

Dr Christopher Riley

TV & Film Producer / Director

Science Writer & Broadcaster



Contact details:

Mb: 07956 359 810

E-mail: chris@chris-riley.com

Home Page: www.chris-riley.com

Skype: CDBRiley

Twitter: @alifeofriley

Chris Riley is a British writer, broadcaster and film maker specialising in science and the history of science. He has directed and produced on over eighty programmes for the BBC - including their flagship science and technology strand ***Tomorrow's World*** and the cult science show ***Rough Science***. He was the producer of the BBC's blockbuster drama documentary ***Space Odyssey – voyage to the planets***, and conceived, produced and directed on the Sundance Award winning C4 feature documentary film ***In the Shadow of the Moon***.

His Discovery Channel series ***Moon Machines*** won a Grand Remi in 2009 and his recent restoration and re-cut of the classic NASA documentary ***Moonwalk One*** received the highest viewing figures in the Science Channel's history. He conceived and directed the innovative film project ***First Orbit***, which premiered on over 1600 screens in more than 130 countries the 12th April 2011, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of human spaceflight, and quickly became the most watched long form film in YouTube history.

He is the author of the best selling Haynes ***Apollo 11 Owner's Workshop Manual***, and regularly writes for **BBC News** and the **Guardian Online**. Chris has a doctorate in planetary science from Imperial College, University of London and is visiting Professor of science and media at the University of Lincoln's Department for Media Production. In 2005 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in recognition of his endeavours in public engagement in astronomy and human spaceflight.

Production/Broadcast Experience

Executive/Producer/Director **2002-Present**

Producer

- ☐ Ricochet Television

Space Shuttle: The Final Mission

1x60 minute fast turn around, access all areas, doc for BBC TWO 2011

Producer / Director

- ☐ The Attic Room / Google/YouTube / BBC Big Screens /DVD & Blu-ray

First Orbit

1x105 minute film for 50th anniversary of human spaceflight 2011-2012

The most widely premiered long form film in YouTube history.

Associate Producer

- ☐ The Attic Room / BBC TV

Destination Titan

1 x 60, BBC FOUR 2011

Executive Producer

- ☐ The Attic Room / Stylus Films / Shorts International

Dust - A short drama

Premiered at Edinburgh & London Film Festivals 2010

Producer/Director

- ☐ The Rocket Science Group / HSBC

Business TV

15 x 10 minute features for HSBC TV 2009-2010

Producer

- ☐ The Attic Room / Discovery Channel

Moonwalk One – the director's cut

1 x 107 minute feature film, Discovery Channel 2009

Producer / Director

- ☐ The Attic Room / Discovery Channel

Opening the time Capsule – the making of Moonwalk One

1 x 30 minute making of, Discovery Science Channel 2009

The highest rating show in the channel's history in 2009.

Executive Producer / Director

- ☐ Dox Productions / Discovery Channel

Moon Machines

6 x 50 minute series, Discovery Science 2007-2008

Winner 2009 Grand REMI, WorldFest, Houston International Film Festival

Producer / Director

☐ **The Attic Room / UCL / Bebo**

Jeffery's Story

5 x 3 minute teen drama mini-series for Bebo 2009

Co-Producer & Assistant Director

☐ **Dox Productions / Film4 / ThinkFILM / Discovery Films**

In the Shadow of the Moon

1 x 100 minute feature documentary film, Film4 2005-2007

Winner 2007 Sundance World Cinema Audience Award

Winner 2007 Boulder International Film Festival Grand Prize

Winner Florida Film Festival Audience Award Best International Feature

Winner World Documentary Audience Award, Indianapolis International Film Festival 2007

Producer / Director

☐ **BBC / Open University**

Rough Science, Colorado, series six

6 x 30 minute actuality documentary BBC TWO Oct-Nov/05 2005

Development Producer

☐ **BBC Popular Features**

The UK Birth Map / The UK Love Map

2 x 60 minute documentary BBC THREE 31/03/06 2005

Producer

☐ **BBC / Impossible Pictures / Discovery Channel / ProSieben**

Space Odyssey: *Voyage to the Planets.*

2 x 60 minute drama documentary BBC ONE / DVD 2003-2004

Winner of the 2005 Arthur Clarke Award for best TV & Radio Presentation

Producer / Director

☐ **BBC / Discovery Channel / ProSieben**

Space Odyssey: *The Robot Pioneers.*

1 x 50 minute documentary BBC FOUR / DVD 2003-2004

Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Popular Features**

Can't Get Enough....

