

Vanessa Moussa
Documentary Director & Producer
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PROFILE: Producer/Director specialising in documentaries

- o BBC, Channel 4, ITV, National Geographic, Discovery, MTV, VICE, Netflix, ANT1, SVT
- o Strong international experience, trained for Hostile Environments & First Aid (HEFAT)
- o Confident shooter (C300, 5D, FS7; FX3/6/9); Edit-Producing & editing skills (Premier)
- o Fluent in French, Spanish & Greek

SELECTED CREDITS

2025, Series Producer & Director

Series producing a 12-part series with European co-productions while also co-directing a feature length documentary on the sound of Greek Folk music.

2024, Producer, Unclickable, Neda Films

Archives sourcing on Babis Makridis' feature length documentary about digital ad fraud. International competition, Thessaloniki doc Fest, Greece.

2023, Shooting Producer: To Catch A Smuggler Europe; Pernel Media for Discovery EU

Story producing and second camera following police and customs officers on location in Cyprus.

2023, Producer: Generation C; StoryFire for SVT (Sweden) 4-part series filmed around the globe on the impact of the pandemic upon Generation Z. Wrote & produced stories in Peru, South Africa and the USA. Managed Producers, fixers and prepped presenter.

2021-2022, Producer/Director: Golden Visas, Citizenships for sale (VICE & ANT1 Greece)

Pitched, produced, scripted & directed a 45' doc on Greece's controversial Golden Visa program.

2020, Producer/Director: Criminal Planet: The Golden Meth Triangle; Vice & Channel 4

Wrote, directed and edit-produced this 45' episode looking at how Thailand is used as a narcotics superhighway, fueling Australia's meth epidemic and Myanmar's political instability.

2020, Producer: Undisclosed Project: I worked with Emmy and triple BAFTA winning director Anthony Wonke on the pilot of an exciting series with exclusive access to a criminal investigation.

2019, Producer/Director: Plastic free island: Wrote, directed, produced and filmed second camera on this short film for an NGO working to eradicate single use plastics on a Greek island.

2019, Producer: Joanna Lumley's Hidden Caribbean ; Burning Bright for ITV

Story producing, forward planning, setting up shoots & managing fixers on location for this epic two-part series following the British actress and national treasure on her journey across Cuba and Haiti.

2019, Producer/Director: Dope: 'God forgive me for this'; Wall to Wall for Netflix (45')

Cocaine production is at record high in Colombia while Spanish police are seeing unprecedented level of seizures. We followed the production chain, from the Colombian coca fields to the streets of Madrid. Directed, wrote script, produced stories, negotiated criminal access, managed fixers.

2019, Producer: Narcoworld: 'It's kill or be killed'; Wall to Wall for Netflix (45' episode)

Meth smugglers and law enforcement officials play a high stakes game of cat and mouse around Phoenix, Arizona and the infamous town of Nogales at the US-Mexico border. Story producing and access negotiation while assisting director on location.

2018, Shooting Producer: Dope: In this business you have no friends'; Netflix

Traffickers are using the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico as a 'cocaine corridor' into Miami, while US homeland security is deploying its air and marine operation agents (AMO) to secure its borders.

2017, Producer/Director: Are There Fascists Next Door? The Connected Set for BBC3

Shot on the eve of the last French presidential elections, the film explores how the far-right is becoming popular amongst millennials in France. Directed & conducted interviews in French.

2016-2018: Producer/Director/Camera: Athina, Dapa Doupa Films

Feature documentary following a handful of protagonists while drawing an intimate portrait of the Greek capital at a time of social crisis. Wrote, directed, filmed and edit produced.

2016, Producer: Bill Cosby: Fall of an American Icon; Sugar Films for BBC2

Fascinating story exploring the rape allegations against the man once known as "America's dad" and the decade of silence till he finally faced criminal trial and his reputation in Hollywood was tarnished. Produced and investigated story, secured contributors, assisted director and DoP on location.

2016, Producer/Director: You are There. On the road to ending Polio; UNICEF:

I directed this Virtual Reality film about the fight against the Poliovirus in Kenya for UNICEF's "Making Polio History" campaign. Championed by UNICEF's Ambassador Ewan McGregor the film was **Nominated for Raindance Best Social Impact award.**

2016, Producer/Director: "I Dream Of An Empty Ward"; The Rotary Foundation:

I directed another VR film following Alokita, a young Indian woman as she takes her first steps following a life changing operation in Delhi children's hospital.

2015, Producer: Millennium Children; Keo for BBC1

A one-hour special looking at what has been achieved to fight poverty since the devised of the UN's Millennium development goals. Produced child-centred narratives in Honduras and Cambodia.

2015, Producer/Director; Breakthrough Media: Self-shot & directed short docs about Islamic radicalization featuring young Muslims fighting stereotypes (Birmingham, Bradford, London, Leeds).

2014, Producer: Drugs Inc: Mexican Super Meth; Wall to Wall for NatGeo

For this episode about the meth 'super labs' run by the Sinaloa Cartel, I secured access, produced stories and interviewed traffickers, meth cooks, distributors & law enforcers in the USA & Mexico.

