

JAMES GAVIN WALKER - italyproducer@gmail.com

Profile

I'm an Italy specialist with vast experience throughout the country as a field producer, researcher, fixer and location manager working on high-quality factual films and commercials for broadcast, streaming and theatrical release. I'm also experienced in the Swiss Canton Ticino and on Malta.

I've worked on legions of television films, documentaries, and other projects for **BBC Documentaries, BBC History & Business, BBC Natural History, BBC Reputations, BBC Science, BBC Sport, BBC Studios, BBC TV Features, BBC Worldwide, Channel 4, Discovery Channel, ITV, National Geographic Channel, Netflix, PBS and affiliates, Premier League Productions, TED Talks** and **Sky** on archaeology, art, biography, business, food, history, natural history, politics, science, true crime and sport.

I work extensively setting up and filming branded content and commercials for big international clients including **Amazon Prime, Amazon Web Services, Bayer UK, Diageo, EA Sports, Ford Europe, Birra Moretti UK, Paramount Pictures, Petronas, Rolls Royce Motor Cars, Samsung** and **Shell UK**, as well as TV and internet commercials for other big international firms, while occasionally working in news & current affairs when needed.

For **ABC News** (USA) I worked as an assignment editor and news segment producer in the UK, and in Italy as a field producer, off-air reporter and news editor.

I've also worked for **NBC** (Broadcast Manager at the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta), for **CNN** (freelance producer over several years in Italy), as well as for both **UPI** and **Jane's Defence Weekly** (print stringer).

I'm British – an English mother tongue speaker with fluent Italian, good French and basic Spanish.

Skills and Specialist Knowledge

Experienced with production issues throughout Italy – from the Alps to Sicily – and at all the big locations: Bologna, Bergamo, Florence, Genova, Milan, Naples (Pompeii, Herculaneum and Vesuvius), Ravenna, Rome, Turin, Sardinia and Sicily (Palermo, Siracusa, Trapani, Catania and Mount Etna), Tuscany and Venice.

- Network of excellent **authorised 'critical area' drone teams** throughout Italy
- Best cost US/UK standard **camera team** and **sound recordists** throughout Italy
- Best cost **camera, grip & electric equipment** throughout Italy
- Track down and prep **local contributors**
- **Location manager & location scout**
- Excellent access track record & **Vatican access specialist**
- Vatican Library **registered scholar**
- Local divers and kit for **underwater filming**
- Authorised speleologists for **underground filming**
- Expert on outflanking local red tape
- Experienced in **transmission rights issues** and relevant Italian regulations

Production Highlights

RICHARD E GRANT'S VERY MODERN ODYSSEY for Channel 4 UK – Renowned actor Richard E Grant takes the viewer on a revisitation of Odysseus' Mediterranean wandering in celebration of the biggest movie release of the summer - Christopher Nolans' The Odyssey. The series recreates Odysseus' 20-year voyage through Malta, Sicily, Italy, Tunisia, Turkey, Corfu and Ithaca, exploring the ancient worlds and modern places which formed the inspiration for Homer's masterpiece. Palermo, Etna, Messina and Circeo – April 2026

MINDHOUSE PRODUCTIONS for BBC 2 – 'Bowie in Berlin' is set to air in the autumn of 2026 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of David Bowie's arrival in the city. The 90-minute film, directed by Francis Whately, will explore his creative period in West Berlin from 1976 to 1978, which resulted in his "Berlin trilogy" of albums (*Low*, *Heroes*, and *Lodger*). The documentary will feature Bowie's own words alongside insights from women who knew him to offer an intimate look at his time stepping away from fame. Identify and hire all crew and the sound studio where we shot the interview plus material for an AI sequence with Sydne Rome as well as shooting contributor stills. San Marino (RM), October 2025.

HEARST – Field producer on a small brand team with writer and photographer for print pieces on Hearst magazines Elle and Esquire. Video and stills for Peroni UK Social Media & YouTube. Production on Capri and in Carloforte, Cagliari, Venice, Florence, Val D'Orcia and Rome. April – August 2025

BBC STUDIOS for BBC 3 – 'Kidnapping, the story of Choe Ayling' – Over several months ensuring access to Milan criminal law courts and the possibility of interviewing serving police officers active in quickly solving the case, plus the judge and other branches of the judiciary who prosecuted and sentenced the perpetrators. Milan, 2024

EMPORIUM PRODUCTIONS for ITV – 'The Sinking of a Superyacht – How Safe is Your Voyage?' – One month prepping and shooting Sicily sequences and witness interviews and intensive follow up with shipbuilders The Italian Sea Group, about the inshore sinking of the *Bayesian* - Mike Lynch's doomed superyacht. Palermo and Porticello, Sicily – 2024

WPP PRODUCTION LTD for Bacardi brand, Martini. Recceing, setting up and managing local team and locations for a Martini promotional stills campaign on location in Taormina, Sicily with Netflix 'White Lotus' actor Simona Tabasco. Taormina, Sicily – 2024
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-DjMQ2p3to/?igsh=MTM4OTdkYnEyMzNjZw==>

STUDIO LA PLAGÉ & MAKERS Inc. - Promotional short film for Kulm Hotel Country Club, St Moritz, Switzerland – over several weeks hired and coordinated team members and kit from Milan and on location in St Moritz. Milan and St Moritz – 2024

WOWWOW TANK LTD – HONG KONG - Over seven months sourcing multiple female, male and child models / a large B-cam and drone team / sourcing and managing locations for a Hong Kong property commercial. Thirty people on set every day at multiple Amalfi coast locations. Amalfi, Sorrento, Massa Lubrense – 2023

WCS PRODUCTIONS – HONDA MARINE – Recceing then filming with a big UK team a commercial for the new Honda V8 BF350 outboard motor. Porto Venere and Favignana - 2023
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dxp4rR1T7Hs>

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING PART ONE- Sassy Create for Paramount Pictures. Red Carpet film premiere in Rome. Built nine-person live and time lapse interview team. Conducted red carpet interviews with all 'Dead Reckoning' cast members. Rome - 2023
https://youtu.be/ldPiJt90-cw?si=ICHFB_pkKhrpHGgK

BBC SPORT – FOOTBALL FOCUS – Setting up and filming interviews and GVs in Naples about the excitement and history of Napoli football club, as they approached their first 'Serie A' title in a generation. Naples - 2023
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ-aRlyNZq0>

BBC 2 - CLIVE MYRIE'S ITALIAN ROAD TRIP - ALLEYCATS FILMS

Clive's on a mission to find out what makes Italy the most captivating place on earth, and to share it with the BBC's UK viewers and audiences around the world.
Treviso, Florence, Rome, Capri, Naples, Palermo, Modica - 2022/2023

STUDIO LA PLAGE for **AMAZON WEB SERVICES** - production at **Ferrari HQ**.
Hired and managed a big local team. Maranello - 2022

MY GRANDPARENTS' WAR – Wonderhood Studios for **Channel 4** – Game of Thrones lead actor Kit Harington visits the Monte Cassino battlefields. Cassino, Castelforte - 2022

FIXATION – EA SPORTS / FIFA 22 – Hired and managed local crew to film FIFA 22 promo package with AC Milan players. Milan - 2021
https://youtu.be/_EkaGj-tP_k?si=laLyR4oPh_hAmxB-

NEW LAND PRODUCTIONS – MUTTI S.p.A – Local TV commercial producer for product to air on UK's Channel 4. Production team of sixteen, most of whom I hired. Parma – 2021
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLolwIwVom4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gl9b9iXpas>

BBC SPORT – UEFA Euro 2020 – (Italy-Wales, England-Ukraine). Local producer for engineering and editorial teams on the ground. Rome - 2021

IN FOCUS PRODUCTIONS – NHK – Prepping and filming Hidden Jewels of Italy, a documentary series on some of Italy's grandest *palazzi* and their aristo owners. Agrigento, Palermo, Rome - 2021

MIDDLE TABLE PRODUCTIONS – PETRONAS YAMAHA SRT MotoGP TEAM – Filming interviews with team riders Valentino Rossi and Franco Morbidelli. Rimini - 2021

VATICAN GIRL: The Disappearance of Emanuela Orlandi – Raw Factual for Netflix.
True crime four-part mini-series filmed in Italy and the UK. Milan, Turin, Rome – 2020
https://youtu.be/ca00ZHJWkuA?si=f92GPxn_eLLy1F8Z

ONE STRANGE ROCK 2 - Nutopia for National Geographic Channel – Prepping and filming with multiple camera positions the totally insane Florentine *Calcio Storico*.
Florence - 2019

DRAIN THE OCEANS 2 – Mallinson Sadler Productions for National Geographic – A week's filming in and around Rome's ancient seaport with academic experts. Rome - 2019

REVELATION – Australian Broadcasting Corporation / InFilms Pty – A three-part documentary series on the ongoing clerical sex abuse scandals in Australia. Filming with Sarah Ferguson in and around the Vatican during a meeting of worldwide bishops' conferences to discuss church guidelines on the issue. Rome - 2019

REVOLUTIONS – Bigger Bang for PBS / BBC Worldwide – A series exploring six world-changing objects and the ideas and innovations that shaped them. Venice, Livorno, Bologna - 2018

SAMSUNG – RemediaLab Productions – Setting up and filming a number of internet commercials in various Italian cities for worldwide Samsung product launches. Up to fifteen people on set between team members and models. Cosenza, Monza, Rome, Padova – 2016/2017/2018

CIVILISATIONS – Nutopia – / BBC 2 Eighteen months prepping and filming episodes of the reedition of Sir Kenneth Clark's famed 'Civilisation' series from the 1970s with Simon Schama and Mary Beard. Vatican City, Rome, Verona and Venice – 2016/2017

CARLUCCIO'S - Weekend Ahead Ltd. Recceing, setting up, casting and filming a promotional film in Sicily for the UK restaurant chain. Taormina - 2016
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prfpXgskOGk>

ONE STRANGE ROCK - Nutopia – for National Geographic Channel – Setting up and filming elaborate beach and marble quarry sequences. Rimini, Carrara - 2016.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL – Cassis Media. Shooting Discovery Channel's Virtual Reality Facebook project: Venice, San Gimignano, Florence, Pienza, Rome - 2016
<https://www.facebook.com/Discovery/videos/10154594358268586/>

DIAGEO / JOHNNIE WALKER BLUE LABEL promotional event – Heart Productions. Opinion makers and industry writers' junket, including a tour in 30 classic cars to promote a new whisky. Rome area - 2015

ROLLS ROYCE MOTOR CARS – Fin London. Presentation of the new Rolls Royce 'Dawn' convertible. Porto Cervo, Sardinia - 2015

FORCES OF NATURE: 'Time' episode - BBC 1 - Filming the mad *Ardia* equestrian event at Sedilo. Sardinia - 2015

SEX AND THE CHURCH – BBC History & Business.

A major three-part history documentary series for BBC Two, presented by the eminent theological historian, Revd Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch. The series explores how Christianity has shaped Western attitudes to marriage, gender and sexuality through history. Rome - 2014

CONQUEST OF THE SKIES 3D – Colossus productions/Sky3D. David Attenborough looks at the evolution of flight in wildlife. Starlings and peregrine falcons. Rome - 2013

THE RAISING OF THE COSTA CONCORDIA – Windfall Films for National Geographic Channel – A lengthy struggle to obtain access from Costa Cruises to make a technical documentary on the raising of their beached cruise liner. Filming the last few days before the raising and some of the project's principal architects. Island of Giglio, Milan, Parma - 2013

THE POPE RESIGNS /CONCLAVE AND HABEMUS PAPAM – ABC News – Editorial, research, booking, field work with crews feeding all our daily news shows (Good Morning America, World News with Diane Sawyer, Nightline, ABC Radio) from Pope Benedict XVI's announced resignation through to Pope Francis' election and first official events. Rome - 2013

GIOVANNA RACCOSTA – Production Services Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City – One of a series of documentaries on Mormon families worldwide produced in the run up to the November 2012 presidential election. Trapani and western Sicily - 2012

STEPHEN HAWKING'S GRAND DESIGN – THE MEANING OF LIFE - Darlow Smithson Productions for Discovery Channel – Second in the series, the legendary British scientist tackles the mystery of what it means to be alive. Do we have free will or are we just biological machines? What is the nature of the reality we perceive? You will never look at yourself the same way again. Bergamo - 2011

THE SECRET MEDITERRANEAN WITH TREVOR MCDONALD – Plum Pictures for ITV – Sir Trevor travels throughout the Med in search of amazing stories and eclectic people. Naples, Venice. 2010

ATLAS: MEDITERRANEAN – Darlow Smithson for Discovery Channel – A home theatre HD profile of the Med. Mount Etna and the tuna slaughter off the Sardinian island of San Pietro - 2009

THE REAL MILAN – Uproar Films for BBC World News – Three Milanese names take the viewer to their favourite places in the fashion capital of Italy - 2008

VALENTINO: THE LAST EMPEROR – Acolyte films – Celluloid Dreams. Affecting, disturbing and hilarious film for theatrical release that charts the designer Valentino Garavani's 50-year career and the peaks and troughs of relationship with his long-term companion and business partner, Giancarlo Giammetti. Venice Film Festival 2008. Rome - 2006/2007

ATLAS: ITALY – Atlantic Productions for Discovery Channel – A home Theatre HD profile of contemporary Italy. Shot over eighteen months. Part of a series of character-driven profiles on different countries including China, India, Australia and France. Siracusa, Marettimo, Naples, Rome, Florence, Milan, Portofino, Peio - 2005/2006

WHITE SMOKE – BBC News & Current Affairs special – Pope John Paul II's funeral and the election of Pope Benedict XVI. Rome - 2005

SEXUAL INTELLIGENCE – Fertile Ground Productions for HBO – Kim Cattrall attempts to explain why and how men and women feel sexual desire. Naples and Pompeii. 2004

RAPHAEL: A MORTAL GOD – BBC 1 – Drama doc on the complexities of the contradictory life and work of this great master. Rome - 2003/2004

THE DIVINE MICHELANGELO – BBC1 – A two-part series on the artist's extraordinary life and works with dramatic reconstructions of Michelangelo's life. Rome, Florence -2003/2004

LEONARDO: THE SECRET LIFE OF THE MONA LISA – BBC 1 – Programme 3 in the three-part series presented by Alan Yentob. Rome, Vinci, Milan – 2002

AGE OF TERROR – 3BM for Discovery Channel – The history of terrorism since 1945. The Red Brigades and the Baader Meinhof Gang. 2003 Broadcast Award for best multicultural programme. Rome - 2002

GREAT BRITONS – BBC 1 – Documentary investigation into Lord Horatio Nelson for the Great Britons competition won by Sir Winston Churchill. Naples - 2001

AMERICAN MASTERS: THE EDUCATION OF GORE VIDAL – THIRTEEN WNET New York – A very close look at one of America's leading writers of historical fiction and social satire. Ravello - 2000

JOHN PAUL II: THE MILLENNIAL POPE – WGBH Frontline – A comprehensive biography on world leader John Paul II. Rome - 1999

HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE – Sunstone Films for Channel 4 – Presented by Terry Jones. Pompei -1998

ABSOLUTE TRUTH – BBC 2 News & Current Affairs – A landmark four-part documentary series on the modern Catholic Church. Rome - 1997/1998

THE REAL BENITO MUSSOLINI – 3BM for Channel 4 – The first film on the Italian dictator ever made for British television. Salò, Dongo, Milan -1997/1998

COLD WAR – Jeremy Isaacs Productions for Turner Broadcasting System/CNN – CNN's landmark 24-episode Cold War series was the first major documentary on the subject. 1998 George Foster Peabody Award. Rome, Milan -1997

THE NAZIS: A WARNING FROM HISTORY – BBC Documentaries – Italian segment of a six-part series on the Third Reich, directed by Lawrence Reese. Rome - 1997

ROME SUMMER OLYMPICS 1960 – NBC Olympics – An hour-long film that takes US athletes back to the stadiums they inspired in 1960. Aired in full at prime time during NBC's 1996 Atlanta summer games coverage. Rome -1995

PIUS XII: THE POPE, THE NAZIS AND THE JEWS – BBC 2 Reputations – A review of Pope Pius XII's wartime record. Nominated for the 1995 Grand Prix FIPA D'OR. Rome - 1994

ITALY ON TRIAL – Barraclough Carey for BBC Assignment – An Assignment film on the 'clean hands' (*mani pulite*) corruption scandals that destroyed the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties in Italy. Milan, Naples - 1993

PEOPLE'S CENTURY – BBC Worldwide/WGBH – Six of the 26 episodes on the major events & developments of the 20th century. Landmark series nominated at BAFTA 1995, won Emmy, RTS and Peabody Awards. Pontedera, Milan, Monaco, Bologna - 1992/1993

THE HIDDEN PERSUADERS – BBC 1 – A six-part documentary series taking a comprehensive look at America's Central Intelligence Agency. This episode investigates the CIA's efforts to influence events in Italy and Indonesia through behind the scenes manoeuvring and the creation of a Stay Behind organisation in North Eastern Italy. Turin, the Veneto, Friuli and Rome - 1990/1991

Broadcast and Print

CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC GAMES – NBC Olympics – Broadcast Manager in New York City and Atlanta, Georgia -1996

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY – Freelance news writer in Italy – Reported on defence industry news stories -1990/1993

UPI – Rome, Freelance news writer – Wrote copy for UPI client next-day newspaper stories -1990/1991

CNN – Rome – Freelance producer, news desk editor – Supplied Atlanta with news packages, competitive news updates and footage on Italian stories - 1990/1992

ABC NEWS – London – Producer, 'Good Morning America' segments/Assignment Editor. Kept US East and West Coast news broadcasts supplied with competitive news updates and footage packages on daily developments in Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Russia and Africa. Responsible for staff movements in same area -1988/1989

ABC NEWS – Rome – Field producer and news desk editor. Editorial team member dealing with daily news coverage and logistics in Italy, Lebanon and North Africa – 1984/1987

Education

University of Leicester

Bryanston School, Dorset