

John West – Art Director / Set Designer

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Summary / Profile:

Art Director and Set Designer, expert in guiding the creation & delivery of complex production designs for major TV projects and features to ensure creative & efficient realisation of the production vision. Key strengths include: utilisation of leading industry software including CAD/VectorWorks & Photoshop to deliver design efficiencies; liaising closely & collaborating with construction/painting departments to ensure alignment to overall project goals; extensive knowledge of the history of art & architecture to help realise the overall vision of the Production Designer; and nurturing trusted relationships with key creative teams to understand & interpret their vision to provide practical & innovative design solutions.

Key Skills:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Art Director▪ Set Design (including Hand Drawing)▪ Prop Making Supervision▪ Team Leadership▪ Set / Prop Construction Supervision▪ Location Laser Measuring▪ Apple Mac / MS Office Suite | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Television / Exhibitions / Feature Films▪ Modern / Period Production Artwork▪ CAD / VectorWorks▪ Training / Mentoring▪ Location Surveying▪ Art Department Establishment / Recruitment▪ Period Sign-writing |
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Career Highlights:

- ITV's '**Broadchurch**' required a plausible & adaptable courtroom set to fit into an existing 8-sided building to be used as a studio. As Set Designer, created & delivered the courtroom set. Made accurate plan of metal room; drew up room to scale/built model/made final drawings; located/coordinated cost-effective set-build contractors; designed adjustable height ceiling; and adapted set to accommodate Director's vision. Succeeded in delivering a demountable set for future use, enabling filming close to London as opposed to on location in Exeter.
- ITV's '**Victoria**' (8 part costume-drama) required set up of an Art Department (budget £1.2M). As Art Director, built & led the department. Identified/hired Asst. AD/assistant; set up AD office/workshop; made location photographic records/recorded dimensions/drew to scale; created prop/scenic unit plans; supervised set/furniture/prop/location 'plugs'/painting/finishing; and maintained/updated production lists. Succeeded in delivering the project on time & budget receiving positive feedback from Producers & Critics, resulting in re-hire for Series 2.
- Scott Free Films/Studio Canal's feature '**Before I Go to Sleep**' required reshoots. As Art Director, hired to deliver the reshoot art direction. Surveyed/photographed/drew up location plans; utilised own kit for rapid set-up; facilitated efficient scenic plan delivery; and produced graphics utilising own kit on set. Succeeded in enabling rapid and efficient re-shoots, saving a significant amount of money while allowing the feature to be completed on time with an international release and ultimately making a profit.

Career History / Experience:

Employer: Various Clients
Position: Freelance Art Director / Set Designer
Dates: 1975 to present

- Undertake a wide variety of Art Direction and Set Designer roles for high profile TV, film, exhibitions and visitor attractions.
- Key clients include: Aardman Animations; Anglia TV; BBC TV; Birmingham City University; Caernarfon Castle; Harlech Television; ITV Studios; Mammoth Screen; Ragdoll Limited; Scott Free Films; Scottish Opera; The Imperial War Museum; The National Maritime Museum; The Royal Shakespeare Company; The V&A; The Walt Disney Company; Tussauds Studios.

Recent Key Projects:

- Art Director on Series 1 of “**Victoria**”, an acclaimed TV costume drama series for Mammoth Screen/ITV Studios. In charge of locations, prop finishing, team leading and technical drawing.
- Model Art Director for “**Broadchurch**” (ITV drama series) in charge of drawing up and making the model for the courtroom set at Longcross Studios
- Designed **Imperial War Museum Exhibition** acting as Scenic Artist /Designer in charge of scenic finishes and designing a ruined French farmhouse mock-up.
- Art Director / Set Designer on “**Whisky Galore**” (feature) in charge of drawing up the shipwreck scene and the bed and fittings for “Woolsey’s Cottage”.
- Set Design / Art Director on “**Outlander**” (TV fantasy Drama Series) in charge of drawing up the inn interior and the exterior steps, doors etc. for one of the locations.
- Concept Designer on “**Hubba Bubba**” gum advert for **Aardman Animations** – commissioned to provide the visuals for the sets being built for adverts.

Selected Recent Production Credits:

TV / Features:

- Mammoth Screen/ITV Studios: “**Victoria**”: Art Director (8 credits): 2015/2016
- Whiskey Galore Movie Ltd: “**Whisky Galore**”: Art Director / Set Designer: 2015
- Left Bank Pictures: “**Outlander**”: Set Design / Art Director: 2014
- Kudos Film & TV for ITV: “**Broadchurch**”: Model Art Director: 2014
- Scott Free Films/Studio Canal: “**Before I Go to Sleep**” reshoot: Art Director: 2013
- BBC Drama: “**Doctors**”: Art Director: 2012
- Rash Ltd: “**Dementamania**”: Art Director: 2012
- ITV Studios: “**Inspector Lewis**” – “A Generation of Vipers” Standby Art Director: 2012
- Pulp the Movie Ltd: “**Pulp**”: 2010

Exhibitions:

- Imperial War Museum Exhibition: Scenic Art / Designer: 2013
- V&A Exhibition “**Surreal Things**”: Scenic Art / Designer: 2007

Adverts / Promos:

- Aperia Pro Promotional Film: Art Director: 2016
- Sky Italia Advert: Art Director: 2016
- DVT Wig Advert: Art Director: 2014
- “Hubba Bubba” gum advert for Aardman Animations: Concept Designer: 2007

Professional Development:

- Production Design: Cinema Jam
- Iosh Health and Safety: BECTU
- Rhino 3d CAD: Rhino Training
- 3D SketchUp Pro CAD: Film CAD Limited
- SketchUp CAD: Film CAD Limited
- VectorWorks 3D CAD: Film CAD Limited
- VectorWorks: University of the Arts
- Draughting for Television: Shaun Moore Design
- Photoshop Basic: NE Worcestershire College
- Photoshop Advanced: NE Worcestershire College
- Film Budgeting: Blue Hippo Media
- Film Production: Blue Hippo Media
- Film Production: The Producers Forum/ BBC TV
- Draughting for film: Film Design International
- Life Drawing: Edinburgh University School of Art

Technical Knowledge:

- Apple Mac; SketchUp Pro; VectorWorks; Photoshop; MS Office Suite

Memberships:

- BAFTA
- The British Film Designers Guild
- The Royal Television Society

Personal Details:

- Location: London / Worcestershire
- Driving Licence: Full UK

Recommendations:

From Michael Howells the Production Designer:

“John, It has been a pleasure working with you. The “Victoria” art department could not have succeeded without you.

*Many Thanks
Michael”*