

# DUNCAN COWLES | DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

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Duncan Cowles is a BAFTA Scotland Award winning documentary filmmaker whose short films 'The Lady with the Lamp', 'Soft Toffee', 'Radio Silence', 'Directed by Tweedie', 'Isabella', 'Alexithymia' and 'Taking Stock' have been selected for various film festivals at home and internationally winning a selection of awards, and gaining significant online exposure through platforms such as Short of the Week, Vimeo Staff Picks, BFI Player, It's Nice That and more.

Duncan graduated from Edinburgh College of Art with a 1st Class degree and a specialisation in documentary film, winning both the Audience Award and an Award for Distinguished work by the University at his graduation before going on to work for the internationally renowned Scottish Documentary Institute and on the programming team for feature documentaries at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

His first short film 'The Lady with the Lamp' received over 300,000 views overnight upon premiering online after its international festival run. He was then nominated for a BAFTA Scotland New Talent Award & RTS Scotland Award in 2014 for his graduation film 'Radio Silence', which also toured internationally and went on to be staff picked on Vimeo receiving 35,000 views in its first 24 hours online. Next, his short doc 'Directed by Tweedie', commissioned by Scottish Documentary Institute / Creative Scotland, won Best Scottish Short Film at Glasgow Short Film Festival, was shortlisted for a Channel 4 Innovation in Storytelling Award and then nominated for Best British Short at the London Critics Circle Awards 2016.

Duncan's second Creative Scotland commission; 'Isabella' won a BAFTA Scotland Award for Best Short Film 2016, Best UK Short (19-25) and the BFI RAW Award 2016 at the BFI Future Film Festival, Best Scottish Short Film 2016 at the Glasgow Short Film Festival 2016 and the Audience Award at Hamburg International Short Film Festival 2016. The film has also been nominated for Best British Short Film at the London Critics Circle Awards 2017.

In 2017 Duncan founded his own production company Relative Films Ltd and is currently working on his first feature film *Silent Men* which he took to IDFA Academy before being awarded development funding from the BFI, Creative Scotland & Whickers World Foundation. In 2017, Duncan was also commissioned and has now delivered a new short film for Channel 4's series *Random Acts*, which aired on TV December 2017 and won a Royal Television Society Award. In September 2017 he was commissioned to create a new 30 minute creative documentary for broadcast on primetime STV in 2018. Lately he's also finished a commission for TED Talks, been making radio documentaries for BBC Radio 4 and regularly contributing to BBC Scotland's 'The Social', whilst hosting a range of workshops for filmmakers of all ages for organisations such as BFI, Edinburgh University, VIS Vienna Shorts, Screen Academy Scotland, Flatpack Film Festival and Mental Health Foundation.

## Reviews/Press Highlights

**Taking Stock - It's Nice That, The Skinny, Short of the Week, Directors Notes TED Film - TED / It's Nice That**  
**Silent Men - Sheffield Doc/Fest Winners, Sunday Herald, MH Foundation, BBC Radio Scotland - Janice Forsyth Show**  
**Directed by N. Merchiston - BBC Scotland, Creative Scotland, Sunday Post,**  
**Isabella - BFI win, Glasgow Film win, ★★★★★ Review (EyeForFilm), Hamburg Win, Short of the Week, The Skinny, Skwigly, BAFTA**  
**The Lady with the Lamp - It's Nice That, Evening News, Gorilla Film Magazine, Bar Shorts Interview,**  
**Directed by Tweedie - EyeForFilm, Gorilla Film Mag, Corstofera, Glasgow Film Award Win, GFT Interview, Short Sighted Interview, Flatpack Interview, The Guardian, Short of the Week | Radio Silence - Staff Picked on Vimeo**

## Festival/Award Highlights

**Winner** - BAFTA Scotland Award, Best Short Film 2016  
**Winner** - Royal Television Society Scotland Award 2018  
**Winner** - 2016 Scottish Short Film Award - Glasgow Short FF  
**Winner** - 2015 Scottish Short Film Award - Glasgow Short FF  
**Winner** - BFI Best UK Short Film & RAW Award 2016  
**Winner** - Audience Award NoBudget Competition, Hamburg International Short Film Festival 2016  
**Winner** - Audience Award, Kyiv International Short Film Festival 2018  
**Winner** - Vienna Shorts Two Month Artist Residency 2017 with Q21 & MuseumsQuartier  
**Winner** - Best UK Short, Open City Documentary Festival 2017  
**Winner** - Edinburgh College of Art Degree Show Audience Award 2013  
**Winner** - Fresh18 Carbon Award

**Nominated** - BAFTA Scotland New Talent 2014: Best Factual  
**Nominated** - London Critics Circle Award - Best British Short Film 2017  
**Nominated** - London Critics Circle Award - Best British Short Film 2016  
**Nominated** - Royal Television Society Scotland Student Best Factual 2013  
**Nominated** - Channel 4 Award for Innovation in Storytelling  
**Nominated** - Best UK Short, Open City Documentary Festival 2016  
**Nominated** - Best Documentary, LSFF 2016  
**Nominated** - Creative Edinburgh Award 2017

ZagrebDox 2015  
Hot Springs Documentary Festival 2015  
Szczecin European Film Festival 2015  
Edinburgh International Film Festival 2014 / 2016  
Glasgow Short Film Festival 2012 / 2013 / 2014 / 2015 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018  
Hamburg Int Short Film Festival 2013  
London Short Film Festival 2013 / 2016  
East End Film Festival 2012  
Aesthetica Film Festival 2013 / 2014 / 2016 / 2017  
The Smalls Film Festival 2013  
Inverness Film Festival 2013 / 2014 / 2015 / 2016 / 2017  
Flatpack Film Festival 2014 / 2015 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018  
DocHeads/Directors UK 2013 / 2014 / 2015 / 2016  
Seville European Film Festival 2015  
ZubrOFFka Short Film Festival 2015 / 2016  
Cromarty Film Festival 2014 / 2015  
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival 2016 / 2018  
British Shorts Berlin 2016  
IndieLisboa Film Festival 2016  
Vienna Independent Shorts 2016 / 2017 / 2018  
Encounters Short Film Festival 2016 / 2017  
Uppsala Short Film Festival 2016  
Message to Man Int. Short Film Festival 2016  
Brussels Short Film Festival 2018  
Dresden International Short Film Festival 2016 / 2018

## Filmography

**Silent Men** (2019) (in development)

**All Aboard!** (2018) (in production, STV 30min)

**Taking Stock** (2017) (documentary short)

**Alexithymia** (2017) (documentary short)

**Isabella** (2015) (documentary short)

**Directed by Tweedie** (2014) (documentary short)

**Radio Silence** (2013) (documentary short)

**Soft Toffee** (2013) (documentary short)

**The Lady with the Lamp** (2012) (documentary short)