



KATE THOMPSON-GORRY

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Franco-British Filmmaker – bilingual

DOCUMENTARIES / CORPORATE FILMS / SOCIAL IMPACT FILMS

Photography was my first love. As a teenager, I was always behind the lens, capturing the world around me. This passion led me to study history and politics at Bradford University with dreams of becoming a photojournalist. However, life had other plans. It was in Bradford, a vibrant town in northern England, that I discovered the true power of storytelling. While working with a local film company on a series of short documentaries with the Pakistani migrant community, I realised the medium has the unique ability to connect people, transcending boundaries and cultures. On moving to Paris to attend film school, I received a student grant to make my first documentary, Nir Deshika, which delved into the lives of women filmmakers in India. This experience was both humbling and profoundly inspiring, reinforcing my belief that personal stories often carry the deepest universal truths

Today, I am driven by a passion for crafting character-driven stories with compelling narrative arcs - stories that resonate as both authentic and deeply human. My focus is on inspirational life stories that strive to spark reflection and hopefully encourage viewers to see the world through a more hopeful lens.

Kate Thompson-Gorry

FORMAL BIO

Kate Thompson-Gorry is an award-winning documentary filmmaker known for exploring global human stories with authenticity, bringing to light diminishing cultures often linked to larger global issues. As a factual author for primetime television, Kate enjoys developing character-based stories with strong narrative arcs that resonate with viewers as both authentic and universal. Kate most recently directed an adventure led by Paralympian world champion swimmer Théo Curin and TV host Ismaël Khelifa, created that was proved by France Télévisions in celebration of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Other credits the Tea Master, Dare to Dream - Zip Zap Circus, and A Silent Revolution: Women in Science in Africa. From the Bushmen of the Kalahari to Japan's last pearl divers, Kate seeks out strong characters whose personal stories resonate universally. A storyteller at heart, Kate sharpened her writing by attending Robert McKee's Masterclass and studying screenwriting under the guidance of Julie Ponsonnet. As a natural continuity to her documentary work, KTG's corporate work includes advocacy pieces and social impact films for International brands and World Organisations such as LVMH, Danone, L'Oréal, Arkéma, Suez, Padding Africa, the World Innovation Summit for Education and the UNHCR.

Kate is currently in development on an original project with Joann Sfar's Magical Society and is writing a narrative script in collaboration with the Ju|'hoansi Bushmen of the North-East of Namibia.

Kate lives between Paris and Cape Town.

DOCUMENTARY FILMOGRAPHY

THE MADIBA CHALLENGE - FRANCE TÉLÉVISIONS - 52' - 2024 - Prod: Bo Travail !

The "Madiba Challenge" is a sporting and solidarity-driven adventure led by Paralympian world champion swimmer Théo Curin and adventurer Ismaël Khelifa, culminating in a 30km relay swim and 100km bike ride to support South African youth. Created and aired for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, this journey highlights their social commitment to building an inspiring, sustainable space in the township of Langa...



International Film Festival Le Grand Bivouac, Albertville, France

THE TEA MASTER - ARTE - 52' - 2022

Production: Mediawan / 3^{ème} Œil

At the foot of Mount Fuji, Mohei Honda, 36, is one of Japan's most innovative young tea masters.



International Film Festival Curieux Voyageurs, St Etienne, France

FRANCINE, AN AMBITION FOR AFRICA - FRANCE 24 - 52' - 2022 - Prod: Nova Prod

This film follows Francine Ntoumi, a prominent molecular biology researcher, across Congo during a caravan raising awareness among young women about science...

DARE TO DREAM, ZIPZAP CIRCUS - CANAL+ FAMILY - 90' - 2019 - Prod : Bo travail !

This film follows young performers from Cape Town's townships to a show before 51,000 people, offering a heartwarming glimpse into one of the world's most innovative social circuses...



Honorable Mention – Better World Film Festival 2021, Official Selection – Encounters Film Festival, South Africa – Official Selections – Hollywood Gold Awards, USA, London Movie Awards, UK, Anatolia International Film Festival, 2021, One Race, Human Race Film Festival 2021, USA

A SILENT REVOLUTION - CANAL+ INTERNATIONAL - 52' - 2019 - Prod : L'Oréal

Foundtionand Taxibrousse Prod

The journeys of three exceptional women scientists who are breaking barriers and inspiring a new generation of African women...



Best Foreign Documentary, Docufest Edinburgh - Best Women Empowerment Film and Best Documentary, African Film For Impact Festival, Nigeria - Official Selection - International Women's Film Festival, San Diego, USA - Vox Feminea - Selection Panorama Pariscience 2020, France

CHAOS IN THE KALAHARI - France Télévisions - 52' - 2016 - Prod : MC4

Kalahari Desert, Namibia and Botswana. Immersion with the San people of the Kalahari. Bella opens the doors to her world and tells us, from within, about the slow genocide of her people...



Best documentary - Human District Human Rights Festival International, Belgrade 2017, Official Selection - Curieux Voyageurs, Official Selection - Garufinda Indigenous Festival, Los Angeles, - Official Selection - Doc without borders, Excellence - Depth of Field - Screening at the FFIDH, Human Rights Film Festival, Geneva

THE AMA DIVERS OF JAPAN - Planète + - 52' - 2016 – Prod : MC4

Hegura Island, west of Japan. Diving in deep waters within the community of Amas, these famous Japanese pearl-fishing freedivers whose exploits amazed the great Jacques Mayol...

A SHAMAN'S JOURNEY - France Télévisions - 52' - 2016 - Prod : MC4

Kalahari, North-Eastern Namibia. A bushman shaman leaves his village for the first time to help a team of scientists solve a 40,000-year-old mystery...



Opening - International Film Festival Etonnants Voyageurs, Official Selection International Film Festival Curieux Voyageurs, Commfest Global Community Film festival, Canada, Special Mention, International Archeology Film Festival, Italie 2015

KAROO COWBOY - Ushuïa TV - 52' - 2014 - Prod : MC4

Karoo Desert, South Africa. Seun Beukes, 29 years old, avcowboy bushman, sees his life upset by the prospect of the arrival of an international gas extraction company...

XPRESS 2 BREST - Mezzo / Arte liveweb - 90' - 2008 – Prod : Oléo Films

The musical and explosive encounter between Soweto Kinch and Napoleon Solo Maddox...

MURKY WATERS - France Télévisions - 4 X 26' - 2005 - Prod : Prodocs

An uncompromising documentary collection on the Parisian police...

CRIME DURING LA BELLE ÉPOQUE - Toute l'Histoire - 4 X 26' - 2004 - Prod : Zeaux

A true crime documentary series echoing the society of that era...

NIR DESHIKA - 13'' - 1992 - Acorn Vidéo Granada TV

A road movie across India to meet Indian female directors...

Grant: 'défi jeune'



COPORPORTE FILMOGRAPHY (main films in over 100 made)

UNHCR - The United Nations Refugee Agency. For nearly ten years, I have regularly collaborated with UNHCR, producing short film series for their website in English and French, coordinating between their offices in Geneva and Paris. These range from sensitive portraits of refugees in Calais to a film selected to illustrate Peace Day, which I created in 2016 in the DRC. Prod: Two Tree Island Productions.

TBHIV Care - During my years in Cape Town, I produced short film series for the largest association fighting Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Based in Cape Town, TBHIV Care's work extends throughout the country. Prod: Two Tree Island Productions.

WISE - World Innovation Summit for Education. Best of films from the event in Doha, interviews with education specialists, and short documentaries showcasing innovative education projects worldwide. Prod: Auditoire / Qatar Foundation.

ARKEMA - A monthly documentary series on sustainability, broadcast in English and French on their site. Prod: Algorithme.

LABORATOIRES LILLY - Designed as a documentary on Forensic Science to better understand bone diseases. Prod: Publicis Healthcare International.

PRÉVOIR - « 100 ans de Prévoir » An 8-minute graphic film retracing the 100-year history of Prévoir. Prod: Auditoire.

DANONE - « Artemis, a software at the service of the Customer » 7min : Prod : L'Oeil du Cyclope

ALSTOM - Debate on the perspectives of the Alstom group" - 2x90 min - Multi-camera studio production, 6 cameras. Prod: Capa Entrepris

PEUGEOT "Barcodes on the roads" and "Winter tests in Lapland" - 4x6' - A series of on-the-ground reports. Prod: Peugeot PSA.

SUEZ "Lesseps and the construction of the canal" - 12' - Interviews, archival footage, and graphic elements. Prod: Capa Entreprise.

TV MAGAZINES

L'OEIL DE LINKS - Canal + - 2010 à 2013 - Prod : La Parisienne d'images. A weekly magazine on creative web news presented by Elliot Lepers, featuring fiction segments and multi-camera studio setups.

PASSÉ SIMPLE - M6 - 50 x 7 min - 1998 à 2001 - VM Productions M6
A weekly magazine presented by Marielle Fournier, aired in prime time, involving multi-camera studio productions in collaboration with the editorial team.

E=M6 - M6 - 1995 à 1998 - Prod : VM Productions. A weekly magazine hosted by Mac Lesggy, where I directed various reports.

FORMATION

- Screenwriting workshop "Le Scénario" under Julie Ponsonnet at CEFPPF, Paris
- Masterclass by Robert McKee on screenwriting at DIXIT, Paris
- Multi-camera studio directing course at INA, Paris
- Degree in Creative Documentary Filmmaking from École Supérieure d'Études Cinématographiques, Paris
- Master's in European Studies, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from Bradford University, UK
- Year of equivalence, third year at Institut d'Études Politiques, Bordeaux
- Bac B - Cognac
- Script translation, AVID and Premiere editing, photography

