

# Shelley Williams

## Director & Producer, Reel Soul Movies

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Shelley Williams studied Photography, Film & Television, B.A. (Hons) at Middlesex. She began her career in production working with producers Keith Griffiths, John Ellis and Simon Hartog on Visions, Channel Four's cinema series. Here she worked on short pieces for television with director's Chris Petit, Neil Jordan and Sally Potter. She went on to production manage, produce and direct documentaries, animation and live action drama for Channel Four, BBC, The Arts Council of Great Britain & the British Film Institute (BFI), as well as direct and produce her own work for cinema and television. She completed her M.A. History of Film & Visual Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London. After working in development on singles/series for film and television she is now back in the production saddle directing and producing drama, feature and documentary work.

## Selected Director Credits

### DOCUMENTARY

#### THE DESERT IS NO LADY (51 Mins) C4/ARTS COUNCIL/FORD

Award winning documentary about women writers and artists of the American Southwest. Opening night film Internationale Biennale du Films sur L'art, Paris, Montreal Art Film Festival, Art Film Festival Trencianske Teplice, Slovakia, Best Documentary San Antonio Film Festival, Brooklyn Museum of Art/Women Make Movies: Judy Chicago The Dinner Party Film Series, Rocky Mountain Film Festival

### FICTION

She moved into directing fiction with STUNG the Kodak Award winning 35mm short film starring Stella Gonet and Alun Raglan. Funded by the Arts Council (Lottery), Kodak and South West Media Development Agency it went on to play in 5 West End cinemas with Colombia Tri-Star's feature AFTERGLOW by Alan Rudolph. It also screened with ELIZABETH and IN THE COMPANY OF MEN at various UK cinemas and The British Council took the film on board and toured it internationally.

*'Stella Gonet plays an Edwardian lady with man trouble and a hive in this intriguing Bee-movie, a costume drama with a sting in its tail'*. Tom Charity, Time Out Magazine

### FICTION

The Arts Council Lottery funded her next 35mm short, ONCE SEEN, together with London Production Fund, East London Film Fund, Fuji and private finance and sponsorship from the Truman Brewery. Starring Juliet Aubrey, Sophie Okonedo and Elizabeth Berrington, the film premiered at Edinburgh. It then played at London, Clermont Ferrand and the Chicago International Film Festivals amongst others. C4 bought the film and The Short Film Bureau distribute worldwide. ONCE SEEN toured to cinemas in the UK with the Lynne Ramsay feature MORVERN CALLAR and Alfonso Cuarón's Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN.

### DRAMA

WILDWOOD, the first TV drama from the director was made for HTV/ITV as part of the 'Western Lights' series. It featured Freda Dowie, Peter Gevisser (The Beach), Jay Simpson, Eliot Levey and Charlie Waterman and it is a darkly disturbing, dramatic, fairy tale.

*'WILDWOOD'S portrayal of innocence tinged with menace is both narratively powerful and visually arresting'*. Rebecca Russell, Script Editor & Writer 'Sight & Sound' Magazine

## RADIO

Shelley directed/produced the 5-part series HACKING HAPPINESS for BBC Radio 4, (July '18) which was written and presented by Leo Johnson. This was chosen as 'Pick of the Week' on Radio 4 and the same by leading British newspapers, reviewed as 'Radio at its finest' by online reviewers and it trended on Twitter. It is currently being adapted for, and pitched to, British TV Channels.

Made for Radio 4 by Reel Soul Movies, NO DESTINATION, is the true story of former Jain monk, Satish Kumar and his 8,000-mile walk for world peace. It won rave reviews from national and international newspapers, was chosen as 'Pick of the Week' and won the Sandford St Martin Trust Radio Award 215. It is now in development as an international feature film (see below)

## FEATURE FILM

NO DESTINATION, the international feature film, is in funded development with the British Film Institute. Lead writer is Robin Mukherjee – DANCE OF THE WIND and LORE; Director/Producer is Shelley Williams; Keith Griffiths – CEMETERY OF SPLENDOUR, BERBERIAN SOUND STUDIO and RADIO ON - is Executive Producer. It is a Reel Soul Movies production in association with Illuminations Films.

