

James Dann

Director / Producer

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Who Am I?

I'm James Dann, a documentary and broadcast PD. My production company, New Take Films, was shortlisted for Production Company of the Year 2022 and our recent film has achieved theatrical and VOD distribution. I've worked as a P/D for Google / YouTube, BBC, ITN Tonight, Channel 4, C5 and many more.

I was recently commissioned by Minority Rights Group to create an investigative documentary in Pakistan on the persecution of the Ahmdi Muslim community. This resulted in 6 months pre production followed by 12 days on location in Pakistan. During this time I was staying in safe houses, working in hostile environments, filming with security forces, armed civilians and those who had lost loved ones to suicide bombers and militia. This documentary has now been distributed worldwide by Journeyman films. In October 2022 I returned from directing a two month documentary from Sheffield, UK to its twinned city of Kitwe, Zambia - filming entirely overland across Europe and Africa. This was commissioned by Distiller Records, and is currently being sold to television networks in the UK and US.

The pride of my work comes from being on location with crew, talent and contributors and my love for the job comes from building a rapport with the people I meet and learning about their stories, history and future.

Key Skills

USA I-VISA Holder

Investigative journalism - working with vulnerable contributors, challenging locations and difficult access.

Editorial Mindset

International and remote directing

Hostile and remote location filming

Scripting and directing crew

Producing talent and contributors

Camera, Sound and Lighting

FX9 / FS7 / Blackmagic Filming

Working with fixers and translators

Spanish Speaking

Links to work:

[James Dann - Portfolio](#)

[New Take Films - Company](#)

Career History

2022 HIGHLIGHT JOB

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | 'SECTION 298 - PAKISTAN' - TV / VOD DISTRIBUTION

- Working with fixers, local crew, translators, security forces and intelligence.
- My company, New Take Films, was commissioned by Minority Rights Group to direct and produce 298 - an investigative documentary focusing on the lives of persecuted minorities filmed on location across Pakistan.
- World wide theatrical distribution across Europe and Asia via Journeyman TV

JANUARY 2021
(Pre production) -
MARCH 2022

- I developed the concept, pitched the idea and gained the commission. I then crewed up remotely and based myself in Pakistan for 12 days during production. This involved staying in safe houses, working in hostile environments and filming in high risk areas.
- Casting contributors, storyboards, pre-production and edit producing..

AUGUST 2022

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | 'CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD' EUROPE, AFRICA - DISTILLER

- Two moth filming odyssey, all overland, across Europe and Africa
- Presenter led an ob-doc filmed across Europe and Africa, following a well known musician as he discovers new genres of music across Europe and Africa.
- Directing a multi-cam crew, working with translators and fixers, filming in extreme climates and challenging scenarios across Europe and Africa.
- Indie production commissioned by Distiller records for TV and online VOD release

AUGUST 2022

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | 'TRADING PLACES' NEW YORK, REACH TV

- Directing a multi-cam crew for obs-doc
- Developing concept and pre-production for documentary focusing on two people who swap lives' for one week in New York City.
- Producing contributors, working with fixers, securing locations, writing shooting scripts, directing multiple crews, gaining permissions from venues and authorities

JULY 2022

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | 'THE RISE AND FALL OF BORIS JOHNSON' ITN TONIGHT, ITV

- Filming with Jacob Mogg and leading politicians for current affairs documentary
- Directing on location across Westminster, Houses of Parliament and Whitehall

JUNE 2022

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | CASH IN THE ATTIC, BBC2

- Working with talent and contributors filming over multiple days in different locations across the UK

APRIL 2022 -
CURRENT AD HOC

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | GLOBAL [eBay, Barclaycard, Wimbledon]

- Producing and directing content for high end clients and stakeholder (£40k+)
- Producing A list talent, filming on location and directing multi-cam shoots
- Concept creation, script writing, crewing, all logistics and editorial planning
- Edit producing across multiple deliverables

MARCH 2022

DV DIRECTOR | THE CRUISE, TITLE ROLE, CHANNEL 5

- Filming on location in USA, Caribbean, Mexico and Bahamas
- Producing and directing with talent, building rapport with contributors

FEBRUARY 2022

SHOOTING P/D | WORLDS MOST AMAZING TRACTORS, RAWCUT TV, CHANNEL 5

- Stylised obs-doc, filming with contributors building machinery for large-scale competitions
- Rigging go pros, producing contributors and cinematically capturing technical structures, details and reveals.

NOVEMBER 2021

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | WHY WE MARCH, POLAND - THEATRICAL DISTRIBUTION

- New Take Films was commissioned by March of the Living to produce a 30 minute obs-doc filmed on location in Poland. For this role I directed, produced and edit-produced the documentary.
- Filmed on location with survivors of the holocaust in Auchwitz, Poland. Theatrical release at Everyman Cinema and educational institutes.
- Working with contributors, all aspects of production and post production.

SEPTEMBER -
OCTOBER 2021

SHOOTING P/D | COSTA LIVING, SPAIN, RED SAUCE TV, CHANNEL 5

- Directing contributors and talent, producing scenes, working in Spanish and English.
- Self shooting on location, managing all aspects of production
- Producing story plans, script writing, master IV's, actuality and sequences.

AUGUST 2020

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | OUT ON A LIMB, SWITZERLAND - DISTRIBUTION

- New Take films was commissioned by Disability Ski Group to create a short form documentary on skiers with disabilities who are overcoming all odds.
- Shot on location in Switzerland, single ob-doc, theatrical release across the UK and Europe.
- Out on a Limb obtained distribution on Amazon Prime UK and US.

June 2018 - June
2020 [FREELANCE]

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR | GOOGLE / YOUTUBE, USA and UK, ONLINE

- P/D for Google US and UK, scripting shooting and editing client content for SMB's and corporate clients
- Filming client content across the US and UK
- Google certified training at Google HQ, San Jose

MAY 2020

SHOOTING AP | OLD HOUSE NEW HOME, AMAZING PRODUCTIONS, UK, C4

- Presenter led property show, shooting on location
- Working with contributors, solo filming demolitions and restorations in t hazardous environments

APRIL 2020

SHOOTING AP | AT HOME WITH THE NOLANS, UK, DISCOVERY / QUEST RED

- Shooting on location across the UK - cross shooting, go-pro rigging and filming with animals.
- Assisting in story development and editorial structure