

Vivian McGrath
Executive Producer

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I am a highly respected Documentary and Drama / Documentary Executive Producer and Showrunner, with a solid reputation for delivering high quality programmes and high rating 'hit' shows, to all the major UK and many US broadcasters.

I now live in Shanghai, China, where I am not only working on my own Documentary projects, but using my extensive experience and global network of contacts to bridge the gap between Asian Broadcasters / Production companies (including those in China) and those in the West. It's a move back to Asia, following a very successful ten years in the UK.

Prior to the UK, I spent 7 years based in HK, where I ran my own independent news bureau, which represented networks across the globe. I was also a Foreign Correspondent for Seven Network Australia and later ran the Fox News Asia Bureau, covering major newsworthy events.

I have strong relationships with a wide range of Commissioning Editors and Channel Controllers, both in the UK and US broadcasters and am highly respected by my peers within the UK production industry. And as most of my independent documentaries have been distributed globally, my name is also fairly well known outside the UK and synonymous with producing quality programming.

As a business manager, I have a clear understanding of managing co-production financing; budget forecasts; cash flow and bringing programmes in on schedule and budget.

Feb 2011 – Present
Executive Producer / Independent Consultant – Shanghai, China

Whether it's producing or co-producing programmes in Asia, aimed at a Western audience; or reformatting existing Western formats for Asian viewers, I will deliver the same high-quality production values upon which broadcasters have come to trust.

Programmes include:

- **Ladyboys, 6 x 60' Documentary Series** – A Redback production for SKY LIVING (UK). Observational Documentary Series on the diverse and entertaining world of Thailand's Ladyboys.

- **The Boy who Saved me – a 1 x 60' Documentary** on Minh Anh, a Vietnamese orphan boy who unconditional love of British Grandma Brenda, redeems them both, following the death of her husband. Five (UK)
- **I Shouldn't Be Alive (series 5) 16 x 60' Drama Documentary Series** – Executive Producer overseeing the Drama Shoot Scripts and Casting on a series that I previously ran for 2 years (see below). Discovery Channel Animal Planet (US).
- **600lb Mom 1 x 60' Documentary** the continuing story of Dominique, a 600lb Mom whose addiction to food is killing her and dominating her children's lives – follow on Documentary, from a film I made earlier. Discovery Channel TLC (US)
- **The 8-Limbed Boy 1 x 60' Documentary** an update of an earlier Documentary I made on an Indian boy born with his identical twin growing out of his stomach. Channel Five (UK)

2009 – Feb 2011

Executive Producer - Darlow Smithson Productions

(Darlow Smithson is one of the UK's leading independent TV production companies – **co-producer of Danny Boyle's latest feature film '127 Hours'** which was nominated for 6 Oscars).

Programmes include:

- **I Shouldn't Be Alive (series 3 & 4), 22 x 60' Drama Documentary series**

Executive Producer on the hit Drama Documentary series for Discovery's Animal Planet channel - **the 4th highest rating show in the Channel's history.**



Showreel can be viewed at:


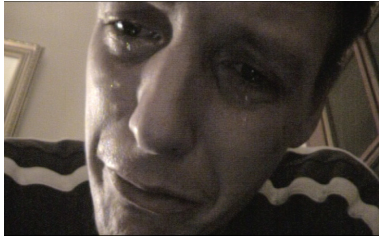
<http://vimeo.com/20742890>

- **My Kid Survived, a 1 x 60 min Drama Documentary** Pilot for Discovery Channel TLC (a spin off of 'I Shouldn't Be Alive')
- **911 Kids, a 1 x 90 min Documentary** for Channel 4 (UK) / NatGeo (US) on children who lost a parent in 911 – a 10th anniversary special (for 2011).
- **The 8-Limbed Boy / The Boy Who Cries Blood / 600lb Mom / My Skin's Killing Me / the 40 Year old Toddler etc - a 6 x 60' Documentary series** for Discovery Channel TLC, on people with extraordinary medical conditions.

2006 – 2009

CEO / Executive Producer - Gecko Productions - my own independent television production company.

