

Zena Marks

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A science-trained producer with 15 years' experience across primetime international production & development. Able to shoot, edit & create decks. Bursting with ideas & full of initiative. Extremely strong cultural awareness & editorial skills.

RECENT WORK

January 2024 - March 2025 Whizzbang Productions Producer Scriptwriting & vis dev of short, accessible social media films countering disinformation – on media literacy, cognitive biases & formal logic. Also production help on 'Secrets of the Brain' by Furnace TV for BBC2.
June – November 2023 Makematic for Oxford University Press (OUP) Digital Producer Incl. conceptualising, scriptwriting, visual development, edit-producing & managing VO for 24 teen-level animated films (approx. 3 mins each) on complex science - such as the greenhouse effect or the nature of light. Managing teams.
March 2022 – June 2022 Econ Films Producer/Director Developing, scripting & directing ~30 short online & broadcast films for international justice & academic organisations (various lengths). Incl. a film on international law enforcement, covering smuggling at sea & Balkan drug cartels, shot on location using REDs – for Balkan television. Shooting on location in rural Egypt, Slovenia, Montenegro & Albania. Broadcast development advisor.
January – February 2022 Makematic for OUP Science Scriptwriter Writing around 50 short-film scripts comprehensively explaining in-depth GCSE-level science in two minutes – from climate change to how electric motors work.
October - December 2021 Windfall Films for BBC4 Assistant Producer Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Going Viral 3 x 1 hr filmed 'as live' in studio, on science of viruses, transmission & vaccines, presented by DCMO Prof. Jonathan Van-Tam. Generated fun experiments/games – dogs sniff out COVID in stockings; different species of dogs as analogies for mutated strains of virus, recognised or otherwise by 'cell' camera; UV powder disease transmission demo; disease transmission via phones demo...Also working w. llamas & bats. (Step-down credit as no producer role, only SP & AP.)
August 2021 – October 2021 Collective Media Development Producer – Science, sport & politics for UK & int'l broadcasters & SVODs. Incl. Blair v Brown & Elon Musk concepts; managing slate & brainstorming.
March 2021 – June 2021 RHS Digital Media Producer and Presenter – Scripting, shooting (or presenting) & editing various social media films. Incl. 'Citrus Britain' (about global warming); doc on retired Jamaican nurse prevented from studying gardening due to race; feature on the RHS' 'tree lab', & large screen film for RHS Hilltop flagship at Wisley. Per week, 1-3 original films & 2-20 re-edits/re-versions for different platforms. Often working solo as one-person crew.
March 2020 – February 2021 Whizzbang Productions Shooting Producer and Journalist – Ad hoc data journalism on COVID in London; development of 'Wild Society' series, which treats COVID as a natural social experiment exploring multiple social issues; freelance development of TV series & shooting tasters for Alaska TV.
December 2018 – March 2020 WebsEdge TV Presenter at European medical & health conferences; interviewing top medics. High-level science & medical contacts across Europe.
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. Reported in Private Eye & triggered spate of discussion re: 'Question Time'. (Also, 2020 Awards Judge. Very strong commissioner contacts.)
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 short comprehensive YouTube films explaining pandemics, vaccines, virology & healthcare logistics.
BRITLAB Shooting Producer 20 x ~5mins for BBC Worldwide Digital Studios [for BBC YouTube & international broadcast inserts] Developing, pitching, winning commissions, casting, scriptwriting, lighting, directing, shooting, sound-recording & editing 20 short innovative science films. Briefed to deliver simple, 'bloke-ish' tone. Topics incl. ' Why be Nice? ' (covering cooperation & game theory). Also AI & tech. Incl. greenscreen & After Effects, plus scripting & ideas for BBC Earth. Presenters: Hannah Fry & Greg Foot.
Fountain Digital Labs - Digital Producer Developing & producing innovative digital natural history, incl. live roaming; 360° & video hotspot digital platforms.