3 x 40 minute presenter driven documentary series
covering music, TV and gaming BBC TWO 2002

Assistant Producer/Director 1999-2002

Assistant Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Popular Features**

Best Inventions

6 x 30 minute "as live" competitive inventors show, BBC ONE 2002

Assistant Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Popular Features**

Tomorrow's World Live (Series 38)

24 x 30 minute live shows from TV Centre, BBC ONE 2001-2002

Assistant Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Popular Features**

Tomorrow's World (Series 37)

21 presenter lead short films
reporting on science & technology, BBC ONE 2000-2001

Assistant Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Popular Features**

The Secret Live of Ghosts and Werewolves

1 x 60 documentary BBC ONE 2001

Assistant Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Science**

The Planets, Brief Encounters

8 x 10 minute shorts BBC TWO 2001

Assistant Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Science**

Journeys in Time and Space

6x30 minute cosmology series, BBC KNOWLEDGE 2000-2001

Assistant Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Popular Features**

Tomorrow's World (Series 36)

19 presenter lead short films
reporting on science & technology, BBC ONE 1999-2000

Assistant Producer / Director

☐ **BBC Science**

2000 Today

1 x 34 hour live Millennium Bug Watch special, BBC ONE 1999-2000

TV Researcher

1997-1999

Development Researcher

☐ **BBC Science**

Space, with Sam Neil, 6 x 30, BBC ONE 1999

Researcher

☐ **BBC Science**

Eclipse 1999

Three part live OB Covering the 1999 Total Solar Eclipse, BBC ONE 1999

Researcher

☐ BBC Science / A&E

The Planets

8 x 50 minute landmark series, BBC TWO / DVD
recounting the history of our exploration of the solar system. 1997-1999

Researcher

☐ BBC Science / Open University

Mars Weekend / Mars to Clive Anderson / Open Saturday

1 x 60 minute live show BBC ONE, 1 x 120 minute live, BBC TWO
reporting on NASA's Pathfinder mission to Mars 1997

TV / Web Presenting 1997-Present

Presenter

☐ Discovery Channel

Moonwalk One – the director's cut
1 x 107 minute guide to NASA's original Apollo 11 feature doc. 2009-2010

Presenter

☐ BBC Education

Space Odyssey: Live 2004
15 x 60 minute live theatre show across the UK

Presenter

☐ BBC interactive

Space Odyssey Interactive 2004
1x75 minute live OB, BBC ONE interactive
from the European Space Agency HQ Holland

Presenter

☐ BBC Specialist Factual / Open University

All Night Star Party 2003
1 x 90 minute live OB, BBC TWO
from the UK's Isaac Newton Telescopes, La Palma

Presenter

☐ BBC Specialist Factual / Open University

Final Frontier

Monthly astronomy series, BBC TWO 2002

Presenter

☐ BBC Online

African Eclipse Live from Zambia 2001
1 x 60 minute live OB, BBC Online,
The BBCs' first live streaming webcast event.

Presenter

☐ **BBC Science**

Journeys in Time and Space

6x30 minute cosmology series, BBC KNOWLEDGE 2001

Presenter

☐ **BBCi**

Web Guide to the Solar System, www.bbc.co.uk/space

2000

Presenter

☐ **BBC Science**

Eclipse Live

Three part live OB 1999
Covering the 1999 Total Solar Eclipse, BBC ONE

Presenter

☐ **BBC Science / UK Flextech**

Moon Landings Live

30th anniversary 15 part “as live” series 1999
Recreating the events around Apollo 11, UK HORIZONS