Films include:

- ***The Girls Who Were Found Alive***, for Channel 4's prestigious documentary strand *Cutting Edge* - an **exclusive access documentary** on two young girls who were abducted by a paedophile and miraculously rescued 5 days later.
- ***Cheetah Man*** – a human-interest **natural history documentary** featuring Olivier Houalet, a modern day Tarzan with an extraordinary affinity with wild Cheetahs - for Channel Five (UK). 
- ***Ben: Diary of a Heroin Addict*** – an **exclusive access** film shot by heroin addict Ben Rogers during the last two years of his life and just hours before his death. A raw and unflinching portrait of one man's descent into addiction and the impact it had on his middle class family, for SKY ONE (UK). 
- ***The Girl in the Box*** - an **exclusive access documentary**, for Five, on Colleen Stan who, as a 17-year-old hitchhiker, was kidnapped by a sadistic sexual torturer and held in a box under his bed for 7 years.
- ***Arthur Shawcross: Interview with a Serial Killer*** – an **exclusive access documentary** for Five. The final interview with notorious serial killer Arthur Shawcross in prison - just weeks before his death.
- ***Ex Forces & Homeless***, for BBC ONE – authored by ex-SAS Ken Hames who goes on a journey to find out why so many of UK's homeless are ex forces and ends up confronting his own demons along the way.

2004 – 2006

Managing Director / Executive Producer - Redback Films

Prior to Gecko Productions I was Managing Director of **Redback Films**, owned by The Television Corporation - which made the successful returnable series including **'Conspiracies...'** with **Danny Wallace** and documentary series such as **'Killing Mum & Dad'**; **'Surviving ... (Serial Killers)'** and documentaries for SKY ONE: **'Stoned in Suburbia'**.

For Channel 4: **'Generation 7/7'**; **'Artshock'**; **'A Swinging Murder'** and **BODYSHOCK: 'The Eighty-Year-Old Children'** and **'Kill Me to Cure Me'**.

At **Redback** I was also Executive Producer on the **three-hour Primetime ABC America exclusive access documentary, 'The American Imposter'** on Christopher Buckingham who stole his name from a dead baby and faked his identity for 23 years, presented by Martin Bashir.

2000 – 2004

Executive Producer - Mentorn

At Mentorn I created and Executive Produced '**Twins: the Identity Test**' for BBC ONE - a popular factual programme in search of the most identical, identical twins in Britain. This went on to become the **global hit format '... Most Identical'** - sold to around 20 countries.

At Mentorn, I was most known for some of the most high profile and highest rating **Channel 4 Body Shock** and **Five's Extraordinary People** documentaries such as:

The Boy Who Gave Birth to his Twin; The Man Who Slept for 19 years; Archie: the Six Stone Baby and The Eighty-Year Old Children.



Other programmes include:

- The 3-week fast turnaround documentary '**Tsunami: the Day the Wave Struck**' – for Five and National Geographic in the U.S.
- '**Mao's Children**' – a documentary authored by Marcel Theroux, for Channel 4's China Season on China's Generation X.
- '**Living Pulse**' – 52 x 30" episodes of a magazine show on cutting edge medicine, shot globally, for Discovery Channel.
- '**EVISION**' – Series Producer / Producer Director – an international magazine show, based on **The Economist** magazine, working in conjunction with the magazine's Editor and key journalists.

1993 – 1999 Fox News / Newsasia – HONG KONG:

Before coming to the UK in 1999, I was Senior Producer, running the Asia Bureau in Hong Kong for **FOX NEWS** - covering such global stories as President **Bill Clinton's tours to China, Japan & Korea; the fall of President Suharto in Indonesia; and the NATO bombings of Kosovo.**

In Hong Kong – both before and during my time with Fox News, I also ran my own independent news bureau (& corporate video production company), **Newsasia**, which represented broadcasters across the world, including during the HK handover to China.

Through Newsasia (prior to Fox News) I was a **Foreign Correspondent for Channel Seven Australia** for 6 years, covering such stories as the ***British handover of HK to China***; ***the Kobe earthquake in Japan***; and ***the Pope's visit to Manila, Philippines***.
1989 – 1993 ABC Australia:

In Australia I was a Producer/Reporter on prime time ABC flagship shows '***The Investigators***' an investigative consumer programme; and '***The 7.30 Report***', a nightly live current affairs programme.

Public Speaking / Guest Teaching:

I have been a speaker / panelist at various Documentary Film Festivals including:

- The '**World Science Producers Congress**' – various locations around the world
- The '**Norwegian Media Festival**' - Bergen, Norway
- The '**Danish Documentary Festival**' - Copenhagen, Denmark
- The '**Sheffield Documentary Film Festival**' - Sheffield, UK
- **Documentary Filmmakers' Group** – London, England
- **The National Film & Television School** - London, England