

Simon Atkins - Director/Producer and Cameraman

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• *character stories* • *adventure programmes* • *global issues* • *observational documentary*

Award-winning documentary Director/Producer. Trained at the National Film and Television School, I have been working freelance for the last 12 years and am based in London. I specialise in strong characters, the drama of real-life stories and emotional impact. I usually shoot camera myself, bringing a strong and confident visual sense to my work, and am experienced in a wide range of formats from HiDef to DigiBeta to HDV.

Experience & Credits

UNsung HEROES

3 x 1minute, 2006

Jacaranda for Barclays Bank.

Stylish corporate pieces showcasing extraordinary staff in South Africa, Kenya and Ghana. Director and Camera

HARD ROCK

Everest West Ridge

Expedition

Daily Webcasts April 2006

PCI Fitch for the ARG and Bravo UK

Grand Prix award for Best Digital Campaign of 2006. Eight novice teenager climbers take on the challenge of a lifetime as they attempt to scale some of the toughest peaks in the shadow of Mt. Everest in the Himalayas. Director/Camera (HDV)

EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

1 hr, 2005

Princess Productions for Sky One

Adventure travel series with celebrities. Minnie Driver and her best friend Alexandra swim with humpback whales in the Kingdom of Tonga. Director/Camera (Z1 HDV)

LIVING WITH REFUGEES

1 hr, 2005

Insight News TV for CH4 DISPATCHES, Discovery Times, CNNI & CBC. •

Sorious Samura returns to Africa once again to uncover the realities of being one of Darfur's countless refugees on the Sudan-Chad border - Director/Producer

• **Emmy Award Nominee (Outstanding Investigative Journalism)** - "so different to see real people up close...I held back so many tears...it was truly a moving story" - (viewer feedback)

ONE LIFE

40 mins, 2004

Mentorn for BBC1. "Dying to Live". Observational documentary on family living with cancer requiring great sensitivity and maturity. Camera (DSR570)

• "An intensely moving and positive film about a family coping with dreadful misfortune." - *The Times*

GOING TO EXTREMES

1 hr, 2004

Ideal World Productions for Channel 4. Observational character doc crossing the Atlantic Ocean for 23 days on a small yacht. Camera-director. (PD170)

DEATH ON THE AMAZON

1 hr, 2003

Big Wave Productions for FIVE and National Geographic. • A powerful character story of a man passionate to 'make a difference'. America's Cup yachtsman Sir Peter Blake leads his team up the Amazon, culminating with his tragic murder at the hands of pirates. • Directed and filmed over 10 weeks.

• "Truly compulsive viewing" – *Daily Mail Pick of the Day* – "A powerful memorial to an exceptional man" – *The Times*

IS ANYONE LISTENING?

20 mins, 2001

Cicada Films for 'Save The Children', Producer Frances Berrigan • Northern Iraq - Kurdistan. Charity campaign prog. Kurdish children speak out. • Director/Camera

THE REAL MACAW

1 hr, 2001

Granada Wild for Channel 4, Executive Producer Peter Moore • Peru and Brazil. Innovative programme-making creatively combining a quirky biography with environmental issues and blue-chip natural history. • Director and Cameraman. (DigiBeta)

TWISTER TOURS

1 hr, 2001

National Geographic Channel • Actuality documentary with the tourists who chase tornados in mid-west USA. Fast-paced action filming. • Location Director and Cameraman.

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TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - Revenge Of The Lost Tribe
1 hr, 2000

Cicada Films for Channel 4, Producer Frances Berrigan • Ecuador. Observational adventure documentary with strong characters and narrative – a student expedition is attacked with spears by an Amazon tribe. • Co-Director and Cameraman.

- “Sharply observed and hugely amusing” - John Dugdale, *The Sunday Times*

BUYING BEAUTY
½ hr, 1999

Cafe Productions for Discovery and Geo/Arte • Ethiopian model agency looking for talent in remote villages • Cinematography. (Digital Betacam)

INVESTIGATING ASIA
½ hr, DV, 1998

Double Exposure for BBC Education • Indonesia/Borneo. Undercover investigation with moving human stories. • Director and Cameraman

SEVEN GO MAD IN PERU
1 hr, 16mm/Hi-8, 1996

Middlemarch Films for Channel 4 Encounters and Discovery Channel, Producer Belinda Allen • Fly-on-the-wall actuality documentary. Filmed over ten weeks in very hazardous conditions. Seven young Brits try to survive in the Amazon jungle • Cameraman, Peru - Director/Cameraman, UK

- “A gift of a film which charts the total breakdown of meaningful interaction between the seven intrepids” *Time Out*

OSAKA STORY
75 mins, 16mm, 1995

Fine Cut BBC 2, SBS (Australia), S3 (Germany) • Japan and Korea. Feature length observational documentary. A real life and intimate family drama requiring much tact and sensitivity • Associate Director and Cinematographer.

- **Winner of five major documentary Film Awards**
- “Engrossing...compelling...fascinating...its concerns and appeal are universal” *Geoff Andrew, Time Out*

PARKS OR PEOPLE?
40 mins, 16mm, 1992

Forest Films for SBS (Australia, Fragile Earth), BBC 2 Schools, TVE • Environmental programme independently produced on a tight budget. Five months in Cameroon • Producer/Director, Editor and Cameraman

- **Winner of BBC/WWF Golden Panda Newcomer Award At Wildscreen 1992.**

Other professional experience & skills

OPERATING IN EXTREME CONDITIONS: - Specialist skills in using filming equipment in adverse environments. Field laptop editing and satellite uplinks for webcast and broadcast. Technical skills - solar panels & generators.

TUTORING/LECTURING:– I teach documentary directing and camerawork with a focus on HDV directing and multi-skilling in small crews – courses at SOAS, Ravensbourne College of Art and private workshops.

MOUNTAINEERING: Rock and Ice Climber and Alpine Mountaineer – many years experience worldwide.

Training & qualifications

Working in Hostile Regions and First Aid for Media Workers AKE/CH4 (2 courses)

NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL - MA - postgraduate professional training over four years Documentary Director/Producer with Camera & Lighting training in film, Digi-Beta, and DV.

SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - MA degree - Natural Sciences - Class 2:1 Hons.

MEMBERSHIPS: GTC - BECTU

Personal details

Fit and immunised for world travel – UK & Australia passports (Work Permits in UK/EU, Australia, New Zealand) - EU Driving Licence (4WD experience) - References available.