the value of human life has been all but devastated.

- YEMEN'S CULTURAL DRUG - (YEMEN)

Yemen focusing on the controversial qat plant and its influence on the Yemeni people. The plant is illegal in many countries including the US where it is listed as a schedule 1 drug. The film looks at qat's recent arrival in Europe and traces its origins in Yemen where 80% of the population are addicted to chewing the precious plant. The article also examines the role the plant plays at social gatherings, marriages and Qat parties. The explosive expansion of qat with over 13 million chewers Worldwide in over 19 countries has created an urgency to clarify the mysteries surrounding this ancient narcotic and examine its euphoric as well as destructive properties.

- BAREFOOT AMONGST TAMIL TIGERS (*Pilgrimage series*) (SRI LANKA)

focusing on a prehistoric 400 km pilgrimage. The colourful procession of minstrels, dancers, beggars and holy men travel through the war torn country in predominantly Tamil Tiger areas, often getting caught in the crossfire. The journey takes the pilgrims from the desolate North to the jungles of the South. The journey culminates in the high drama of the firewalking festival where many of the pilgrims are suspended by hooks.

- BATHING WITH THE VODOO GODS - (*Pilgrimage series*) (HAITI)

An unusual Voodoo ceremony takes place in the remote high mountains of Haiti, as thousands of pilgrims converge and make offerings to the Gods.

- WALKING WITH INCA GODS IN THE HIGH ANDES (*Pilgrimage series*) (PERU)

focusing on a Pre-Inca Peruvian pilgrimage which begins at 4700m and ends up at 6000 ! - 30,000 pilgrims make the perilous journey in honour of the snow star. This is the largest native pilgrimage in the Americas which has a bear as its main protagonist. They have all come to endure the bitter cold nights high up in the Andes on a spiritual journey or quest.

- EASTER ISLAND - STONE GIANTS (CHILE)

focusing on solving the mysteries of the ancient Rapanui culture and long eared people and their obsession with the Moai giant monoliths and the Birdman cult. Includes underwater photography of Moai. The island is dubbed the most isolated inhabited place on Earth, due to its remote location between Tahiti and Chile at least 2000 km from the nearest island

- YEMEN'S LOST SOUL - (YEMEN) - Imagine a World without music. A World without the pounding of the drums, without the soothing strum of the lute, without the melodious lilt of the human voice to invigorate your senses. Without music, the world would be a colourless, soulless place. In the 1940's, Imam Yahya decreed this soundless world for the people of Yemen! Yet Yemeni music, song and poetry are respected and renowned throughout Arabia and form an integral part of Yemeni weddings, funerals, qat chewing parties and religious celebrations. This feature focuses on the few remaining traditional musicians (2 of which have since died). Their unique songs and music transcend the ages, taking us on a journey back through the past millennium to the birth of Yemen's Lost Soul.

- CROCODILE ATTACK from prey to predator (AUSTRALIA) REX

The author's experiences with the prehistoric reptile in many parts of the world, Ghana, Papua New Guinea and Australia including riding on the back of one.

- **SOMBA MAGIC PEOPLE & POISONED ARROWS** - (BENIN/TOGO)

The Somba people are renowned and feared for their supernatural powers, as well as their use of poisoned arrows. The Somba have lived isolated from the world for centuries in fortified villages. These fairy tale castle-like houses are called "Tata" and are made of mud which is designed in a complex way to trap an enemy attacker.

- **VIETNAM'S FORGOTTEN TRIBE - THE HMONG**- (VIETNAM/ LAO)

The Hmong have an amazing history spilt over the Vietnam war the largest part sided with the US in a massive CIA operation. Whilst some had previously led the Vietcong to victory at Dien Bien Phu against the French (The French General committed suicide rather than face the humiliation). The tribe are also active in the Opium cultivation, and have interesting marriages where frequently the women get kidnapped..

