

ALEX HEARLE

Producer and Director

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY



Alex is a freelance writer, producer and director with extensive experience in mainstream specialist factual programming. He's written produced & directed shows for all the UK terrestrial broadcasters and US networks; Discovery, National Geographic, History and PBS. Alex is visually driven and likes to specialize in projects that offer an opportunity to develop a strong story – directing shows as diverse as science/history documentaries like *UFO's: The Secret Evidence* for Channel 4 [UK] to visual effects/people driven shows for Discovery Channel's high-

profile *Curiosity: Life before Birth*...presented by **Courtney Cox**. In fact, Alex has a strong track record working with on-screen talent; from magazine shows to single presenter-driven shows. He is also highly experienced using CGI, storyboarding and liaising with effects 'houses' to bring exciting and complex stories to the screen in an entertaining and accessible way. And this ability to visually conceive was utilized to the max with a major 8-part cosmology series for Discovery.

How the Universe Works takes the audience on a spectacular journey through the universe. With interviews from the world's leading cosmologists and photo-real CGI, the shows are a visual feast. The first film reveals and explores the extraordinary volcanic worlds that populate our solar system. Shooting on the lava plains and Mauna Kea in Hawaii – the show explores the vital contribution that volcanoes made to kick-starting life on earth and potentially alien worlds. Other selected topics in the series include megastorms, exo-planets and Birth of the Earth.



Alex's people skills were combined with visual conception in a show for Discovery's *Curiosity* series. Entitled *Life Before Birth* – the film, presented by **Courtney Cox**, follows three mothers and their developing foetuses. Using scientifically accurate models, medical imagery and CGI, the film explores the extraordinary miracle of life. Please see the 'Making of...Life Before Birth' on his website – www.hearle.net



Alex has a strong track-record in feature-length shows. Using amazing access and big-scale experiments; Discovery Channel's ***Engineering the Impossible*** takes the man who built the 'Bird's Nest' Olympic Stadium in Beijing in to the world of ancient Egypt. His mission; to re-examine how a long-gone civilization built some of the most extraordinary structures in the world. He re-examines decades of academically accepted construction theories using his own unique engineering vision.

Another feature-length documentary includes a show for Channel 4 [UK]/History Channel [US] entitled ***UFO's: The Secret Evidence***. Presented by defence journalist Nick Cook, the film examines six decades of UFO sightings from a sceptical perspective. On a journey across America and Russia, Cook discovers how governments used 'Ufology' as a tool of disinformation to hide, amongst other things, the development and testing of high-tech aircraft. How scientists and engineers are inspired by UFO 'behaviour', fuelling their imaginations – developing concepts that may one day carry humankind to the stars.

Alex also wrote and directed a one-hour documentary called ***Shroud of Christ?*** for WNET New York and Channel 4 [UK]. When Swiss textile expert Mechthild Flury-Lemberg was called in to carry out vital restoration work on the 700-year-old Turin Shroud – she sensationally claimed that the 1988 carbon dating could be wrong - that the Shroud may be 1st century. Using drama reconstruction and special effects, the film explores the evidence and questions raised by the original scientific dating. **Press reviews - *Choice – The Independent on Sunday, Fascinating Documentary – Observer, Pick of the Day – Daily Mail, Watch this – The Guardian***



Following the Columbia space shuttle disaster, Alex produced and directed a one-off 'fast turn-around' investigative documentary called ***Space Shuttle: Human Time Bomb?*** for Channel 4 [UK]. The film explores the technical failings of flight STS 107; uncovering the truth behind compromises made in the shuttle's design over 3 decades ago. Design features that were driven by Richard Nixon's budgetary reforms and military intervention - could these have lead to the Columbia disaster? Was it an accident waiting to happen? The film is narrated by the science journalist Heather Couper.



Alex is also experienced in multi-camera OB's having produced the ***Royal Institution Christmas Lectures*** for Channel 4 [UK]. Five, one-hour recorded-as-live shows, presented by Professor Anthony Ryan, set out to reveal the molecular miracles behind the everyday objects that define our modern world. From the planes, trains and trainers that get us from A to B, to the tasty burgers, chips and ice cream that refuel our bodies...everything around us is the product of ingenious chemical wizardry. Through unique experiments, demonstrations and audience participation events, this lecture series reveals the secrets of how it's all done, and contemplates how it could be done even better!

Alex has also produced and directed for the ***BBC Proms*** season, which includes producing the multi camera outside broadcast for the 'Nations Favourite' on BBC1 and a filmed profile of the Finnish conductor/composer - Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Taking to the high-seas, Alex wrote, produced and directed a film for the Discovery Channel [US] and Channel 5 [UK] entitled ***The Science of Shark Attacks***. The film examines why the 'big cats' of the sea sometimes find humans so appetizing. Using specialist photographic techniques, animatronics, stylised dramatic re-constructions and life threatening experiments carried out by some of the world's most eminent researchers.



