

# Oscar Harding



## Researcher

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## SUMMARY

- Feature film, TV and documentary experience as Researcher on projects including the **Academy Award**-nominated and **BAFTA**-winning *Theeb*.
- Previously performed Executive/ Personal Assistant duties, both in-person and remotely, for **BAFTA**-winning director **Naji Abu Nowar** and screenwriting consultant **Laurie Hutzler**.
- Experience in the Development, Distribution and Marketing of feature films and their soundtracks, including **BIFA**-nominated *The Darkest Universe* and LGBT Documentaries *Pink Feathers* and *The Boy From Mushin*.
- Founding Partner of Canterbury-based content agency 4Heads Ltd, running production, finance and administration on projects for clients including **Barclays Bank**.

## EXPERIENCE

### RESEARCHER – 2009-PRESENT

- Worked on **Oscar-nominated Theeb** and as a historical and photographic researcher on several other feature films and TV series in development for **Noor Pictures**.
- Recent clients for freelance remote research included **SeeThink Films** and **TASTE Productions** in the USA.
- Experienced in Archive, Field and Subject research across England, the USA, Canada and Southeast Asia.
- Past experience includes work placements with **Hoot Comedy** and **Archie Productions**.

### EXECUTIVE/PERSONAL ASSISTANT – 2015-PRESENT

- Most recently, I have been Editorial Consultant for **Laurie Hutzler**, a story consultant for clients including Channel 4, BBC, Pixar, Aardman and EON. Responsibilities, some of which overlapped with Executive Assistant duties, have included overseeing all content posted to her website and various social media accounts; managing her various email accounts and websites; and devising a new business strategy for her to increase her audience reach online.
- Acted as **Personal Assistant** to *Theeb*'s director, **Naji Abu Nowar**, on a national Q&A tour across England and Scotland, and was responsible for managing his schedule, travel and accommodation. Last year I briefly resumed these duties for Naji upon his relocation to the UK.

### DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING – 2015-PRESENT

- Most notably, I was involved in the theatrical release campaign of *The Darkest Universe*, the latest film from Tom Kingsley and Will Sharpe. Played a major role in its expansion from a limited release in London to a national limited release. It went on to secure a **BIFA** nomination.
- Was responsible for the distribution of *Theeb*'s soundtrack to every territory in the world, except the Middle East region, by negotiating with digital aggregators for increased publicity and a discount rate for their services.
- Other responsibilities on *Theeb* included co-managing its social media campaign; communicating with the film's UK and European distributors, **New Wave/Verve** and **Fortissimo** respectively; and daily communication with **Curzon Cinemas**.
- I have recently consulted on several LGBT Documentaries including *Pink Feathers*, which tells the story of Drag artist Richard Rhodes, and *The Boy From Mushin*, a documentary following Nigerian LGBT rights activist Bisi Alimi. I assisted in the operation of the latter's successful Kickstarter campaign as well as expanding its reach on Facebook and Twitter, and contacting funding bodies worldwide for investment.
- Conducted **Market Research** on a **Virtual Reality** project for BAFTA-Winning Producer **Catherine Allen**.

### DEVELOPMENT- 2015-PRESENT

- I have previously worked as Development intern for **Wildgaze Films**, assisting on various projects currently in various stages of production and providing script coverage.
- For the last few years, I have occasionally undertaken script coverage and various unofficial development duties on several projects for **BAFTA**-winning producer **Rupert Lloyd** at **Noor Pictures**.

#### **4HEADS LTD – 2014-2015**

- Head of Production and Co-Founder.
- Directed almost all of our commercials, as well as acting as Producer and Script Supervisor on all of them.
- Ran the financial side of the business, and handled relationships with all our clients. Also managed budgets and supervised post-production on all projects, as well as running all social media accounts.
- Clients and Associates included **Barclays Bank** and **Seniors Helping Seniors** in the USA.
- One of our adverts appeared on SubTV with an estimated audience of around 1 million.
- Utilised skills to become Assistant Director on several short films in the UK and USA afterwards.

#### **WHATCULTURE – 2012-2014**

- Articles covering a wide range of Film and TV topics have received over 1.8 million views.
- Specialized in interviews- interviewees included Michael Palin, Jon Jashni, Rupert Wyatt and Drew Pearce.
  - The first journalist outside of France to cover John McTiernan's imprisonment since Michael Hastings.

#### **UK BORDER AGENCY – 2012-2013**

- Worked as a Temporary Administration officer for the Biometric Identification Management Unit.
  - Duties included handling phone calls to clients speaking little to no English; organising mail delivery systems; communicating between all departments of the Home Office across the country.
  - Based in an office environment, and became experienced in all Microsoft Office programs.

#### **EDUCATION**

- University of Kent, B.A. American Studies (History) with Honours, 2013-2017
  - Graduated with Upper Second Class (2.1) with Honours.
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Exchange Year, 2015-2016
- King's College Taunton, 2007-2012

#### **PRIVATE PROJECTS**

##### **LAND OF BARRY – 2013-PRESENT**

- Co-Founder of a comedy double act with multi-platform experience in broadcast radio, internet podcasts, video blogs and short films, all written and produced by me.
- Directed several upcoming shorts with an international cast & crew, whose work includes **Star Wars: The Last Jedi** and **Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom**.
- Wrote and Starred in *Traitor to the King*, part of the official selection for South West London International Film Festival, and longlisted for the **KisaKes Film Festival** in Istanbul. Featured Bruce Langley, one of the leads of Starz' *American Gods* series.

#### **PERSONAL INTERESTS**

##### **TRAVEL & VOLUNTEERING**

- Ran various fundraising events across 12 months- including a charity concert for 300 students- for a private charity project, **KCAP**, which builds community housing in Kerala, India. Spent 2 weeks on several construction sites assisting on the project.
- Spent 4 weeks teaching English, History and PSHE as a teaching volunteer for **Art in Tanzania** in Stone Town, Zanzibar.

##### **AFRICAN CINEMA**

- I established a subreddit for African Cinema, since no active community for this existed on the internet. Within 24 hours, we had acquired almost 1,000 members and were the 5th most trending subreddit in the world.
  - Wrote my undergraduate thesis paper on the relationship between African and African-American cinemas.
- On a voluntary basis, I am **Africa & Diaspora Editor** for the website **Cinema Escapist**, overseeing articles and writers that cover the cinema of all 54 countries in the African Continent.