- **BERLIN GHOST FUNFAIR** - (GERMANY)

A magical mysterious journey into the past. An abandoned fairground in the heart of Berlin's sprawling metropolis. Vegetation has reclaimed the strange macabre creatures which inhabit this jungle, from spooky giant dinosaurs, to Vikings.

The roller coaster history of the half buried park has much to do with its owner previously guilty of manslaughter due to a defective carousel which killed 7 people. His maverick exploits involved smuggling a 180 kg of cocaine in some of the fairground equipment. He is still believed to be haunting the place.

- **BERLIN WALL GRAFFITI: EAST MEETS WEST** - (GERMANY) **REX**

It is the 20th Anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall. The wall's demise was a symbol of the downfall of communism in Germany and the end of the iron curtain of the eastern block. This is the story of protest against oppression and revolution through paint

- **GUY FAWKES BONFIRE NIGHT** - *In honour of a 17th century terrorist* - The sleepy town of Lewes awakes out of their slumber on the 5th of November by an invasion of up to 100,000 swelling the local population of 15,000. The visitors flock reverently to the site of the World's largest annual Guy Fawkes bonfire celebrations. Witches, smugglers, Zombies, Vikings and Zulu share a common link in the unusual parades through the tight cobblestone streets lit only by torchlight.

- **BRITISH SCHINDLER WINTON** - *Holocaust Secretive Hero* - What made a British stockbroker divert his plans from a frivolous skiing trip, to a daring rescue of some 669 Jewish children from a destiny of forced labour, starvation and death? What is remarkable to me is that I would not be alive today if it were not for my father's mystery saviour, as I am the son of one of the fortunate 669 children who was on those trains.

- **SAND & FIRE** (DUBAI/ MALI) - Focusing on the Bedouin, 4x4 sand dune driving, and desert walking

- **BLOWING GLASS** (MALTA) - Focusing on the Phoenician art of Glass blowing still practiced in Malta and Italy.

- **JAGUAR PEOPLE** (BRAZIL)

set in the rainforests of the Brazilian Amazon, examining the culture and identity of the recently contacted Arara Indians who practiced cannibalism, living in total isolation from the outside world, until their dramatic contact.

- **MAO TSE TUNG Saviour or Murderer of the Chinese people** - (CHINA)

A historical article examining the legacy of Mao, his economy masterplan and vision for a new China which was responsible for turning China into the superpower it is today. How power may have affected his consideration for the people he represented,

Mao as initially a saviour to China and its people from the oppression and exploitation of the Kuomintang, whilst he was also responsible for causing the greatest genocide in human history of some 26 million!

- **VOODOO's SPIRITUAL WORLD** - (BENIN/ TOGO/ GHANA/ HAITI/ NEW ORLEANS)

- **THE GREAT BARRIER REEF UNDERWATER WORLD** (AUSTRALIA)

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest structure in the World, covering an area bigger than Great Britain made up entirely of living organisms. The article explore the myriad of creatures inhabiting the World's largest reef.

- **UNDERGROUND PEOPLE - LIVING UNDERGROUND** (AUSTRALIA)

The story explores the mole like lives of the 2500 Opal miners who live underground in the harsh desert landscape. Due to the extremes of weather ranging from minus 20oc in winter to +45oc in summer man of the inhabitants have become troglodytes. Discovered in 1915, the town accounts for 80% of the World's opal.

- **SECRET NUCLEAR ISLAND - Britain's Weapons of Mass Destruction testing site.**

In the heart of Suffolk in the British countryside, lies a beautiful nature reserve, but this innocent looking 16 km island, hides a dark secret. It was developed as a testing ground for Nuclear bombs. The spectre of the Cold War hangs over what was Britain's most secret Island.

- **THE WORLD ON YOUR HEAD** - (WEST AFRICA) - **REX**

Children in Africa are taught from an early age to make use of their heads.. At age 3 they carry their schoolbooks and their food, and very soon they will partake in the daily chores of carrying heavy loads of 20kg water. As they say in drought-ridden Africa, "L'eau c'est la vie" This article explores the necessity in Africa of carrying heavy loads of all shapes and sizes on their heads.