## DIGITAL WORK

Dance film, THE BODY WITHIN, experimented with digital technology, specifically motion capture software & original choreographed performance by Gill Clarke of Siobhan Davis Co.

## SOLO DIGITAL EXHIBITION WORK

Digitally created and manipulated photographic works merging still and moving image techniques for London exhibitions held at The National Theatre, Visage Gallery and Sadler's Wells Theatre, London.

## SCRIPTWRITING

Shelley was awarded a South West Screen/UK Film Council Lottery Funded Script Development Award to write 'TEMPTING FATE' (90 mins). This UK/USA feature film is currently being developed by Reel Soul Movies ready for pitching to international co-production partners and financiers.

## TV (DEVELOPMENT)

Shelley is developing a slate of feature docs, doc series & drama series for Reel Soul Movies. Previously, she devised, developed & wrote a number of TV series for Series Producer, Marion Milne, an 8 x 30 Minute series for Andy Batten Foster and a 3-part series with neuroscientist & author, David Eagleman, 'SECRET WORLDS, THE UNIVERSE BEHIND THE MIND' for UK-based Touch Productions.

## Selected Producer Credits

TANGO WITH NINAGAWA (40 Mins) BBC2 & BBC SCOTLAND Yukio Ninagawa, Japanese theatrical supreme, directs Alan Rickman and Suzanne Bertish in a contemporary Japanese play performed in English for the first time. Filmed in rehearsals. Edinburgh premiere.

UTOPIAS (90 Mins) C4/LUSIA FILMS (Drama/documentary)

JAPAN LIVE PERFORMANCE (51 Mins) C4/ARTS COUNCIL Golden Gate Award Winner, Best Arts Film, San Francisco International Film Festival. Director Philip Day.

HILDA AT DARJEELING (51 mins) C4/Koninck Projects. Documentary about British women during the Raj. Director Mandy Rose.

SUBURBS IN THE SKY (40 Mins) BBC2. Cult feature director, Chris Petit, looks at the history and enduring popular appeal of the Air Stewardess for BBC's '40 Minutes' series.

DOGS TALK, FISH WALK... (30 Mins) C4/KONINCK PROJECTS. Documentary on Czechoslovakia's animation industry for Channel 4.

KARL KRAUS (30 Mins) LA SEPT (FRANCE)/KONINCKPROJECTS. Documentary on the Austrian writer, satirist and personality of fin de siècle Vienna by German born, British-based director, Lutz Becker.

WARHOL'S CINEMA '63-68': MIRROR FOR THE SIXTIES. C4 (78Mins) KONINCK STUDIOS, Director, Keith Griffiths

## Other Works

Producer of BFI 'New Director's' films, Associate Producer of various animated shorts and commercials for The Brothers Quay, Director of video 'legal' diaries, Producer or Associate Producer of various single arts and cultural programmes for broadcast in the UK and the US including 'Warhol's Cinema '63-68' and 'Anamorphosis'. She directed a short film for UK Olympic sculptor, Ben Dearnley.

## Training

M.A. History of Film & Visual Studies (Birkbeck College, University of London 2004 -2006)  
B.A. (Hons) Photography, Film & TV (Middlesex 1980-83)  
Directing Actors for the Camera, National Film & TV School  
European Film Academy, (E.F.A. Mastering Visual FX, Berlin)  
Arista, Story Editor Course, London & Madrid  
Diploma in Advertising, Watford College, (1979-1980)

## Awards

The Kodak Award, The Golden Gate Award, South West Screen/UK.  
Film Council Lottery Funded Script Development Award.  
Sandford St Martin Trust Radio Award 2015.

## Teaching / Talks (1988-2003)

Shelley worked as a Freelance Course Director at the NFTS Short Course Unit on the Production course. She has also given talks and presentations on her work at film festivals and cultural institutions within the UK and internationally.

## Countries Worked in

Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Slovakia, United Kingdom, United States of America.

## References

Keith Griffiths, Executive Producer, Illuminations Films.  
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Director's Reviews & Film Reviews Available Separately at <https://shelleywilliams.co.uk/reviews.html>