



**stephenbennett**  
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### Curriculum Vitae – May 2017

Multi award winning self-shooting documentary director Stephen Bennett has been working in television for over 20 years, He has worked internationally on primetime commissions for BBC, Channel 4, Discovery, NHK (Japan), SKY, and History (USA). His films are distinguished by strong characters, hard-won access and an intimate, engaging shooting style. His films consistently make Critics Choice in both the tabloids and broadsheets, and provoke strong reactions from audiences. His anniversary film *Dunblane: Our Story* was about the primary school shooting twenty years before, and featured for the first time the testimony of a survivor. It went on to win the **Bafta Scotland Award** and **Celtic Media Torc** for best Single Documentary.

#### WHAT THE PAPERS SAY... a selection

- 'Utterly compelling' (Guardian)
- 'Hair-raising...the lost boys found a voice' (Herald)
- 'Funny, heartbreaking and compellingly violent' (Radio Times)
- 'An outstanding and important piece of television' (Scotsman)
- 'Everything you'd want such a bleakly necessary documentary to be' (Guardian)
- 'There won't be a better documentary series this year. Brilliant' (Daily Record)
- 'A heartbreaking, troubling documentary... A powerful depiction of despair and neglect' (Scotsman)
- 'Stephen Bennett's laudable film...adds profound humanity by offering a voice to those affected' (Telegraph)

Title	Company/ Channel	Date	Role	Dur. / Camera
<b>Brian Cox's Russia</b>	Hopscotch Films / BBC Scotland	2016	Prod/ Dir / Cam	2x 60' / C300
	To mark the centenary of the Bolshevik Revolution, actor Brian Cox travels to Russia to discover Scots who have made a massive impact on Russian history. <i>Double displaced Network share.</i>			
<b>The Council</b>	IWC Media/ BBC 1 Scotland	2016	Prod/ Dir / Cam	3x 60' / PDW300
	The organisation we love to hate: services from cradle to grave to emptying our bins. <i>20% share. #thecouncil moving stories poignant, upsetting &amp; uplifting at same time</i>			
<b>Dunblane: Our Story</b>	STV / BBC 2 Network/ BBC1 Scot	2016	Prod/ Dir	1x 60' / F55
	Landmark documentary to mark the 20th Anniversary film of the Dunblane Tragedy. <i>28.8% audience share. 5 Stars /Pick of Day in most press. Feat. on C4's 'Gogglebox' BAFTA in SCOTLAND 2016 / CELTIC MEDIA TORC 2017 Best Single Documentary</i>			
<b>Prison: First &amp; Last 24 Hrs</b>	STV/ Sky 1	2015	Edit Prod	2 x 45' / C300
	Prisoners' experiences as they first begin and end their sentences			
<b>Atomic Espionage</b>	NHK (Japan) / Malachite Films	2015	Wr/ Dir (Recon)	1x 60' / F55
	Doc about the race for the <i>brains</i> behind the Atomic Bomb. For Japan's 70th Anniversary of Hiroshima. Recon budget £112k. <i>NHK's inaugural drama doc.</i>			
<b>Insane Fight Club II</b>	IWC Media / BBC3 / BBC 2 Scot.	2014	Prod/ Dir/ Cam	1x 60' / XF305
	The insanity reigns once again, taking the ICW brand into the heart of England <i>Trending No 1 twitter conversation in the UK</i>			
<b>Commonwealth City</b>	BBC 1 Network	2009/14	Prod/ Dir/ Cam	3x 60' / PMW500
	Following families over 5 yrs in the East End of Glasgow as the City Council prepares for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. <i>Trending 9th biggest twitter conversation in the UK (on its Scotland only TX)</i>			



<b>Power to the Pcocks</b> A year in the life of a family croft	Timeline Films/ BBC2 Scotland	2012/13	Prod/ Dir/ Cam	1x 60'/ XF305	How do you live in the 21st Century without electricity? <b>One of highest ever ratings for slot - double Network share.</b>
<b>My Perfect Wheelchair</b>	BBC2 Network	2010/12	Prod/ Dir/ Cam	1x 60'/ PDW650	Intimate ob doc shot over 2 yrs about a disabled man creating a F1 styled wheelchair <b>BBC DG Mark Thompson's 'BBC Showcase of the Week' (best of BBC output)</b> <b>Pick of Day:</b> Record, Scotsman, Sunday Herald, SOS and P&J.
<b>Countryside 999</b> Series 1 & 2	BBC1 Network	2012 - 14	Prod/ Dir/ Cam	15x 30'/ XF305	Showing the challenges faced by emergency services in rural Britain
<b>Warriors: Revisiting</b> The Boys of Ballikinrain	Saltire Films/ BBC1 Scot	2011/12	Dir/ Cam	1 x 60'/ PDW650	5 yrs on, why have most of the Boys of Ballikinrain been to jail? <b>Pick of the Day:</b> Sun, Record and the Herald.
<b>Robson's Extreme</b> <b>Fishing Challenge</b>	IWC Media/ Channel 5	2011	Edit Producer	2 x 45/ HD	Extreme Fishing but this time with a competitive 'fish off': Texas & USA East
<b>Cowboy Trap (S3)</b>	Mentorn Media/ BBC1 Network	2011	PD / Edit Prod	20 x 45 /XF305	Cowboy builders have no chance - Clive Holland is back in town...
<b>The Walking Wounded</b> <a href="#">BAFTA in SCOTLAND 2011</a> <a href="#">Best Current Affairs</a> <a href="#">Celtic Media Fest 2010</a> <a href="#">Best Documentary</a>	Clarity Prod/ BBC2 Scotland	2009	Prod/ Dir/ Cam	60' / DSR570	'A chilling insight' (Sunday Herald), 'Heartbreaking' (Scotsman) Three young veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder battle with addictions suicide and uncontrolled anger as they adapt to a civvy street. <b>Pick of the Day:</b> Scotsman, Sun, Record, Sunday Herald (front page!) and Sun. Mail
<b>Pride and Privilege</b>	Saltire Films/ BBC2 Scotland	2007/8	Prod/ Dir/ Cam	3 x 60'/ DSR450	Observational series following pupils over one year at Glenalmond College. <b>Pick of the Day:</b> Scotland on Sunday, Sunday Herald etc.
<b>Boys of Ballikinrain</b>	Saltire Films/ BBC2 Scotland	2006/7	Dir/ Cam	3 x 60'/ DSR570	For the first time in the UK cameras film life in a Residential School for abused boys. <b>Pick of the Day:</b> Herald, Scotsman, Scot on Sunday, Radio Times
<b>Ladies that Launch</b>	Tern TV/ Discovery Health	2005	Series Dir/ Cam	15x 30'/ DSR500	15 intimate ob. docs about women launching their own businesses.
<b>Cold War Spies</b>	Lion TV/ BBC 2/ History Channel	2004	Prod/ Director	1x 60'/ Digi Beta	Days that Shook the World series II - The shooting down of Gary Powers (drama doc)
<b>Great Train Robbery/</b> <b>Black September</b> <b>Assassination of JFK/</b> <b>Nixon's Last Day</b>	Lion TV/ BBC2/ History Channel	2004	Prod /AP	2x 30'/ Digi Beta	Days that Shook the World series I - Big heists (drama doc)

\*\* credits pre 2004 not shown – please see [www.stephenabennett.com](http://www.stephenabennett.com) \*\*

#### Education

National Film & TV School, Beaconsfield.	Documentary Direction (MA)	2000 - 2002
Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.	Law & Management BA (Hons) 2.1	1991 - 1995