

# John L Matthews

1 Mytholme House, High Street, Uppermill, Saddleworth OL3 6DA  
Telephone: mobile 00 44 [0] 7855 375 615 • office 0044 [0] 0161 234 0099  
e-mail: john@big-pic.co.uk

Media Professional, who started out as a print and radio journalist before going into TV. Produced and directed films for BBC, ITV, Discovery USA, Bravo [Virgin Media], released in many languages, and published three well-received books. Successful track record in creating online and promotional films and content for and with Lewis Hamilton MBE, Goodyear, Dunlop, Jaguar Cars, and The British Council, etc. Recently set up an online TV channel *Speed On A Shoestring* for motorcyclists using off the shelf platforms Facebook and Wordpress, raising finance via crowd funding and promoting via traditional and social media. Working in the notoriously rapidly changing environment of broadcasting and TV as a true independent for 20 years has necessitated the development of a very positive and flexible attitude and versatile style.

## Key skills

### Creative

- Successful films evidence motivation, passion, determination and commitment - *Deadliest Crash* took three years to pull off with virtually no support; it almost won the Grierson's. Additionally, work has been BAFTA longlisted, and have won several awards at Milan FICTS International
- Expert in single camera directing and use of micro cams on fast moving vehicles
- Excellent track record in commercial film direction and production – from initial concepts through brainstorming to planning and delivery. As development producer at Noel Edmond's production company and also RDF, was trained in how to develop fresh and original ideas. Have also taught this process.
- Set up a well-received, creative thinking and writing course entirely on my own initiative. Developed through coaching private individuals in business - it was successful, so rolled it out to the public.

### People

- Strong interpersonal skills, and practical and approachable approach have been an asset in teamwork, and in consistently building positive working relationships with colleagues, clients and stakeholders.
- Developed many industry contacts in traditional and new media, e.g. the BBC, ITV, Discovery, Dave and Channel 4 and in film companies and TV production houses.
- Competent in interviewing sensitive subjects on camera
- A trained and effective coach and teacher (writing, media, skiing etc)
- An effective networker, who fully understands the importance of partnerships, both internal and external, and on the international stage; have many industry contacts in traditional and new media, e.g. the BBC, ITV, Discovery, Dave and Channel 4 and have strong contacts in film companies and TV production houses.

## Communication

- Written and oral communication skills are highly developed. Have written ten films, dozens of broadcast shows and have also produced three books - currently on my fourth.
- A genuine film-maker, broadcast producer and expert story teller, with high level skills, and an excellent editor, with demonstrated evidence of conveying and understanding clear messages
- Successfully wrote for print media such as *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Express*, *Sabotage Times*
- Languages - English [mother tongue] and French – high standard [lived in France 2 years]
- Lectured part-time in film making and TV at St John's College, York, and Warrington Collegiate [now Chester University].

## Influencing and leadership

- A natural leader, have been managing, motivating, nurturing, supporting and developing people of all ages and levels since started own business aged 18 years.
- Have worked well in, and built, cohesive and competent teams, but also used to and comfortable working alone. Liaised effectively with different agencies and suppliers for such things as post production, graphics and animation.
- Have worked in large studios at Granada TV and also in small teams in third world countries and am equally happy in both environments.
- Constantly working to tight schedules, in unknown territory, handle change and crises calmly, rising to the challenge and finding innovative solutions.

## Commercial awareness

- Have been running a successful, international business for many years, during times of immense change in what has been a TV and film revolution.
- Used to working on minimal funding, squeezing every penny out of every opportunity.
- Recognise the importance of efficient operations, fund-raising, budgeting and financial management, as well as compelling selling, networking, marketing and promotion of ideas and products.

## Organisational

- Having made many films based all over the world, extremely well organised and used to monitoring the supply chain, planning complex schedules and logistics, often to very tight deadlines.
- All media content has been made and distributed abroad. Travel extensively and work across boundaries and cultures.

## Analytical

- Many films, books and projects have involved substantial research; I am able to acquire, analyse and collate large amounts of data and to package and present this in a novel and engaging format

## Career History

2003–present Executive Producer, Director, Bigger Picture [projects] Ltd; Founded the company, originally a DVD production and publication house moving into international broadcast, feature film development and recently book publishing and licensing

2002 Lecturer Film, p/t, York St John University College, York

2002 Associate Producer Chameleon TV – Channel 4 *Ken Dodd* film

2001–2002 Producer/Development Producer, Unique Group – ITV *HSE series*

1996–2000 Associate Producer Steve Boulton Productions – Channel 4 *Dispatches*  
Researcher/Producer Granada TV – BBC 2 *What the Papers Say*, BBC 2 *University Challenge*  
Researcher, Barraclough Carey – BBC 2 *Pound for Pound*  
Lecturer Film, p/t, Warrington Collegiate  
Researcher BBC Radio Leeds, BBC Radio Manchester

## Education

March 2016 AET Teaching /Coaching Qualification

2011 Directing Film – Drama, National Film and TV School, Beaconsfield

1993–1996 BA [Hons.] Film, Drama, TV & Literature 2.1 University College Ripon and York St John

University of St Etienne – Erasmus Exchange

1991–1992 BA [Hons.] English, Durham University

## Filmography Etc

Feature film projects x 2 current, BBC Films, co-pro with Baby Cow

### Productions

*Madness on Wheels* – the book

*Grand Prix: The Killer Years* – the book

### PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

*Speed On A Shoestring* TV Channel

*Joey – the Man Who Conquered the TT* – ITV

*Deadliest Crash – the 1955 Le Mans Disaster* – BBC

*Grand Prix: The Killer Years* – BBC, Discovery USA and 32 countries

*Madness on Wheels* – BBC, Discovery USA and worldwide

*Madness in the Desert* – BBC, Discovery USA and worldwide

*Le Mans – Chasing the Dream, Le Mans – In the Lap*

*of the Gods* – Bravo [Virgin Media]

*Grand Tour Europe, On the Limit, Extreme Driving*

## Key Interviews

Initiated meetings with and interviewed Sir Jackie Stewart, Sir Mark Thatcher and Jean Todt, President FIA.

Worked with 7 World Champions including Lewis Hamilton MBE.

## Some Press Comments On John's Work

'Brilliant. Essential viewing.' Chris Knapman, *Daily Telegraph*

'Brilliant, Dramatic, Unmissable.' Neil Clark, *Daily Express*

'A startling documentary \*\*\*\*.' *Daily Mail*

'An illuminating, moving film.' *The Observer*

'Terrific.' *The Guardian*

'Engrossing. Beautifully assembled . . . elegiac and shocking.'

Geoff Ellis, *Radio Times*

'A documentary that will shock Lewis Hamilton to his very core.' *Time Out*

'A sobering, shocking documentary.' *Daily Telegraph*

'Exemplary documentary.' *Radio Times*

'Brilliant story brilliantly told.' Jim White, *Daily Telegraph*

'Utterly, awesomely mental.' *Top Gear*

'Pick of the Day \*\*\*\*.' *Daily Mail*

'Pick of the Day.' *The Times*

'Pick of the Day.' *The Guardian*

*Typical broadcast comment, from Head of BBC 1*

'A great film . . . a riveting watch, beautifully crafted and compelling storytelling.'

Charlotte Moore

*Comment from one of John's students*

'Thank you for all the inspiration and guidance . . . when I said you were

'motivational' you are up there with Colonel Parker getting people moving.'

Mark Vernon

*Comment from a peer*

'John is a highly talented individual, using his observational skills and humour in many ways, be it in film, sketch or rhyme.'

Margarita Martyniuk