Nick Willing

Writer / Director

Writer/Director Nick willing has a very varied filmography. Although he is perhaps best known for his popular sci fi and fantasy television shows he's also made theatrically released movies, thrillers and social realist dramas. The one common thread is his fascination with how the dark side of human is nature is expressed in fairy tales, myths and archetypal story telling. After an early career in the golden era of music videos he wrote and directed "Photographing Fairies" (starring Ben Kingsley, Toby Stephens and Frances Barber) which was released in cinemas in 1997 and won 5 awards including the Melies D'Or. This led to a lavish television production of "Alice in Wonderland" a faithful adaptation which is often used in schools and colleges and still regularly appears on NBC and Channel 4 at Christmas. The all star cast included Miranda Richardson, Martin Short, Gene Wilder, Ben Kingsley, Christopher Lloyd, Robbie Coltrane, George Wendt, Peter Ustinov, Pete Postlethwaite, Tina Majorino and Whoopi Goldberg, and drew 25 million viewers to its first broadcast on NBC and won 4 Primetime Emmys and an RTS award. This led to a run of grand television mini-series - the epic Greek Myth "Jason and the Argonauts" (starring Dennis Hopper, Frank Langella, Olivia Williams, Adrian Lester and Derek Jacobi) "The Infinite Worlds of HG Wells" (6 part), the pilot episode of BBC's "Sea of Souls" (which spawned 4 seasons) and the Christmas special to commemorate 50 years of Jackanory "The Magician of Samarkand" and "Muddle Earth" - the latter of which established a long running series. Two theatrical feature films followed - "Close your Eyes" and "The River King" - before the ground breaking Wizard of Oz homage "Tin Man" a 6 part series starring Zooey Deschenel, Richard Dreyfuss and-Alan Cumming which first coined the term 'a reimagining' and ushered in a string of reimagined fantasy shows in the US. It is still the highest rated show in the history of the Syfy network and most watched Cable mini series of 2007. It was nominated for 9 primetime Emmys. Syfy ordered two more 'events' from Nick which he wrote and directed - "Alice" starring Kathy Bates, Colm Meaney, Tim Curry, Harry Dean Stanton, Matt Frewer, Andrew Lee Potts and Caterina Scorsone - and - "Neverland" which also aired on SKY UK and starred Rhys Ifans, Anna Friel, Bob Hoskins, Charles Dance and Charlie Rowe. Neverland was the second highest rated mini series in the history of Syfy, after Tin Man, and Alice the third. Nick spent the following year researching and shooting "Baby Sellers" in India and Brazil - a docu-drama style exposé of the world of baby trafficking - which was invited to premiere at the United Nations in New York in front of 500 ambassadors and NGOs. It was the highest rated cable program of the night with 2.6 million viewers for Lifetime and nominated for 7 Canadian Screen Awards. Last year he made the feature film "Altar" (aka "The Haunting of Radcliffe House") starring Michael Modine and Olivia Williams which explores his fascination with the Uncanny (Das Unheimliche) and uses the cinematic language of British psychological horror movies of the 70's. Nick then went on to create, produce, write and direct the 13 x 1 hour series " Olympus" which gets under the skin of the world of Greek Tragedy, gods and monsters. He is now making a feature documentary about his mother, the painter Paula Rego.

IN DEVELOPMENT

PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
OPIUM (Writer / Director)	Reunion	8 x 60 min series

TELEVISION

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2015	OLYMPUS (Writer / Director / Showrunner / Exec Producer)	Halmi / Syfy NBC / Spike TV	13 x 60 mins Writer of 11 Episodes A series set in Ancient Greece - a world of violence, lust, intrigue, gods and monsters. He show-ran season one, wrote 11 of the 13 episodes, directed the first and last blocks and Executive Produced.

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2014	ALTAR (Writer / Director)	Halmi / Screen Yorkshire / Content Film	Single Film Starring Olivia Williams and Matthew Modine
2013	BABY SELLERS (Director)	Reunion / Lifetime	Single Film Exposing the international trade in baby trafficking. Premiered at the United Nations in 2013 before its TV US airing on Lifetime where it rated highest of all cable networks. Nominated for 7 Canadian Screen Awards including Best TV Mini Series or Movie and Best Director. Won for best screenplay. Nominations for The Canadian Screen Awards: Best Mini Series or Movie Best Leading actress Best Screenplay Best Director Best Editor Best Costume Best Music
2011	NEVERLAND (Writer / Director)	Parallel / Syfy / Sky Movies	2 x 90 mins Starring Anna Friel, Rhys Ifans and Bob Hoskins
2009	ALICE (Writer / Director)	RHI / Reunion / SyFy	2 x 120 mins Starring Caterina Scorsone, Tim Curry and Kathy Bates
2007	TIN MAN (Director)	Halmi / Syfy	3 x 90 mins Starring Zooey Deschanel, Alan Cumming and Richard Dreyfuss 9 Primetime Emmy Award Nominations
2006	JACKANORY (Director)	BBC	2 x 60 mins
2004	SEA OF SOULS (Director)	BBC Scotland	2 x 60 mins
2001	THE INFINITE WORLDS OF HG WELLS (Writer / Producer)	Hallmark Channel	4 x 60 mins Starring Tom Ward and Katy Carmichael
2000	JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS (Director)	Hallmark / NBC	Single Film 2 Emmy Award Nominations
1999	ALICE IN WONDERLAND (Director)	Hallmark / NBC	Single Film Starring Miranda Richardson, Martin Short, Gene Wilder, Ben Kingsley, Christopher Lloyd, Robbie Coltrane, Peter Ustinov, Pete Postlethwaite and Whoopi Goldberg Winner of 4 Emmys

FEATURE FILM

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2005	THE RIVER KING (Director)	Movision / Myriad Pictures	
2002	CLOSE YOUR EYES (Writer / Director)	Kismet Films	Starring Goran Visjnic, Miranda Otto, Shirley Henderson and Corin Redgrave Winner of 5 Awards including the Grand Prix for 'Best Film' at Paris Film Festival.
1997	PHOTOGRAPHING FAIRIES (Writer / Director)	PolyGram Filmed Entertainment / British Screen	Starring Ben Kingsley, Toby Stephens and Emily Woof Winner of 5 awards including the Melies d'Or

DOCUMENTARY

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2019	UNSTOPPABLE	Kismet Film Company	Aired on BBC Two A year in the life of abstract artist Sean Scully as he flies around the world to open 15 major museum exhibitions - a journey that also reveals his extraordinary life story.
2017	PAULA REGO, SECRETS & STORIES (Director / Editor)	Kismet / BBC	Released in cinemas in Portugal April 2017. A unique insight into the life and work of celebrated painter Paula Rego directed by her son, the film maker Nick Willing. Notoriously private and guarded, Rego opens up for the first time surprising her son with secrets and stories of her unique life, battling fascism, a misogynistic art world and manic depression.