Adrian McDowall

Director

Represented by:
Humphrey Elles-Hill

Adrian is a double BAFTA award-winning filmmaker named on Screen International's 'Stars of Tomorrow' list. He is a versatile director with over twenty years of experience in drama, documentary, comedy, and television commercials.
The summer of 2024 has seen-Adrian direct the additional photography and reshoots for the Outlander prequel Blood of My Blood for Sony/Starz, and the 2nd Unit for the new Jamie Dornan thriller THE UNDERTOW for NETFLIX and Complete Fiction. In 2023, he split his year between directing the hit 4-part thriller series UNDER HER SKIN for Gaumont/Banijay and Channel 5, and directing the 2nd Unit for all six episodes of SAS: ROGUE HEREOS S2 for Kudos/ Banijay.
Prior to this, Adrian spent eight months working as the 2nd Unit Series Director on Lucasfilm's action-adventure TV follow-up to Ron Howard's original 80's movie Willow. He directed drama, action and VFX sequences across all eight episodes of the Disney+ show, also stepping up to direct the main unit during COVID emergencies.
In 2021, Adrian was hired as the lead director on Julia Donaldson's Princess Mirror-Belle for BBC Studios, directing two episodes of the first season. This is Julia's first live-action adaptation. During the second Covid lockdown, Adrian directed the Two Doors Down Christmas 2020 comedy special, written by Simon Carlyle and Gregor Sharp and produced by BBC Studios. It screened on primetime BBC2, receiving a number of four and five-star reviews. Before this, he directed the reshoots and Second Unit for the
BAFTA Nominated BBC1 submarine thriller Vigil, produced by World Productions and starring Suranne Jones and Martin Compston.
In 2019, Adrian directed the 2nd Unit on the Sony and Starz drama series Outlander - directing across all twelve episodes in season 5, including the epic battle sequences in Ep 507 for director Stephen Woolfenden. Following this, he was hired by Archery Pictures to direct the re-shoots and 2nd unit for the young adult NETFLIX drama Fate - The Winx Saga created by Brian Young (Vampire Diaries). The show launched on the 22nd of January 2021 and has maintained the NETFLIX number-one spot worldwide for over a week. In 2018, Adrian was hired as the Lead Director of two major shows for Jane Roots' Nutopia. The six-part NETFLIX series The Last Czars, chronicling the demise of the Romanov dynasty - which streamed to over 25 million viewers in the first few weeks and featured on the NETFLIX Top 5 list in the U.S., and Jesus: His Life, an eight-part event series commissioned by A+E Networks for The History Channel. It sold to all territories worldwide.
In 2018, AMAZON PRIME launched Adrian's four-part documentary series Grand Prix Driver, with unprecedented access to the legendary Formula One team McLaren and their superstar drivers – including two-time World Champion Fernando Alonso – during their most turbulent pre-season in recent history. Academy Award Winner Michael Douglas narrates the show.
Adrian's passion is to tell unique human stories in a visceral, cinematic and intimate fashion.

TELEVISION

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2024	THE UNDERTOW	Netflix	2nd Unit Director
2024	OUTLANDER: BLOOD OF MY BLOOD	STARZ	2nd Unit Director
2023	SAS ROGUE HEROES 2	Kudos	2nd Unit Director on eps 2-6
2023	FOR HER SINS	Gaumont/C5	Lead Director
2023	TITANS	DC	2nd Unit Director S4 Ep 9
2022	WILLOW	Lucasfilm / Disney+	2nd Unit Director & Main Unit Standby Director Episodes 1 - 8

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2021	PRINCESS MIRROR-BELLE	BBC Studios/CBBC	Lead Director
2021	TWO DOORS DOWN	BBC	Director Christmas Special
2021	VIGIL	World Productions / BBC1	2nd Unit Director & Reshoots Episodes 1 - 6
2021	FATE: THE WINX SAGA	Archery Pictures // Netflix	2nd Unit Director & Reshoots Episodes 1 - 6
2020	OUTLANDER	Starz	2nd Unit Director & Reshoots Season 3, Season 5
2018	JESUS: HIS LIFE	Nutopia / History Channel / A&E	Lead Director Ep 1 - 3
2018	THE LAST CZARS	Nutopia / Netflix	Lead Director
2018	GRAND PRIX DRIVER (Director)	Amazon Studios	4 x 30' Documentary Series
2015-16	EVE (Lead Director)	CBBC / Leopard Drama (Series 1)	5 x 30 minute sci-fi drama, first five episodes As the lead director Adrian was involved with the early development of the show establishing the show style, tone and casting Aired in January and sold internationally to HBO The second series will shoot this summer
2014-15	RIVER CITY	BBC 1 Scotland	Returning Drama
2012-13	RIVER CITY	BBC 1 Scotland	6 x 60 minutes returning drama BBC Scotland’s primetime soap, has over recent years morphed in to a hybrid one hour weekly returning drama. Since the change Adrian has established himself as one of the core series directors
2012-13	EVE (Lead Director)	BBC 1 Scotland	3 x 6 minute show tasters
2012-13	MI HIGH (Series Director)	CBBC / Kudos	4 x 30 minute children's drama
2010-11	THE REAL HUSTLE (Series Director)	BBC 3 / Objective Prod	10 x 30 minutes hidden camera
2010-11	SAME SMILE (Series Director)	BBC Cbeebies	8 x 15 minutes children's series
2010-11	SAME SMILE (Lead Director)	BBC Cbeebies	7 x 15 minutes children's series
2008-09	TAGGART	ITV Drama / SMG (Episode 96 & Episode 101)	2 x 60 minutes
2008-09	THE DEPARTMENT	SMG	Show Bible By Adrian McDowall and Simon Stephanson