FUTURE FEATURE ARTICLES - Available soon OR on request :

- **THE LIVING DEAD** - (*Pilgrimage series*) (HAITI)

focusing on the global expansion of Voodoo a 5,000 yr old religion

From its roots in Benin in deepest West Africa, The feature focuses on the changes that occurred when Voodoo practitioners were deported as slaves to *Haiti*. In order to survive the slaves were forced to develop the "dark" side of Voodoo. The revolution against slavery and the violent treatment by the French was lead by a voodoo priest Makandal who it was estimated to have caused the poisonings of 6,000 French. With secret societies involved in witchcraft, sorcery, drugging and poisonings, including zombification. The feature has secured unique access to supreme Voodoo chief of Haiti; a real life zombie declared dead many yrs ago and annual voodoo ceremonies

- **PEACE UNDER SIEGE** - (ISRAEL/ PALESTINE)

The feature focuses on the day to day lives of the Palestinians during the recent Israeli military incursions examining the economic stranglehold through the state of closure placed on the Palestinians, the demolitions, the human rights abuse. Illegal Israeli settlements and demolition of Palestinian land,

- **TIBET's FORGOTTEN WORLD** - (TIBET/ CHINA)

Tibet has long been regarded as the *Roof of the World*, due to its high altitude on a plateau at some 15,000 feet. It is a vast and diverse country, which encompasses the Himalayan range and its mighty Mount Everest. For centuries, Tibet and its culture has remained staunchly isolated from the rest of the world. This article explores the culture and history of Tibet and its people.

- **LIVING WITH BORNEO HEADHUNTERS** - (Borneo/ INDONESIA) - Focuses on a solo Trans-Borneo

Expedition through 1400km of unchartered rainforests and rivers from West to East. Living with varied and often hostile Dayak tribes renowned for cutting the heads of their enemies including the Japanese invaders in WW2 who were unable to cross the dense inhospitable jungle. The jungle resembling a thorny bush was so dense that rock climbing the edge of the rapids proved easier. Covered in blood from carrying around 30 leeches in every part of his body, overcoming two malarias, hookworm, and hostile tribes proved no mean feat. Not helped by being declared presumed dead by missionaries.

- **RED DEVILS IN GREEN HELL** - (BELIZE)

A self-sufficient film crew will accompany a British Parachute Regiment's expedition to cross Panama from East to West from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. An elite core of tough, die-hard paratroopers known as the "Red Devils" will plunge into the tropical depths of Panama's green hell. Hacking their way foot by foot through the stifling, near impenetrable jungle. The team will attempt to retrace an epic 1517 crossing by a vicious Spanish conquistador = Balboa who was accompanied by 190 soldiers, 800 Indians and a pack of fierce war dogs. The seemingly impossible journey through the 180km jungle resulted in the death of many of Balboa's men with only 67 succeeding the crossing.

- **WORLD ARCHITECTURE** - Sacred Spaces - From Stonehenge, and Chipaya mud huts, to Ethiopia's great monolith churches, the Pyramids, Iran's mud city Argh e Bam, Borneo longhouses to Yemen's amazing towerhouses.

- **WILD BOAR INVASION** - (UK/Germany/ France)

focusing on the re-emergence of the Wild boar in England after being extinct for 500 years. Freed from farms by Animal rights activists, the boars have thrived in the English countryside, on the edge of extinction again as controversy and fear surrounds these dangerous mythical animals. The feature explores the strange equilibrium reached in France where the noble boar is revered yet hunted. In Berlin there are 7,000 wild boars seem to co-exist in reasonable harmony with the population of 3 1/2 million Berliners.

There are testimonies of victims of wild boar attacks, and the unusual of situation where a Sow gives birth and brings up her piglets in a busy city square, frequently visiting the local supermarket and making friends with the local schoolchildren. The feature covers the annual culling of the boar by the foresters to keep the numbers manageable.