2013, Producer/Director: Help for Syria; Breakthrough Media Directed this Campaign film showcasing a young Moroccan walking across his country for 2 years. Filmed on location in Rabat.

2013, Producer: Dupont MiniDocs; TwoFour for BBC WorldNews Corporate docs for the global brand Dupont: fracking in Canada, textiles in Portugal, wind power in Germany and mining in Chile. I set up shoots, managed crews, liaised with clients and assisted director on locations.

2012, Producer: Inside the gangsters' code; NERD for Discovery

Presenter Lou Ferrante meets 18th street gangsters in prison and on the streets of El Salvador to learn how their deadly rivalry with the MS-13 is devastating the country (**Grierson Nominated**). Negotiated access with gang, produced stories, managed fixer, assisted director & crew.

2013, Associate Producer: Lost Kingdoms of Central America; IWC for BBC4

Archeologist Jago Cooper leads this documentary about ancient Costa Rica. We discover the cultures that mastered gold and jade and crafted some of the world's most puzzling mysteries.

2011, AP Our Man In; Screenchannel for C4: Filming in the Canary Islands/Barcelona for this ob-docs series with unprecedented access to some of the busiest British consulates in the world.

2009-2011, Hogarth Worldwide: Producer responsible for setting-up shoots, directing VOs, re-versioning, briefing VFX team and edit-producing TVCs for Kelloggs, HSBC, Novartis and Nokia.

2008, Assistant Producer: My Holiday Hostage Hell; Prospect Pictures for Virgin

Dramatised docs relating the stories of a British gardener held captive for 6 months by a guerrilla group in the Darien Gap (Colombia) and of a mother and Daughter abducted in Bolivia.

2008, AP: Explore: Argentina; BBC News & Current Affairs for BBC2

Simon Reeve leads a team of presenters on a spectacular journey through Argentina.

2007, AP: Medicine Men Go Wild: "Jungle Tripping"; Keo Films for C4 & Discovery

Presenter-led documentary about Ayahuasca and shamanic medicine; filmed within a remote tribe of the Peruvian Rainforest, we immersed ourselves in the jungle for the duration of the production.

2007, AP: Situation Critical: The Assassination of Pablo Escobar; NatGeo

Docu-drama about the manhunt and killing of Pablo Escobar. I set up filming with DEA agents, Colombia's Special Forces, the ex-president and secured access to the Escobar family while assisting a small crew and working with fixers on location in Medellin and Bogota.

2006, AP: The Mystery of Helios 522; September Films for Discovery

Drama doc looking at the fatal chain of events that brought Helios Flight 522 down, killing all 121. Negotiated access, assisted director, conducted interviews in Greece, archive research.

2005, AP: Costa Del Street Crime; Granada Media for Bravo

Series following Spanish police on the infamous Costa del Sol at the height of the summer season.

2003-2005, Researcher/Location AP: A Place In The Sun; Freeform for C4

I started my career as a Researcher and AP working on this beloved Channel 4 programme with an audience of 4 million. I learned to work as part of a crew, finding information for the script, locations for filming and casting contributors.

EDUCATION

Goldsmiths University: **MA in Media & Communications Studies**

University of Kent, Canterbury: **B.A (hons) Social Anthropology 2.1**

University of Athens, Greece: **Diploma in Modern Greek**

Lycee du Mt Blanc, France: **French Baccaalaureat**

KEY SKILLS

- **Multi-lingual:** Native French speaker, fluent in Spanish with experience of South America & fluent in Greek (lived in the country as well as worked on a few Greek productions)
- **International location experience** with solid contact book (producers, directors, crew, fixers) in: **South America** (Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Cuba), Haiti, **The USA** (NY, LA, Miami, Alabama, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Puerto Rico, Arizona), **Europe** (France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Spain, Canary Islands); **Africa** (Morocco, Kenya, South Africa and **Asia** (Cambodia, Thailand, India).
- **Shooting skills** (C300, FS7, FX6/FX3, 5D, Go-Pros) with Good **Visual flair**. I also work on my personal film projects and enjoy photography.
- **Budgeting & Client management:** I have successfully delivered projects for TV channels, streamers, advertising clients, corporate companies and NGOs whilst managing expectations and budgets. I have a good understanding of the international media landscape and its key players.
- **Hostile Environments & Risk assessment:** I've filmed inside prisons, amongst gangs, with criminals, drug lords, remote tribes, religious fanatics, far right activists, the police/army and SWAT teams. I can assess risk and help put together safe environments for shoots.
- **Access:** I've successfully negotiated access to institutions, NGOs, law enforcement agencies and criminal entities on an international level.
- **Casting:** I'm used to finding characters to fit stories and establishing solid working relations.
- **Writing, Development & pitching** I'm used to developing stories and format, finding characters, writing synopsis and treatments, pitching and producing stories to fit the editorial needs of a wide variety of broadcasters.
- **Full Driving License, EU Passport**