

KOSTA PAPANICOLAS

PRODUCER DIRECTOR · EDIT PRODUCER · DRONE OP

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ABOUT ME

I'm a self-shooting PD with 10+ years' experience in documentaries and factual entertainment, specialising in character-led obs docs with heart (*The Piano*, *School Swap: UK to USA*, *The Savoy*). An experienced lighting camera operator, I'm skilled in handling sensitive subjects and directing talent and first-time contributors. I've taken films through the edit, and have a knack for building a strong rapport with even the most reticent contributors. I'm calm under pressure and known as a safe pair of hands on challenging briefs.

INDUSTRY SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Cameras: FX9/6/3, DJI Drones	Drone license: A2 CofC certified	Enhanced DBS Check
Lighting and MIV set ups	Multi camera + Drone directing	I-Visa + UK, CAN, EU passports
Covert filming	UK Driving License	Languages: French, Greek

CREDITS

CHAMPIONS: FULL GALLUP (S2) – ITV (6 X 60MIN)

Producer/Director & Drone Operator, November – May 2025

ITN Productions: Line Producer: Zeenat Butt, Series Producer: Jaimie Simpson

- Sports obs-doc series capturing the highs and lows of the National Hunt race season through the eyes of Jockeys, Trainers, Owners, Fans, and Pundits during another epic dramatic title race.

FAKING IT! – CHANNEL 5 (3 X 60MIN)

Producer/Director & Drone Operator, September – November 2024

ITN Productions: Line Producer: Zeenat Butt, Series Producer: Jaimie Simpson

- Reboot of the early 2000s Channel 4 classic reality series - filming a luxury estate agent as he transforms— from a polished southern luxury property expert to a Northern market trader selling meat at value prices.

ANT ANTSEAD: BORN MECHANIC – DISCOVERY CHANNEL (6 X 60MIN)

Producer/Director (Self-Shooting) & Drone Operator, April – September 2024

ITN Productions: Series Editor: Audrey Neil, Exec: Jeremy Daldry

- Observational documentary following master mechanic Ant Anstead restoring a Grade 2 listed farmhouse for his family by doing what he does best: buying, restoring, and flipping classic cars.

THE PIANO, SERIES 2 - CHANNEL 4 (7 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting) & Drone Operator, January – April 2024

Love Productions. SP: Catherine Lewendon SD: Martha Delap Exec: Ted Hill

- Filmed character-driven backstories for a heartwarming documentary on amateur pianists, seamlessly integrating with multi-camera setups while capturing spontaneous, documentary-style moments.

SCHOOL SWAP: UK TO UDA - CHANNEL 4 (4 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting) & Drone Operator, September – October 2023

Love Productions. SP: Emily Smith SD: Oli Tridgell

- Filmed a cultural exchange between teenagers from SE London and rural Arkansas, exploring their school and home lives to highlight cultural similarities and differences.

WILL YOU MARRY ME? - CHANNEL 4 (3 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting) & Drone Operator, April – Aug 2023

Button Down. Exec: Louis Bamber SP: Rob Clifford

- Filmed several wedding proposals and followed a real life proposal agency whose job it is to inject over the top, slightly complicated and totally unique marriage proposals. Each story required a high level of subterfuge

BRITAINS MOST BEAUTIFUL ROAD – CHANNEL 4 (4 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting), October 2022

Purple. SP: Gill Hennessey PM: Matt Bridger

- A parachuted PD role on this beautifully shot series about Britain's most iconic highland roads, the NC500.

EMERGENCY ON SUNNY BEACH – CHANNEL 4 (6 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self Shooting), August 2022 - September 2022

Parable Works. Series Producer: Simon Davies. Exec: Ben Leigh.

- A tricky access blue light obs doc charting the highs and lows in one of Europe's busiest holiday resorts.

THE SAVOY, SERIES 2 – ITV (5 X 60 MIN)

Senior PD (Self Shooting), August 2021 - March 2022

Studio Ramsay Global. Series Director: Martha Delap. Exec: Tom Willis.

TRUE LIFE CRIME – MTV (1 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director, May 2021 - Aug 2021

MTV. Series Producer: Tom Olney. Exec: Nick Kenton.

MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION: MAKE A WISH AT CHRISTMAS – CHANNEL 5 (2 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting), October - December 2019

Tern TV. Exec: Chloe Court.

BRITAIN'S BEST PARENT? – CHANNEL 4 (3 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting), February - August 2019

Monkey Kingdom. Exec: Jess Orr. Series Editor: Jeremy Daldry.

BIKE GANGS: THE HUNTERS AND THE HUNTED – CHANNEL 5 (1 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting) and Edit Producer, July - December 2018

Knickerbockerglory. Exec: Jenny Popplewell.

FAST FIX: DIABETES – ITV (2 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting), April - June 2018

7 Wonder. Exec: Eve Kay.

BRIDE AND PREJUDICE – CHANNEL 4 (2 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting), February - March 2018

7 Wonder. Exec: Duncan Coates. SP: Martin Conway.

HEIR HUNTERS, SERIES 9 & 12 – BBC ONE (20 X 50MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting) & Edit Producer, March - June 2014 & July 2017 – Dec 2017

Flame TV. Exec: Matthew Gordon. SP: Sophie Galt.

BODY BIZARRE – DISCOVERY (10 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting). January - March 2017

Barcroft Productions. Exec: Sam Barcroft. SP: Brent Baker

STARTING UP, STARTING OVER / BEN FOGLE: MAKE A NEW LIFE IN THE COUNTRY – C5 (2 X 60 MIN)

Producer Director (Self-Shooting) & Edit Producer, June - December 2016 & March 2020

Pi Productions. Exec: John Silver. SP: Ross Anderson.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Drone License (CAA, A2 CofC + EASA/EU), UAVHUB, UK, 2023

Edit Producing Masterclass, NFTS, UK, 2020

Craft Editing (Avid) Certificate + Film Scoring and Sound Design, NFTS, UK, 2020

BA with Distinction (Film Studies & French Literature), University of Alberta, Canada, 2003

Certificate in 16mm Filmmaking, New York Film Academy, USA, 2001