

Zena Marks

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A highly-organised science & journalism-trained development producer & producer-director, bursting with original ideas. Experienced across TV production & development in a range of genres. Particularly strong cultural awareness, scripting & editorial skills.

RECENT WORK

July 2022 - Present **Carys Thomas Ampofo Ltd** Writing medical reports to guide international & NHS practice (working from home whilst on bereavement leave from TV work).

March 2022 – June 2022 **Econ Films** Producer/Director Scripting & directing films for academic & NGO clients, such as [GITOC \(which works to combat organised crime\)](#), QMUL, LSE, BRAC & others. Shooting on location in Egypt, Slovenia, Montenegro & Albania. GITOC film covers smuggling at sea & Balkan drug cartels, features investigative journalists & includes filming at sea, using REDs.

January 2022 – February 2022 **Makematic** Science Scriptwriter Writing educational science scripts for short explainer films.

October 2021 - December 2021 **Windfall Films** for **BBC4** Assistant Producer **Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Going Viral**

3 x 1 hr series filmed 'as live', covering the science behind viruses, transmission & vaccines, presented by Professor Jonathan Van-Tam. Developing script, demonstrations & segments with presenters; liaising with Prof Van-Tam's government office; managing llamas, bats and dogs on set.

August 2021 – October 2021 **Collective Media** Development Producer – Developing compelling televisual treatments on science, sport & politics for UK & international broadcasters & SVODs.

March 2021 – June 2021 **RHS** Digital Media Producer – Pitching, scripting, writing, shooting & editing various short films around gardening (on the FS5 & A7r; recording sound; using Premiere & AfterEffects). Managing graphics & workloads. Extremely fast turnaround. Some presenting.

March 2020 – February 2021 **Whizzbang Productions**

Shooting Producer and Journalist

- Articles, data journalism & short films on health inequality under COVID.
- Development of TV series & shooting tasters – FS7, C300 & sound – for companies such as Alaska TV.

December 2018 – March 2020 **WebsEdge** TV Presenter at European medical & health conferences; interviewing top medics. Includes interviewing UK medics on local threats to drug supply linked to Brexit.

2019 **Edinburgh TV Festival** Producer of the Al Jazeera session, feat. Carole Cadwalladr: *'Who Gets a Voice?'* – on the role of media platforming choices in political turmoil. (Also, 2020 Awards Judge)

Late 2018/Early 2019 **Furnace TV** for **BBC4** Assistant Producer **Eugenics, Genetics and the Dream of Perfection** (broadcast as *'Eugenics: Science's Greatest Scandal'*), looking at genetic technology, its future & its historical origins, along with ethical issues around equality, race, justice & society.

2018 **Wellcome Trust** (Charity) Digital Producer & Voiceover Actor Developing, scripting, creating visuals & editing films explaining pandemics, vaccines, virology, funding & logistics for Youtube, for an audience of political decision-makers at Davos. Managing graphics. Delivering video briefs for WEF at Davos.

Prime-time development: What Larks Development AP Incl. tech policy; **Boundless** Development AP; **Wall to Wall** Development AP; **Outline** Development AP; **Betty** Development AP; **Remarkable** Development AP [on neuroscience]; **Dartmouth** Development AP; **Renegade Pictures** Development AP Blank-slate development of a BBC2 series on numbers, for Dr Hannah Fry, looking at algorithms & the exciting things maths can do. Generating fun sequences & narratives.

Breakthrough Media (Multiple broadcast networks) – Digital Producer News; fast-turnaround; various social evolution topics. Under strict NDA.

BRITLAB Shooting Producer 20 x approx. 5mins for **BBC Worldwide Digital Studios** [for BBC Youtube & as international broadcast inserts] Developing, pitching, scriptwriting, lighting, directing, shooting on C300, sound-recording & editing 20 short innovative science films. Briefed to deliver simple, 'bloke-ish' tone. Topics incl. *'Why be Nice?'* [covering cooperation, game theory & social cohesion]. Directing & managing animations. Incl. greenscreen & AfterEffects, plus scripting & ideas for BBC Earth. Presenters: Hannah Fry & Greg Foot.

Other TV Development Credits (2010 to 2014)

BBC Features 'Whale Watch Live'; **BBC Worldwide** 'Big Cats'; **Oxford Scientific Films** (won commission); **Special Edition Films**; **BBC Scotland** Development Researcher

Other Production credits (2010 to 2015) :- **Little Dot Studios** for **BBC & C5** – Digital Producer – **Operation Ouch & Formula E** Incl. filming within NHS, including live 'Operation Ouch' broadcasts. Also films on Formula E (electric, eco-friendly) motor-racing. Includes graphics & animation management. **Horizon (BBC)** – Assistant Producer - Video Games; **Inside the Animal Mind (BBC)**; **Inside My Mind (Pioneer Productions for BBC3)**; **Mammoth Ice Mountain (CB Films for Nat Geo)**; **Superhuman Showdown (Maverick TV for Discovery DNI)**; **Beneath the Lab Coat (Angel Eye Media for BBC)**; **Deadly 60 (BBC)**; **Attenborough's Wonderful World (BBC)**; **A Year in the Wild – Snowdonia (BBC)**; **Origins of Us (BBC)**; **Bang Goes the Theory (BBC)** Includes film on social norms & behavioural contagion; filming with Richard Dawkins. **Stargazing Live (BBC)**; **Wonders of the Universe (BBC)**; **The Nature Project** (cinema release); **The Volcano That Shook The World** Pioneer Productions (also executive assistant across other productions, including fast-turnaround projects).

Other Digital Projects

Fountain Digital Labs Producer Producing innovative digital natural history, incl. live roaming; 360° & video hotspot digital platforms; **Out of Eden Walk** (Nat Geo online – some small contributions)

Print Journalism

Edinburgh Festivals Magazine (2008) – Reviewer; **The Northern Echo** (2005) – News reporter, plus some features; **The Whitby Gazette** (2005) – News reporter

AWARDS: December 2013 **Wellcome Trust Mentoring Program for Emerging Talent**

[Casual jobs 2004-2010 incl. writing assessment report on creative apprenticeships for **Department for Education**]

EDUCATION

2009 **BSc Biological Sciences (Hons) 2:1** University of Edinburgh

Dissertation (captive zoo study): Communication by gesture in chimpanzees

Incl. Biochemistry; Brain & Behaviour (First); Developmental Biology (First); Evolutionary Biology (First); Evolution & the Brain; Evolutionary & Ecological Genetics; History & Philosophy of Science; Human Physiology; Human Origins; Mechanisms of Brain Development (First) Neuroscience with Pharmacology (First); Origins & Evolution of Language (First); Psychology; Social Evolution (First)

2005 **NCTJ Pre-Entry Journalism** Darlington College of Journalism – *National politics; Journalism; Media Law; Teeline shorthand with distinction at 100wpm*; 2020 **Knight School of Journalism** Digital Investigative Journalism training

A-Level: Eng Lit (A, parts 100%); Eng Lang (A); Biology (A); Geology (B); Chemistry (B); Philosophy (Dist)

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

- Producing 'space yoga' & generating scientific funfair public engagement events for Guerilla Science
- Anthropology research on idealism, Durham Uni (2002)
- Various overseas wildlife research – Indonesia & Peru
- Science & media mentor to young scientists

LICENSES:

- BCAP Canopy Access Rigging
- BSAC sports diver
- DBS-checked
- Full clean UK driving licence

LANGUAGES:

- Spanish & French
(plus basic Japanese, German & Russian)
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