Presenter

☐ **BBC Science**

A Mission to Mars

A Tomorrow’s World Live show, NEC, Birmingham, UK HORIZONS 1998

Script Consultant / Science Advisor 2005-Pres

Story Consultant

☐ **BBC SCIENCE**

The Space Shuttle – A Horizon Guide

1x60 minute for BBC FOUR 2011

Science Consultant/Contributor

☐ **Impossible Pictures / BBC / DISCOVERY**

James May’s Things you need to know about the Universe

1 x 30 minute film in 3 part series for BBC TWO 2011

History/Science Consultant/Contributor

☐ **Wide Eyed Entertainment / SCIENCE CHANNEL**

Dark Matters

6 x 60 minute for Science Channel US/Discovery UK 2011

Science Consultant

☐ Kudos / BBC ONE

Outcasts

6 x 60 minute for BBC ONE 2011

Archive Consultant

☐ Windfall Films / Channel 5

Big, Bigger, Biggest

6 x 60 minute for Channel 5 2009

Archive Consultant

☐ Freehand Productions / BBC Worldwide

One Small Step – the Australian Story

1 x 60 minute for BBC Worldwide 2009

Story / Archive Consultant

☐ BBC Factual

James May on the Moon / James May at the Edge of Space

2 x 60 minute for BBC One / BBC Four 2009

Story Consultant

☐ Dangerous Films / Discovery Channel

When We Left Earth: NASA's Greatest Missions

6 x 60 minute series for The Discovery Channel 2007-2008

Science Advisor

☐ BBC Drama / Fictionlab

A for Andromeda

90 minute drama BBC FOUR / DVD 2006

Science Advisor

☐ BBC Drama / Fictionlab

The Quatermass Experiment

Live 90 minute drama BBC FOUR / DVD 2005

Story Consultant

☐ BBC Specialist Factual

Horizon: Titan, A Place Like Home?

1 x 60 minute documentary BBC TWO 2005

Radio Reporter / Presenter 1994-2006

Writer / Presenter

☐ BBC Radio Four / Arts, Science & Features

The Cosmic Hunters – *Science at Nine*

3 x 30 minute documentary 2006

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/cosmichunters.shtml>

Reporter

- ☐ **BBC Radio Four / Arts, Science & Features**

Big Bang / Science Now

Weekly science shows

1994-1997

Reporter / Presenter

- ☐ **BBC Radio Four / BBC Education**

Education Matters

Weekly education programme

1994-1997

Reporter / Presenter

- ☐ **BBC World Service / BBC Education**

The Learning World

Weekly education programme

1994-1997

Reporter

- ☐ **BBC Radio Five Live / Arts, Science & Features**

The Acid Test

Weekly weekend science show

1994-1997

Reporter / Presenter

- ☐ **BBC Radio Five / News & Current Affairs / Business Unit**

Wake up to Money / Moneycheck / Financial World Tonight

Daily business and money strands

1994-1995

Reporter / Presenter

- ☐ **BBC World Service / News & Current Affairs / Business Programmes**

World Business Reports / World Business Brief

Daily and weekly business programmes

1994-1996

Freelance Journalist

1994-1997

Radio Producer

- ☐ **Producer Somethin' Else / UK Commercial Radio Network**

IBM Solutions

15 x 90 second science features

Presented by Johnny Vaughn and broadcast during Science Week 1996

- ☐ **Writer/Producer Goodwood Travel**

1996

The Concorde Story – a *talking book* for British Airways &

Goodwood Flights of Fantasy narrated by Captain Christopher Orlebar and produced for the 21st Anniversary of Concorde

- ☐ **Producer BBC Radio Five Live**

Sky Trekking

Monthly astronomy programme for 5 Live's "Up all Night" strand

1995

Press Officer

1994-1997

National Science Line

Welcome Trust funded public understanding of science outreach project to provide a one stop shop to answer the public's queries about science, technology and medicine. Resident Earth and planetary scientist, contributing to over 300 TV and radio broadcasts, writing the weekly Techniquiest column in The Independent, Teletext pages, and Channel 4's Equinox web site.

