

Waris Islam

Writer / Director

Waris Islam is an award-winning writer and director with experience in film, television, and radio. His television directing credits include THE BAY, VERA, HOLBY CITY, EMMERDALE, EASTENDERS and HOLLYOAKS. Waris started his career writing for the BBC Radio drama series SILVER STREET and directing award-winning short films such as SHORT and THE FAMILY PORTRAIT. He also wrote a Coming Up for Channel 4 called THE CIRCLE and wrote and directed on BISHAASH, a drama series he co-created for BBC Media Action. Waris' passion for elevated genres, thrillers and dramas is expressed in his diverse and international slate of film and television projects. As a writer/director he previously developed projects with Hardy, Son & Baker and Buccaneer Media. Waris holds a BA in Film Studies, MA in Screen Arts and an MA in Screenwriting. He is on the BBC Hotlist and is a BAFTA, Director's UK and RTS member.



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Credits

In Development

Production	Company	Notes
FIRESTARTER		Writer, feature script in development

Television

Production	Company	Notes
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THE BAY S5 2025	Tall Story Pictures / ITV	Director, episodes 4-6
EMMERDALE 2024	ITV	Director, 4 episodes
OUTLANDER S7 2022	Left Bank Pictures / Sony	Second Unit director
VERA S11 2022	ITV Studios/ITV	Director, 1 episode (120 mins)
HOLBY CITY 2018 - 2019	BBC	Director, 6 episodes
EASTENDERS 2018 - 2019	BBC	Director, 26 episodes (including Christmas Eve 2017 episode)
MR SELFRIDGE (SHADOWING) 2015	ITV Studios/ITV	Mentored by director Robert Del Maestro as part of Creative Skillset & Directors UK's High End Drama Mentoring Scheme
BISHAASH 2009 - 2011	BBC MEDIA ACTION	Co-Creator, Writer and Director of 9 episodes (including the finale), Series Script Editor 24 x 30min action adventure series for BBC MEDIA ACTION (reached over 50 million viewers)
HOLLYOAKS 2007 - 2008	Lime Pictures/Channel 4	Director, 7 episodes Winner, British Soap Award for 'Best Exit Scene' 2007
THE CIRCLE 2008	Channel 4	Writer, original 30min drama for Channel 4's COMING UP scheme Directed by Tinge Krishnan

Short Films

Production	Company	Notes
THE FAMILY PORTRAIT 2005		Writer/Director, Short Film Sponsored by 02 Nominated, Best British Short Film, Raindance Film Festival 2005
SHORT 2003	UK Film Council	Writer/Director, Short Film UK Film Council First Light Fund Winner, Best Sound - Can Film Festival 2005 Yorkshire Film Award nominee - Leeds International Film Festival