- **DEATH & GLORY RUNNING WITH THE BULLS** - (SPAIN)

The feature focuses on Spain's notorious Bull run consisting of 800 meters of fear. Following the invasion of some 3,000 Australasian who run riot in the streets of Pamplona. Their drunken rampage breeds both contempt and admiration in the hearts of the Spanish who enjoy the spectacle of foreigners running with killer bulls on the mere strength of their liquid courage. Every day, the run claims new victims who are gored or trampled over by the bulls.

- **IRAN UNDERCOVER** - (iran/ Turkey/UK) working undercover in Iran for 5 weeks..(will be anonymous) The feature article focuses on the underground student movement fighting for reforms following the Islamic Revolution, which they help create. The film also investigates the death under torture of a Canadian journalist.

- **CONQUERING THE MOUNTAIN OF FIRE** - (CHILE)

follows a British Mountaineering Expedition on its journey to the remote Atacama desert to climb the World's highest active volcano (20,000 ft). It is a story of human challenge and exploration for the military survey team. Without oxygen and in sub-zero temperatures, altitude sickness and frostbite take their toll on the team of 16, which is reduced to 3 who make the final summit.

- **LIVING WITH CANNIBALS** of the Mek people (WEST PAPUA/ INDONESIA)

focusing on the rites of passage rituals of the Mek people. Living an isolated existence from the outside world in the steep mountains of the highlands. The film follows the patriarch of the group and his special relationship with the children to be initiated. A dignified warrior who has been shot by arrows and was previously a cannibal.

FUTURE FEATURE ARTICLES (PHOTOGRAPHY DONE) on request :

- **DISSAPPEARING DOLPHINS** - or **THE LAST MEKONG DOLPHINS** - The last 80 or so river dolphins in the Mekong River are at the heart of an ambitious development programme to tackle poverty and attract tens of thousands of visitors to two of the poorest provinces of Cambodia.

- **AFGHANISTAN's JIHAD** - (AFGHANISTAN)

-SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN MARDI GRAS - (AUSTRALIA)

- MAASAI WARRIORS - (KENYA)

- ETHIOPIA's STICKFIGHTERS - (ETHIOPIA) *Mursi and Hamer People*

- TUAREG DESERT NOMADS - (*see Bedu article*) (MALI/ BURKINA FASO)

- STONEHENGE SUMMER SOLSTICE

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS:

- "Tribal faces" (lip-plate people long necked etc) eg: Ethiopia,
- "Cuba Libre" (Che Guevara- cars) - Needs editing down
- "Red Universe" - Images of Red from all over the world
- "Conflicts" or "Turmoil" covering eg: Sudan, Afghanistan,
- "Africa - faces" - only africa
- "A celebration of the Body" Nudes (projections on bodies) - Confidential special selection needs to be made.
- Underwater World
- "Blue World" - Chefchaouen (Morocco) and Sidi Bou Said (Tunisia) - Blue Worlds.
- "Jaws" Crocodiles
- "Hands" Close up of hands from all over the world, from statues, humans, animals.
- Yemen
- **World Architecture** - From Stonehenge, and Chipaya mud huts , to Ethiopia's great monolith churches, the Pyramids, Iran's mud city Argh e Bam, Borneo longhouses to Yemen's amazing towerhouses.
- "Wild & Free" - Wildlife from around the world

- TIBET FORGOTTEN WORLD - Tibet history, politics, people, culture. (Have exhibition and powerpoint of exhibition) - Press ect. - Exhibition at the prestigious *Royal Geographic Society* May 2008 to coincide with the Dalai Lama's Talk at the Royal Albert Hall.

- SUDAN SLAVE TRADE - Slavery, the SPLA etc...