Breakthrough Media (Multiple broadcast networks) – Digital Producer <i>Fast-turnaround current affairs production & development. Highly politically-sensitive environment. Under strict NDA.</i>
Little Dot Studios for BBC & C5 – Digital Producer – Operation Ouch & Formula E <i>Generating fun games for the van Tulleken brothers for live broadcasts within NHS. Also car science & Elon Musk tech e.g. Neuralink.</i>
Horizon: Video Games (BBC) – Assistant Producer – <i>Generating games; interviewing gaming experts.</i>

OLDER TV DEVELOPMENT WORK
2017/2018 – <i>Primetime pop factual & fact ent for UK & int’l markets:</i> What Larks Development AP; Boundless Development AP; Wall to Wall Development AP ‘Becoming You’ for Apple TV; Outline Development AP <i>Health, diet & child development series;</i> Betty Development AP <i>Managing slate; leading brainstorm;</i> strong BBC, ITV & C4 commissioning contacts. <i>Commissions incl. returnable C4 food science series;</i> Remarkable Development AP <i>Neuroscience games series;</i> Dartmouth Development AP <i>Global genetics series;</i> Renegade Pictures Development AP <i>Blank-slate development of BBC2 series on how maths shapes lives & its limits, for Dr Hannah Fry; covers AI & tech – e.g. a ‘robot judge’ demonstrating limitations of AI.</i>
2010 to 2014 - <i>Lots of flexible, international hours & deadlines:</i> General development Swan Films ‘Testosterone on trading floor’ sequence for Grayson Perry’s ‘All Man’; Development Researcher BBC Features ‘Whale Watch Live’; BBC Worldwide ‘Big Cats’ precursor; Oxford Scientific Films - <i>achieved BBC1 commission ‘Animal Odd Couples’;</i> Special Edition Films; BBC Scotland. ‘Britain’s Favourite Supermarket Foods’.

Older Production credits (2010 to 2015 – *lots of flexible, international hours & deadlines*):
Inside the Animal Mind (BBC); NASA’s Unexplained Files (WagTV for Discovery Science); Inside My Mind (Pioneer Productions for BBC3); Mammoth Ice Mountain (CB Films for Nat Geo); Superhuman Showdown (Maverick TV for Discovery DNI) *Incl. generating base-jumping & 3D maze stunts;* **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)** *Incl. film on social norms; filming with Richard Dawkins.*
Stargazing Live (BBC); Wonders of the Universe (BBC); The Nature Project (Green Lions for cinema release); The Volcano That Stopped The World (Pioneer Productions for C4)

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 reports 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. Brain & Behaviour (1st); Developmental Biology (1st); Evolutionary Biology (1st); Evolution & the Brain; Evolutionary & Ecological Genetics; History & Philosophy of Science; Human Physiology; Human Origins; Mechanisms of Brain Development (1st); Neuroscience with Pharmacology (1st); Origins & Evolution of Language (1st); Psychology; Social Evolution (1st)
 2005 **NCTJ Pre-Entry Journalism** Darlington College of Journalism – *National politics; Journalism; Media Law; Teeline Shorthand with distinction at 100wpm;* 2020 **Digital Investigative Journalism Training** Knight School of Journalism.
A-Level: Eng Lit (A, parts 100%); Eng Lang (A); Biology (A); Geology (B); Chemistry (B); Philosophy (Distinction)

TECHNICAL SKILLS <i>(BBC-trained 2011/2012):</i>	LICENSES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shooting (FS5/FS7/C300/5D/Go-pros) Sound recording (radio/Zoom mics, booms, 3-channel mixing) Rough-cut editing: Premiere Pro, After Effects, Audition; basic grading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCAP Canopy Access Rigging DBS-checked Full clean UK driving licence
OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:	LANGUAGES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generating social experiment scientific funfair event for Guerilla Science Out of Eden Walk (Nat Geo online – <i>small contributions</i>) 	Spanish & French (plus very basic Japanese, Greek, German & Russian)