



STUART URBAN

Agent: [Conrad Williams](#)

Biography: Stuart is an award-winning writer, director and executive producer who has worked across both film and TV for more than thirty years.

After honing his craft working on long-running series THE BILL and BERGERAC, Stuart won the BAFTA Award for Best Single Drama in 1993 for his Falklands War drama AN UNGENTLEMANLY ACT. He would follow this up in 1996 with a second BAFTA Award for Best Drama Serial, for his directorial work on the BBC's seminal series OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH.

His theatrical writer/director credits include PREACHING TO THE PERVERTED, REVELATION and MAY I KILL U? He is also a celebrated documentary maker with the BIFA-nominated TOVARISCH, I AM NOT DEAD telling the story of his own father's escape from both the Russian Gulags and his family's fate in the Holocaust and the recent Sky crime documentary THE MYSTERY OF SUZY LAMPLUGH.

In 2016, Stuart wrote and was executive producer on the critically acclaimed true crime miniseries THE SECRET starring James Nesbitt and Genevieve O'Reilly, produced by Hat Trick Productions for ITV. The series was nominated for a BAFTA and a Royal Television Society award. When it appeared on Netflix in 2022, it was in the Top Ten charts in the UK for weeks.

In 2021, Stuart wrote and directed A BALL IN THE BRAIN, a 4-part Drama Podcast based on the true story of a lone British general, besieged in his palace by an Islamist army in 1884. Produced by The Script Department, the podcast was read by actor Pip Torrens and was part of a major Screen International feature. The same year, Stuart produced and directed a two-part True Crime documentary series for Sky TV called THE MYSTERY OF SUZY LAMPLUGH, which was met with critical acclaim.

Stuart has several writing projects in active development. He is also set to direct a 6 x 1 hour thriller series, ENDANGERED, for Forlan Films/ M-net. The series is adapted from the novel by Rudi van Rensberg by Jake Riddell and will commence production in South Africa in 2024.

NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

THE SECRET

BAFTA: Nomination, Best Miniseries, 2017



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ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY: Winner, Best Drama, Northern Ireland
BROADCAST AWARDS: Nomination, Best Drama Series/Serial

MAY I KILL U?

MELIÈS D'ARGENT: Winner, European Competition, Brussels Fantasy Film Festival, 2013

TOVARISCH, I AM NOT DEAD

BRITISH INDEPENDENT FILM AWARDS – Nomination, Raindance Award, 2008

GRIERSON AWARDS: Nomination, Best Feature Documentary

NEW YORK TV FESTIVAL: Silver Medal, Biography

BIOGRAFILM Bologna, Italy: Winner, Best Film

DEADLY VOYAGE

MONTE CARLO TV FESTIVAL: Winner, Silver Nymph - Best Screenplay, 1997

NAACP Image Awards USA, Nomination, Best TV Movie

OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH

BAFTA: Winner, Best Drama Serial, 1996

ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY: Winner, Best Drama Series/Serial

BROADCASTING PRESS GUILD: Winner, Best Drama Serial

AN UNGENTLEMANLY ACT

BAFTA: Winner, Best Single Drama, 1993

ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY: Nomination, Best Single Drama

NEW YORK TV FESTIVAL: Silver Medal, Writing

CHICAGO FILM & TV FESTIVAL: Gold, TV & Movie Directing, Silver, Writing

Directors: Isobel Dixon,
Julian Friedmann

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Forthcoming productions

<p>'ENDANGERED' - PIRANHA</p>	<p>6 x 60' Action Thriller series Forlan Films/M-Net/Indigo</p>	<p>Adapted from the novel by Rudi van Rensberg by Jake Riddell. Commencing production in 2024 in South Africa.</p>
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In Development

<p>THE OUTRAGE</p>	<p>Miniseries Ecosse Films</p>	<p><i>The extraordinary true story of the first murder on the Orkney Islands in 25 years, perpetrated by a local 15-year-old racist gun fanatic and covered up by his policeman father.</i> Based on a book by Wensley Clarkson.</p>
<p>COUNTERFEIT</p>	<p>A 6/8 x 60' returnable series proposal Alchemy Films</p>	<p><i>Thriller about the detection of a fake pharmaceutical international crime ring.</i></p>
<p>GUINEA PIGS</p>	<p>A 6-part returnable series. Newen and BlackBox Multimedia</p>	<p><i>Fantasy Thriller about the trial of the ultimate smart drug.</i> An adaptation of the French graphic novel by Tonino Benacquista</p>

HIS MAJESTY'S INTERCEPTORS	An 8-part returnable series.	<p><i>Original espionage drama inspired by the first modern codebreakers under Winston Churchill in WW1.</i></p> <p>A prequel to the Bletchley Park dramas featuring many of the same characters.</p>
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Credits (sole writer and/or director credit)

THE MYSTERY OF SUZY LAMPLUGH	2021	<p>Producer/Director.</p> <p>2 x 60' Documentary</p> <p>Shearwater Films for Sky TV</p>	<p><i>As the 35th anniversary of Suzy Lamplugh's disappearance approaches, the documentary profiles the victim, the crime, and the chief suspect.</i></p> <p>“Excellent” The Telegraph. “Compelling” The Independent.</p> <p>“Gripping” Daily Mail. “Poignant” **** Mail on Sunday.</p> <p>Critics’ Choice Sunday Times. Best factual TV of the week TV Guide.</p> <p>“A compelling and thought-provoking 2 hours. We’re delighted for Sky Crime and with the ratings”. Jamie Morris, Director of Programming, Sky TV.</p>
A BALL IN THE BRAIN	2021	<p>Writer/Director</p> <p>4-part Drama Podcast</p>	<p><i>A lone British general, besieged in his palace by an Islamist army in 1884, slowly loses his mind. A true story that links the past and the present, the political and the spiritual</i></p>