- ICA (Institute of Contemporary Art), London 91
- Edinburgh Festival 88
- Venice Biennale 89
- Royal Academy (Tibet) 1992
- Wembley Conference Centre, Dalai Lama visit 1993
- Tibet Society, London 1999

- Salsburg Academy 81
- Covent Garden, 93
- Brighton 93
- Cambridge University (Tibet) 1993
- Kent Ethnographic Festival

LECTURES:

- *Problems of film-making in Southern Sudan* - Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford
- *Filming Rainforest People* - Royal Anthropological Institute - International Festival of Ethnographic Film, University of Kent
- *Jaguar People + Path to Manhood* - Ethnographic Film Society , Oxford University

EXPEDITIONS:

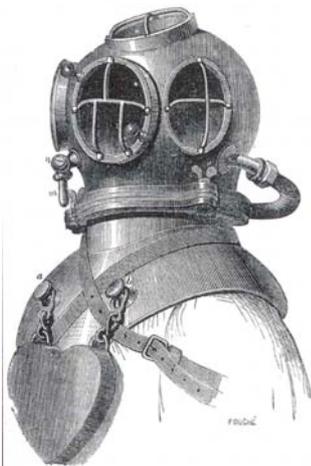
- **TransBorneo Expedition** .Solo expedition across *Borneo/ Kalimantan* (Indonesia) through 1400km of unchartered rainforests and rivers from West to East.
- Expedition to Baliem Valley and Dani people of *Irian Jaya*.
- Expedition (solo) down the Sepik river from near its source on the Irian Jaya border of *Papua New Guinea*
- Filming Expedition to Xingu Basin, Brazilian Amazon. To make anthropological documentary on the Arara Indians. First film since contact. *Brazil*.

Caving expeditions (Member of Chelsea Spelaeological Society), *UK, Belgium, Australia*.

- **Archeological Excavations** City of David, Jerusalem, & Gamala, Golan Heights, *Israel*
- **British Atacama Mountaineering Expedition** - Andes, *Chile* - Military Survey Expedition to climb and survey one of the World's highest active volcanoes: "Mount Copiapo" (20,000 ft) Summit team member.