Lecturer – Environmental Science 1994

Kingston College of Further Education.

Teaching geology, geography, biology and chemistry to A'level and BTECH

Research Scientist

1989-1990

British Antarctic Survey

Developing a computer catalogue of their extensive rock & mineral collections.

Curator

Apollo Raw and Uncut, Video Installation, Science Museum, London 2009
BFI, One Giant Leap, Film Festival on the South Bank, London 2009

Print Journalism and Writing

Books / Booklets

Co-Author – Haynes – the Lunar Rover, an owner's workshop manual, 2012

Co-Author – British Council - Gagarin in Britain, 2009

Author – Haynes - Apollo 11 – an owner's workshop manual 2009

Author - Space Odyssey: Voyage to the Planets, BBC Books 2004

Contributing author – Harper Collins Encyclopaedia of the Universe 2002

Contributing writer – The Planets, BBC Books 1999

Author - Tibet – Ice Mother, Horizon BBC 1995

Author - Farewell Fantastic Venus, Horizon BBC 1995

Online Articles

Space Shuttle: An open letter to President Obama. 07-07-2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2011/jul/07/space-shuttle-letter-president-obama>

What Yuri Gagarin saw: First Orbit film to reveal the view from Vostok 1 12-04-2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/blog/2011/apr/11/yuri-gagarin-first-orbit-vostok>

“Sound restored to mission control film shot during Apollo 11 ” 20-07-10

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/blog/2010/jul/20/sound-apollo-11-moon-landing>

“The Magic of Apollo ” – 15-07-09

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8152431.stm>

“The moon walkers: Twelve men who have visited another world” – 15-07-09

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2009/jul/09/apollo-astronauts-walking-moon>

“The 400,000 strong backup team ” – 02-07-09

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2009/jul/02/apollo-11-back-up-team>

“Rendezvous around the Moon” – 18-05-09

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8056443.stm>

“The ‘flight of the Spider’” – 12-03-09

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7939365.stm>

“Happy Birthday Earthrise” – 24-12-08

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7797439.stm>

“A view from the cosmic shoulder” – 06-09-06

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5317906.stm>

“We Choose to go to the Planets” – 10/11/04

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4000053.stm>

“Pushing frontiers in TV Space” – 08/11/04

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3992971.stm>

“Cosmonaut shaken back to health” – 15/-5/02

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/1989461.stm>

“Robot insect takes to the air” – 11/04/01

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/1270306.stm>

“Glowing plants reveal touch sensitivity” – 17-05-00

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/751069.stm>

“In the Leonids Lair” 18/11/99
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/526440.stm>

“Voyage through a comet’s trail” – 17/11/99
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/525041.stm>

“When worlds collide” – 05/05/99
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/326709.stm>

“Return to mission Leonid” – 04/12/98
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special_report/1998/11/98/the_leonids_98/222151.stm

“An invitation to the firework party” – 17-11-98
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special_report/1998/11/98/the_leonids_98/215970.stm

Offline Newspapers/Magazines

“Your country needs you to count meteors”, New Scientist 11/11/95
“Alien Landing”, New Scientist, 24/06/95
“Chip Giants turn up heat on hoodlums”, New Scientists, 14/01/95
“Take a peek at Venus unveiled and die” The Independent, 11/10/94
“All the answers from dial-a-boffin” The Independent, 23/03/94

Education

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| ☐ University of London
Ph.D. Imperial College – Conoco Scholar
The Morphotectonics of the Spanish Sierra Nevada,
<i>a study using digital terrain models</i> | 1990-1995 |
| ☐ University of London
Diploma of Imperial College | 1990-1995 |
| ☐ University of Leicester
B.Sc. (2i) Applied Geology | 1986-1989 |
| ☐ Netherhall 6th Form College
A’levels – Geology A, Biology C, Chemistry C | 1984-1986 |
| ☐ Sawston Village College
O’levels – 2 As, 5 Bs, 1 C | 1979 – 1984 |

Professional Societies

Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society 2005 - pres
Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society 1992 - 2002
Member of the Planetary Society 1997 - 2010

