

Multifaceted Media Group: DAVID HEBDITCH

Biography

David Hebditch is an award-winning freelance author, journalist and television documentary producer/director. Based in the UK, he has worked extensively throughout the world including the USA, the Soviet Union, China, Bosnia, Scandinavia, Israel, Afghanistan, Pakistan and most European countries.

He is available for original research, writing research reports, presenting complex material in the form of Powerpoint presentations, tracing interview subjects, performing UK FoIA requests, retrieving material from UK resources such as the National Archive, negotiating interviews, carrying out off-camera and on-camera interviews to a producer's brief, production and planning of filming anywhere in the world, and all kinds of writing (including voice-overs).

Expertise

David has worked on the following major stories across all media:

- Safety in off-shore oilfields (TV)
- The smuggling of western high-technology during the Soviet era (Book and TV)
- The global pornography business (Book and TV)
- Organized crime in the Soviet Union (TV)
- The satanic child abuse myth (TV, Press and Web)
- Organised crime in China (TV)
- Corruption in public-sector bodies (TV)
- The looting of antiquities from war zones (TV and Web)
- Military coups d'état and other forms of régime-change (Book, TV and Radio)
- Irish and Islamic terrorism (Press and TV)
- The 1992-95 civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina (TV)

Journalism and Books

Since the mid-1970s, David's feature articles on a wide variety of topics have appeared in prominent newspapers and magazines including *The Independent*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Mail on Sunday*, *The Guardian*, *The Yorkshire Post*, *The Northern Echo*, *Time Out*, *Profil* (Austria) and *Kauppalähti* (Finland's Financial Times).

During the 1980s, David was Contributing Editor and Eastern Europe Correspondent for *Datamation* magazine in New York. His articles from Moscow won him a US award for excellence in reporting. He was also a syndicated columnist, his comment pieces appearing in UK, Finnish, and Dutch publications over a period of six years.

After writing six books about emerging information systems, his first book for a general audience was about the smuggling of sensitive high technology to the Eastern Bloc (*Techno-Bandits*, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1983). In 1987 he was commissioned to write (with Nick Anning) the first-ever account of the rise of the modern global pornography industry (*Porn Gold*, Faber & Faber, London, 1988). The well-reviewed *How to Stage a Military Coup*

(with Ken Connor) was first published in 2005 (UK hardback Greenhill Books, London 2005; German hardback *Wie man einen Militärputsch inszeniert*, ARES Verlag, 2006; UK paperback Frontline Books, London, 2008; US paperback Skyhorse publishing, New York, 2009).

Television

David's major factual television productions started in the late 1980s. In 1989 Channel 4 *Dispatches* commissioned him to research the growth of organised crime in the Soviet Union during the downfall of the communist régime. He went on to produce *Moscow's Mafia Millions* which was broadcast in eleven countries. After a year filming under cover in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, his 1996 programme (*Dealing with the Triads*) describing the re-emergence of the Triad crime gangs in mainland China won the biggest ever audience for BBC2's current affairs series *Assignment*. Other productions have included *Troubled Waters* (Channel 4 *Dispatches* 1989), *An Ambulance in Time* (Channel 4 *Dispatches*, 1997), *The Devil to Pay* (Yorkshire Television *Edit-V*, 1996), *Chinese Takeaway* (YTV *Edit-V*, 1994) and *The Scam* (Yorkshire Television *Tonight*, 1999).

In 2001 he made *Allies and Lies*, an investigation into covert operations in Bosnia, for BBC2 *Correspondent* (broadcast in 35 countries). From 2003 he worked as a producer/director for NRK Television, Norway on an international co-production about the looting of antiquities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. *Stealing History* was first broadcast in September 2004. Subsequently David and his co-producer Ola Flyum won the 2005 *Skup* (Scoop) and ICIJ Awards for Outstanding International Investigative Reporting (also nominated for the *Prix Europa*). Since late 2006 he has been co-writer/director on *Sarajevo Ricochet*, a document series which re-investigates the aspects of the 1992-95 civil war in Bosnia.

He has also made over ninety regional features for Yorkshire Television.