

Michael Keillor

Writer/Director

Michael is a director drawn to bold, ambitious storytelling and has collaborated with some of the UK's most celebrated writers, including Jack Thorne, Lucy Kirkwood, David Hare, Peter Moffat, Andrew Davies and Jed Mercurio. His work is defined by a shared appetite for pushing boundaries and delivering gripping, emotionally resonant drama.



In recent years, Michael has focused on mini-series that explore human stories under intense political pressure. His work includes **CHIMERICA**, Lucy Kirkwood's Olivier Award-winning play reimaged for television against the backdrop of the Tiananmen Square massacre, and David Hare's **ROADKILL**, charting the rise of a corrupt, self-serving politician played with ruthless charm by Hugh Laurie.

He directed Jack Thorne's **BEST INTERESTS**, navigating the raw emotion of a family facing impossible decisions, and most recently took audiences through the labyrinthine ten-year pursuit of justice following the Lockerbie bombing in **THE BOMBING OF PAN AM 103**.

Michael began his career directing commercials, pop promos and short films before moving into a run of much-loved British series including **SHAMELESS**, **MR SELFRIDGE** and **SILK**. He went on to direct the award-winning third season of **LINE OF DUTY** and launched the long-running detective series **STRIKE** for BBC One.

Alongside his directing work, Michael writes and develops long-form projects with the same energy, originality and drive that define his filmmaking.

He is represented in the US by attorney Michael Schenkman.

<http://www.michaelkeillor.com>

Agents

Michelle Archer Assistant
Phoebe Campbell-Harris
PCampbellHarris@unitedagents.co.uk
020 3214 0839

Credits

Television

Production	Company	Notes
THE BOMBING OF PAN AM 103 2023 - 2025	BBC / Netflix	Director and Executive Producer. 6-Part Drama. Writer: Jonathan Lee Producer: Julia Stannard Executive Producers: Simon Heath and Roderick Seligman Starring: Connor Swindells, Patrick J. Adams and Merritt Wever *Winner of the Public Prize at the Golden Nymph awards
BEST INTERESTS 2022 - 2023	BBC 1/ Chapter One Pictures	Director and Executive Producer. 4-Part Drama Writer: Jack Thorne. Producer: Jenny Frayn. Executive Producers: Sophie Gardiner, Toby Bentley. Starring: Sharon Horgan and Michael Sheen *Winner The Best Actor Award, Series Mania 2023, Michael Sheen Nominated for Best Limited Series, BAFTAs, 2024 Nominated for Leading Actress, BAFTAS, 2024 - Sharon Horgan Nominated for Best Limited Series, RTS Awards, 2024 Nominated for Lead Actress, IFTAs, 2024 - Sharon Horgan *Winner of Best Limited Series, Rockie Awards, 2024

Production	Company	Notes
ROADKILL 2020	The Forge/PBS/BBC 1	<p>Director and Executive Producer 4-part Drama. Writer: David Hare. Producer: Andy Litvin Exec Producers: George Faber, Mark Pybus, Lucy Richer, David Hare, Michael Keillor. Starring: Hugh Laurie, Helen McCrory, Pippa Bennett Warner, Sarah Greene, Sidse Babett Knudsen, Iain De Caestecker. Popular and charismatic politician Peter Laurence is shamelessly untroubled by guilt or remorse as his public and private life fall apart. *Winner, Original Music Bafta Craft Awards 2021</p>
CHIMERICA 2018 - 2019	Playground Entertainment/Channel 4	<p>Director 4-part Drama. Writer: Lucy Kirkwood. Producer: Adrian Sturges. Executive Producers: Lucy Kirkwood, Sophie Gardiner, Colin Callender. Starring: Alessandro Nivola and Cherry Jones A photojournalist travels to China with the hopes of finding out who the mysterious man was who was photographed standing defiantly in front of a tank in Tiananmen Square twenty years ago. Adaptation of the Olivier award-winning play.</p>
STRIKE: THE CUCKOO'S CALLING 2017	BBC/HBO/Bronte	<p>Lead Director. Producer: Jackie Larkin Executive Producers: Ruth Kenley Letts, Neil Blair, JK Rowling. Starring: Holliday Grainger and Tom Burke Adapted from the first novel in the Cormoran Strike series of detective novels by JK Rowling, writing under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith.</p>

