

Sheil Land Associates Ltd

52 Doughty Street,
London
WC1N 2LS

Tel: 020 7405 9351

Fax: 020 7831 2127

Email: Lucy Fawcett: lfawcett@sheilland.co.uk

IAN MASTERS

Screenwriter

Ian Masters works as a freelance writer, story-liner and script editor, most recently for BBC Media Action in Cambodia, Bangladesh and South Sudan, and Oxfam in the Palestinian Territories. Prior to this, he worked with new writers in Africa and Asia to develop short films through his NGO, ScriptNet.

His MA graduation script from Bournemouth University won the Alan Plater Prize, and was shortlisted for the Sundance International Writers Lab. His first feature film as writer and producer, *THE LAST REEL* premiered at the Tokyo Film Festival 2014 where it won The Spirit of Asia Award and was Cambodia's official submission to the Academy Awards 2016. He lived in Nairobi up until Summer 2018 (now back in the UK).

He co-writes many of his projects with Jon Smith.

PRODUCED PROJECTS

THE LAST REEL

Ian wrote and produced, with Hanuman films, this contemporary feature length film about love, family and the ghosts of Cambodia's past. A lost film buried beneath Cambodia's killing fields, reveals different versions of the truth. Dir. Kulikar Sotho

2019 – Screened at Locarno Film Festival in the Open Doors Selection

2017 – Best Screenplay: 57th Asia Pacific Film Festival

2016 – Official Submission from Cambodia, Academy Awards, Best Foreign Language Film

2016 – Traverse City (Michael Moore) Audience Award

2015 – Udine Far East Film Festival – Black Dragon Award

2014 – Tokyo IFF - Spirit of Asia Award

BEYOND THE BRIDGE (2016) co-written with Jon Smith

30 min section of an Anthology Feature: *Asian Threefold Mirror: Reflections* which premiered at Tokyo Film Festival. Dir. Kulikar Sotho.

CURRENT PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

OTRANTO co-writer Jon Smith

A post-Brexit TV drama thriller set on the picture-postcard shores of Otranto, Italy. When a female British agent washes ashore with dead and dying Syrian refugees, a retired MI5 analyst must work with a shady Italian police inspector to solve the case. OTRANTO is now set up with Cristaldi Pics/Blackbox Media and was recently selected by MIA in Rome for their pitch session.

ALE MARY co-writer Jon Smith

A feature film about nuns turning to Trappist beer brewing in Belgium to save their Abbaye. Singaporean/Belgian co-production in development. Screenplay commissioned.

FALLOUT co-writer Jon Smith

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Feature film based on a true Vietnam war era story. Screenplay commission under negotiation.

MURDER OF CROWS co-writer Jon Smith

Screenplay rewrite for producer Murray Pope of Lux Monkey, Australia

KONY co-writer Jon Smith

A dramatisation of the rise and fall of Joseph Kony, from humble beginnings, to leader of the Lords Resistance Army and the most feared terrorist in the region. **In development with Ugandan/US Producer Isaac Kigozi and Savannah Moon Productions**

IN THE SHADE co-written with Director Sok Visal

Contemporary horror. When French-Khmer Rith returns to Cambodia to find and rescue his sick cousin, he instead unwittingly releases a violent vengeful creature from Khmer folklore. **IN THE SHADE** was a finalist in the South East Asian Film Financing Forum 2015 and continues in development.

SIX FEET OVER co-writer Jon Smith

Co-writer on an East African comedy feature being presented at Rotterdam Producers Lab, Jan 2018.

AVAILABLE PROJECTS

HIDDEN co-writer Jon Smith

A feature length project which won bronze in the historical category at the 2017 PAGE awards. This thriller is set against the stunning backdrop of Phnom Penh, abandoned during the Khmer Rouge regime, and provides an original perspective on one of the most brutal social experiments of the twentieth century, the Cambodian genocide. **Available**

CHAPLIN co-writer Jon Smith

Drama series focusing on the silent TV star's middle years, charting how he regains his relevance as an entertainer and social and political commentator through the Great Depression, the rise of Fascism and the McCarthy-era red witch hunts. Semi Finalist in the Screencraft Competition and made the Rocliffe/BAFTA forum list. Also developing two additional Chaplin concepts, SAKLO and CHARLOT. **Available**

LOST CAUSE co-writer Jon Smith

Feature length. The white-saviour complex of young British volunteers in Uganda is turned on its head after they fake their kidnapping only to find themselves the real hostages of a Congolese rebel militia. **Available.**

ROUGE NOIR

Told over two days, *Rouge Noir* follows three characters whose lives intersect in the notorious lakeside area of Phnom Penh, linked by the central active question of the film – who killed the young Khmer woman in the lake? Alan Plater Prize, BU; Shortlist: Sundance Writers Lab. **Available**

HIGH LIFE

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A musical comedy in which hustler Dan must get the old members of an Independence High Life Band together for the funeral of their founding member in Accra 50 years later. Babylon International at Berlinale. Shortlist: Realness African Writers Residency. **Available**