2007	MYSELF ONLY MORE SO	BBC Childrens	1 x 15 minutes comedy / drama

DOCUMENTARY

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2014	INSANE FIGHT CLUB (Producer / Director / Camera)	BBC 1 / BBC 3 / IWC / Zodiac	1 x 60 minutes Entertainment documentary exploring the emergence of the underground wrestling scene in Glasgow It premièred on BBC 1 to both critical and public acclaim, trending at number one in the UK and launching the career of the breakout star GRADO The film sold to American Netflix Nominated for Royal Television Society Scotland Award for Best Single Documentary
2010-11	CUTTING LOOSE (Co-Director / Co-Producer)	BBC Scotland / UKFC	30 minutes
2010-11	TUNNOCKS	STV	10 minutes
2008-09	MA BAR (Co-Director / Co-Producer)	D&G Public Art	1 x 12 minutes
2008-09	SLICE (Co-Director / Co-Producer)	D&G Public Art	
2007	STANDING START (Co-Director / Co-Producer)	Cycling Scotland	1 x 12 minutes

SHORT FILM

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2012-13	FOUND	BBC 2 / EBU / Feelgood Fiction	15 minute pilot Wr. Sanjeev Kohli Prod. Lawrence Bowen The story revolves around a young Sikh boy who retreats into his imagination whilst struggling to fit in at a new school Nominated for a BAFTA Children's Award

2012-13	GUTPUNCH	Escape Films / BFI	30 minute comedy-drama Commissioned by the BFI and Lighthouse, is a new leftfield comedy Wr. Andrew Yerlett Prod. Michelle Eastwood Starring Rufus Jones (W1A), Justin Edwards (The Thick of It) and Christian Lees (The Tale of Tales) Nominated for Best Short film at the Huston International Comedy Festival
1999-04	HEADBANGERS (Writer / Director / Producer)	TOPMAN	Comedy drama
1999-04	WISE GUYS	BBC Tartan	1 x 10 minutes comedy drama
1999-04	THE TOON FAIR (Writer / Director / Excutive Producer)	Cineworks	19 minutes comedy
1999-04	WHO'S MY FAVOURITE GIRL? (Writer / Director / Executive Producer)	ECA / Imagine Pictures	15 minutes comedy

FEATURE FILM

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2012-13	SPUNK (Writer / Director)	Zentropa / Sigma Films	Drama treatment
2010-11	YOU INSTEAD (2nd Unit Director)	BBC Films / Sigma Films	Dir. D. McKenzie
2008-09	ME AND MA GAL (Co-Director / Co-Producer)	Scottish Screen	Test Scenes - Feature
2004-06	THE NANA SAGA (Co-Writer / Director)	Film Four / Slate Films	Screenplay Co-Written by Adrian McDowall and Simon Stephenson Prod. Vicki Patterson
2004-06	EXCEPT ME AND MY MONKEY		Wr. Simon Stephenson Developed by Adrian McDowall Prod. Damian Jones
2004-06	DEVLIN	Scottish Screen	Wr. Des Dillon Developed by Adrian McDowall Prod. Judy Counihan

MUSIC PROMO

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY
1999-04	SUMMER JETS (Co-Writer / Director / Executive)	Pias

COMMERCIAL

PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
GREENER SCOTLAND "Show Bumper"	Leith Agency / Scottish Government / STV Creative	1 X 15 minutes, 2 x 10 minutes and 1 x 5 minutes
ADULT PROTECTION	STV Creative / Scottish Councils	1 X 60 minutes and 1 x 30 minutes
EARLY YEARS	Leith Agency / Scottish Government / STV Creative	9 X 40 minutes
MENTOS "Show Bumpers"	STV Creative	2 x 20 minutes, 6 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes
TRUST DEED "Stuart"	New Tommorow / STV Creative / Petrus	2 X 60 minutes and 2 x 10 minutes
TRUST DEED "Mary"	New Tommorow / STV Creative / Petrus	1 X 60 minutes and 2 x 10 minutes
BINGO MOOD	Bingomood.com / STV Creative	1 X 40 minutes, 3 x 20 minutes and 5 x 10 minutes
SCOTTISH AD AWARDS PROMO "Heist"	The Drum / Lucid	1 x 60 minutes
MAGIC JARS	Waste Aware Grampian / Lucid / Campaign HQ	1 x 40 minutes
HAMMOCK	Waste Aware Grampian / Plum / Campaign HQ	1 x 40 minutes
TOPIARY DOG	Waste Aware Grampian / Plum / Campaign HQ	1 x 40 minutes
YAPPY DOG	Waste Aware Grampian / Plum / Campaign HQ	1 x 40 minutes
BRIDGES	Bridges Shopping Centre / Plum / MTR	2 X 20 minutes
CARNIVAL	IRN BRU & SECC Carnival / Plum / Alan O' Hagan	1 X 30 minutes
MCDONALDS "Kids – Wallchart"	McDonalds / Sunday Mail / Plum / Frame C	1 x 30 minutes
MCBLAINE	Sunday Mail / Plum / Frame C	1 x 30 minutes, 2 x 20 minutes and 1 x 30 minutes
CHAIRS	Scotrail / Plum / The Union	1 X 20 minutes and 1 x 30 minutes
CHANGE TOP	Newcastle United F.C / Plum / Cravens	1 X 20 minutes
BLUE BINS	Waste Aware Fife / Plum / Ten Alps	1 x 40 minutes