		The Script Department. Available on Apple Podcasts et al.	Read by Pip Torrens. Major Screen International feature 26.2.21. Top 100 UK fiction podcast.
THE SECRET	2016	Writer/Executive Producer 4-Part Factual Drama TV Miniseries Hat Trick Productions for ITV	<i>The true story of two Christian adulterers who murder their spouses by faking a double suicide in a plot worthy of Hitchcock. They get away with it, but fate and conscience intervene 18 years later.</i> Starring James Nesbitt and Genevieve O'Reilly. "Stuart Urban's superb script... 'The Secret' was masterly". The Telegraph "Spellbindingly, haunting ... Powerful drama... Uniquely watchable". The Sun "Impossible to tear your eyes away". Daily Mirror "Brilliant... a tour de force". The Observer "Gripping...unswitchoffable". The Guardian "What made 'The Secret' was... Stuart Urban's smart script". The I @hugh_laurie The Secret is astounding. Urban...just absurdly good. The Telegraph ranks The Secret among the 25 finest true crime dramas and documentaries

MAY I KILL U?	2013	Writer, Director, Producer Theatrical Black Comedy Feature Vectis Vision	<p><i>After a bash on the head in the London riots a bobby turns vigilante, a psychopath on the cycle path.</i></p> <p>Starring Kevin Bishop and Frances Barber.</p> <p>“Funny, sharp and ruthless” Philip French, The Observer</p> <p>“Smartly Done” Sunday Mirror</p> <p>“A black, bright and very British comedy” David Aldrige, BBC Radio 5</p> <p>“Dexter on a bicycle... a jewel in the crown” Ecran Fantastique</p>
TOVARISH, I AM NOT DEAD	2007	Writer, Director, Producer Feature Documentary Cyclops Vision	<p><i>Garri Urban escaped from both the Gulag and the Holocaust. A first-person documentary by his son Stuart about a great adventurer rediscovering the past.</i></p> <p>“A riveting film about a remarkable man” Philip French, The Observer</p> <p>“The documentary is alive and well” Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian ****</p> <p>“Impressive and memorable” Financial Times</p>

REVELATION	2001	Writer, Director, Producer Theatrical Mystery Thriller Feature Romulus Films and Cyclops Vision	<i>The quest to locate a relic that heralds the fusion of science and religion.</i> Starring Terence Stamp, James Darcy, Udo Kier and Derek Jacobi. “Thrilling” Film Review “Cutting Edge. Urban certainly knows his stuff” Empire “A first-rate occult thriller... intelligent and intriguing” Alexander Walker, The Standard
PREACHING TO THE PERVERTED	1997	Writer, Director, Producer Theatrical Feature Cyclops Vision, PTPP Films	<i>Cult Comedy set in the London fetish scene.</i> Cats, cars, clubs and cocktails were named after the film and its characters. The first European film to be revived on Kickstarter. “Bold, provocative, surreal” Time Out “Thrilling” The Standard “Shockingly hilarious” Empire “Slick, glamorous, hilarious” The Independent on Sunday Among the top 10 films on kinky sex The Guardian, 2015 83% Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes.
DEADLY VOYAGE	1996	Writer TV Single Drama BBC and HBO	<i>The true story of an African stowaway’s escape from mass murder on the high seas and his journey to justice.</i> Starring Omar Epps, Joss Ackland and David Suchet. “A searing descent into human cruelty” New York Times

			<p>“If your knuckles could use a good biting, subject to harrowing <i>Deadly Voyage</i>” USA Today</p> <p>81% Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes.</p>
OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH	1995	<p>Director, 3 episodes.</p> <p>BBC</p>	<p><i>Epic saga following the lives of four Geordie friends from the 1960s onwards.</i></p> <p>Starring Daniel Craig, Chris Eccleston, Mark Strong, Gina McKee.</p> <p>“The tension and texture tension of Stuart Urban’s (work)...set this episode apart. It reflects credit upon him” The Telegraph</p> <p>“Daring, utterly enthralling...smoothly directed by Stuart Urban” The Daily Mail</p>
AN UNGENTLEMANLY ACT	1992	<p>Writer, Director</p> <p>TV Single Drama</p> <p>BBC</p>	<p><i>Fact-based drama/tragicomedy on the first 36 hours of the Falklands War.</i></p> <p>Starring Ian Richardson, Bob Peck, and Rosemary Leach.</p> <p>“A cracker, a splendid drama, cancel anything to see this. A miracle.” The Sunday Times</p>

			<p>“Marvellously clever of tense drama and Ealingesque comedy... first rate”. Daily Express</p> <p>“Few British movies of the 90’s could rival the scope and ambition of this TV film” Premiere Magazine</p>
AGAINST THE WAR	1999	<p>Director and Co-writer with Harold Pinter</p> <p>TV Documentary</p> <p>BBC, Cyclops Vision</p>	<p><i>Hard-hitting indictment of the NATO bombing of Serbia.</i></p> <p>“First rate television” The Guardian</p> <p>“Strong, dark, powerful magnificent” The Independent</p> <p>“I received more letters of support about this documentary than any work in my career” Harold Pinter</p>