Academic Positions

- ▣ **Visiting Professor of Science & Media 2011-pres**
Lincoln School of Media,
University of Lincoln

- ▣ **Senior Visiting Fellow 2007-2011**
Department of Media Production,
University of Lincoln

- ▣ **External Examiner 2009-2012**
M.Sc. Science Media Production,
Imperial College, University of London

- ▣ **Guest Lecturer 1992-1993, 2001-2009**
M.Sc. Science Communication,
Imperial College, University of London

- ▣ **Guest Lecturer – Planetary Exploration 2001-2005**
UK Space School, University of Leicester

Public Speaking

▣ **Invited Speaker**

The Cheltenham Science Festival, The Making of First Orbit June 2011

The Manchester Waterside Arts Centre, The Making of First Orbit May 2011

The London Science Museum, The Making of First Orbit April 2011

The IET, The Making of First Orbit April 2011

UCL, APEX Lecture, The Gift of Apollo Feb 2011

Astrofest, The Forgotten Films of Apollo Feb 2011

Super/Collider, Apollo's End	Jan 2011
Kingston University, Apollo – the 400,000	Oct 2010
UCL, Apollo – the 400,000	Oct 2010
Birmingham Town Hall, Brian Eno's pre-concert speaker.	Oct 2010
British Interplanetary Society, London, Apollo - the 400,000	Jun 2010
Cinephilia West , London, "In the Shadow of the Moon" screening	Mar 2010
Wallington Grammer School , London, Apollo - the 400,000	Mar 2010
Curator's Talk: NASA Archives 1966-1972, CCA, Montreal	Feb 2010
NC3R workshop,	Nov 2009.
The Institute of Ideas, Battle of Ideas, A Space Age Future? London,	Nov 2009
Battle of Ideas, Science on Screen - not testing enough, London	Oct 2009
Milton Keynes Science Festival, Moon Day, Open University,	Oct 2009
The British Science Festival, Guildford - In the Shadow of the Moon	Jun 2009
The Science Museum, July Lates - Apollo at Forty	Jun 2009
The University of Aberdeen - Apollo - the 400,000	Jun 2009
The British National Space Centre - Apollo at Forty	Jun 2009
The British Film Institute - One Giant Leap film festival	Jun 2009
The Royal Aeronautical Society, Apollo - the 400,000	Jun 2009
The Scientific and Medical Network, London Group	Jun 2009
The Glastonbury Festival - the spiritual gifts of Apollo	Jun 2009
The Cheltenham Science Festival - Apollo - the 400,000	Jun 2009
The Dana Centre - Fly me to the Moon	Jun 2009
British Council - Science Broadcasting workshop	May 2009
The UK Space Conference	Apr 2009
Royal Aeronautical Society	Mar 2009
British Council - Bulgarian Science Doc workshop	Feb 2009
The Open University	Feb 2009

Pre-2009

Birkbeck College, University of London, Diploma Science Communication	Dec 2008
Glasgow Science Centre	Sep 2008
Science Foo Camp	Aug 2008
Ideas Foundation Summer Scool	July 2008
The Draper Labs, Boston, USA	Sep 2007
Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society, guest lecturer	June 2007
Imperial College, M.Sc. Science Communication Course - annual lecturer	2000-2008
Division of Planetary Science Annual Meeting, Cambridge University	Sep 2005
C21st Trust, Public Understanding of Science Conference, Berlin	Apr 2005
West London Astronomical Society	Apr 2005
British Oral History Rocket Programme Annual Conference	Mar 2005
Dana Centre, Space Detectives, Probing Saturn's Secrets	Jan 2005
British Interplanetary Society, Xmas Lecture	Dec 2004
BA 2004 Science Festival, Exeter	Sep 2004
Association of Astronomy Educators	Sep 2004
Shrewsbury School, Darwin Society	Jan 2003
Cheltenham Science Festival	May 2002
Shropshire Astronomical Society Summer Talk	Jun 2001
Association of Science Educators	Jan 2000
British Interplanetary Society, Xmas Lecture	Dec 1999