BEANS RECYCLE	Waste Aware Grampian / Plum / Ten Alps	1 X 40 minutes and 1 x 30 minutes
IAIN AND ANGUS	Inverness Airport / Plum / Frame C	1 x 30 minutes
SLIMMING CALENDAR	Sunday Mail / Plum / Frame C	1 x 20 minutes
FRANK MCAVENNIE	Sunday Mail / Plum / Frame C	2 x 30 minutes biog serial
RELATIONSHIPS	Sunday Mail / Plum / Frame C	1 x 30 minutes
PHOTO BOOTH	Forth1 Radio / Plum / Coltas	1 x 20 minutes and 1 x 30 minutes
SILLY STRING	Forth1 Radio / Plum / Coltas	1 x 20 minutes and 1 x 30 minutes
SAVERS 1	Savers / Plum / Coltas	1x30 minutes and 3x10 minutes
SAVERS 2	Savers / Plum / Coltas	1 x 30 minutes and 3 x 10 minutes
TAYTO ROUGH-CUTS	Tayto Crisps / Plum / Fire IMC Belfast	2 x 20 minutes and 8 x 10 minutes
DAILY RECORD "Generics"	Daily Record / Coltas / Picardy TV	2 x 30 minutes
ROSES AWARDS PROMO	Roses Awards / Plum / The Union	2 x 2 minutes
HERO	Daily Record / Picardy / Coltas	2 x 30 minutes
VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION	UK Government / Outsider London	2 x 60 minutes

AWARDS

PRODUCTION (ROLE)	PROJECT DETAILS
BAFTA Award	Winner of Best Short Film
BAFTA Award (Scotland)	Winner of Best Short Film
BAFTA Children's Award	Primary Education Best Film Nominee
Royal Television Society	Winner of Best Non Factual Short
Royal Television Society (Scotland)	Best Single Documentary Nominee (pending)
Sundance Film Festival (US)	Shortlisted for Best International Short Film
World Cinema Eye Honors 2013	Best Documentary Short Film Nominee
Houston International Comedy Film Festival	Best Comedy Short Nominee
Flickerfest International Film Festival	Winner of Best Short Film
BBC British Short Film Festival	Winner of UCI Grand Prize, Best British Film

Grierson Bloomberg Award	Shortlisted for Best Documentary Newcomer
Encounters International Film Festival	Winner of Best Documentary Film
Rutger Hauer - I've Seen Films Festival	Special Commendation
River Run International Film Festival	Best Documentary Film
Indy International Film Festival (US)	Winner of Best Documentary Film
Asterfest International Film Festival	Winner of Best Documentary Film
Doc NZ Film Festival	Best International Documentary Short Nominee
San Joaquin International Film Festival	Best Experimental Film Nominee
Reykjavik International Film Festival	Golden Egg Special Commendation
Rutger Hauer's - I've Seen Films Festival	Special Acknowledgement
Edinburgh International Film Festival	Best of The Fest
Gijon International Film Festival	Best International Short Film
Cork International Film Festival	Audience Award Best Short
Hamptons International Film Festival	Winner of Best Short
Berlin Prix Europa TV & Film Festival	Encouragement Award
Slovakia Mediawave Film Festival	Winner Best Short Film
Gijon International Film Festival	Best Short Film Nominee
Scottish Students on Screen	Winner of Best Short Drama
Jim Poole Award	Winner of Best Short Film
Blue Door Festival	Winner of Best Short Film & Audience Award
ETMA Awards	Winner Best Short Drama, Best Production & Best Cinematography
Roses Advertising Awards	Winner Gold Award Best 30 sec AD
Roses Advertising Awards	Winner Gold Award Best 20k AD
Scottish Advertising Awards	Winner Best AD under 20k
Scottish Advertising Awards	Winner Best 30 second AD
Scottish Advertising Awards	Special Commendation 60sec AD
Green Advertising Award	Winner Best AD under 100k

Green Advertising Award	Best AD under 100k Nominee
XFM	Music Video of The Year Nominee