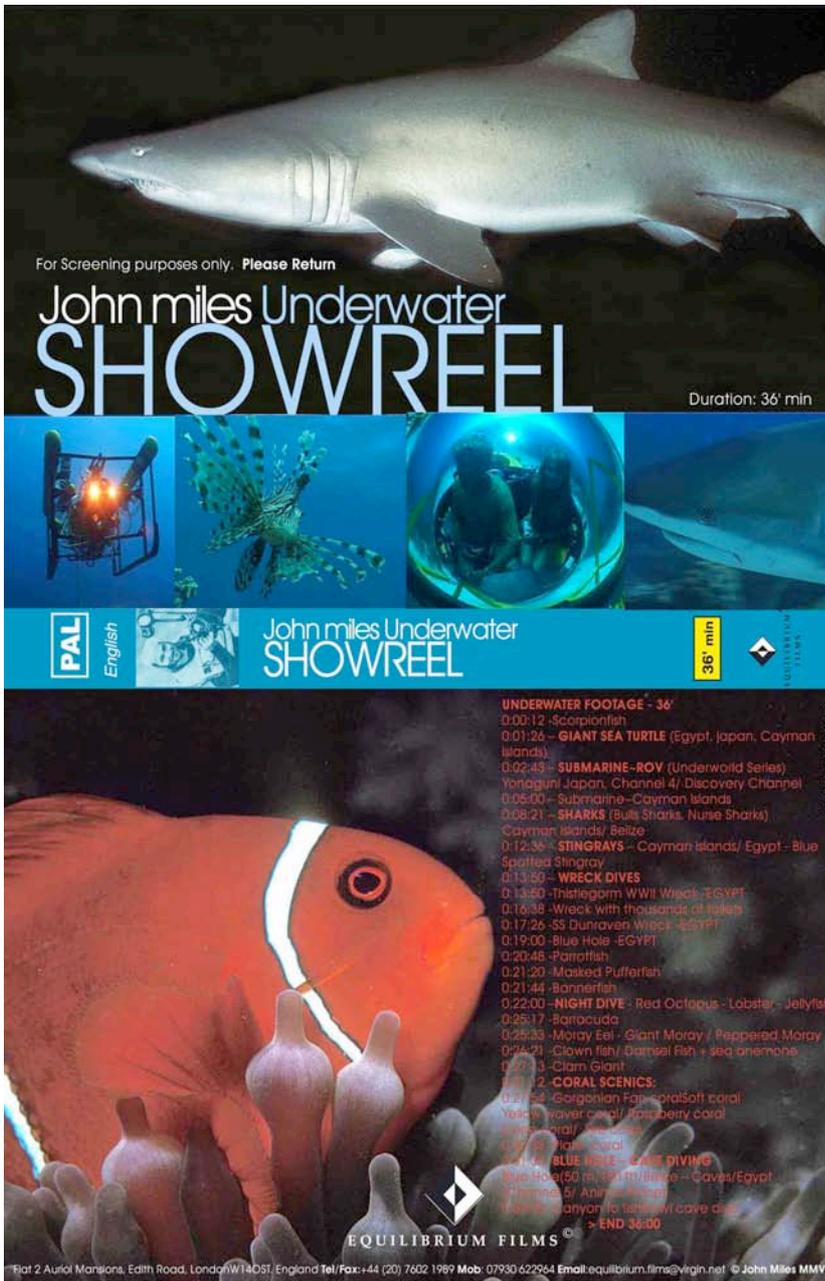


• **Photographer** photographer whose work has been widely published (*The Times, Sunday Times, New York Times, Channel Four, BBC, Vogue, Elle, Sunday Telegraph, The Guardian, Daily Mail, New Scientist*) also does photography for *Royal Geographical Society*. Studied photojournalism at Salzburg Academy under Magnum photographer Eric Lessing. His international portfolio covers a broad range including some of the world's most remote and threatened *peoples, travel* and *underwater* photography as well as *development, environment, and humanitarian* issues: (*UNDP, FAO, Survival International, Tibet Support Group, Help Tibet, TVE, Red Cross UNESCO, ODA*) . **Exhibitions** (Royal Geographical Society, Royal Academy, ICA, Cambridge, Venice Biennale) both in the UK and abroad.



• **Underwater Photographer/ Cameraman**

Qualified underwater cameraman and underwater stills photographer of 16 years standing. HSE approved for underwater filming and live performances. and trained to **BSAC Advanced level** (equivalent to above **Padi Divemaster**) - International Standard: **CMAS 3 star Rated** - **Padi Nitrox Diver**



• **Editing Facilities** - Equilibrium has a State of the Art fully dedicated ON-Line Non-Linear editing facilities.

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 ✉: FacesandPlacesPix@gmail.com
 Web: www.equilibriumfilms.com > FILMS - Biography
 Web: www.facesandplacespix.com > PHOTO LIBRARY

Place of Birth : Geneva, Switzerland
Nationality : British

Camera skills : Hi Definition (full), Xdcam. HDV, Digibeta, Beta, DVCam, DV, All formats all cameras including specialist, Underwater Camera, Covert Camera.. Extensive equipment for rental.

Languages : **French** (Bilingual) , **Spanish** (Basic), **Arabic** (V.Basic)

For Expeditions : Blood Type: B Positive -

INTERESTS - MEMBERSHIPS :

• Photography, travelling, martial arts (Karate , Wing Chung, Jiu-Jitsu, Nin-Jitsu Iaido), skiing, walking, caving, climbing, mountaineering, scuba diving.

• Amnesty International.

PRESS ACCREDITATION

• **NUJ Member** (National Union of Journalists)

• **BECTU Member** (Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph & Theatre Union)

• **Director's Guild of Great Britain Member**

• **PACT Member** (Producers Alliance for Cinema & Television)

• **FRGS - Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society**

• **Mountaineering - BMC** (British Mountaineering Council) Member

• **Caving - CSS - Chelsea Spelaeological Society** (caving) member

• **Kayaking - Chiswick Pier Canoe Club** - member (2 star qualified)

Did the London Kayakathon Kayaking 26.2 miles 22 April 2012

• **Scuba Diving** - World underwater federation (CMAS) 3 star qualified

• **BSAC** (British Sub Aqua Club) - **Advanced level** (equivalent to **Padi Divemaster**)

