Michael Samuels

Director

Michael Samuels is an award-winning British television director, producer and screenwriter. He won the BAFTA Award for Best Drama Serial for four-part drama ANY HUMAN HEART written by William Boyd (C4/Carnival) and was nominated for the BAFTA Award for Best Single Film for biographical television film THE WINDERMERE CHILDREN (BBC/Wall to Wall/Warner Bros), which also won the Prix Europa for Best European TV Movie. He won the International Emmy for Best TV Movie or Miniseries for the two-part mini-series MAN IN AN ORANGE SHIRT (BBC/Kudos)-and-the-RTS Award for Best Single Drama for television movie-THE CURSE OF STEPTOE-(BBC). To date, he has directed ten feature-length television dramas for the BBC, ITV and C5, including MRS MANDELA (BBC/Diverse), which he both wrote and directed. Other television credits include the mini-series COMA (C5/Roughcut/CBS Studios), CLOSE TO ME-(C4/Nordic Entertainment Group), BLACK WORK-(ITV/Mammoth Screen), which was the most watched show on UK Netflix in April 2025,-and THE FEAR-(C4/BBC/World), all of which he sole-directed. Most recently, he directed the TV films THE TRIAL (C5/Adorable Media) and POWER: THE DOWNFALL OF HUW EDWARDS (C5/Wonderhood Studios).

TELEVISION

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2026	POWER: THE DOWNFALL OF HUW EDWARDS (Director / Executive Producer)	Channel 5 / Wonderhood Studios	TV Film With Martin Clunes
2025	THE TRIAL (Director)	Channel 5 / Adorable Media	TV Film With Ben Miles, Claire Skinner, Saoirse Monica-Jackson
2023-24	COMA (Series Director)	CBS / Channel 5 / Roughcut TV	4-part Thriller With Jason Watkins, Claire Skinner and David Bradley
2021	CLOSE TO ME (Series Director / Executive Producer)	Channel 4 / Viaplay / The Development Partnership	6-part Psychological Thriller With Connie Nielsen and Christopher Eccleston
2020	THE WINDERMERE CHILDREN (Director / Executive Producer)	Warner Brothers TV / BBC	TV Film With Romola Garai, Iain Glen, Tim McInnerny and Thomas Kretschmann WINNER - Prix Europa, Best European TV Movie NOMINATED - Best Single Drama BAFTA
2016-17	MAN IN AN ORANGE SHIRT (Series Director)	BBC 2 / Kudos	2 Part Drama written by Patrick Gale With Vanessa Redgrave WINNER - International Emmy 2018 Best Mini-Series/TV Movie

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2014-15	BLACK WORK (Series Director)	ITV	3 part drama With Sheridan Smith Written by Matt Charman
2012	THE FEAR (Series Director)	World Productions / Channel 4	4 part mini-series With Peter Mullan and Richard E Grant
2010	ANY HUMAN HEART (Series Director)	Carnival / Channel 4	4 part mini-series By William Boyd With Jim Broadbent, Matthew Macfadyen, Gillian Anderson, Hayley Atwell and Kim Cattrall WINNER - Best Serial Drama BAFTA
2009	THE LAST DAYS OF LEHMAN BROTHERS (Director)	BBC Drama / BBC Two	TV Film With James Cromwell and James Bolam
2008-09	MRS MANDELA (Writer / Director)	BBC Four / Two	TV Film With Sophie Okonedo, David Harewood and David Morrissey
2008	CAUGHT IN A TRAP (Director)	Greenlit / ITV	TV Film With Geraldine James, Jim Carter and Connie Fisher
2007-08	THE CURSE OF STEPTOE (Director)	BBC Drama / BBC Four	TV Film With Jason Isaacs and Phil Davis WINNER - Best Single Drama RTS
2006	AMEN (Writer)	Channel 4 Drama / Touchpaper	Feature-length script
2005	OUR HIDDEN LIVES (Director / Producer)	BBC Four	TV Film With Sarah Parish, Ian McDiarmid, Lesley Sharp, Richard Briers and Michael Fassbender
2004-05	THE SLAVERY BUSINESS (Director / Producer)	BBC Two	TV Film With Jack Shepherd and Robert Pugh
2004	A MOST MYSTERIOUS MURDER (Director)	Touchpaper / BBC One	Pilot drama for series With Julian Fellowes and Michael Fassbender
2003	THREE SISTERS (Director)	BBC Four	Television version of West End play With Kristin Scott Thomas
2002-03	THE VICE (Director)	Touchpaper / ITV	Drama series With Tim Pigott-Smith and Nigel Terry

2002	THE FALKLANDS PLAY (Director)	BBC Drama	TV Film With Patricia Hodge, James Fox and Robert Hardy
2001	EASTENDERS (Director)	BBC One	4 Episodes
1999-00	EASTENDERS (Director)	BBC One	12 episodes including a 40-minute Special
1998	BROOKSIDE (Director)	Channel 4	18 episodes

IN DEVELOPMENT

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
Current	THE ORCHESTRA (Currently Writing to Direct)	Sid Gentle Films	Single film for BBC 2
Current	THE BOY WHO WOULD BE SHAKESPEARE	Ecosse Films	Feature Film
Current	BLOOD OVER WATER (Co-writer, to direct)	Harbour Pictures/Tideway Films	Feature Film
2015	UNSAID (Writer, to direct)	Nick Wechsler	Feature Film

DOCUMENTARY

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2003	TRAVELS WITH MY UNFIT MOTHER (Director / Producer)	Lion / BBC One	
2001	CASTLE (Director / Producer)	Lion / Channel 4	History documentary
2001	AGAMEMNON (Director)	BBC Factual	
2000	EQUINOX - THE SCIENCE OF STRESS (Director / Producer / Writer)	Lion / Channel 4	
1997	DANIEL HANDLEY: A STOLEN LIFE (Director / Producer / Writer)	BBC One	Drama-documentary
1996-97	CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (Director / Producer)	BBC Documentaries (6 Episodes)	

RADIO

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS

2003-04	THE DUEL (Writer)	Radio 4	90 minute drama With David Threlfall and Patricia Hodge

FEATURE FILM

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	PROJECT DETAILS
1999-00	CROSSING THE LINE (Writer)	Feature film script set in South Africa