With a keen interest in design, Alex produced and directed 3 x 30 minute documentaries entitled ***Better By Design*** for Channel 4 [UK]. The films follow the exploits of multi award winning product designers Richard Seymour and Dick Powell. Their mission; take every-day familiar objects that they feel have a design flaw – re-design them – and persuade a manufacturer to bring them into the shops.

Earlier Alex directed a film for the Channel 4 [UK] and Discovery Channel [US] series ***Universe***. The programmes explored the history of the Cosmos, from 'big bang' to the development of life on earth. The films are highly stylised; blending complex special effects with 'user friendly' interviews and sequences that bring this enormous subject into the realms of mainstream television.

SELECTED CREDITS

Writer/Producer/ Director	Discovery Channel US	<i>How the Universe Works</i> Landmark 8 part cosmology series. The shows take a thrilling, visually spectacular journey through the universe. From the volcanoes of our solar system to the violence of exo-planets light-years from earth...the series reveals the wonders of the cosmos
Writer/Producer/ Director	Discovery Channel US	<i>Curiosity: Life Before Birth</i> Using CGI, special FX, medical imagery and personal human stories; the film, presented by Courtney Cox , follows the extraordinary journey of a human foetus from conception to birth.
Producer	Channel 4 UK	<i>Royal Institution Xmas Lectures</i> Five recorded-as-live one hour shows presented by Prof. Anthony Ryan revealing the molecular miracles behind our modern world.
Producer/Director	BBC 1 & 2	<i>BBC Proms</i> Live broadcast and filmed profile of Conductor/Composer Esa-Pekka Salonen.
Director	Channel 4 UK History Channel US	<i>UFO's: The Secret Evidence</i> Two hour HD 'special' presented by defence journalist Nick Cook, examining UFO sightings across six decades, from a sceptical perspective.
Writer/Producer Director	Channel 4 UK WNET New York [PBS]	<i>Shroud of Christ?</i> Single one hour documentary. Following the restoration of the Turin Shroud in 2002 – the film looks at the claims that the cloth could be 1st Century. Gold Special Jury Award – Worldfest Houston Int Film Festival.
Writer/Director	Discovery Channel US	<i>Engineering the Impossible</i> Landmark 2-hour show exploring the engineering marvels behind some of the world's most outstanding ancient structures.
Writer/Producer Director	Channel 5 UK National Geographic US	<i>The Truth Behind... The Ark</i> An historical/scientific investigation in to the story of the Ark revealing the possible origins of the bible's greatest tale.

Writer/Producer/ Director	Channel 4 UK	<i>Space Shuttle: Human Time Bomb?</i> One hour 'special' investigating the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.
Director	Discovery Channel US	<i>Project Earth</i> 8 x 1 hour shows exploring cutting edge technologies that may 'save the planet' from climatic catastrophe.
Writer/Producer/ Director	National Geographic Channel US	<i>Naked Science</i> One hour HD show exploring the amazing discoveries made by the Cassini spacecraft orbiting Saturn.
Producer/Director	Channel 4 UK	<i>Better by Design</i> 6 x 30' following top product designers Richard Seymour and Dick Powell as they re-design some familiar everyday objects.
Writer/Producer/ Director	History Channel US	<i>A Global Warning?</i> 2 hour HD 'special' exploring climate change from a historical perspective.
Writer/Producer/ Director	National Geographic Channel US	<i>Naked Science</i> Mainstream one hour HD show for the Naked Science strand; exploring the savage environments on our neighbouring planets.
Writer/Producer/ Director	Channel 5 UK Discovery Channel US	<i>The Science of Shark Attacks</i> One hour 'special' looking at why the 'big cats' of the seas sometimes find humans so appetizing.
Writer/Producer/ Director	ITV 1 UK	<i>Britain's Richest People</i> One hour documentary profiling some of Britain's richest people.
Producer/Director	In development	<i>Surviving Lucette</i> 2-hour drama based on the exclusive two year book option, secured by Alex Hearle, for Douglas Robertson's real-life ship-wrecked survival story

Previously, Alex produced and directed: ***Tomorrow's World*** – Presenter driven science magazine show – BBC ***Doctors at Large*** – six part documentary series – BBC. ***Eyewitness*** – Highly stylized science series - BBC/Dorling Kindersley. ***Extreme Machines*** – technology documentary series – Discovery. ***Universe*** – Landmark cosmology series – Channel 4/Discovery

PERMITS

US 'I' Visa PADI scuba diving license