THE PATH co-writer Jon Smith

A Cambodian monk is reluctantly tasked with the return of a priceless stolen Angkorian artefact from a remote rural pagoda, to Oudong Mountain, the resting place of Cambodia's Kings. Quarter Finalist in the Screencraft Competition. **Available**

KARAMOJA GOLD

Three teens from the Kampala ghetto set off on a road trip to score the mythically potent "Karamoja Gold". A story of friendship and moving on. **Available**

ALL RIGHT JACK

A middle-aged expat, reinvented in Cambodia as a kid's magician, is forced on the run with a Khmer street kid for a murder he didn't commit. **Available**

THEY WALKED ALONE co-writer Jon Smith

6-part crime mini-series set during the blitz of Liverpool in 1942 and the strike by the Chinese merchant seamen in Europe's oldest and least known Chinatown. The script was selected as part of C21 Media's script competition in December 2019. **Available**

BEFORE THE FALL co-writer Jon Smith

A noir thriller in which a disparate group of expats scheme against each other in their desperate attempts to escape from Phnom Penh before it falls to the Khmer Rouge. Semi-finalist in the Nicholls Fellowship in Screenwriting. **Available**

PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

DIPLOMATIC CORPSE

A commissioned adaptation. The seamy, seedy equilibrium of a West African diplomatic mission is disrupted by the arrival of a government investigator who quickly ends up dead. Territorial Film Developments.

PAIN

A commissioned adaptation of a novel set in Vietnam and Cambodia for a company whose credits include Black Water, Ali, Crying Game and Last Orders. Territorial Film Developments.

SHORT FILMS

THE QUARRY

An amalgam story on the reality and nightmare of life set in a stone quarry in the middle of nowhere. Shooting in January 2018.

IDI AMIN'S BOAT

A short film Ian produced and co-wrote in Uganda. In Post-Production.

TRANCE (2017)

Script Advisor for Sri Lankan short: **Winner Best Human Rights Short Film, London Eye IFF**

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JINXED (2016)

Co-writer: **Best Short Film at the Amakula Film Festival.**

A FISTFUL OF PEBBLES (2015)

Co-writer / Producer: **selected for Tokyo Short Shorts, Cannes Short Film Corner**

SCRIPT EDITING AND CONSULTANCY WORK AND OTHER WRITING PROJECTS:

Script Editor	Kenya: One Fine Day Films / Ginger Ink Films	Supa Modo (2018) dir. Likarion Wainana Script Editor for feature developed through Tom Tykwer's training and production company, One Fine Day Films in Kenya Special Mention at Edinburgh IFF 2018
Storyliner	South Sudan: BBC Media Action	Life in Lulu. Returning Radio Drama Series in South Sudan. Series 4: 48 x 15 min radio drama on conflict transformation, explosive remnants of war, and small and light weapons. Series 3: 16 x 15 min dramas on conflict transformation
Creative Consultant	Palestinian Territories: Oxfam	Wujood: 30 x 15 min web-series Series concept and storylines for web-series focussing on vulnerable youth in East Jerusalem
Script Editor	Bangladesh: BBC Media Action	Ujan Ganger Naiya: TV Drama series on maternal and neonatal health Series 3: 19 x 30 min episodes. Broadcast on ATN with an audience of over 20m.
Lead Writer Script Editor	Cambodia: BBC Media Action	Klahan9: 10 part TV Drama series on economic resilience for youth Series 1: 3 feature length TV dramas, broadcast on CTN & MYTV Love9: TV comedy sitcom on sexual and reproductive health, broadcast on MYTV. Series 1: 8 x 30 min episodes; Series 2: 10 x 30 min episodes Loy9: TV Drama Series on youth civic engagement Series 3: feature length TV drama, <i>Down This Road</i> Series 2: 4 x 1hour dramas on youth civic engagement. Series 1: 16 x 15min rural drama on youth civic engagement Feature length dramas in the Cambodian International Film Festival and ASEAN Film Awards. Combined Facebook presence of over 2m followers and over 1m YouTube views.
Lead Writer	Cambodia: PSI	Who Killed Romdoul? 45 min TV drama on reproductive health

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Storyliner

Sri Lanka:
ScriptNet SL

Before and After: 14 part TV Drama series on conflict resolution in Sri Lanka

TRAINING CONDUCTED:

Kenya:
Maisha Film Lab

Masterclass on scriptwriting for short films

Uganda:
Kampala Film
School

Scriptwriting lecturer for the BA programme with 30 students.

Various
ScriptNet

Workshops for new writers and directors in Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Pakistan supporting lecturers from film schools in the UK

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Malmo University

ongoing MA Communication for Development

**Bournemouth
University**

Distinction MA Screenwriting (Distinction: Awarded Alan Plater Prize)

Cambridge University

2:1 Emmanuel College, English Literature