



JESSICA BURGESS

DOCUMENTARY DIRECTOR
SENIOR PRODUCER
DEVELOPMENT PRODUCER

07805175403 | jessica.s.burgess@gmail.com | www.jessicaburgess.com

An experienced and versatile Emmy nominated documentary filmmaker working on premium documentary content for the global market. Driven by a genuine passion for documentaries, I approach every production with enthusiasm, empathy, and integrity.

Adaptable professional with a broad skillset: I often work from development, throughout production and into final post. I excel at gaining tricky access and uncovering unseen archive to land commissions, directing sensitive contributors in challenging circumstances and crafting authentic narratives which resonate with broad audiences.

Hardworking, dependable, and highly collaborative, with strong storytelling skills and a solutions-focused mindset, I balance editorial ambition with practical delivery. Confident leading teams and communicating effectively with contributors, senior stakeholders, and production teams alike, I ensure clarity, cohesion, and momentum at every stage of a project.

EDIT DIRECTOR - SANDPAPER FILMS – TBA - NETFLIX 3 x 48' Limited Series - July '25 – current

Premium series examining the Karen Read case in the USA: exploring conspiracy, corruption, witness harassment, social media influence, and the justice system.

- Ownership of Episode 3 of this unfolding story, driven by archival trial footage, social media UGC, interviews, and drama reconstruction.
- Leading episode structure and scripting, collaborating with the editorial team, managing workflow, directing pick up interviews, supporting ongoing filming, drama recon and fact checking/compliance process.
- Liaising with external suppliers – composers/ gfx teams to ensure project deadlines met
- Also working from Fine Cut to Final Post of Ep 1 and managing 2 edits/editors simultaneously

DEVELOPMENT PRODUCER – RAW – TBA - NETFLIX 90' feature doc – April - July '25

- Gained difficult, exclusive access to those connected to a US murder case and unseen archive (securing the green light of premium feature doc)
- Conducted recce trip, got contracts signed, wrote beat sheets and editorial documents (handover for director)

DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER / EDIT- SANDPAPER FILMS – [A DEADLY AMERICAN MARRIAGE](#) - NETFLIX, 105' FEATURE – Jan '22 – Feb '25 (inc. production pauses)

Filmed over 3 years, this premium feature doc follows a complex 8-year Irish-American criminal case, with access to all sides – including the victim's family (inc. minors), investigators, prosecutors, the two defendants, and their legal teams.

- Sole director of key interviews with both defendants, Molly and Tom, filmed post-release during the edit, requiring major editorial restructure
- Sole director for a detailed visuals shoot at October Studios
- Co. Director alongside Jenny Popplewell working from development, securing difficult access and managing sensitive relationships, leading to the project's greenlight
- Produced multiple shoots across Ireland and the USA (interview, actuality, observational)
- Shaped film structure; wrote beat sheets, shooting/edit scripts
- Managed large volumes of personal archive; led archive team
- Led creative with composer and GFX team
- Collaborated closely with Netflix commissioners to deliver a client-approved final product.
- Oversaw complex compliance process, corroborating sensitive claims with journalistic rigor
- Managed legal, compliance, and duty of care issues alongside counsel
- Extensively involved in post: offline, online, grade, mix, and release

NOMINATED: Emmy News and Documentary Awards 2026 (Outstanding Crime and Justice Documentary)

SHORTLISTED: True Crime Awards 2026 (Outstanding documentary film - Digital)

LOGLISTED: Grierson Awards 2025 (Crime and Justice category)



DEVELOPMENT PRODUCER - SANDPAPER FILMS – NETFLIX 90' feature doc - May- June '23

Developed the story on a feature doc about Prince Andrew involving money corruption and sex scandals. I built relationships, gained tricky access, and wrote the first version of a deck for Netflix (securing further development time and funding).

EDIT PRODUCER – BOX TO BOX FILMS – MAKING WAVES – CORPORATE 90' FEATURE Aug '23- Oct 23

An observational sports feature on surf champ Kelly Slater and his company KSWC Engineering, building the world's largest man-made wave in Abu Dhabi.

-I shaped the unfolding story into a dramatic rough cut, distilling a vast volume of rushes into a clear narrative arc.

PRODUCER/ DIRECTOR/ EDIT (+ SERIES DEVELOPMENT) – RAW – 'Rich & Shameless S2' TNT/ HBO Max, 2 x 42' docs – July '22– March '23

Film 1: **'RODMAN'S STOLEN MILLIONS'**

Film 5: **'SAINTS OR SINNERS? AN NFL SCANDAL'**

Developed retrospective films for a top-rated sports scandal anthology series, managing story teams, liaising with talent agents, working with talent, negotiating contracts, securing access, and writing story decks

Directed Films 1 & 5: Wrote beat sheets, scripts, and directed interviews/actuality.

Film 1: Archive led documentary focused on Dennis Rodman's vulnerability to fraud by advisor Peggy Fulford, shaped by his upbringing. I interviewed Peggy, her son, victims, families, and high-profile sports figures. Overcame licensing challenges by Fair Using all sports archive in edit.

Film 5: Covered the 2010 NFL 'Bountygate' scandal involving the New Orleans Saints. I interviewed Super Bowl winner Anthony Hargrove, who felt scapegoated, and others, exploring post-Katrina success, NFL culture, and concussion issues.

