

**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 for high-quality factual films, both for broadcast and theatrical release.

I've worked on legions of television documentaries and other coverage for - among others - **BBC, BBC Sport, Channel 4, Discovery Channel, ITV, National Geographic Channel, Netflix, PBS, Premier League Channel** and **Sky** on archaeology, art, biography, food, history, natural history, politics, science and sport.

I've worked extensively filming branded content for big international firms including **Amazon Web Services, Bayer, Diageo, EA Sports, Ford Europe, Moretti UK, Petronas, Rolls Royce Motor Cars, Samsung** and **Shell UK**, as well as TV and internet commercials for other international firms, while continuing to work 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 worked as a Broadcast Manager for **NBC Olympics** at the Atlanta Olympic Games, and for a number of years in Italy as a freelance producer for **CNN**, as a print stringer for **UPI** wire service and **Jane's Defence Weekly**.

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 Italian red tape
- Expert on **Italian film archive** and sources
- Experienced in **transmission rights issues** and pertinent Italian regulations

## **Production Highlights**

**AMAZON WEB SERVICES - STUDIO LA PLAGÉ** 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

**Tease** - <https://twitter.com/acmilan/status/1437370476062392322?s=08>

**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

**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 organization 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