Production	Company	Notes
LINE OF DUTY III 2015	BBC2/World Productions	<p>Lead Director. 3 episodes. Creator and Writer: Jed Mercurio. Producer: Peter Norris. Executive Producer: Simon Heath and Jed Mercurio. Starring: Martin Compston, Vicky McClure and Stephen Graham. *Highest-rating BBC2 drama since modern TV ratings began. *Nominated, Best Drama Series, Royal Television Society Awards, 2017. *Nominated, Best Writer (Drama), Royal Television Society Awards, 2017. *Nominated, Best Drama Series, TV Choice Awards, 2016. *Nominated, Best Director, Bafta Scotland Awards, 2016. *Nominated, Best Drama Series, Broadcast Awards, 2017.</p>
CRITICAL 2014	Sky One/Hat Trick	<p>Director. 3 episodes. Creator: Jed Mercurio. Producer: Chris Hall. Exec Producer: Mark Redhead / Cameron Roach. Starring: Lennie James and Kimberley Nixon.</p>
SILK III 2013	BBC 1	<p>Director. 2 episodes. Creator: Peter Moffat. Producer: Matt Strevens. Executive Producer: Hilary Salmon. Starring: Maxine Peake and Rupert Penry-Jones</p>
MR SELFRIDGE 2012	ITV Studios	<p>Director. 3 episodes, including series finale. Creator and Writer: Andrew Davies Producer: Chrissy Skinns. Exec Producer: Kate Lewis. Starring: Jeremy Piven</p>

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YOUNG JAMES HERRIOT 2011	BBC 1/KoCo Media	3 part series about the life of the young Vet. Producer: Alan J. Wands. Writer: Ann McManus and Eileen Gallagher Exec Producer: Cameron Roach. * Nominated for Best Director at British Academy Awards Scotland, 2012. * Nominated for Best Actor for Iain De Caestecker at British Academy Awards Scotland, 2012.
SHAMELESS VIII 2011	Company Television/C4	
HOLBY CITY 2011	BBC 1	
EASTENDERS: E20 2010	BBC 3	* Rose D'Or Nominee, 2010.
THE BILL 2009	ITV 1	
EASTENDERS 2008	BBC 1	
DOCTORS 2007	BBC 1	
DREAM TEAM 2006	Sky	

In Development

Production	Company	Notes
TIGHTROPE 2020	STV/BBC	Executive Producer: Sarah Brown Writer: Rae Brunton A low rent lawyer loses his loose grip on reality
TOO FAR NORTH 2020	WILD MERCURY/BBC	Executive Producer: Derek Wax Writer: David Macpherson Prodigal son returns home to a kick in the teeth.

Short Films

Production	Company	Notes
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LIAM & LENKA 2014	Warp Films/BFI	Writer and Director. Love on the run with a girl and a gun. Producer: Ally Gipps. Starring Iain De Caestecker, Katarina Cas. *Edinburgh International Film Festival 2014 Premiere.
MUNRO 2010	BBC, Scottish Screen & Lighthouse Arts	Writer and Director. 15'. Father and son lost in the Highlands. Starring David Hayman, Jamie Michie. * Encounter Short Film Festival, 2009. * Palm Springs International Film Festival, 2010. * Austin Film Festival, 2010.
LABOUR 2009	UK Film Council, Scottish Screen & Digicult	15'. Life, for a young man and an old soul. Starring Michael Socha. * Edinburgh International Film Festival 2010.
HAPPY SLAPZ 2006	Channel 4 'Coming Up' 2005	Writer and Director. 23'. Gang rivalry tears a friendship apart. Starring Daniel Anthony, Josef Altin, Aml Ameen. *Edinburgh International Film Festival, 2006.