EDIT DIRECTOR -RAW– 'Rich & Shameless S1', TNT/ HBO Max, 90' FEATURE: 'GIRLS GONE WILD: Joe Francis Exposed', Oct '21 – Jan '22

A feature length exposé featuring unseen archive and interviewees who had never spoken before about the abuse they suffered by Joe Francis (producer of porn franchise, Girls Gone Wild) accused of rape, abuse, fraud and domestic abuse.

-I worked in the edit to script and shape the story, address editorial, archive and legal notes and set the style of the graphics.

-I directed a key celebrity interview about pop culture and misogyny in the early 2000's.

EDIT DIRECTOR -RAW – 'Rich & Shameless S1', TNT/ HBO Max, 1 x 42' 'NYGARD: The Unseen Tapes': Jun – Oct 2021

An unfolding story of a fashion mogul, Peter Nygard, who wanted to make himself immortal using the latest stem cell science, but who was accused of abusing many women on his own private island in the Bahamas during his quest for immortality.

-The film combined exclusive observational archive shot by Nygard's personal videographer alongside an interview with the same videographer (who I gained access to in development). This was combined with an exclusive interview with a survivor of Nygard's abuse and others connected to the story.

-I directed several interviews throughout the edit and B-Roll shoots

-There was a challenging volume of complex scientific obs doc footage to digest but I managed to write a story which simplified the subject matter and found a story arc.

STORY PRODUCER/ PRODUCER (+SERIES DEVELOPMENT) - RAW - 'Rich & Shameless S1' Sep'20-Jun '21

-Quadriga/ Crypto currency: **'The Mysterious Disappearance of a Bitcoin Millionaire'**

-Clare Bronfman/ NXIM cult: **'The Heiress and the Sex Cult'**

-NBA sports true crime mystery: **'Where did NBA Star Brian Williams go?'**

-Peter Nygard/ sexual abuse exposé: **'Nygard: The Unseen Tapes'**

Worked from initial development to find stories for the 10-part series, finding, writing up and pitching stories for the client (TNT). Produced 4 complex films for the series on diverse subject matter – involving both sensitive access and celebrity interviews.

NOMINATED: Critics Choice Award (Best Crime/ Justice show)



PRODUCER/ DIRECTOR/ EDIT (+ SERIES DEVELOPMENT) - ARROW MEDIA – ‘American Monster’, Discovery ID, ‘Second Chance’ (S6 E2): March 2020 – Aug 2020

-From development to edit: Sourced archive, liaised with police dept's and courthouses for access, built relationships with victim's families and directed sensitive remote interviews.
-Scripted a victim-focused narrative, wrote voiceover for a US audience and crafted the film using home movie footage, drama reconstruction and police archive.

PRODUCER (POST) - MINDHOUSE – ‘The Wives’ – STARZ 3 x 50’– April - May '22

-Managed legals and archive notes on a premium series about a cult, The FLDS.

LOCATION PRODUCER - ARROW MEDIA – ‘American Monster’, Discovery ID Jan 2020 – March 2020. ‘My Body’ (S5 E6) and ‘Stay with Me’ (S5 E10)

ASSISTANT PRODUCER - ARROW MEDIA – Mind of a Monster: The Butcher Baker’ Discovery +/- Amazon Prime – 90’ FEATURE - Nov 2018 – Aug 2019

Secured exclusive archival audio, a survivor, and key detectives connected to the Robert Hansen case, and produced a month-long winter shoot in Alaska, combining interviews with actuality filming in remote wilderness locations.

SERIES ASSISTANT PRODUCER (+ DEVELOPMENT RESEARCHER) - SKY VISION – 10x50’ ‘I Am a Killer S1’ NETFLIX/ CRIME & INVESTIGATION 2017/2018

Developed the 10-part series: gaining access to Death Row inmates, police materials and maximum-security prisons for filming interviews. AP across the entire series until delivery - story assistance, access, fact checking and archive research/ deliverables.

STORY ASSISTANT PRODUCER - ITN PRODUCTIONS – 1 x 90’ ‘Catching a Serial Killer: Sam Little’, Oxygen Dec 2019 – Jan 2020

I gained key access including the survivor to the serial killer

SERIES ASSISTANT PRODUCER - ITN PRODUCTIONS – 10 x 45’ ‘New Scotland Yard Files’, CBS Reality, UK Sep 2019 – Dec 2019

-Talent-led 10-part fast-turnaround series working to a tight deadline to find, develop and film stories.
-Managing talent on location and conducting research interviews with journalists and detectives

SERIES ASSISTANT PRODUCER – ARROW – 10 x 45’ ‘Rescued’, National Geographic April 2019 – July 2019.

-Produced films around the world about dramatic rescues.

ASSISTANT PRODUCER - LIGHTBOX – 2 x 45’ ‘Till Death Do Us Part S1’, ‘Vows, Lies and Whispers’ (E7), ‘While You Were Sleeping’ (E5), Discovery ID, Sep – Nov 2018

ASSISTANT PRODUCER - WAG TV – 20 x 45’ (What On Earth S5), Science Channel Mar – Sep 2018

-Found science stories, wrote outlines and set up shoots

Prior to 2018:

In-house Development Researcher, Researcher, Archive Researcher, Runner and Logger (various freelance credits across Factual, Fact-Ent and Specialist Factual docs)

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

BA Drama (hons), 2.1

NFTS

Factual Development and Production Diploma

**GDPR: THIS CV MAY BE KEPT ON FILE FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES