

About the Filmmakers

BRIAN HILL (Director) is an award-winning director, writer and producer of documentaries and dramas and the co-owner of the London based production company Century Films. He is perhaps best known for his groundbreaking musical documentaries *Songbirds*, which was set in a woman's prison and was selected for the World Documentary Competition at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival; *Feltham Sings*, which featured the inmates and officers of the juvenile facility and won the 2003 BAFTA Flaherty Award for Best Documentary; and *Drinking for England*, with people speaking in verse and singing about their relationship to alcohol and winner of the 1998 Royal Television Society award for Best Documentary.

More recently, he directed *The Gift*, a short for UNICEF about the prevention and transmission of the AIDS virus from mother to baby during pregnancy and birth; *The Not Dead*, the story of three soldiers from different generations who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, for which Simon Armitage contributed the poetry; *Consent*, which begins as a scripted drama about the events leading up to an accusation of rape, then moves to a courtroom where legal professionals and a jury of real people reach a verdict; and *The True Voice Of... Murder, Rape & Prostitution*, a drama trilogy using the words and stories of real people, about shattering events in their lives.

Hill's other documentary credits include *Slaughterhouse: The Task of Blood*; about the men who work in a northern England slaughterhouse; *Pornography: The Musical*, featuring porn stars singing and talking about their work; *More Precious Than Gold*, a short for UNICEF about child trafficking; *Nobody Someday*, about Robbie Williams' 2000 European tour; and *It's a Cow's Life*, about the life of a cow from birth to dinner plate.

His other drama credits include *Bella & The Boys*, about the lives of three young people who grew up in a care home, starring Billie Piper, for which he was nominated for a BAFTA award as Best New Writer; *Falling Apart*, about domestic violence starring Hermione Norris and Mark Strong, which won two 2002 BAFTA awards; and *The Tyre*, starring Christopher Eccleston.

His other credits include *Killing Time*, based on Simon Armitage's millennium poem of the same name, a mixture of drama, documentary and animation; *State of*

Marriage; Burglars, an episode of the television series *Real Life; Saturday Night*, an episode of the television series *Modern Times*; five episodes of the television series *Cutting Edge: Men at Fifty, Trouble With Money, Jumpers, Tough Love* and *The Club*. His other television directing credits include *Pommies; Political Ambitions; Sylvania Waters*, and *Class Rule*.

Hill has also served as producer or executive producer on many television series and programs, including the BAFTA-winning *Make Me Normal, Care House* and *Make Me Honest*.

KATIE BAILIFF (Producer) is the co-owner of the award winning London based production company Century Films. Katie specializes in creating innovative, hard-hitting documentaries and dramas for all major UK broadcasters. She is renowned for producing work that always gives a fresh focus to difficult subjects.

Katie has produced all of Century's groundbreaking documentary musicals: the Royal Television Society winner *Drinking for England*, the BAFTA winning *Feltham Sings*, and most recently *Songbirds*, which was selected for the World Documentary Competition at the Sundance Film Festival 2006. Most recently she produced the critically acclaimed *The Not Dead*, a further poetic collaboration working with soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Katie has worked with some of the UK's leading documentary filmmakers, producing the award-winning *Facemakers, Carehouse, Slaughterhouse – The Task of Blood, Quitters* and the Grierson-nominated series, *Make Me Honest*, all for the BBC, as well as *The Spy Who Conned Me* for Channel Four.

Katie has also worked on high-end celebrity access biographies, producing the exclusive theatrically released documentary *Nobody Someday* about Robbie Williams, and for ITV *David Beckham: A Footballer's Story*.

Katie also produces Century Films' drama output. Her credits include the double BAFTA winning drama *Falling Apart* starring Hermione Norris and Mark Strong for Channel Four, and the BAFTA nominated drama *Bella and the Boys* starring Billie Piper for BBC2, which won an award at the 2005 Reims International Film Festival.

In 2007 she worked with director Brian Hill to combine the two genres to produce the award winning drama-documentary, *Consent*, starring Anna Madeley and Danny Mays, a 60-minute piece for Channel Four exposing the inner-workings of a real-life jury

having to deal with a fictional rape trial.

Katie is passionate about developing new talent and has executive produced several first time directors for all the BBC and Channel Four new talent directives.

SIMON ARMITAGE (Writer) has published nine volumes of poetry including *Killing Time, 1999* (Faber & Faber) and *Selected Poems, 2001* (Faber & Faber). His most recent collections are *The Universal Home Doctor* and *Traveling Songs*, both published by Faber & Faber in 2002. He has received numerous awards for his poetry including the Sunday *Times* Author of the Year, one of the first Forward Prizes, a Lannan Award, and, in 2000 was named the official UK Millenium Poet.

He writes for radio, television and film, and is the author of four stage plays, including *Mister Heracles*, a version of the Euripides play *The Madness of Heracles*. His recent dramatization of *The Odyssey*, commissioned by the BBC, was broadcast on Radio 4 in 2004 and is available through BBC Worldwide. It was published by Faber and Faber in May 2006 and by Norton in the US. He received an Ivor Novello Award for his song-lyrics in the Channel 4 film *Feltham Sings*, which also won a BAFTA and marked another successful collaboration with director Brian Hill and producer Katie Bailiff.

His first novel, *Little Green Man*, was published by Penguin in 2001. His second novel *The White Stuff* was published in 2004.

Simon Armitage has taught at the University of Leeds and the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop, and is currently a senior lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University. With Robert Crawford he edited *The Penguin Anthology of Poetry from Britain and Ireland Since 1945*. Other anthologies include *Short and Sweet – 101 Very Short Poems*, and a selection of Ted Hughes' poetry, both published by Faber & Faber.

The Shout, a book of new and selected poems was published in the US in April 2005 by Harcourt. He is currently working on a translation of the middle English classic poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, commissioned by Faber & Faber in the UK and Norton in the US.

His latest collection of poems, *Tyrannosaurus Rex Versus the Corduroy Kid* was published by Faber and Faber in September 2006.