• **Padi Nitrox Diver**

• **BSoUP** (British Society of Underwater Photographers) Member

ONLINE: LINKS

PHOTOGRAPHY: www.facesandplacespix.com

FILMS:

BAREFOOT AMONGST TAMIL TIGER

http://www.tvfinternational.com/index.cgi?program_id=244&page=catalogue_details&highlight=336DAF

YEMEN'S CULTURAL DRUGS

http://www.tvfinternational.com/index.cgi?page=category_list&category=search&query=yemen&go.x=0&go.y=0

CONQUERING MOUNTAIN OF FIRE

http://www.tvfinternational.com/index.cgi?page=category_list&category=search&query=conquering&go.x=0&go.y=0

DEATH & GLORY

http://www.tvfinternational.com/index.cgi?page=category_list&category=search&query=running+with+bulls&go.x=0&go.y=0

PATH TO MANHOOD : The Mek, Papua New Guinea- Tribal Odyssey series

<http://www.natgeotv-int.com/pages/newprogrammes>

PEACE UNDER SIEGE

<http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/video/204isrp/siege.htm>

TRIBE THAT TIME FORGOT (NY times review)

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=990CE7D8133BF930A35752C0A963958260&sec=&pagewanted=print>

IRAN UNDERCOVER

<http://www.hardcashproductions.com/recent14.html>

http://www.channel4.com/news/2003/12/week_1/02_iran.html

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/iran/>

Some of these have been downloaded as PDF's as may with time be discontinued on web.

COUNTRIES WORKED IN + VISITED – 89 (Sept 11)

AFRICA – Benin – Burkina Faso - Egypt – Eritrea – Ethiopia – Ghana – Kenya - Mali - Mauritania - Morocco – Senegal – South Africa - Sudan – Togo - Tunisia

ASIA – Afghanistan – India – Nepal – Pakistan - Sri Lanka - Ukraine

SOUTH EAST ASIA – Burma/ Myanmar – Cambodia - Indonesia (Borneo/ Irian Jaya) – Laos - Malaysia – Singapore – Thailand –Vietnam - **MIDDLE EAST** – Dubai – Jordan –

Lebanon – Oman – Syria – Turkey - UAE (Fujairah) – Israel Iran -Yemen **FAR EAST** –

China – Tibet – Japan **AUSTRALASIA** – Australia – Papua New Guinea – Fiji – Tonga

SOUTH AMERICA – Bolivia – Brazil – Chile – Peru **NORTH AMERICA** – Canada – US

CENTRAL AMERICA – Belize – Mexico – Cayman Islands - Cuba - Haiti

EUROPE - Austria - Belgium – Denmark - France – Germany – Greece – Great Britain Italy – Luxembourg – Malta - Netherlands – Portugal - Sweden - Spain – Switzerland

EASTERN EUROPE – Albania – Bulgaria – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia - Czech Republic – Hungary – Latvia – Kosovo - Macedonia – Montenegro – Poland – Russia - Romania – Slovenia – Serbia –Iceland

CONFLICT/ WAR ZONES WORKED IN + VISITED

AFGHANISTAN – ISRAEL/ PALESTINE – BURMA/ MYANMAR – SUDAN - SRI LANKA

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY –

AFRICA - Egypt – Eritrea

ASIA - Sri Lanka -

SOUTH EAST ASIA – Burma/ Myanmar - Indonesia (Borneo/ Irian Jaya) - Malaysia – Singapore – Thailand

MIDDLE EAST – Jordan – Turkey - UAE (Fujairah) – Israel -Yemen

FAR EAST – China – Tibet – Japan

AUSTRALASIA – Australia – Papua New Guinea – Fiji – Tonga

CENTRAL AMERICA – Belize – Mexico – Cayman Islands - Cuba

SOUTH AMERICA (Easter Island /Polynesia)

EUROPE - France – Great Britain – Greece – Malta

EASTERN EUROPE – Croatia